

# Tonia Ko

composer

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## Education

- 2017 Doctor of Musical Arts in Composition, Cornell University
- 2012 Master of Music in Composition, Indiana University Jacobs School of Music
- 2010 Bachelor of Music in Composition with Highest Distinction, Eastman School of Music

## Teaching Experience

- 2015- Private composition teacher  
Teaching private lessons by request. Previous students include those pursuing Master's degrees at SUNY Binghamton and Brooklyn College.
- 2016 nief-norf Summer Festival, Composer-in-Residence  
Gave private lessons and led group classes for composition fellows, ranging from undergraduate to doctoral level. Coached student chamber music groups on contemporary repertoire in preparation for final concerts.
- 2016 DIY instrument workshop, Risley Hall, Cornell University  
Invited by Artist-in-Residence Emily D'Angelo to speak about performing on alternative and DIY instruments. Performed an improvisation on bubble wrap with Charles Peck's electronic instrument and gave demonstration and workshop on bubble wrap playing techniques.
- 2013-16 Teaching Assistant, Cornell University
  - MUS 1421, Introduction to Computer Music, Fall 2015  
Led weekly practicum in digital music. Students developed skills in recording, editing, mixing; topics also include analog electronics, real-time processing, software connectivity and interactivity. Mentored three major creative projects during the semester. Software taught: Ableton Live, Reason, SPEAR, and MaxMSP/ PD.
  - MUS 3102/4, Tonal Theory & Musicianship IV, Cornell University, Spring 2014  
Taught melodic and rhythmic sightsinging, dictation, and keyboard skills to advanced undergraduates. Covered topics ranging from Romantic chromaticism to twelve-tone techniques of the 2nd Viennese School. Developed ear-training curriculum to coincide with written theory class.
  - MUS 1313, Survey of Jazz: University Writing in the Majors course, Cornell University, Fall 2013  
Lectured on major trends and figures in jazz history. Led weekly discussions on musical styles and wider social issues around jazz. Tutored students on various approaches to writing about music.
- 2014-15 Assistant Conductor, Cornell Symphony Orchestra  
Managed orchestra of 100+ members, led weekly sectionals in all instrumental groups for preparation of concert repertoire. Pursued individual conducting studies with Chris Kim, culminating in leading a performance of Wagner's Overture to *Rienzi* in February 2015.
- 2013 Fellows' Master Class for Boston University Tanglewood Institute students, Tanglewood Music Center  
Gave feedback to high school composition students in the Boston University Tanglewood Institute (BUTI) on their music. Shared experiences and offered advice on the college admissions process for music programs.
- 2010-12 Associate Instructor of Music Theory, Indiana University Jacobs School of Music
  - T109 Rudiments of Music  
Introductory music theory and skills course for non-majors and remedial freshman. Class begins with staff reading in treble and bass clefs; by semester-end students dictate and harmonize diatonic melodies, and sing of all intervals.
  - T132 Musical Skills I  
Sophomore-level ear training and keyboard skills covering diatonic harmony and tonicization
  - T232 Musical Skills III  
Junior-level ear training and keyboard skills: harmonic modulation, augmented 6th chords, chromatic mediant
  - T151 Music Theory and Literature I  
Freshman-level written theory: diatonic harmony, melodic devices, phrasal and large-scale form, culminating in score analysis with model composition

## Honors and Awards

- 2017 Chamber Music America Classical Commissioning Grant
- 2015-17 Young Concert Artists Composer-in-Residence
- 2015-16 BMI Student Composer Awards
- 2015-16 Association for the Promotion of New Music, call-for-scores winner
- 2015 New York Youth Symphony First Music Commission for orchestra
- 2014 Rapee Sagarik Prize, Thailand International Composers Competition
- 2014 Otto R. Stahl Memorial Award, Cornell University
- 2014 Renee B. Fisher Composer Award
- 2013 Charles Ives Scholarship, American Academy of Arts and Letters
- 2013 Periapsis Music and Dance Commissioning Competition, winner
- 2013 Northridge Composition Prize
- 2012-16 Sage Fellowship, Cornell University
- 2012 Lin Yao Ji International Competition for Composition, winner (in two categories)
- 2012 Libby Larsen Prize, IAWM Search for New Music Competition
- 2012 New Music USA Composer Assistance Program grant
- 2011 Georgina Joshi Commission Prize, IU New Music Ensemble
- 2011 Austin Peay State University Young Composers Competition, 2nd prize
- 2011 Chinese Fine Arts Society "Migratory Journeys" International Competition, 2nd prize
- 2010 Belvedere Chamber Music Festival Composition Contest, 2nd prize
- 2009 Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra Young Composers' Forum
- 2008 Louis Lane Prize, Eastman School of Music
- 2006-10 Howard Hanson Scholarship, Eastman School of Music

## Invitations as Guest Artist

- 2018 Arizona State University School of Music
- 2016 The Process Series, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
- 2016 nief-norf Summer Festival, Composer-in-Residence
- 2016 Composers Forum, University of Kansas School of Music
- 2014 Advanced Composition Seminar, California State University at Northridge
- 2013 Composition Seminar, Westminster Choir College, Princeton, NJ

## Residencies

- 2017 Avaloch Farm Music Institute
- 2017 Studios at MASS MoCA
- 2017 Djerassi Resident Artists Program, Gerald Oshita Memorial Fellowship
- 2016 Composers Now Creative Residency at the Pocantico Arts Center
- 2016 Kimmel Harding Nelson Residency Award
- 2016 Atlantic Center for the Arts Residency #162, Associate Artist
- 2013-14 Copland House Residency Award

## Instructors

Cornell University: Steven Stucky, Kevin Ernste  
 Indiana University: David Dzubay, Claude Baker, Aaron Travers  
 Eastman School of Music: Robert Morris, Ricardo Zohn-Muldoon, Carlos Sanchez-Gutierrez, David Liptak  
 Pre-College studies: Donald Womack  
 Master classes and lessons: Georg Friedrich Haas, Christopher Theofanidis, George Tsontakis, Rand Steiger, Lisa Bielawa, Ken Ueno, Bernard Rands, Xu Changjun, Hans Thomala, George Benjamin, Colin Matthews, Walter Zimmerman, Sydney Hodkinson, Frederic Rzewski, Augusta Read Thomas, Shulamit Ran, Yehudi Wyner, Samuel Adler

## Festivals

- 2017 Los Angeles Philharmonic Association National Composers Intensive with Wild Up
- 2017 Minnesota Orchestra Composer Institute
- 2015 Aspen Music Festival and School Fellowship, Susan and Ford Schumann Center for Composition
- 2014 Thailand International Composition Festival, competition winner
- 2014 International Computer Music Conference, Athens, Greece
- 2014 Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, Young Composer-in-Residence
- 2014 CCRMA Aspects of Sound in Art workshop, Stanford University
- 2013 Tanglewood Music Center, Leonard Bernstein Fellowship
- 2013 Shanghai Conservatory New Music Week
- 2013 International Young Composers Meeting at Apeldoorn
- 2011 Wellesley Composers Conference
- 2011 International Alliance for Women in Music Congress
- 2010 Brevard Music Center
- 2010 University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chamber Music Institute
- 2009 American Conservatory at Fontainebleau

## Selected Reviews

- 2016 Anthony Tommasini, The New York Times, "Daniel Lehardt Shows Daring Command in a New York Debut"
- 2016 Schweitzer, Vivien, The New York Times, "Tonia Ko's 'Strange Sounds and Explosions Worldwide'"
- 2016 Jean, Grace, The Washington Post, "Music in the American Wild plays mockingbird"
- 2016 Schreil, Cristina, Strings Magazine, "Violinist Ariana Kim's 'Routes of Evanescence'"
- 2016 Harianja, Daniel Hada, Cornell Research, interview, "Piano, Cello, Percussion—or Bubble Wrap?"
- 2016 Tompkins, Seth, Second Inversion, "Concert Review: Music in the American Wild"
- 2015 Aloi, Daneil, Cornell Chronicle, "Graduate student Tonia Ko composes a soaring career"
- 2014 Grillo, Tyran, Cornell Daily Sun, "Beating the Highs and Lows: Sō Percussion at Bailey"
- 2014 Gellman, Lucy, New Haven Independent, "Decoding A Duo, One Tap At A Time"
- 2012 Delacoma, Wynne, Chicago Classical Review, "West meets East in revelatory blend of works by Chinese composers"

## Discography

- 2017 "Simplicity Itself" by New Morse Code, featuring *Hush*. Anticipated release on New Focus, Sept. 2017.
- 2016 "Routes of Evanescence" by violinist Ariana Kim, featuring *Still Life Crumbles*. Self-produced, released Dec. 2015.
- 2012 "Melos Music: 2nd Annual New Music Concert", featuring *Wanderer Moon*. Released on iTunes/ Spotify Oct. 2012.

## Service

- 2017 Judge, Search for New Music Competition, International Alliance for Women in Music  
Invited to adjudicate ~100 entries for an international competition open to women composers
- 2014-15 Philomela, Composition Representative  
As a leader in Cornell University's graduate music student organization, served as a liaison between student colleagues and faculty concerning departmental matters. Organized Amy Beth Kirsten's residency as Annual Speaker in April 2015
- 2013-14 President, Cornell Contemporary Chamber Players  
Acquired funding and organized concerts for the academic year, coordinated residency of So Percussion.
- 2011-12 Treasurer, Indiana University Student Composers Association  
Secured and managed funding for student-run, interdisciplinary projects with other arts departments, as well as visiting guest composers and new music ensembles. Projects completed: "New Art New Music" at the IU Art Museum, contemporary dance project "Hammer & Nail", "Double Exposure" featuring student films and live music
- 2010-12 Member of Melos Music, a collective of composers from across the United States

### Sound Design/ Dance/ Theater

- 2016 Sound design for *Double Orifice*, with performance artist Kale Roberts  
“Inside Out”, Atlantic Center for the Arts, New Smyrna Beach, FL
- 2015 *Silver Skin, Expanse Within* for Periapais Music & Dance, choreography by Bradley Shelver  
Kumble Theater, Brooklyn, NY
- 2014 *Lady Macbeth*, a musical produced by Perry Chiu Experimental Theatre  
Sheung Wan Civic Center, Hong Kong, with subsequent tours throughout Asia, 2016
- 2011 *Over Pali Cliffs*, with choreography by Kevin Carmichael  
“Hammer & Nail”, Buskirk-Chumley Theater, Bloomington, IN
- 2009 *Singing Stairs*, in collaboration with architecture students  
American Conservatory at Fontainebleau, France, winner of the “Prix Interpretation”
- 2008 Songs for *Rising Sun*, a musical produced by Spring-Time Theatre  
Sun Yat-Sen Museum, Hong Kong, featured musical of the Macao International Music Festival, 2011

### Visual Art/ Installations

- 2016 *Whistling Tree*, sound installation  
Lincoln Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
- 2015 *Untitled*, large-scale bubble wrap painting  
Herbert F. Johnson Museum, Ithaca, NY
- 2014 *Rock Resonance*, mixed media sound sculpture  
Aspects of Sound in Art workshop, CCRMA at Stanford University

### Concert Works and Selected Performances

- 2017 *Highwire*  
Oboe and electronics – 10’  
Commissioned by Young Concert Artists  
Olivier Stankiewicz, Maison Francaise, Washington D.C and Merkin Hall, NYC
- 2016 *This | Face | Now | Here*  
Three B-flat clarinets – 8’  
Commissioned by Chen Halevi for Meitar Ensemble CEME festival, Tel Aviv, Israel
- 2016 *Reaction (Axis III)*  
Flute and piano – 9’  
Commissioned by Zach Sheets and Wei-Han Wu  
EQ concert series, Third Life Studio, Somerville, MA, Jan. 13, 2016
- 2016 *Tribute (Axis II)*  
Violin and piano – 10’  
Commissioned by violinist Nicholas DiEugenio for “The Beethoven Project”  
Nicholas DiEugenio and Mimi Solomon, Chelsea Music Festival, New York, NY, Jun. 10, 2017  
The Process Series, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, Oct. 2016
- 2016 *Elegy (Axis I)*  
Cello and piano – 12’  
Commissioned by Eugenia Zukerman for Clarion Concerts  
Edward Arron and Jeewon Park, Leaf Peeper Series, Ghent, NY, Sept. 10, 2016

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- 2016 *Covers and Uncovers*  
Flute, clarinet, horn, percussion, violin, viola, cello— 11'  
Commissioned by Emlyn Johnson for “Music in the American Wild”: a celebration of the National Parks Service centenary  
Tour during summer 2016 to various locations around the United States, including Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Smithsonian American Art Museum, George Eastman House, Mount Rainier National Park
- 2016 *From Ivory Depths*  
SSAATTBB chorus— 8'  
Commissioned as selected composer of Volti’s Choral Arts Laboratory  
Volti, conducted by Robert Geary, St. John’s Presbyterian Church, Berkeley, CA, May 13, 2016  
Volti, First Unitarian Universalist Center, San Francisco, CA, May 14, 2016
- 2016 *Between Us*  
Mezzo-soprano and cello— 6'  
Commissioned by HOWL for theatrical production “Araby”  
Cantata Profana, Engelman Recital Hall, Baruch Performing Arts Center, New York, NY, Apr. 21, 2017  
Ashley Bathgate with mezzo-soprano Hai-Ting Chinn, Lyric Hall, New Haven, CT, Feb. 23, 2016  
Hannah Collins with Hai-Ting Chinn, National Sawdust, Brooklyn, NY, Feb. 28, 2016
- 2015-16 *Strange Sounds and Explosions Worldwide*  
Orchestra— 8'  
Commissioned by the First Music program, New York Youth Symphony, 2015  
Selected for Minnesota Orchestra Composers Institute, 2017  
Cornell Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Chris Kim, Bailey Hall, Cornell University, Mar. 5, 2017  
Minnesota Orchestra, conducted by Osmo Vänskä, Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis, MN, Feb. 3, 2017  
New York Youth Symphony, conducted by Joshua Gersen, Stern Auditorium at Carnegie Hall, NYC, Mar. 6, 2016
- 2015 *Without Color*  
Youth SSA chorus— 3'  
Ithaca Children’s Choir, cond. Janet Galván, Milstein Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, May 21, 2015
- 2015 *Games of Belief*  
Piano— 13'  
Winner of BMI Student Composer Award, 2016  
Commissioned by Young Concert Artists, Inc. for Daniel Lebardt  
Terrace Theater, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington D.C., Feb. 23, 2016  
Merkin Concert Hall, New York, NY, March 1, 2016  
Ryan McCullough, guest recital at The University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN, Apr. 5, 2017
- 2015 *Breath, Contained II*  
Five bubble wrap players and live electronics— 13'  
nief-norf Summer Festival, University of Tennessee Knoxville, June 11, 2016  
Sandbox Percussion with Michael Compitello, Cornell University Sibley Dome, Ithaca, NY, Mar. 26, 2015
- 2014 *Blue Skin of the Sea*  
Marimba— 23'  
Winner of BMI Student Composer Award, 2015  
Commissioned by consortium members Michael Compitello, Gwendolyn Burgett, Ji Hye Jung, Ayano Kataoka, Katelyn King, Ian Rosenbaum, Leah Scholes, Jeff Stern, and Daniel Tones  
Michael Compitello, Sprague Hall, Yale School of Music, New Haven, CT, Nov. 17, 2015
- 2014 *Escape-Landscape*  
String Quartet— 8'  
Written for the 2014 Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival  
The Rhythm Method, AC Institute, New York, NY, April 26, 2017  
Skyros Quartet, Harris Concert Hall, Aspen Music Festival, Aug. 5 and 17, 2015  
FLUX Quartet, St. Francis Auditorium, NM Museum of Art, Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, Aug. 8, 2014

- 2014 *Plush Earth in Four Pieces*  
Violin and Piano– 9'  
Winner for Association for the Promotion of New Music call-for-scores, 2015-16  
Winner of Rapee Sagarik Prize, 2014  
Earplay, Herbst Theater, San Francisco, CA, Jan. 30, 2017  
Vicennium Void, Thailand International Composition Festival, Mahidol University, June 28, 2014  
Xak Bjerken and Vesselin Gellef, Barnes Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, Apr. 21, 2014
- 2014 *Eyelids are Islands*  
Sinfonietta– 11'  
Written at the Copland House as part of Copland Residency Award  
Otto R. Stahl Memorial Award, Cornell University, 2014  
Ensemble Échappé, cond. Jeff Milarsky, Symphony Space, New York, NYC, Feb. 25, 2016  
Festival Chamber Orchestra, cond. Chris Kim, Cornell University, Barnes Hall, Ithaca, NY, Apr. 12, 2014
- 2013 *Breath, Contained*  
Bubble wrap and electronics: solo version– 5-7'  
Tenth Intervention, National Sawdust, Brooklyn, NY, May 5, 2017  
Ruud Roelofsen, solo recital, Concert Hall of the Arnhem Conservatory, The Netherlands, May 12, 2015  
Brandon Bell, solo recital, Springville Center for the Arts, Springville, NY, May 28, 2014  
Tonia Ko, ICMC Conference 2014, Old Stock Exchange Building, Athens, Greece, Sept. 18, 2014
- 2013-14 *Real Voices and Imagined Clatter*  
Percussion quartet– 11'  
nief-norf Summer Festival, University of Tennessee Knoxville, June 11, 2016  
Chosen Vale International Percussion Seminar, Mary Keene Chapel, Enfield, NH, Jul. 10, 2015  
University of Kansas Percussion Group, Murphy Hall, Lawrence, KS, Apr. 23 2015  
So Percussion, Cornell Concert Series, Bailey Hall, Ithaca, NY, Oct. 26, 2015
- 2013 *Smoke and Distance*  
Soprano and piano– 8'  
Written for Tanglewood vocal composition project coached by Dawn Upshaw and John Harbison  
Sharon Harms with pianist Katherine Dowling, SUNY Stony Brook, Apr. 2014  
Ensemble Lunatik, Salle d'Youville du Palais Montcalm, Quebec City, QC, Nov. 30, 2013  
Samantha Malk with pianist Jessica Rucinski, Tanglewood Music Center, Seiji Ozawa Hall, Jul. 10, 2013
- 2012 *Hush*  
Percussion and violoncello– 12'  
Commissioned by New Morse Code: Michael Compitello and Hannah Collins  
Finalist, BMI Student Composer Award, 2013  
New Morse Code, Concert Artist Guild International Competition, Oct. 15, 2015  
Kettle Corn New Music Series, DiMenna Center, New York, NY, Sept. 19, 2015  
Holland-Weissman Duo, Pausa Art House, Buffalo, NY, Oct. 24, 2013
- 2012 *Still Life Crumbles*  
Violin and double manual harpsichord– 7'  
1<sup>st</sup> prize, Lin Yao Ji International Composition Competition, 2012  
Finalist, ASCAP Foundation Morton Gould Young Composer Award, 2013  
“Routes of Evanescence”, debut album of violinist Ariana Kim with keyboardist Ieva Jokubaviciute, released Dec. 2015  
Olivia De Prato and Chung Chi Woo, Southside Salon, Hong Kong, Oct. 31, 2013
- 2012 *Glass Echoes*  
Solo horn– 6'  
3<sup>rd</sup> prize, Arioso Musica Domani International Composition Prize 2012  
Michael Walker, Recital Hall, IU Jacobs School of Music, Bloomington, IN, Nov. 14, 2014  
Alma Maria Liebrecht, The Declassified at Spectrum, New York City, Jan. 11, 2013
- 2011 *Siteless Structures*  
Solo piano–11'  
Winner of Libby Larsen Prize, 2012 IAWM Search for New Music  
David Friend, Transit Ensemble at The Firehouse Space, Brooklyn, NY, Dec. 8, 2013  
Michael Pecak, 42nd Annual Festival of New Music at Ball State University, Muncie, IN, Mar. 24, 2012

- 2010 *Moments*  
Piccolo and guitar- 6'  
2nd prize, Belvedere Chamber Music Festival Composition Contest, 2010  
Finalist, ASCAP Foundation Morton Gould Young Composer Award, 2010  
Luna Nova New Music Ensemble, Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Memphis, TN, Jun. 25, 2010
- 2008 *Moon Lullaby*  
Oboe, string trio, vibraphone- 8'  
2nd prize, Chinese Fine Arts Society Migratory Journeys International Composition Competition, 2010  
Civitas Ensemble, Art Institute of Chicago, Fullerton Hall, Chicago, IL, Mar. 26, 2012