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[Arts&Culture] Talented musician Ching-Shan Chang's international achievements and film music journey in Europe and America

2019/03/25 06:00

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Ching-Shan Chang in front of the poster at the 71st Cannes Film Festival

[By Mei-Hseu Ling/Taipei] As of March 2019, Taiwanese composer residing in America, Ching-Shan Chang continues to obtain national and international awards and special honors one after another. Her success includes the winning of silver medal for Best Original Score & Soundtrack for Film and Television in Global Music Awards, being selected as one of the finalists in Berlin International Film Scoring Competition and may more.

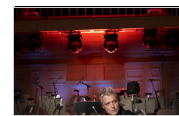
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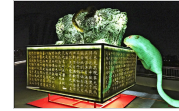
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She humbly admitted, "silver medal means more room to improve." but is optimistic about the competition in Berlin having the potential to lead her to many more opportunities in Europe. She was recently hired as the assistant of famous film music conductor, Amy Andersson for an upcoming concert in September 2019 in Alice Tully Hall in Lincoln Center, titled "Women Warriors: The Voice of Change." The concert includes multiple world premieres of works by female composers, memorizing and saluting to girls and women who stood up for their rights in history.



(圖：張菁珊提供)

While being accomplished in both piano performance and music composing since a young age, Ching-Shan Chang revealed that she has been greatly inspired by Japanese composer Joe Hisaishi's masterful techniques in film scoring and conducting. However, she decided to pursue her Bachelor's degree in classical composition at Eastman School of Music, until she began to work with filmmakers, animators and game designers in her junior year, she immediately fell in love with writing music for multimedia. Eventually, she chose to switch her focus to screen scoring during her Master's degree.



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Ching-Shan Chang revealed, she has been striving to cross over to working with filmmakers, animators, and game designers as much as she can since 2016. One of her scores for a 12-minute short film, "The Glassmaker" directed by Maria Elias truly marked a milestone early in her career. The respective film has been selected to a great diversity of film festivals and competitions including the semi-finalist in Los Angeles CineFest, official selection in Nashville Film Festival, Best Production Design and Honorable Mention from Femujer in Dominican Republic, and Best Action/Thriller/Sci-Fi Student Short film in Los Angeles Independent Film Festival Awards. Furthermore, the soundtracks won the Best Original Score in Star Hollywood Festival, HollywoodFestival Online, and Los Angeles Film Awards.

Until today, Ching-Shan Chang's music is still being performed all over the world including Taiwan, China, America, and Europe. As a current Master's student majoring in Screen Scoring at New York University, she has been participating in film music forums and workshops such as ASCAP/Columbia University Film Scoring Workshop and NYU Steinhardt Screen Scoring Summer Workshop, while teaching as an adjunct instructor in piano studies.

It may be years of studying abroad independently, Ching-Shan Chang has moved away from her callowness in her youth. In addition to her accomplishments in music composing and piano performance, she also strives to conduct if opportunity arises. She hopes that she will excel as a multi-talented musician in Hollywood someday.

Ching-Shan Chang's Short Bio

- 1994: Born in new Taipei City, Taiwan. She began learning piano at age 5, and composing with Prof. Gordon Shi-Wen Chin at 13.
- 2005: Music composition, "Whoop of the Sea" represents Taiwan in the international final round of Junior Original Concert held by YAMAHA
- 2006: Wins the special prize of the 11th International Taipei Chopin Piano Competition and begins her concert pianist career since then
- 2013: Conducts her very first big ensemble work for 35-piece wind orchestra, "El Carnaval Español." Pursues her Bachelor's degree majoring in composition and minoring in piano performance
- 2016: Her first orchestral work, "When the Sun Rises" wins the 2nd place in National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra Composition Competition and hits the 3rd highest score in Debut Berlin Philharmonic, an international concert competition. Same year, she wins the 1st prize, the Best Variation, and the Best Total Music in the junior group in the 7th International Antonín Dvořák Composition Competition. Last but not least, two of her other orchestral scores, "In History, in Memory" and "Path to Limbo" were selected as a finalist in the 3rd International Maurice Ravel Composition Competition.
- 2017: Premiere of "In History, in Memory" with Prague Symphony Orchestra conducted by Jakub Zicha in Prague, the Czech Republic
- 2018: Short film "Elsewhere" (A Flor Azul in Portuguese) directed by Guilherme Pedra is screened in the Short fFilm Corner at the 71st Cannes Film festival.
- 2019: She is the only Asian finalist in Berlin International Film Scoring Competition for her re-score for short film "Wrapped." Additionally, soundtracks originally written for a competition, "Jupiter's Moon" is awarded the silver medal for Best Original Score & Soundtrack for Film and Television in Global Music Awards.
- 2019 June: Graduates from New York University

(Organized by Mei-Hseu Ling)



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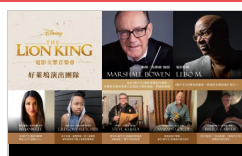
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