Phoon Yew Tien (潘 耀 田): For the Love of Creating by Perera, Audrey, written in August 2010
National Library Board, Singapore

He is probably the most recorded classical composer in Singapore, not to mention one of the most prolific since he began his career in 1974, and is possibly the only home-grown composer who has made a living from his craft.

The winner of many local and international awards for composition, Phoon's works have been performed and recorded by orchestras around the world, from Singapore to Russia. And it all began in the 1950s, in Singapore.

"Most people were not well-off and had many children in those days. To learn an instrument was very expensive. Most kids would not hope for it, because you were lucky if you could go to school. You didn't even think about asking for more than that. I lived in a three-storey 'blue window' flat in Strathmore Avenue, where there was still a very 'kampong' feel because of the goats and cows wandering around.

"My introduction to music began with listening to the radio. Programmes began with preludes using Western classical, Chinese and ethnic music. I was Chinese-educated, and learnt all the subjects in Chinese except one, but I still listened to English music. I learnt by listening, and unconsciously memorising all the different kinds of music, and I still remember a lot of it," recalls Phoon.

He had the good fortune, in his first year of secondary school, to meet two people who owned Chinese instruments, and who informally taught him some basic techniques. His sister, who was in the National Theatre arts troupe – which consisted of a symphony orchestra, a choir and a Chinese orchestra – got him on board. "They practised once a week, and members were given an allowance of \$10 for each session, quite a princely sum in those days. I joined the Chinese orchestra but could not read notes, so I had to start learning. After two years, I became a member of the orchestra."

In the late 1960s, there was a decision to form a youth symphony orchestra, a youth choir and a Chinese orchestra. This led to a trip to Switzerland to participate in an international youth orchestra competition. "Our Chinese orchestra was very unusual because most of the other orchestras were symphony orchestras. And the experience of watching Western classical orchestras inspired us to learn Western instruments such as the piano and the Western flute. But I was 18 by then – too late to start learning an instrument if you wanted to play professionally. In fact, by the age of 15, you should have mastered the scales and the basic repertoire. At that time, very few people reached Grade 8.

"I coached the Chinese orchestra in a school to earn an income. My family asked me, 'Do you know what you are doing?' But I didn't care, I just wanted to pursue my music. I earned money so that I could take formal lessons. I had no piano, so I used the piano at ECAC at Farrer Park for practice. I used to sneak in to use the piano but would get chased away by the *jaga*! I also practised at the homes of friends and relatives who had pianos.

"I thought I was too late, so I worked very hard and gave myself a goal – to reach Grade 8 within three years, and I did it. Then I taught myself the Western flute."

By this time, Phoon was past the age for the youth orchestra, so he stayed with the Chinese orchestra, until the People's Association (PA) formed a full-time Chinese orchestra. There was no teacher – the musicians learnt from each other and from listening to recordings.

"At that time too, in the 1950s and '60s, those who played Chinese instruments were viewed as leftists. Print materials from China were banned and this included music scores. So I would transcribe music from recordings of about 100 songs – I'd listen about 10 times, write down the full score, and then write it out again a few times to make copies for the other musicians. This was training for my ears, using my ears to listen and my eyes to see the score. That was my early training. All us musicians were self-taught in that era," explains Phoon, whose two teenaged sons are also on the path to music.

Phoon was a full-time orchestra member until 1979 when he won a Singapore Symphony Orchestra scholarship (SSO) to learn the Western flute at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music. "I was about 27 yrs old, and at this stage, had no choice but to learn to understand English. I learnt the flute and the piccolo and took an elective in composition. After six months, it was recommended that I switch my major to composition. I asked SSO if I could switch, and the answer was no. The orchestra needed a performer, not a composer."

Then fate stepped in, and Phoon, on the strength of his obvious talent for composition, was offered the chance to do a double-degree course that would allow him to do both. During this time, Phoon was awarded the Dulcie Robertson Prize in composition thrice (1980, 1981 and 1983), for best composition.

When he returned home, Phoon joined the PA for eight years before joining the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts for 15 years, as a lecturer and eventually as Head of the Music Department.

As a composer, Phoon is not only well-grounded in both Eastern and Western musical vocabularies. His works cover the entire spectrum of chamber music, songs, music for theatre and concert hall. He has earned a strong reputation as a significant composer, both in Singapore

and in the international arena, and since 1987, his compositions and arrangements have been performed and recorded by the orchestras such as the Singapore Symphony, the Russian Philharmonic, Shanghai Philharmonic, Shanghai Music Conservatory Symphony, Shanghai Music Conservatory Chinese Orchestra, Singapore Chinese Orchestra, Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra and the Kaohsiung City Chinese Orchestra of Taiwan.

On April 14, 2000, the Singapore Symphony Orchestra premiered his *Variants on an Ancient Tune* as one of a series of new works commissioned for the 20th anniversary of the orchestra. Later that year, the Beijing China Film Orchestra performed works by Phoon Yew Tien in his solo composition concert in Beijing Concert Hall. He was also commissioned by the National Arts Council to compose a large-scale work, *Confucius - A Secular Cantata*, for the Singapore Arts Festival 2001.

Besides composing symphonic works, Chinese orchestral music and chamber music, Phoon has participated in almost all the Singapore Arts Festivals since 1984. He has collaborated with many Singapore artistes including Kuo Pao Kun, Goh Lay Kuan, Tan Swie Hian, Lim Fei Shen and Yan Choong Lian to create music for television (*Grandpa's Meat Bone Tea*), theatre productions (including *Evening Climb, Lao Jiu, Kopi Tiam, The Oolah World, Family, The Spirits Play, Descendent of the Eunuch Admiral*), dance theatre (including *Nu Wa, Xi Fangping, Tang Huang, The Homing Fish*) and dance (including *Nuo Dance, Madhouse, Dao, Qing Ming*).

In 2000, Phoon was appointed by the Singapore government to re-arrange the National Anthem. "I brought the key down from G major to F major, and the orchestration was also changed. I created seven versions, for use on different occasions and with different instrumentation," explains Phoon. The national anthem that we hear played today in various contexts is the version he re-arranged.

"Having learnt both Chinese and Western music, my life experience is different. I've gone from playing Chinese music to Western practice and theory, to practical Chinese music writing, and then to doing both. And I may be the only composer in Singapore who makes a living from composing. To do that, I've had to grab every opportunity that came my way, whether I liked it or not. If you want to survive as a composer, you cannot say no to invitations," he says, making the point that apart from classical works and arrangements, his path has also led him to compose advertising jingles, pop songs and corporate theme songs.

Phoon works for six to eight hours a day when working to a tight deadline. "I am greedy, and even if the deadline is very challenging, I would rather take on a whole project than only do a part of it, or risk losing it altogether. Computers make the process faster – what would take me 10 days to hand-write takes me two days on the computer."

Hard Work, Then Inspiration

What, for Phoon Yew Tien, is the creative process? "I hear the music in my mind then I write. There is a Chinese saying that you first must draw the dragon, and then put in the eyes. To me, the dragon is the hard work, the eyes are the inspiration. Both must come together - you cannot create anything with one and not the other. They cannot exist exclusively," says Phoon, who's work has been described as a successful combination of Chinese idiom and contemporary compositional techniques; transparent and spare, making effective use of tone colour.

"I am not a religious person but I feel that some music comes from a higher power. Some of my works, when I look back, I don't know how I created them, and these are among my most satisfying works. Among them are my symphonic *Wang Jiang Nan* concerto, *Variants on an Ancient Tune* and *Meditations of a Poet*; and my Chinese orchestral work *Reminiscence of March*.

Quote

"I seldom analyse my work. It's based on my training and my days of early involvement in Chinese music. It's a combination of the Western style of composition and the Chinese way. I base it on my instinct rather than on a kind of theory."

Awards

For three consecutive years, 1977 to 1979, Phoon won the Distinguished Prize in the National Song Writing Competition – the prizes were awarded for the works *Our Song* in 1977, *Nanyang University* (1978) and *Song for Workers* (1979). While attending the Queensland Conservatorium of Music on a Singapore Symphony Orchestra scholarship, Phoon was awarded the Dulcie Robertson Prize in composition thrice (1980, 1981 and 1983), for best composition.

In 1984, he won the prestigious Yoshiro Irino Memorial Prize for Composition, awarded by the Asian Composers League, one of the highest awards to be given to a young Asian composer.

1996: National Arts Council, Singapore, *The Cultural Medallion Award (Music)*

1996: 2nd Composers and Authors Society of Singapore (COMPASS) Annual Awards, *Top Local Serious Music*, for *Pipa Romance*

1997: 3rd Composers and Authors Society of Singapore (COMPASS) Annual Awards, *Top Local Serious Music*, for *Descendent of The Eunuch Admiral*

2001: 7th Composers and Authors Society of Singapore (COMPASS) Annual Awards, *Top Local Serious Music*, for *Overture*

2004: 9th Composers and Authors Society of Singapore (COMPASS) Annual Awards, *Top Local Serious Music*, for *Chinese Past One*

Works

Arrangements for Choir

1972: Pu Tao Cheng Shu Le

1977: *I Am A Young Artist Of The Republic*, Su Zai Dun, Phoon Yew Tien, Anglo-Chinese Junior College Choir conducted by Valerie Wilson

1978: *Ode To The Nanyang University*, Miran, Phoon Yew Tien, Victoria Chorale conducted by Nelson Kwei

1990: *Song Ge*, Chen Chu, Shang Yi, Tham Chaik Kong, Hwa Chong Junior College Chinese Orchestra conducted by Tham Chaik Kong, Singapore Conference Hall 1987

1990: *Hua Xiang Gu Wu Qu*, Chen Chu, Shang Yi, Tham Chaik Kong, Hua Chong Junior College Chinese Orchestra conducted by Tham Chaik Kong, Singapore Conference Hall 1987

1990 : Song Of Oolah, for Soloist, Choir and Chinese Orchestra, Hwa Chong Junior College Chinese Orchestra conducted by Tham Chaik Kong, Singapore Chinese Orchestra conducted by Hu Bing Xu, 1989, 1997

1991: *Selling Flowers*, Pan Shou, Xia Zhi Qiu, Singapore Youth Choir conducted by Jennifer Tham

1994 : Fang Zhi Gu Niang

1994: Han Bao Yu Fang De Hua

1994 : Bai Ling Niao Ni Zhe Mei Miao De Ge Shou

1994 : *Jui Xun*, Liu Xue An

1994 : Zai Na Yao Yuan De Di Fang

1994 : *Ou Ran*, Xu Wei Ning

1994: Wen Ying Yan, Huang You Di

1997: *Spring Morn*, Jin Gang, performed by Singapore Youth Choir conducted by Jennifer Tham, Victoria Concert Hall, 1997

1997: *Jasmine*, Singapore Youth Choir conducted by Jennifer Tham

1997: Street Moon, Wu Cun Zhang Hao Singapore Youth Choir conducted by Jennifer Tham

1997: Malay Folksong Medley, Singapore Youth Choir conducted by Jennifer Tham

1997: *Tao Hua Dian Xing Hua Cun*, Victoria Chorale conducted by Nelson Kwei, Esplanade Concert Hall, 2003

1998: *Song Without Words*, Phoon Yew Tien, Recorded by Anglo-Chinese Junior College Choir conducted by Valerie Wilson

1998: Jiao Wo Ru He Bu Xiang Ta, Liu Ban Nong, Zhao Yuan Ren

1998 : *Hong Dou Ci*, Liu Xue An

1998: *Chou Hen Ru Xin Yao Fa Ya*, Yunye Choir conducted by Wu Jie, Singapore Chorus Festival 1998

1998: Yuan Fang De Ke Ren Qing Ni Ting Lai, Yunye Choir conducted by Wu Jie, Singapore Chorus Festival 1998

1998: Ah La Mu Han, Yunye Choir conducted by Wu Jie, Singapore Chorus Festival 1998

1998: Nao Yang Ge, Yunye Choir conducted by Wu Jie, Singapore Chorus Festival 1998

1999: Who Are You My Country, Lee Tzu Pheng, Phoon Yew Tien, Singapore Youth Choir conducted by Jennifer Tham

2000: Zhu Ying Tai, Victoria Chorale conducted by Nelson Kwei, Esplanade Concert Hall, 2003

2000 : Little Oriole, Anglo-Chinese Junior College Choir conducted by Valerie Wilson

- 2000: Ri Weng Du Zan, Singapore Youth Choir conducted by Jennifer Tham
- **2000**: *Mama I Am Leaving*, Guo Pao Kun, Phoon Yew Tien, The Theatre Practice, Victoria Chorale conducted by Nelson Kwei
- 2000 : Singapore National Anthem (Majulah Singapura), for Choir and Symphony Orchestra, Zubir Said, Singapore Symphony Orchestra & Singapore Youth Choir conducted by Lim Yao
- **2000**: *Singapore National Anthem (Majulah Singapura)*, for Choir and Piano, Zubir Said, Singapore Youth Choir conducted by Jennifer Tham
- 2000 : Singapore National Anthem (Majulah Singapura), for Soloist, Choir and Symphony Orchestra, Zubir Said, Singapore Symphony Orchestra & Singapore Youth Choir conducted by Lim Yao
- **2001**: *Spring*, Guan Lu, He Lu Ting, performed by Victoria Chorale conducted by Nelson Kwei, Esplanade Concert Hall, 2003
- 2001: Spring Has Arrived, Anglo-Chinese Junior College Choir conducted by Valerie Wilson
- 2001: New Year Greetings, Hou Xiang, Singapore Youth Choir conducted by Jennifer Tham
- 2001: Spring Flowers, Yao Min, Victoria Chorale conducted by Nelson Kwei
- **2001**: *Spring Returns*, Yao Min, Anglo-Chinese Junior College Choir conducted by Valerie Wilson
- 2001: Wishing You Prosperity, Yao Min, Singapore Youth Choir conducted by Jennifer Tham
- **2001**: *Congratulations*, Yao Min, Anglo-Chinese Junior College Choir conducted by Valerie Wilson
- **2001**: Wishing You A Happy New Year, Zhi Mei, Anglo-Chinese Junior College Choir conducted by Valerie Wilson
- 2001: Azalea, Huang You Di, Anglo-Chinese Junior College Choir conducted by Valerie Wilson
- **2001**: *Hua Yu (in 10 movements)*, Lyrics by Chong Weng Hong, Singapore Chinese Orchestra, Victoria Chorale, conducted by Xia Fei Yun, Singapore Arts Festival 2001

2002: Si Ji Gie, Victoria Chorale conducted by Nelson Kwei, Esplanade Concert Hall, 2003

2003: Happy Birthday To You, Clayton F. Summy, Victoria Chorale conducted by Nelson Kwei

2003 : *Du Shu Lang*

2003: *Singapore Folksong Medley*, for Children Choir and Chinese Orchestra, Singapore Chinese Orchestra conducted by Qu Chun Quan, Singapore Conference Hall 2003

2003: *Singapore Folksong Medley*, for Mix Choir and Chinese Orchestra, Singapore Chinese Orchestra conducted by Quek Ling Kiong, Singapore Chinese Cultural Month Opening Concert at Singapore Conference Hall 2004

2003: *Chinese Folksong Medley*, for Children Choir and Chinese Orchestra, Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, Hong Kong Children's Choir conducted by Chew Hee Chiat

2004 : Cuckoo Waltz, J. Johnasson

2004: Spring In A Narrow Lane, Chen Shi, Hou Xiang

2004: Happy Family, Chen Die Yi, Liang Yue Yin

2004 : Xiang Lang, Yan Hua, Jin Gang

2004: Su Zhong Qing, Chen Shi, Yao Min

2004: San Nian Li Bie You Xiang Feng, Chen Dong Sun, Yao Min

2004 : He Ri Jun Zai Lai, Bei Lin, Liu Xue An

2004 : Yue Yuan Hua Hao, Fan Yan Qiao, Yan Hua

2004 : Zhong Shan Chun, Jin Yu Gu

2004 : Hua Chuan Ge, Yao Min

2004: Hua Yang De Nian Hua, Fan Yan Qiao, Lin Mei

2004 : Singapore Medley, for Mix Choir and Chinese Orchestra, Singapore Chinese Orchestra conducted by T'sung Yeh, Singapore Chinese Orchestra National Day Celebration Concert at Singapore Indoor Stadium 2004

2004: *Singapura*, for Choir and Chinese Orchestra, 2004, Pasir Ris Secondary School Chinese Orchestra and Rosyth Primary School Chinese Orchestra conducted by Ding Xiao Yan and Xu Yi Ping, 2004, 2005

2004 : Munnaeru Vaalibaa, for Choir and Chinese Orchestra, 2004, Pasir Ris Secondary School Chinese Orchestra and Rosyth Primary School Chinese Orchestra conducted by Ding Xiao Yan and Xu Yi Ping, 2004, 2005

2005 : Candle Light, Goa Hui Bi, Phoon Yew Tien, Han Yong Yuan, The Theatre Practice

2006 : *Arirang*

2006: Toraji Tah-Ryung

2006: Semoga Bahagia, Zubir Said, National Day Parade 2007

2006: Munnaeru Vaalibaa, National Day Parade 2007

2006: *Military Display*, National Day Parade 2007

2006: *Majulah Singapura*, Zubir Said, Singapore Symphony Orchestra and Choir conducted by T'sung Yeh, National Day Parade 2007

2006: *Xiao Ren Wu De Xin Sheng*, Tan Kian Chin, Bok Sek Yieng, National Day Parade 2007 **2006**: *Xiao Ren Wu De Xin Sheng*, Tan Kian Chin, Bok Sek Yieng, National Day Parade 2007

2006: *March In (with old NS Songs)*, 2006, Singapore Symphony Orchestra and Choir conducted by Major Philip Tng, National Day Parade 2007

2006: Song Without Words II, Singapore Youth Festival Choir Competition, Victoria Concert Hall 2007

2006: *Dao Ding Zan*, Wu Chan Fa Shi, Singapore Chinese Orchestra conducted by T'sung Yeh, 2006

- **2006**: *Shi Zun Song*, Jing Xin Fa Shi, Chen Zhen Guo, Singapore Chinese Orchestra conducted by T'sung Yeh, 2006
- **2009**: *Ba Yue Shi Wu Shi Zhong Qiu*, for Children's voices and Chinese Orchestra, Wei Ran Kan, Rosyth School Choir and Chinese Orchestra, 2006

Arrangements for Symphonic Band

- **2001**: *Da Di Hui Chun*, Yao Min, Adrian Tan, Siglap South Audio Image Community Band conducted by Adrian Tan, Victoria Concert Hall, 2001
- **2001**: *Qiang Wei Shu Yuan*, for Choir and Chinese Orchestra, Yao Min, Adrian Tan, Siglap South Audio Image Community Band conducted by Adrian Tan, Victoria Concert Hall, 2001
- **2001**: *He Jia Huan*, Liang Yue Yin, Adrian Tan, Siglap South Audio Image Community Band conducted by Adrian Tan, Victoria Concert Hall 2001
- **2001**: *Ai Shen De Jian*, Jin Gang, Adrian Tan, Siglap South Audio Image Community Band conducted by Adrian Tan, Victoria Concert Hall, 2001
- **2001**: *Ye Shang Hai*, Lin Mei, Adrian Tan, Siglap South Audio Image Community Band conducted by Adrian Tan, Victoria Concert Hall, 2001
- **2002**: *Wang Jiang Nan*, for Yangqin and Symphonic Band (in four movements, 2002, Robert Casteels and The Philharmonic Winds, The Philharmonic Winds with soloist Qu Jian Qing conducted by Robert Casteels, Singapore Conference Hall, 2004
- 2003: The Mcpherson March, Lenny Tan, Allen B Goh, Mcpherson Secondary School Band

Arrangements for Symphony Orchestra

- **1972**: San Nian Li Bie You Xiang Feng, Yao Min, Singapore Symphony Orchestra conducted by Lim Yao, Victoria Concert Hall, 1996, Recorded by the Shanghai Music Conservatory Symphony Orchestra (K.K. Productions Yellow River)
- 1977: I Am A Young Artist Of The Republic, Su Zai Dun, Phoon Yew Tien

- 1991: We Wish You A Peaceful Year, Lin Mei, Singapore Symphony Orchestra conducted by Lim Yao, Victoria Concert Hall, 1996, Recorded by the Shanghai Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra (K.K. Productions Yellow River)
- **1993**: *Welcome The Blessing of Spring*, Singapore Symphony Orchestra conducted by Lim Yao, Victoria Concert Hall, 1996, Recorded by the Shanghai Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra (K.K. Productions Yellow River)
- **1993**: *Spring Morn*, Jin Gang, Singapore Symphony Orchestra conducted by Lim Yao, Victoria Concert Hall, 1996, Recorded by the Shanghai Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra (K.K. Productions Yellow River)
- **1993**: *Martial Art*, He Bin, Recorded by the Shanghai Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra (K.K. Productions Yellow River
- 1993: New Year Greetings, Hou Xiang, Singapore Symphony Orchestra conducted by Lim Yao, Victoria Concert Hall, 1996, Recorded by the Shanghai Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra (K.K. Productions Yellow River)
- **1993**: *Spring Flowers*, Yao Min, Singapore Symphony Orchestra conducted by Lim Yao, Victoria Concert Hall, 1996, Recorded by the Shanghai Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra (K.K. Productions Yellow River)
- **1993**: *Spring Returns*, Yao Min, Singapore Symphony Orchestra conducted by Lim Yao, Victoria Concert Hall, 1996, Recorded by the S
- 1993: Wishing You Prosperity, Yao Min, Singapore Symphony Orchestra conducted by Lim Yao, Victoria Concert Hall 1996, Recorded by the Shanghai Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra (K.K. Productions Yellow River)
- 1993 : Congratulations, Yao Min, Singapore Symphony Orchestra conducted by Lim Yao, Victoria Concert Hall, 1996, Recorded by the Shanghai Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra (K.K. Productions Yellow River)
- **1993**: *Wishing You A Happy New Year*, Zhi Mei, Singapore Symphony Orchestra conducted by Lim Yao, Victoria Concert Hall, 1996, Recorded by the Shanghai Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra (K.K. Productions Yellow River)

- : *Spring In A Narrow Lane*, Hou Xiang, Singapore Symphony Orchestra conducted by Lim Yao, Victoria Concert Hall 1996, Recorded by the Shanghai Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra (K.K. Productions Yellow River)
- : *Happy Family*, Liang Yue Yin, Singapore Symphony Orchestra conducted by Lim Yao, Victoria Concert Hall, 1996, Recorded by the Shanghai Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra (K.K. Productions Yellow River)
- 1993: *Azalea*, Huang You Di, Singapore Symphony Orchestra conducted by Lim Yao, Victoria Concert Hall, 1996, Recorded by the Shanghai Music Conservatory Symphony Orchestra (K.K. Productions Yellow River)
- : *Wishes Of A Rose*, Yao Min, Singapore Symphony Orchestra conducted by Lim Yao, Victoria Concert Hall, 1996, Recorded by the Shanghai Music Conservatory Symphony Orchestra (K.K. Productions Yellow River)
- : *Taiwan's Little Tune*, Xu Shi, Singapore Symphony Orchestra conducted by Lim Yao, Victoria Concert Hall, 1996, Recorded by the Shanghai Music Conservatory Symphony Orchestra (K.K. Productions Yellow River)
- : *Endless Love*, Mo Ran, Singapore Symphony Orchestra conducted by Lim Yao, Victoria Concert Hall, 1996, Recorded by the Shanghai Music Conservatory Symphony Orchestra (K.K. Productions Yellow River)
- : *Lover's Tears*, Yao Min, Singapore Symphony Orchestra conducted by Lim Yao, Singapore Botanic Gardens, 2005, Recorded by the Shanghai Music Conservatory Symphony Orchestra (K.K. Productions Yellow River)
- : Where Are You Mother, Si Tu Rong, Recorded by the Shanghai Music Conservatory Symphony Orchestra (K.K. Productions Yellow River)
- : *Gu Niang Shi Ba Yi Duo Hua*, Nai Ping, Recorded by the Shanghai Music Conservatory Symphony Orchestra (K.K. Productions Yellow River)
- : *Zhu Fu*, Hou Xiang, Singapore Symphony Orchestra conducted by Lim Yao, Victoria Concert Hall, 1996, Recorded by the Shanghai Music Conservatory Symphony Orchestra (K.K. Productions Yellow River)

1993: *Ai De Wo Liu*, Yao Min, Singapore Symphony Orchestra conducted by Lim Yao, Victoria Concert Hall, 1996, Recorded by the Shanghai Music Conservatory Symphony Orchestra (K.K. Productions Yellow River)

1993: *Qing Ming De Yue*, Recorded by the Shanghai Music Conservatory Symphony Orchestra (K.K. Productions Yellow River

1993: *Mu Yang Nu Zhi Lian*, Yao Min, Singapore Symphony Orchestra conducted by Lim Yao, Victoria Concert Hall, 1996, Recorded by the Shanghai Music Conservatory Symphony Orchestra (K.K. Productions Yellow River)

1993: *Yue Tao Hua*, Yao Min, Singapore Symphony Orchestra conducted by Lim Yao, Victoria Concert Hall, Recorded by the Shanghai Music Conservatory Symphony Orchestra (K.K. Productions Yellow River)

1993: *Du Shu Lang*, Singapore Symphony Orchestra conducted by Lim Yao, Victoria Concert Hall, 1996, Recorded by the Shanghai Music Conservatory Symphony Orchestra (K.K. Productions Yellow River)

1994: Jiao Huan, Liang Yue Yin

1994: Hu Pan Si Pai, Qing Shan

1994: Zi Ding Xiang, Yao Min

1994 : Sh iZhen Shi Huang

1994 : Song Da Ge

1994 : Ai Shen De Jian, Jin Gang

1994 : *Mao Mao Yu*, Li Jin Guang

1994: Hua Chuan Ge, Yao Min

1994 : Sen Lin Zhi Ge, Yao Min

1994 : Ye Shang Hai, Lin Mei

1994: River Of No Riturn

1994 : *Daisy*

1994 : *Jambalaya*

1994 : *Auld Lang Syne*

1995: One Day When We Where Young, Strauss

1995 : An Affair To Remember

1995 : *April Love*

1995: *Unchained Melody*

1995: I Love To Dance With You

1995 : *Buttons And Bows*

1995 : Wo Liang De You Zong, Yao Min

1995: Yi Luan Qing Mi, Tian Feng

1995 : Bu Bian De Xin, Chen Ge Xin

1995: Lang Hua, Jin Gang

1995 : Na Ge Bu Duo Qing, Yao Min

1995 : *Ah Li Lang*

1995 : Xing Hua Xi Zhi Lian, Yao Min

1995 : Wo De Meng Li You Ge Ta, Yao Min

1995 : Mai Tang Yuan, Yao Min

1995 : Zuan Shi Hua, Yao Min

1995 : *Re Hong Hong De Tai Yang*, Bai Lang

1995 : Xi Zi Gu Niang, Liu Xue An

1995 : *San Nian*, Yao Min

1995 : *Ni Wa Wa*, Luo Zhong

1995 : *Ping Guo Hua*

1996: Zai Wo Men Xiao Shi Hou, Zhou Lan Ping

1996 : Yue Yuan Hua Hao, Yan Hua

1996: Chun Si Qu, Huang Zi

1996 : *Si Ji Ge*

1996 : Zhui Xun, Liu Xue An

1996: Kang Ding Qing Ge

1996: Huai Nian Qu, Huang Yong Xi

1996 : Da Hai Ah Gu Xiang, Wang Li Ping

1996 : *Ou Ran*, Li Wei Ning

1996: Han BaoYu Fang De Hua

1996 : Bai Ling Niao Ni Zhe Mei Miao De Ge Shou

1997: Street Moon, Zhang Hao

1997: *Su Zhong Qing*, Yao Min, Singapore Symphony Orchestra conducted by Lim Yao, Victoria Concert Hall, 1996, Recorded by the Shanghai Music Conservatory Symphony Orchestra (K.K. Productions Yellow River)

1997 : *Qing Chun Wu Qu*

1997: Hong Dou Ci, Liu Xue An

1997 : Zhu Ying Tai

1997 : *Ao Bao Xiang Hui*

1997 : Zai Na Yin Se De Yue Guang Xia

1997 : *Tou Lian*, Yao Min

1998: Hong Dou Ci, Liu Xue An

1998: You Don't Know Me

1998 : *Tammy*

1998 : *The Wedding*

1998: Jin Xiao Duo Zhen Zhong, Wang Fu Ling

1998: Mei You Yue Liang De Wan Shang, Qi Xiang Tang

1998: Miao Yuan Zhong Sheng, Yao Min

1998: Wen Jun He Ri Neng Zai Lai, Jiang Feng

1998: Xiao Niao Chang Chu Le Li Ming, Jiang Feng

1998: Jiang Feng Wang Chuan Qiu Shui

1998: Tian Shang De Ming Yue Guang, Yao Min

1998 : Fascination

1998 : Chun Tian, Hou Xiang

1999: Silver Thread Among The Gold

1999: Love's Roundabout

1999 : Subaru

1999 : Sukiyaki

1999 : *Sayonara*

1999 : *Japanese Song*

1999: Roman Guitar

2000 : Spring, Chang Shou, Singapore Symphony Orchestra conducted by Lim Yao, Victoria Concert Hall, 1996, Recorded by the Shanghai Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra (K.K. Productions Yellow River)

2000: *A New Year Visit*, Singapore Symphony Orchestra conducted by Lim Yao, Recorded by the Shanghai Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra (K.K. Productions Yellow River)

2000: *Ri Weng Du Zan*, Ge Xin, Singapore Symphony Orchestra conducted by Lim Yao, Recorded by the Shanghai Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra (K.K. Productions Yellow River)

2000 : Jui Xun, Liu Xue An

2000 : *Ou Ran*, Xu Wei Ning

2000: Wang Chun Feng

2000 : Yu Ye Hua

2000 : *Liu Yue Mo Li*

2000 : Zhuo Ni Qiu, Hou De Jian

2000 : Zhong Shan Chun, Jin Yu Gu

2000 : Ren Jian Jin Shi Xin Xi Wang, Hou Xiang

2000 : Bu Po Wang

2000 : Rang Wo Men Dang Qi Shuang Jiang, Liu Zhi

2000: Mama I Am Going

2000 : Donkey Serenade, Friml Stothart Wright Forrest

2000: Singapore National Anthem (*Majulah Singapura*), for Symphony Orchestra, Zubir Said, Singapore Symphony Orchestra conducted by Lim Yao

2000: Singapore National Anthem (*Majulah Singapura*), for Symphony Orchestra (abridged version, 2000, Zubir Said, Singapore Symphony Orchestra conducted by Lim Yao

2001: Zhong Shan Chun, Jin Yu Gu

2002 : *Si Ji Ge*

2005: Hua Yang De Nian Hua, Fang Yan Qiao, Lin Mei

2005 : Ci Mu Xin, Chen Die Yi, Jin Yu Gu

2005: Zhi Yin He Chu Xun, Chen Shi, Zhuang Hong

2005 : Yi Liang Ren, Hong Fei, Li Hou Xiang

2005: Xu Wo Xiang Ni Kan, Yan Kuan, Zhuang Hong

2005 : Huang Ye Wu Qiu Feng, Fan Yan Qiao, Li Qi Niu

2005 : *Gao Gang Shang*, Chen Shi, Lin Mei

2005: Yong Yuan De Wei Xiao, Huai Yu, Lin Mei

2005 : Hua Wai Liu Ying, Chen Shi, Lin Mei

Chamber Works

1980: *String Quartet*, John Roger, Warwick Adeney, Brett Dean, John Napier (Ambrosian Quartet, Basil Jones Theatre, Queensland Conservatorium Of Music, 1982

1981: *Double Bass Quartet*, Tutor and students from the Oueensland Conservatorium Of Music. Basil Jones Theatre, Queensland Conservatorium Of Music, 1982

1981: Woodwind Trio, Ann Marshman, Tony Wheeler, Judy Wood, Basil Jones

- **1981**: *Song*, for Soprano and Harp, William Blake, Rowena Cowley, Una Morgan, Basil Jones Theatre, Queensland Conservatorium Of Music, 1982
- **1981**: *The Inspector of Tides*, for Soprano and Two Harps, Micheal Dransfield, Rowena Cowley, Una Morgan, Mary Doumany, Basil Jones Theatre, Queensland Conservatorium Of Music, 1982
- **1982**: Theatre, Queensland Conservatorium Of Music
- 1982: Recitative, for Flute and Harp, Louise Dellit, Una Morgan, Basil Jones
- 1982: Theatre, Queensland Conservatorium Of Music
- **1982**: *Rondo*, for Viola and Piano, Brett Dean, Philip Meyer, Basil Jones Theatre, Queensland Conservatorium Of Music, 1982
- **1982**: *Rondo Capriccioso*, for Clarinet and Piano, Tony Wheeler, Philip Meyer, Basil Jones Theatre, Oueensland Conservatorium Of Music, 1982
- 1982: Theme and Variations, for Flute, Trombone, Cello, Harpsichord, Piano and Percussion
- **1983**: *Fanfare*, for Brass and Percussion, Queensland Conservatorium Of Music Brass and Percussion Ensemble, Basil Jones Theatre, Queensland Conservatorium Of Music, 1982
- 1983: Reminiscence, for Erhu and Piano, Xin Xiao Hong, Wei Hui
- **1983** : *Hong Kong, Italy*
- **1985**: *Wang Yue Huai Yuan*, for Chinese plucked string instruments, Chua Soo Pong, Singapore National Theatre Club Chinese Orchestra, 1984
- **1985**: *Romance*, for Pipa Solo, SONOTON Recorded Music Library, Chen Yun Zhen, Composer and Authors Society of Singapore COMPASS Award ceremony, 1996
- 1985: Chinese Pazzle, for Chinese Plucked Strings, SONOTON Recorded Music Library
- 1985: Far Away Places, for Bamboo Flute and Sheng, SONOTON Recorded Music Library
- 1985: Yuan (Chinese Past One), for Erhu Duet, SONOTON Recorded Music Library

1985: Chinese Past, for Chinese Percussion Ensemble, SONOTON Recorded Music Library

1986, 1987, 1988: *Riddles*, for Guitar Quartet, Robert Luse Guitar Quartet, DBS Auditorium, 1988 Brunei and Malaysia, 1988

1987: *Separation of the Newly Wed*, for Soprano, Oboe, Erhu and Pipa, Dufu, Joost FlachSheila Molinuex, Joost Flach, Andrey Rubtsov, 1988, Singapore Arts Festival, 2004

1987: Reminiscence, for Oboe and Piano, P.Socolov, M.Subov

1988: *Riddles*, for Chinese Plucked Strings, Tham Chaik Kong, People's Association Chinese Orchestra and Beijing Film Orchestra of China conducted by Tham Chaik Kong and Phoon Yew Tien, 1988, 2000

1990: *Piece for Percussion*, for Chinese, Malay, Indian and Western Percussion Instrumental Ensemble, People's Association Chinese Orchestra Mix Percussion Instrumental Ensemble, Kelantan International Drum Festival, 1990

1993: *Distances*, for Two Pianos and Percussion, EMIS IV, Shane Thio, Eleanor Tan, Ivy Tan, 21st World Conference of International Society of Music Education, USA, 1994

1997: Caprice, for Violin and Piano

1998: Spring Time, for Piano and Percussion, EMIS IV, Shane Thio, Ivy Tan

1998 : Lullaby, for Piano Solo

1998: Ri Weng Du Zan, for Bamboo Flute, Harp and Huqin Quartet, The Huqin Quartet

1998: Xin Tian You, for Bamboo Flute, Harp and Huqin Quartet, The Huqin Quartet

1999: *Three Cantonese Tunes*, for Huqin Quartet, The Huqin Quartet, Singapore, Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide, Auckland, 1999-2000

1999-2000: Singapore, Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide

2000: Sextet, for Bamboo Flute, Chinese Harp and Hugin Quartet, The Hugin Quartet, 2000

2000: *Concord*, for Huqin Quartet, The Huqin Quartet, Singapore, Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide, Auckland, 2000

2001: Elegie, for Huqin Quartet, The Huqin Quartet, 2001

2003: *Ri Weng Du Zan*, for Chinese Instrumental Octet, Singapore Chinese Orchestra, Chinese Instrumental Octet, 2003

2003: *Divertimento On Malay Folksongs*, for Chinese Instrumental Octet, Singapore Chinese Orchestra, Chinese Instrumental Octet, 2003

2003: Australian Folksongs, for Huqin Quartet, The Huqin Quartet

2003: Australian Folksongs, for String Quartet

2004: *Huqin Quartet*, The Huqin Quartet, 2004

2004 : *Cha Lin Sui Xiang*, National University of Singapore Chinese Instrumental Quintet, Singapore, South Africa, 2004

2004: Riddles, for Ruan Ensemble and Chinese Plucked Strings, Xu Yi Ping, 2005

2005 : Candle Light, Female voices and piano, Gao Hui Bi, Singapore Jubilee Hall, 2006

2007: Man Jiang Hong, for Guzheng ensemble, Ng Boon Chai

2007: *Xi Zang Min Ge*, for Guzheng ensemble, Tan Chin Huat, Ming Shi Zheng Yuan Guzheng Ensemble, Esplanade Concert Hall, 2008

2007: *Jin Mao Shi*, for Guzheng ensemble, Lin Zhong

2007 : Yuan Fang De Ke Ren Qing Ni Ting Xia Lai, for Guzheng ensemble

2007: Wang Zhao Jun, for Guzheng ensemble, Tan Chin Huat

2007 : *Liang Xiao*, for Guzheng ensemble, Liu Tian Hua

2007: Liang Xiao, for Harp ensemble, Liu Tian Hua

2007: Yang Guan San Die, for Guzheng ensemble

2007: Guan Shan Yue, for Guzheng ensemble

2007: *Pei Hua San Nong*, for Guzheng ensemble

2007 : Zi Zhu Diao, for Guzheng ensemble

2007: *Brindisi* from Verdi's *Opera La Traviata*, for Soprano, Tenor and Chinese plucked string ensemble, Verdi, Ding Xiao Yan, An Jin Yu, Wu Jie, Singapore Tampines Ruan Ensemble, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts Lee Foundation Theatre, 2007

2008: Ming Shi Zheng Yuan Guzheng Ensemble, Esplanade Concert Hall

2008: Yu Zhou Chang Wan, for Guzheng ensemble

2008: Romance (Strings In Harmony), for String Quartet and Harp, T'ang Quartet, Katryna Tan

2008: Consolation (The True Sound Of Healing), for String Quartet and Harp, T'ang Quartet, Katryna Tan

2008: *Blessing*, for String Quartet and Harp

2008: Home, for String Quartet and Harp

2008: Greensleeves, for String Quartet and Harp

2008: Amazing Grace, for String Quartet and Harp

2008: *Morning Has Broken*, for String Quartet and Piano

2008: *The Holy City*, for String Quartet and Piano, Stephen Adams

2008: Farewell, for String Quartet and Piano

2008: *I Will Follow You*, for String Quartet and Piano

2008: Secret Dreams, for String Quartet and Piano

2008: Korean Folksongs, for String Quartet

2008: Let Us Break Bread Together, for String Quartet

2008: Auld Lang Syne, for String Quartet

2008: Look or A Star, for String Quartet and Piano

2008: Swallow, for String Quartet and Harp

2008: *Happy Birthday*, for String Quartet

2008: Tammy, for String Quartet and Harp

2008: Scenic Jiangnan, for String Quartet and Harp

2008: Ri Weng Du Zan, for Flute, Harp and String Quartet

2008: Xin Tian You, for Flute, Harp and String Quartet

2008 : Concord, for String Quartet

2008 : *Elegy*, for String Quartet

2008: *Malay Folksong Medley*, for String Quartet

2008: Amazing Grace, for Vocal, Violin and Piano

2009: Wen Ying Yan, for Piano Trio, Huang You Di, The Incursion Trio, 2010

2009: Loch Lomond, for String Orchestra, Montfort Primary School, 2010

Piano Works and Arrangements

1980: *Variations On A Transfigured Theme*, Philip Meyer, Lim Tshui Fang, Basil Jones Theatre, Queensland Conservatorium Of Music, 1980, 1981 Nanyang Technological University, 1998 Victoria Concert Hall, 2000

1980: *Two Preludes*, for Piano, Philip Meyer, Basil Jones Theatre, Queensland Conservatorium Of Music, 19, 801, 981

1980: Wang Jiang Nan (Four Pieces, for Solo Piano, Alexander Susan, Lim Tshui Fang, Basil Jones Theatre, Queensland Conservatorium Of Music, 1980 Nanyang Technological University, 1998 Victoria Concert Hall, 2000

1998: Lullaby, for Piano Solo

2001: Days With My Computer, for Piano Solo

2003 : *Didi*, for Piano Solo in three movements

2004 : *An Affair To Remember*, for Piano Solo

2004: Beautiful Heaven (Cielito Lindo), for Piano Solo, C. Fernandez

2004: Burong Kakak Tua "Burong Kakak Tua", for Piano Solo

2004: Daisy, for Piano Solo

2004 : *Love 's Roundabout*, for Piano Solo

2004: Subaru, for Piano Solo

2004: Tammy, for Piano Solo

2004: Vilja Song, for Piano Solo, Lehar

2004 : Wo Zhi Zai Hu Ni, for Piano Solo

2004 : Wo De Meng Li You Ge Ta, for Piano Solo

2004 : Wo De Hua Er, for Piano Solo

2004 : *Spanish Girl*, for Piano Solo

2004: Beautiful Dreamer, for Piano Solo, Stephen Foster

2004 : Ciribiribin, for Piano Solo, A. Pestalozza

2004 : Isle Of Capri, for Piano Solo

2004: Ni Nong Wo Nong, for Piano Solo

2004 : *Dayung Sampan*, for Piano Solo

2004: "Lonely Seventeen", for Piano Solo

2004: One Day When We Were Young, for Piano Solo, Strauss

2004: *Songs From Mary Poppins*, for Piano Solo

2004 : *Arirang and Duraji*, for Piano Solo

2004 : Love Is Blue, for Piano Solo

2004: Old Memories, for Piano Solo

2004: Look for A Star, for Piano Solo

2004: Madchens Wunsch, for Piano Solo, Chopin

2004: Love Tender, for Piano Solo

2004 : *Rosemary*, for Piano Solo

2004 : *Da Chang Jin Theme Song*, for Piano Solo

Solo Works and Arrangements

2005 : *Ripples*, for Solo Harp, Katryna Tan

2005 : *Butterfly*, for Solo Harp, Katryna Tan

2005 : Dream, for Solo Harp, Katryna Tan

2005 : *Love Song*, for Solo Harp, Katryna Tan

2005 : Chuan Ge Yu Lian Xiang, for Solo Yangqin, Qu Jian Qing, Beijing

2005 : Chun Yu, for Solo Yangqin, Qu Jian Qing

2005: Dushu Lang, for Solo Yangqin, Qu Jian Qing

2005: Butterfly, for Solo Yangqin, Qu Jian Qing

2006: Morning, for Solo Harp, Katryna Tan, Esplanade Recital Studio, 2007

Drama & Dance

1984: Incidental the drama "Oolah World", for soloist, Choir and Chinese Orchestra, Han Yong Yuan, Singapore Arts Festival 1984

1984: Incidental the drama "*Door*", Han Yong Yuan, Drama Group of the Southern Arts Society, Victoria Theatre, 1984

1985: The dance "Madhouse", Goh Lay Kuan, Practice Performing Arts School Singapore, Victoria Theatre, 1985

1985: The dance drama "Tang Huang" (A Glimpse), 1985, Lim Fei Shen, People's Association Dance Troupe, ASEAN Arts Festival, Victoria Theatre, 1985-1987, Paris, 1988

1985: Incidental the drama "Kopi Tiam", Athol Fugard, Kuo Pao Kun, Victoria Theatre, 1985

1985-1987: Arts Festival, Victoria Theatre, Paris, 1988

1986: The dance drama "Xi Fang Ping", Lim Fei Shen, People's Association Dance Troupe, People's Association Chinese Orchestra, ASEAN

1986: Incidental the drama "Island", Kuo Pao Kun, Practice Performing Arts School, Singapore Arts Festival 1986

1988: The dance drama "Nu Wa", for Large Chinese Orchestra and Choir, Goh Lay Kuan, various dance companies, Singapore Arts Festival 1988, Victoria Theatre

1990: Incidental the drama "Lao Jiu", Kuo Pao Kun, Practice Performing Arts School, Singapore Arts Festival 1990

1990: *Dances Of Singapore*, for mix orchestra, Neela Sathiyalingam, Som Said, Lim Fei Shen, People's Association Chinese Orchestra, People's Association 30th anniversary celebration concert, 1990

1992: Incidental the drama "The Evening Climb", Kuo Pao Kun, Practice Performing Arts School, Singapore Arts Festival 1992

- : *The Homing Fish*, for Symphony Orchestra, Shanghai Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra, Lim Yao, Goh Lay Kuan, Guangdong Contemporary Dance Company, Singapore Arts Festival, 1994
- : *Nuo Dance*, for Symphony Orchestra, Shanghai Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra, Lim Yao, Goh Lay Kuan, Guangdong Contemporary Dance Company Singapore Arts Festival, 1994
- : Incidental the drama "The Fishing Eagle", Chan Chee Wah, Kuo Pao Kun, Practice Performing Arts School, Singapore Arts Festival, 1994
- : Incidental the drama "Midwife's Diary", Lin Chun Lan, Practice Performing Arts School, 1995
- : Incidental the drama "Descendent Of The Eunuch Admiral", Kuo Pao Kun, Practice Performing Arts School, 1995
- : Incidental the drama "Yuan Ye", Cao Yu, Kuo Pao Kun, Practice Performing Arts School, Singapore Arts Festival, 1996
- : Incidental the Telemovie "*Granpa's Meat Bone Tea*", Kuo Pao Kun, Guo Jian Hong, Practice Performing Arts School, televised over Channel 8, 1997
- : Incidental Music and songs for the drama "Teochew Kangaroo", Han Yong Yuan, May Wong, Practice Performing Arts School, 1998
- : Incidental the drama "The Spirits Play", Kuo Pao Kun, Stan Lai, Practice Performing Arts School, 1998
- **1998**: Incidental Music and song for the drama "The Spirits Play" Incidental the drama "The Spirits Play", Kuo Pao Kun, Practice Performing Arts School, Singapore Arts Festival, 1988, Hong Kong Arts Festival 1999
- : Incidental the drama "Home", Cao Yu, Zha Li Fang, Practice Performing Arts School, 1998
- : Incidental Music and songs for the drama "Love a La Zen", Raymond To, May Wong, Practice Performing Arts School, 1999
- 1999: The dance "Madhouse", Yan Chong Lian, Dance Ensemble Singapore, 1999

1999: The dance "Meditation Of A Poet", Yan Chong Lian, Dance Ensemble Singapore, 1999

2001: Incidental the drama "One Hundred Years In Waiting", Haresh Shama, Chong Tze Chien, Kuo Pao Kun, Alvin Tan, May Wong, Practice Performing Arts School Drama group, The Necessary Stage, Singapore Arts Festival, 2001

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Venka Purushothaman, ed. (2002) Narratives – Notes On A Cultural Journey – Cultural Medallion Recipients 1979-2001. National Arts Council.

Koh, T., ed. (2006) *Singapore The Encyclopedia*, Editions Didier Millet, National Heritage Board.

Paul Abisheganaden, 2005, Notes Across the Years, Anecdotes from a Musical Life. Unipress, Centre for the Arts, National University of Singapore.