

Bioluminescence and the Dream World:

A Puppet and Electroacoustic Music Performance

8 PM, Thursday, 26 April, 2012
Lecture Theatre H, HKUST Academic Building

Featured works:

Ayers, **Ombres Chinoises** (1976) (8:00) [puppets with recorded flute, viola and marimba]

Horner, **Sounds from the Cauldron** (2011) (5:00) [puppet and Theremin]

Ayers, **Eastern Bagatelles** (1985) (5:30) [puppet with recorded viola]

Ayers, **Ombres des Toiles d'Araignées** (1977) (4:00) [puppets with recorded marimba]

Ayers, **Ghost Shadow in Fragile Light** (1999) (10:40) [puppets with recorded Chinese flutes, viola, marimba and electroacoustic music]

Ayers, **Rock Art in the Dream World** (2008) (7:45) [puppet and Native American Flute]

Journey to the Art Place

Creating the Art

Reflecting on the Art

Finishing the Art

Into the Dream World

Return

Ayers, **Bioluminescence** (1990) (6:50) [puppets with recorded electroacoustic music]

Performed by:

Lydia Ayers, puppets and Native American flute

Andrew Horner, puppets and Theremin

Stella So, puppets

Program Notes

Bioluminescent underwater creatures will emerge from the murky depths and a giant spider will dance across her colorful web. A puppeteer will play the Native American flute while performing a dance with a Kokopelli puppet. A skeleton will cast a spell over a Theremin cauldron invoking a host of ghosts from the shadows. This concert features original electroacoustic music by Lydia Ayers incorporating synthesis of Asian and Western musical instruments. Here are some highlights:

Lydia inherited her father's skeleton from his production of *The Nightingale*. Andrew performs *Sounds from the Cauldron* with this puppet tonight in Joe's memory. In this piece, the skeleton looks into the cauldron and then casts a spell with some spooky music.

For *Ombres Chinoises*, Lydia derived a black-light shadow puppet from a photograph of her father's skeleton, and added some other characters to create a story. Hanoman, the Cambodian monkey king, chases a butterfly. The skeleton appears with his violin. Hanoman goes to sleep. The skeleton transforms into a *dan* (male playing a woman) from Chinese opera, and they have a love duet. The butterfly reappears, and Hanoman chases it off stage. Awakening, the Chinese lady has lost Hanoman and she disappears. Hanoman chases the butterfly onto the stage, and they dance together with the skeleton.

Rock Art in the Dream World is inspired by Native American rock art. *Kokopelli* is a popular rock art character from the American Southwest. The Hopi *kachinas* are the spirit essences of everything in the real world, and replicas are commonly depicted in doll form. Lydia performs this piece tonight with Kokopelli attached to her shoulders and elbows, and we hope you enjoy watching the dance.

Bioluminescence is the ability of animals to give off their own light. This is especially useful for deep sea animals living too far from the surface to benefit from sunlight.

Bioluminescence begins with fragments of 7 deep night Indian ragas, and then continues with gamelan-like and stinging metallic sounds. The puppets are black light creations swimming around a coral reef. Some of these animals, such as the pineapple fish, octopus and jellyfish, really do produce their own light, but of course we took artistic liberties.