

# YING-CHEN KAO

Medium Biography (314 words)

Ying-Chen Kao (高盈真) is a Taiwanese-American composer, pianist, educator, and a graphic and web designer. Her music has been described as “exceedingly beautiful” by *Soundboard UK*, a “challenging and rich work” by the *Coral Gables Gazette*, and “an evocative and surreal soundscape” on [minor7th.com](http://minor7th.com).

Ying-Chen’s compositions have been featured at prestigious events and venues worldwide, including MUSIQA, the North American Taiwanese Professors’ Association, the Taiwan Culture Center in Washington D.C., the Sylvia Adalman Chamber Series, the Union Square Chamber Music Society, The Stone, Ningbo Grand Theater, Hangzhou Grand Theatre, Alishan Township Tsou Nature and Cultural Center, Kaohsiung Music Center, WBJC, and NPR.

Her saxophone quartet “Frustration Factory” and solo trombone piece “Ancient Memory” were published by [Warwick Music/Hal Leonard Europe](#). “Falling Still,” a composition for cello and piano inspired by the essays of the late Korean-American writer Katherine Min, was premiered by cellist Michael Kannen and pianist Qing Jiang, with narration by the author. Her *Prix D’Ete*-winning piece “Lilac . Star . Bird” for solo guitar was featured as the title track on guitarist Tracy Anne Smith’s debut album and received acclaim from Britain’s Classical Guitar Magazine as a work of “almost beautiful-sounding dissonance” and “a major work that demands attention.”

Ying-Chen holds an M.M. and has pursued Postgraduate Studies in composition at Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University. She earned her B.M. in theory and composition from the University of Miami. Beyond her musical endeavors, Ying-Chen also co-founded ycArt design studio LLC, where she actively contributes as a graphic and web designer. Her design “Constellation of Voice” graced the cover of Carnegie Hall’s playbill. She specializes in creating visually appealing and user-friendly websites, as well as other promotional materials tailored for musicians and artists.

Ying-Chen currently resides in Baltimore with her husband, composer and pianist, David Witmer. For more information about Ying-Chen Kao, please visit her website: [yingchenkao.com](http://yingchenkao.com).

[April 2024]