

# Tam Ka Shu (Kenneth)

Ph.D. Music Composition | University at Buffalo  
Rieman and Baketel Fellow for Music 2022-23 | Harvard University  
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## RECENT POSITION

**Part-time Lecturer:** MUSI3123 Music, Science, and Technology  
Academy of Music, Hong Kong Baptist University, 2024

## EDUCATION

**PhD in Music Composition** | University at Buffalo **2016 – 2020**  
Major Advisor: David Felder  
Other Teachers: Cort Lippe

**MM in Music Composition** | University of Missouri - Kansas City **2013 – 2015**  
Major Advisor: James Mobberley  
Other Teachers: Chen Yi, Zhou Long, Paul Rudy

**BA in Music (Composition/Music Production)** | Hong Kong Baptist University **2010 – 2013**  
Major Advisor: Christopher Keyes

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Part-time Lecturer – Hong Kong Baptist University** **2024**  
MUSI3125 Music, Science, and Technology

- Designed all aspects of the courses (curriculum, syllabi, grading rubrics, assessment methods)
- Led group discussions and interactive activities
- Led field trips and curate guest lectures

**Instructor, University at Buffalo** **2017- 2020**  
MUS400SEM Music Composition seminar  
MUS116LEC Music Theory for Non-Majors

- Designed all aspects of the courses (curriculum, syllabi, grading rubrics, assessment methods)
- Led discussions and activities through both in-person classes and e-learning platforms

- Built educational apps to enhance teaching efficiency
- Provided individual mentorship for students
- Curated students' final performance

**Teaching Assistant, University at Buffalo**

**2016 – 2017**

MUS115LEC Understanding Music

- Mentored students individually
- Provided teaching support through e-learning platforms, forums, and other media
- Suggested ideas for the improvement of the curriculum and
- Held online discussion sessions and tutorials, graded assignments and exams
- Occasionally taught a few lessons according to the professors' topic

**Instructor, Hong Kong Composers Guild Quality Education Fund**

**2015 – 2016**

- Presented lectures on music composition for secondary school students
- Led group and individual composition tutorials

**ACADEMIC RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

**Rieman and Baketel Fellow for Music, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced**

**2022 – 2023**

**Study, Harvard University**

- Initiate collaborative projects with interdisciplinary fields
- Research in new compositional approaches, real-time algorithms, and creative practices that can interact with sound and extramusical data
- Compose a series of new pieces
- Give public lectures and presentations

**Senior Research Assistant, Laboratory for Immersive Arts and Technology,**

**2016**

**Hong Kong Baptist University**

- Assisted Prof. Christopher Keyes in his research on surround sound panning algorithm
- Evaluated research materials such as sound samples and various algorithms
- Conducted surveys, collected, and analyzed data, derived research result
- Operated recording studios and laboratory

## **COACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Choir Assistant, University at Buffalo**

**2020**

MUS121/321 University Chorus (for students with no music background)

MUS151/351 University Choir (for students with performing experience)

- Led sectional rehearsals
- Taught basic performing skills and knowledge of choral literature to non-majors
- Taught students basic conducting patterns and to respond to conductors' motion

## **ADMINISTRATION EXPERIENCE**

**Project Coordinator, Music Department, Hong Kong Baptist University**

**2015 – 2016**

- Liaised between various organizations
- Coordinated multiple events such as concerts, symposiums, and conferences
- Provided digital marketing ideas and services
- Oversaw the department's official site and social media pages

## **CURATING EXPERIENCE**

**Independent curator, composer, and researcher**

**2012 –**

- Writing proposals for artistic and research projects (see Grants section below)
- Curating performances
- Liaising with various art organizations to seek possible collaborations
- Giving public lectures and talks
- Composing and creating new music and multi-disciplinary projects

## **FELLOWSHIP, GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

**Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts Research Seed Fund - HKD100,000**

**2024**

**Hong Kong Art Development Council Project Grant - HKD266,000**

**2023**

**Harvard Radcliffe Institute Fellowship - USD72000 + 5000 Research Fund**

**2022 – 2023**

**Hong Kong Art Development Council Project Grant - HKD10000**

**2021**

**Graduate Tuition Scholarship (Full Scholarship), University at Buffalo**

**2016 – 2020**

**Teaching Assistantship, University at Buffalo**

**2016 – 2020**

## **AWARDS AND HONORS**

Asian Composers League Young Composer Award 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	2022
Albireo New Music Collective Call for Music Proposal – Honorable Mention	2021
Score Follower Call for Score Winner	2020
Speech Choir Young Composer Award	2013
New Generation 2012, Third Prize, Hong Kong Composer's Guild	2012

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

Sound Engineer ( <i>upcoming</i> ) – Tribute to Saariaho concert; Hong Kong New Music Ensemble	2024
Guest Speaker ( <i>upcoming</i> ) – Cultural Ambassador 2024: Music Composition Camp, Asia Society Hong Kong	2024
Adjudicator - New Generation Composition Competition, Hong Kong Composers' Guild	2024
Adjudicator (Primary and Secondary Section) - GalaMusica • School Creative Works 2024, Hong Kong Education Bureau	2023
Adjudicator - Speech Choir Performance Award	2013

## **INVITED TALKS AND LECTURES**

*Lecture about recent projects.*

2023	University College Dublin, Ireland
2023	Harvard Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University, USA
2023	Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong
2020	June in Buffalo Festival, USA
2020	Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong
2019	June in Buffalo Festival, USA
2019	Bilkent Composition Academy, Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey

## **JURIED CONFERENCE**

World New Music Day: ISCM 2022 cum Asian Composers League Conference (Christchurch, New Zealand)	2022 Aug
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Work Presentation: *Flux* (2019) for string trio (world premiere)

<b>June in Buffalo (Buffalo, USA)</b>	<b>2020 Jun</b>
Work Presentation: <i>Sprawl</i> (2020) for guitar, cello and bassoon (world premiere)	
<b>Bilkent Composition Academy (Ankara, Turkey)</b>	<b>2019 Jul</b>
Performance: ... <i>Into Dirt...</i> (2019) for Arditti Quartet (world premiere)	
<b>June in Buffalo (Buffalo, USA)</b>	<b>2019 Jun</b>
Work Presentation: <i>Reaction II</i> (2019) for solo violin (world premiere)	
<b>“Screening Performance, Performing Screens” New Projections in Theatre and Media Conference (New York City, USA)</b>	<b>2019 May</b>
Work Presentation: <i>Alone</i> (2019), an immersive screen dance	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Composed music for this interdisciplinary collaborative project (see section below)</li> </ul>	
<b>MUSLab International Electroacoustic Exhibition (Mexico City, Mexico)</b>	<b>2018 Oct</b>
Exhibition: <i>City Story – Flying Sword</i> (2017), for 5.1 Channels	
<b>Asian Composers League Conference and Festival (ACL) (Taipei, Taiwan)</b>	<b>2018 Oct</b>
Performance: <i>City Story – Flying Sword</i> (2017), for 5.1 Channels	
<b>The 43<sup>rd</sup> International Computer Music Conference (ICMC) (Daegu, Korea)</b>	<b>2018 Aug</b>
Work Presentation: <i>City Story – Flying Sword</i> (2017), for 5.1 Channels (world premiere)	
<b>International Rostrum of Composers (Warsaw, Poland)</b>	<b>2016 May</b>
Work Presentation: <i>Tam-tam Sonata</i> (2013/2015), for tam-tam and pre-recorded piano	

## **CURRENT CREATIVE AND ACADEMIC PROJECTS**

*Q-ing*, collaborative film project. Working as a co-composer for the film “*Q-ing*,” a production by the Zimbabwean novelist and filmmaker Tsitsi Dangarembga, planned for screening at the Cannes Film Festival; funded by the Institute of Creative Arts for Progress in Africa (ICAPA) Trust

“*Noteless Music*” – *the New Hybridization of Oriental and Western practices in Improvisatory Performances*, an academic research project. Working as a co-investigator together with Dr. Cheung Pui Shan from the Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts

*Work in Progress*, a collaboration with Peruvian Linguist Roberto Zariquiey from Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Peru to preserve the Iskonawa, an Amazonian indigenous language known only to four elders of the tribe, by weaving the language into art songs.

## **COMMISSIONS**

*\*\* funded by peer-reviewed jury*

### **Hong Kong Composer's Guild Commission\*\*** **2021**

- *Aphasia* (2021) for Rosetta Ensemble (Saxophone, 2 mandolins, guitar, left-handed piano, and baritone) Japan

### **Contemporary Vocal & Choral Compositions of Chinese Poems\*\*** **2017**

- *Beyond the Frontier of the Great Wall* (2018), for SATB choir

### **CCC Kei Wan Primary School Senior Choir (Hong Kong) Commission** **2016**

- *The Story Started from a Teddy* (2016), for SSAA children's choir

### **CCC Kei Wan Primary School Senior Choir (Hong Kong) Commission** **2015**

- *Night Song* (2015), for SSAA children's choir

### **Hong Kong Speech Choir Showcase Commission\*\*** **2013**

- Commissioned by the Hong Kong Education Bureau
- *Ideal Reality* (2012), for four voice blocks

## **INTERDISCIPLINARY PROJECTS**

*As Within So Without*, immersive screen dance. Collaborated with Mary Schnepf (Dancer/choreographer/film maker, USA.) Composed music for her screen dance. **2019**

*"Alone"*, immersive screen dance. Collaborated with Mary Schnepf. Created the surround soundtrack for her immersive screen dance projection. **2018**

*Story Started from a Teddy* (2016), for SSAA children's choir. Collaborated with YiuHo Hsieh (Poet, Hong Kong.) on the lyrics based on his poems. **2016**

*Little Hidden Momentum* (2015), for string quartet. Collaborated with various Hong Kong photographers in the SOUND-IMAGination: Hong Kong Landscape Concert. **2016**

## **PAST INTERNATIONAL PERFORMANCES**

*Zooplankton* – for oboe, clarinet, trumpet, percussion, piano, violin, viola, and cello. Funded by Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University, performed by Hong Kong New Music Ensemble, Hong Kong, May 8, 2023.

*Reaction II* - for solo violin. Performed by Mark Menzies. “Off Centre Festival,” The Arts Centre Te Matatiki Toi Ora, Christchurch, New Zealand, Mar 4, 2019.

*Dead-end*, for piano, saxophone, and percussion. Funded by the Hong Kong Art Development Council, performed by Ensemble Vertixe Sonora, “Migration VI: Vertixe Sonora in Hong Kong Concert,” The box, Freespace Art Park, Hong Kong, Feb 2, 2023.

*\_\_\_-cide* - for clarinet, trumpet, and piano. Performed by Teresa Izzo, Wren Martinson, Elizabeth Hirsekorn, “UB Chamber Music Recital,” Slee Hall, Buffalo, USA, Dec 2, 2022.

*Flux* - for string trio. Premiered by Mark Menzies, Rakuto Kurano, and Paul Lee, “World New Music Day: ISCM 2022 cum Asian Composers League Conference,” University of Canterbury Arts Recital Room, Christchurch, New Zealand, Aug 31, 2022.

*Aphasia (2021)*, for 2 mandolins, electric guitar, saxophone, left-handed piano, and bass-baritone. Commissioned by Hong Kong Composer’s Guild, **premiered** by Rosetta Contemporary Ensemble; Online Chamber Concert; Osaka, Japan. Dec 6, 2022.

*Dead-end*, for piano, saxophone, and percussion. Funded by the Hong Kong Art Development Council, performed by Ensemble Vertixe Sonora, “CROMA - Oeiras Contemporary Music Cycle,” Lisbon, Portugal, Oct 9, 2021.

*Dead-end*, for piano, saxophone, and percussion. Funded by the Hong Kong Art Development Council, premiered by Ensemble Vertixe Sonora, “Migración” concert, Spain, Sep 26, 2021.

*Wozzy* - for trumpet, clarinet, violin and viola. Premiered by Hong Kong New Music Ensemble, “PATHS: Trumpet Recital,” Osage Gallery, Hong Kong, Jul 31, 2021.

*Sprawl* - for guitar, cello and bassoon. Premiered by Thomas Torrisi, Blaire Koehner, and TJ Borden, “June in Buffalo,” Slee Hall, University at buffalo, Buffalo, USA, Jun 4, 2020.

*Phoenix Hairpin I* - for soprano and piano. Performed by The Hayley-and-Laufer Duo, “Night Sparks Concert,” Pyatt Hall, Vancouver, Canada, Feb 15, 2020.

*Path of Earth* - for chamber ensemble. Performed by Ensemble Mise-En; Slee Hall, Buffalo, USA, Dec 26, 2019.

...*Into Dirt...* - for string quartet. Performed by Arditti Quartet. “Bilkent Composition Academy,” Bilkent Concert Hall, Ankara, Turkey, Jun 30, 2019.

*Reaction II* - for solo violin. Premiered by Irvine Arditti. “June in Buffalo,” Baird Recital Hall, University at buffalo, Buffalo, USA, Jun 6, 2019.

*Beyond the Frontier of the Great Wall* - for SATB choir. Performed by Greeners Sound, Commissioned by Hoong Kong Composer Guild, “Contemporary Choral Compositions of Chinese Poems Concert,” Tsuen Wan Town Hall, Hong Kong, May 30, 2019.

*Phoenix Hairpin I* - for soprano and piano. Premiered by The Hayley-and-Laufer Duo, “Wanderer II, Feelinglessness Concert,” Burchfield Penny Art Center, Buffalo, USA, May 18, 2019.

*Alone* – for stereo to 5.1 channels. Commissioned by Mary Schnepf for her immersive screen dance project, “Screening Performance, Performing Screens” New Projections in Theatre and Media Conference, Segal Theatre, City University of New York, New York, USA, May 13, 2019.

...*Into Dirt...* - for string quartet. Premiered by Arditti Quartet. Performed by Arditti quartet. Slee Hall Buffalo, USA, Apr 16, 2019.

*City Story – Flying Sword* - for 5.1 Channels. “Greater Bay Area Music Concert,” Xinghai Conservatory of Music Arts, Guangzhou, Mainland China, Apr 19, 2019.

\_\_\_-*cide* - for clarinet, trumpet, and piano. Premiered by Zhiteng Luo. “Graduate Recital,” Slee Hall, Buffalo, USA, Nov 23, 2018.

*City Story – Flying Sword* - for 5.1 Channels. “MUSLab International Electroacoustic Exhibition,” Sound Space UAM-X, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana Unidad Xochimilco, Mexico City, Mexico, Oct 18, 2018.



*City Story – Flying Sword* - for 5.1 Channels. “Asian Composers League Conference and Festival,” TNUA Experimental Theatre, Taipei National University of the Arts, Taipei, Taiwan, Oct 22, 2018.

*Perplexing Plane* - for flute and clarinet. Performed by HANATSU miroir. Slee Hall, Buffalo, USA, Oct 15, 2018.

*City Story – Flying Sword* - for 5.1 Channels. “The 43<sup>rd</sup> International Computer Music Conference,” Listening Space, Daegu, South Korea, Aug 9, 2018.

*Manjusaka* - for overtone singing and viola. Performed by Hippocrates Cheng and Joshua Wat, “Cityscape II Performance Exhibition,” Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts, Hong Kong, Sep 2-30, 2018

*Manjusaka* - for overtone singing and viola. Premiered by Hippocrates Cheng and Joshua Wat, “Cityscape concert,” Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts, Hong Kong, Jun 13, 2018.

*Reaction I* - for viola solo. Premiered by Annis Ma, “Matchmaking Concert,” RTHK studio one, Hong Kong, Apr 6, 2018.

*The Story Started from a Teddy* - for SSAA children’s choir. Performed by CCC Kei Wan Primary School Senior Choir, “68<sup>th</sup> Hong Kong School Music Festival,” Hong Kong. Mar 5, 2017.

*Night Song* - for SSAA children’s choir. Commissioned and performed by CCC Kei Wan Primary School Senior Choir. “School performances,” CCC Kei Wan Primary School, Hong Kong, Jun 30, 2016.

*Little Hidden Momentum* - for string quartet. Performed by RTHK quartet, “SOUND-IMAGination: Hong Kong Landscape,” Hong Kong Institute of Contemporary Culture, Hong Kong, Jan 14, 2016.

*Tam-tam Sonata* - for tam-tam and pre-recorded piano. Performed by Gip Chan, “Traces of Silk Road Concert,” Hong Kong Cultural Centre, Hong Kong, Nov 1, 2015.

*Night Song* - for SSAA children’s choir. Commissioned and premiered by CCC Kei Wan Primary School Senior Choir. “67<sup>th</sup> Hong Kong School Music Festival,” Tuen Mun Town Hall, Hong Kong, Apr 3, 2016.

*Sudden Moment in A Strip of Memory* - for flute, cello and toy piano. Performed by dissonArt Ensemble.  
Greece, Oct 14, 2013

*Ideal Reality* (2012), for 4 mixed-voice blocks. Performed by ong Kong Taoist Association Tang Hin Memorial Secondary School Choir, Tuen Mun Town Hall, Hong Kong, Jun 12, 2013

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Commercial**

- ...Into Dirt...* for the Arditti Quartet published through online music platforms such as Spotify and Apple Music by Bilkent University (Turkey). **2020**
- Beyond the Frontier of the Great Wall* for SATB choir is recorded into a CD by the Hong Kong Composer's Guild for commercial distribution. **2020**  
**\*(mastering project postponed due to COVID-19)**

### **Broadcast (selected)**

- The Story Started from a Teddy* received radio broadcast in the UK. **2019**
- Reaction I for solo Viola* received broadcast through Radio Television Hong Kong **2018**
- Tam-tam Sonata* received radio broadcasts in **Croatia**. **2017**
- Tam-tam Sonata* received radio broadcasts in **Australia**. **2017**
- Night Song* received broadcasts through Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK). **2015**
- Ideal Reality* was archived in the Hong Kong Central Library Music Collection **2013**

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

**Member, International Computer Music Association, 2018 – present**

**Member, Hong Kong Composers' Guild, 2012 – present**

**Member, Composers and Authors Society of Hong Kong, 2012 – present**

## **OTHER SKILLS**

- Languages: Cantonese (native), fluent in English and Putonghua
- Advanced level in recording studio management
- Advanced knowledge of industry-standard recording software Pro Tools
- Advanced knowledge of software such as Finale, Ableton Live, and MaxMSP

## **PROFESSIONAL REFEREES**

**1. Camilo Mendez**

Assistant Professor; Harvard Radcliffe Fellow for Music 2017-18  
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Hong Kong Baptist University  
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**2. Pui Shan CHEUNG**

Associate Professor  
Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts  
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**3. Christopher Keyes**

Professor Emeritus of Music Composition  
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Hong Kong Baptist University  
Kowloon Tong, Kowloon, Hong Kong  
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[ckeyes@hkbu.edu.hk](mailto:ckeyes@hkbu.edu.hk)

## **ADDITIONAL REFEREES**

**4. Chung-Shih Hoh**

President, Composers Society of Singapore  
[hohchungshih@yahoo.com](mailto:hohchungshih@yahoo.com)

**5. David Felder**

SUNY Distinguished Professor  
116 Slee Hall  
University at Buffalo  
Buffalo, NY 14260, USA  
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**6. James Mobberley**

University of Missouri Curators' Distinguished Professor Emeritus

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