

# JEN SHYU RESIDENCY

Conrad Prebys Music Center

Experimental Theater

November 13, 2015 7PM

## Part 1: Invocation

Featuring songs composed to poems by Taiwanese nuclear engineer and poet Edward Cheng

JEN SHYU – composition, vocals, dance, Taiwanese moon lute, piano, gayageum

MARK DRESSER – bass

NICOLE M. MITCHELL – flutes

## Part 2: Solo Rites: Seven Breaths

JEN SHYU (USA / East Timor)

composition, vocals, dance, Taiwanese moon lute, piano, gayageum

GARIN NUGROHO (Indonesia) – Director

Please join us for a post-show reception. Thank you so much for joining us tonight!

This performance is dedicated to Edward Cheng, a long-time mentor and family friend who passed in May of this year. Special thanks to Professor Ping-hui Liao, Head of Cultural Studies, Chuan Lyu Endowed Chair Professor in Taiwan Studies, Dept. of Literature, UC San Diego, who supported this residency and the composition of new music to Edward Cheng's poetry. Also, thank you to the Cheng family (Shu, Eric, and Wendy) for their generous support and assistance with Edward's poetry. Thank you also to Mark Dresser, Jessica C. Flores, and Anna Fung for helping with arrangements for this residency.

Garin Nugroho (Indonesia): Director

Danang Pamungkas (Indonesia): Choreographer

Kristen (Krit) Robinson (USA): Set & Props Designer

Ayu Ghia Sugandhi (Indonesia) / Kristin Isola (USA) : Costume Designers

Daniel Ross: Event Manager, Lighting Designer, Lead Technician, UC San Diego

Nicholas Lesley: Event Manager, UC San Diego

Jessica C. Flores: Production Manager, UC San Diego

www.jenshyu.com  
http://www.mark-dresser.com  
http://nicolemitchell.com

Edward Cheng's *Practice Poems* at: <http://www.cite.com.tw/book?id=49145>

## Program Notes

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Part 1: Poetry by Edward Teh-Chang Cheng (鄭德昌) Music by Jen Shyu,  
English translation by Wendy Cheng (unless otherwise noted)

1. Thoughts of Light and Freedom (光與自由的聯想)  
Translation by Edward Cheng, adapted by Jen Shyu
2. Don't Tell Me—The Language of Dementia 不必告訴我〔老年痴呆症的噫語〕
3. No You, No Me, No Us 無你我，無我你，無我們
4. Contemplation 小思

Part 2: SOLO RITES: SEVEN BREATHS CREDITS

VIDEO FIELDWORK CREDITS (Pre-show)

All video documentation was recorded by Jen Shyu and edited by Garin Nugroho,  
and credits are as follows. All content was used with permission.

First Breath. Atauro, East Timor, 2010: Annual festival of San Pedro in Makili village

Second Breath. Jawa, Indonesia, 2012: Javanese singer (Pesindhen) and one of Jen's  
teachers: Nyi Ngatirah, Gendèr: Pak Sutanto in Semarang

Third Breath. Taidong, Taiwan, 2008: 5-year harvest ceremony in Draba village

Fourth Breath. Pyeonghae, South Korea, 2013: South Korean East Coast shaman  
ritual. Musicians: the family of master drummer and shaman Kim Seok-Chul

Fifth Breath. Kalimantan, Indonesia, 2012: "Belian Sentiu" healing ceremony. Sing-  
er and Dancer: Pak Renon; Dancer: Pak Marlan

Sixth Breath. Manatutu, East Timor, 2010: Annual festival of St. Antonio

Sixth Breath. Atauro, East Timor, 2010: Singer: Maria de Jesus of Makili village

All music, text, and translations by Jen Shyu unless otherwise noted. Full transla-  
tions can be found in part in liner notes of *Sounds and Cries of the World* album  
and at <https://www.facebook.com/jenshyu>

## I. FIRST BREATH | World of Home (East Timor)

Audio: Atauro, East Timor, 2010: Annual festival of San Pedro in Makili village

Intro to First Breath

## II. SECOND BREATH | World of Deep Meditation, Woman, and Fate (Java, Indonesia)

Intro to Second Breath Text: Garin Nugroho. "Aku yang Lahir dari Air Mata  
(Translation from Indonesian: I Was Born from a Tear)"

Poetry: Slamet Gundono, Music: Jen Shyu & Slamet Gundono

"Bawa Sida Asih, Macapat Dhandhangula"

Lyrics: Ki Narto Sabdho,

Translation from Javanese: Slamet Gundono, Endang Tri Winarni, & Jen Shyu

Audio: Jawa, Indonesia, 2012: Javanese singer [Pesindhen] and teacher: Nyi Ngatirah. Gender: Pak Sutanto. Song: "Ladrang Wilujeng Laras Slendro Pathet Manyura"

"Para Pembakar Ombak (Burning the Waves)"

Poetry & translation from Indonesian: Dorothea Rosa Herliany

## III. THIRD BREATH | World of Story Told (Taiwan and Vietnam)

Qemaiaqaiam (Women sing): Tribal song from Puyuma tribe 卑南族 taught by Formosa Aboriginal Song and Dance Troupe Pansori epic Simcheongga\* (in Korean)

Audio: Taidong, Taiwan, 2008: 5-year harvest ceremony in Draba village

Third Breath Text: Garin Nugroho.

## IV. FOURTH BREATH | World of Ceremony and Mysticism (Ritual World of South Korea)

Binari (Well-Wishing in Korean) Part 1 | Music & Lyrics: tradition from Korea usually sung by male singer. Translation from Korean by Dr. Ju-Yong Ha.

Fourth Breath Text: Garin Nugroho / Binari Part 2 (Translation from Korean): Yeombul (Buddhist Chanting) for Blessing. Translation by Dr. Ju-Yong Ha.

## V. FIFTH BREATH | Loss of Macrocosmos (Kalimantan, Indonesia)

Intro to Fifth Breath Text: Garin Nugroho / Text from an interview on Kaharingan spiritual beliefs and the environment, conducted by Wendy Miles on June 9, 2012 with the Mantir Adat (traditional leader) of Katunjung village, Bapak Mudin Jaman. Translation from Dayak Ngaju-Kapuas by Rut Dini Prasti H. and Migraliette Urvidya Purbaranti

Audio: Kalimantan, Indonesia, 2012: "Belian Sentiu" healing ceremony. Singer and Dancer: Pak Renon; Dancer: Pak Marlan. The song is asking permission from the spirits to perform this ceremony)

Fifth Breath Mantra. Text from an interview on the history of land and livelihood changes on the Kapuas River, conducted by Wendy Miles on May 5, 2012 with Mantir Adat Mudin Jaman. Translation by Rut Dini Prasti H.

## VI. SIXTH BREATH | World of Return (East Timor)

“Ba O’, J (For you, J)” – Poetry and translation from Tetum: Naldo Rei

“Song for Naldo: Silenced again, Never again” | Dedicated to Ana Shyu (Jen Shyu’s mother) and Naldo Rei, author of *Resistance*. Last section based on text from *Chega! The Report of the Commission for Reception, Truth, and Reconciliation, Timor-Leste, Executive Summary*. Intro and outro: Lakadou song as taught by Mestre Marsal, from *Aileu: Translation from Tetum to English* by Naldo Rei and Jen Shyu

## VII. SEVENTH BREATH | World of Zero, Epilogue. Anonymous World.

Audio: Atauro, East Timor, 2010: Singer: Maria de Jesus of Makili village. From songs “Rakais” and “Reknote - Tebe Nian”

\*Simcheongga is about a girl named Simcheong and her transformative filial piety to her blind father, Sim Hak-Gyu, usually called Sim the Blind (“Sim-Bongsa”). To help her father regain his sight as a Buddhist monk promised, Simcheong trades herself for 300 bags of rice to merchant sailors looking for a virgin sacrifice to the Dragon King of the Sea, and from their ship she commits suicide by jumping into the ocean. Three years later, the Dragon King, moved by her filial piety, returns her, wrapped in a lotus flower, back to earth where the emperor finds her and makes her his empress. In an effort to find her father, she holds a banquet and invites all the blind. Sim-Bongsa manages to arrive at the banquet and tells his life story before her, which proves his identity. At that moment, Simcheong discovers not only her father, but also the fact that even after three years from when she sacrificed herself, he is still blind. At the shock of hearing his daughter’s voice after believing she had drowned long ago, his desire to see her is so great that he suddenly regains his sight. At that moment, like a wave across the earth, all people and even animals recover from blindness and see the bright world.

### Credits:

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