

SEE WITHOUT LOOKING



DANIEL WALKER

FORBIDDEN CITY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA



### FORBIDDEN CITY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Established in 2008 by faculty members of the China Conservatory of Music in Beijing, the Forbidden City Chamber Orchestra is an emissary of Chinese musical culture through their passion for artistic experimentation and creativity. In the past nine years they have recorded five CDs and performed in over 20 countries throughout the world. Their recordings and international performances bring audiences a fresh interpretation of traditional Chinese music as well as experimental new compositions written expressly for the ensemble. It has been hailed as “one of the most influential chamber orchestras on the stage today.”



#### LIU SHUN (Music director and conductor)

Liu Shun is the music director and conductor of the Forbidden City Chamber Orchestra and is on the faculty of the graduate program at the China Conservatory in Beijing. As a leading music director and conductor Liu has conducted performances of the Chinese Youth National Music Orchestra, the China Conservatory National Orchestra, the New Music Orchestra of the Central Conservatory of Music, the Guangdong Traditional Music Ensemble, the Singapore Chinese Orchestra, the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, the Russian National Orchestra and many others. Liu is a creative pioneer in modern music and dedicated to the study and preservation of China’s musical culture and exploring innovative expressions of musical tradition combined with contemporary compositional style.



#### YANG JING (Pipa/Chairperson of the FCCO)

Yang, a renowned pipa virtuoso and serves on the faculty of the China Conservatory of Music as a master teacher of graduate students. Honored as “a dazzling pipa virtuoso and one of the most enchanting performers in the contemporary era”, Ms. Yang has performed in more than 40 countries and recorded with numerous Chinese and western orchestras.



#### DANIEL WALKER

Contemporary American classical composer Daniel Walker’s music has been heard on the concert stage, in film and on television, including work for HBO, NBC, ABC, PBS, Bavaria Film and many others.

His classical ballet, *Marco Polo: The Last Mission*, was premiered by the Shanghai Ballet Company as part of the opening festival of the China’s World Expo in May 2010 and continues to be performed as part of the company’s repertoire.

Walker’s staged song cycle *Qing Cheng/Dark City*, was premiered as part of the New York Musical Festival in July 2017 directed by prominent New York City theater director Kirsten Sanderson. The 90-minute work was inspired by the Hong Kong’s Kowloon Walled City and it’s people.

Daniel Walker holds a PhD from the University of California, Los Angeles and teaches composition and film scoring at Cornel School of Contemporary Music in Los Angeles, and has served as dean of the music department since March 2012.

#### SEE WITHOUT LOOKING / COMPOSER’S NOTES

*See Without Looking* is inspired by the ancient philosophy of the Tao Teh Ching — the peaceful strength and simplicity of its teaching and the way it has influenced Chinese culture. Each of the five movements focuses on a different aspect of the Tao Teh Ching, from the birth of all creation to the way humanity fits within it.

Four pitches begin and end the piece, representing the Tao giving birth to One, One giving birth to Two, Two giving birth to Three and Three giving birth to the Universe. The Tao pitch (“Re”) connects all things within the piece, just as the Tao connects all things in life.

The master Lao-Tzu tells us that we do not need to rush though this world, or be tempted by material things, but instead to “know without traveling, see without looking and achieve without action.” This natural, effortless order of life is at the center of the Tao Teh Ching and at the core of the music.

#### SEE WITHOUT LOOKING

Text from the Tao Teh Ching

##### PART 1 THE TAO GAVE BIRTH TO ONE (3:44)

The Tao gave birth to one  
One gave birth to Two,  
Two gave birth to Three,  
Three gave birth to the Universe.  
(Chapter 42)

##### PART 2 VAST IS HEAVEN’S NET (3:28)

Vast is Heaven’s net  
Sparse-meshed it is, and yet  
Nothing can slip through it.  
(Chapter 73)

Man follows the ways of the Earth  
The Earth follows the ways of Heaven,  
Heaven follows the ways of Tao,  
Tao follows its own ways.  
(Chapter 25)

##### PART 3 THE SPIRIT OF THE FOUNTAIN (5:04)

The Spirit of the Fountain dies not.  
It is called the Mysterious Feminine.  
The Doorway of the Mysterious Feminine.  
It is called the Root of Heaven-and-Earth  
Lingering like gossamer, it has only a hint  
of existence;

And yet when you draw upon it,  
it is inexhaustible.  
(Chapter 6)

##### PART 4 MADDEN THE MIND (7:45)

The five colors blind the eye.  
The five tones deafen the ear.  
The five flavors dull the taste.  
Racing and hunting madden the mind.  
Rare goods tempt men to do wrong.  
(Chapter 12)

##### PART 5 HEAVEN IS ETERNAL (6:12)

The Universe carries the Yin and embraces  
the Yang.  
And through the blending of ch’i,  
It reaches harmony.  
(Chapter 42)  
The Master knows without traveling,  
Sees without looking,  
And achieves without action.  
(Chapter 47)  
Heaven is eternal and the Earth everlasting  
(Chapter 7)



## RECORDING CREDITS

Forbidden City Chamber Orchestra:  
Liu Shun: Conductor/Musical Director  
Yang Jing: Pipa  
Shen Cheng: Huqin  
Zhang Zunlian: Erhu  
Zhao Chengwei: Sanxian  
Yang Lin: Guzheng  
Luo Yuan: Yanqin  
Wang Hua: Dizi  
Wang Yang: Sheng  
Di Yang: Ruan  
Jiao Shanlin: Percussion

Recording Session Photos by Cathy Chen

Recorded at:  
United Recording — Studio B / 6050 Sunset Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90028 / March 28, 2017  
Recording Engineer: Brian Vibberts

Mixing Engineer: Brian Vibberts  
Mixed at Blue Grotto Studios, Glendora, CA

Producers: Daniel Walker / Yang Jing  
Executive Producer: Sabrina Zuo

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