







Cynthia Lee Wong Selected as Second Annual New Voices Composer

Michael Tilson Thomas, Boosey & Hawkes, New World Symphony, and the San Francisco Symphony Continue Initiative with Emerging Composers

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (June 3, 2013) - Conductor Michael Tilson Thomas, Boosey & Hawkes, the New World Symphony, and the San Francisco Symphony today announced that New York-based composer Cynthia Lee Wong has been selected as the second annual *New Voices* composer. A recipient of accolades including three ASCAP Foundation Morton Gould Young Composer Awards and several prizes from The Juilliard School, City University of New York, and Columbia University, Ms. Wong has been recognized by numerous organizations for her artistic accomplishments and creative output. She has studied composition with David Del Tredici, Samuel Adler, Milton Babbitt, David Olan, and Larry Thomas Bell, as well as piano with Tatyana Dudochkin, Frank Levy, and Martin Canin. Ms. Wong is currently on the faculty at CUNY's Baruch College.

Commenting on both *New Voices* composers selected since the initiative's inauguration in 2012, Michael Tilson Thomas said, "I have been very pleased with the first commissions for the *New Voices* program. Zosha Di Castri's piece is expressively powerful and wonderfully written for the orchestra. Having heard and seen some pieces by Cynthia Lee Wong, I am impressed with her original and expert approach to orchestra writing and look very much forward to the piece of hers we will be doing next year."

New Voices, a partnership between Boosey & Hawkes, the New World Symphony, and the San Francisco Symphony, aims to develop the professional careers of emerging composers in the Americas. Each year,

one composer is chosen from a selection of invited applicants to participate in a multi-organizational residency that covers areas in career development including, but not limited to, working with a publisher, workshopping new compositions, and premiering their works on both coasts with the New World Symphony and San Francisco Symphony in orchestral and chamber settings. Ms. Wong was selected by a panel of judges consisting of conductor Michael Tilson Thomas and composers John Adams, Steven Mackey, and Mason Bates. Canadian composer Zosha Di Castri is the *New Voices* composer in the project's inaugural year. Her new work for percussion quartet, *Manif*, premiered at the New World Symphony in March, and her new work for orchestra, *Lineage*, premiered at NWS in April. Michael Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony will give the West Coast premieres of both works next season.

After receiving hands-on experience at the New York offices of Boosey & Hawkes, Ms. Wong will collaborate with the New World Symphony in the workshopping, rehearsal, and performance of two new works in the 2013–14 season—commissions that make up the performance-related aspect of *New Voices*. These *New Voices* commissions consist of one work for chamber ensemble and one work for orchestra, to be premiered by the New World Symphony in November 2013 and April 2014, respectively. The works will then receive their West Coast premieres by the San Francisco Symphony during the 2014–15 season.

"I am especially honored to be chosen as this year's *New Voices* composer and to have the opportunity to work with such extraordinary musicians as Michael Tilson Thomas, the San Francisco Symphony, and the New World Symphony," says Wong. "Compositionally, I look forward to exploring the dramatic potential and timbral variety of mixed chamber ensemble and full symphony orchestra. This is all very inspiring to me, and I hope to contribute meaningfully to the rich tradition of American classical music."

Boosey & Hawkes, a leading international figure in music publishing, offers the selected composer first-hand experience in all aspects of publishing, from material preparation to promotion of the music through a comprehensive residency in New York. Boosey & Hawkes provides support and guidance towards best practices for high-quality score preparation, focusing on the preparation of materials for a premiere, which is paramount to the composer's professional training and development. In addition, the *New Voices* composer learns about industry practices, including commission contract preparation, copyright registration and licensing procedures, and how to promote the music through publicity and marketing strategies.

At the **New World Symphony**, America's Orchestral Academy (NWS) co-founded by Michael Tilson Thomas (MTT), the *New Voices* composer works extensively with MTT, NWS Fellows, guest coaches, and others to workshop the new compositions and prepare them for their world premieres at the Academy. MTT will conduct the premiere of Ms. Wong's new work for orchestra in April 2014 at the New World Center.

At the **San Francisco Symphony**, Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas and members of the Orchestra work with the *New Voices* composer for two full weeks after the works have been workshopped and premiered in Miami. MTT will lead the Orchestra in the West Coast premiere of the newly commissioned

orchestral work in a subscription concert at Davies Symphony Hall, and, in a second week with MTT and the SFS, the composer will work with members of the Orchestra who will perform the new chamber commission as part of their regular chamber music series. These two works will be performed in San Francisco during the 2014–15 season.

About Cynthia Lee Wong

Born in New York, <u>Cynthia Lee Wong</u> has attracted international acclaim for her "impressive energy and drive" (*The Boston Globe*), "extravagant variety of sound" (*Süddeutsche Zeitung*), and "unsettling...dark, eerie...highly individual sound universe" (*The San Diego Union-Tribune*). Her creative output encompasses a range of genres, including works for orchestra, chamber ensemble, dance, voice, narrator, musical theatre, and piano improvisation.

Past commissions include *Memoriam* (2011) for Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, *Three Portraits* (2005) and *On Baldness and Other Songs* (2007) for the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, Piano Quartet (2010) for the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival and La Jolla Music Society, and String Quartet No. 1 (2009) for Tanglewood Music Center. She has also worked with the Tokyo String Quartet, the Orchestra del Teatro Olimpico in Vicenza, Italy, New Juilliard Ensemble, the Juilliard Orchestra, and the Cincinnati College-Conservatory Orchestra.

Current commissions include compositions for the League of Composers / International Society of Contemporary Music and the New York State Music Teachers Association. She is also collaborating with librettist Richard Aellen on two musicals: *Nemo*, an adaptation based on Jules Verne's *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*, and *No Guarantees*, a romantic comedy set in the future where a secret attempt to use an android as an understudy has unexpected consequences.

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