



# YC|YW Composition Competition

## MEET THE JUDGES

### featuring MR CHARLES KWONG

**IN PART TWO** of *Meet the Judges*, we speak to Mr Charles Kwong, one of the judges of the recent Yew Chung Yew Wah (YCYW) Composition Competition, to gain some unique insight into his life as a composer. Let's take a look at what he has to say.

#### Can you please tell us a bit about yourself, your experience and your background?

I was born and raised in Hong Kong. I went abroad for the first time to study in England after I had completed my bachelor's degree. After seven years of study in London and York, I moved back to Hong Kong in 2013 as a freelance composer. Since then, I have worked with many different orchestras, ensembles and musicians, both local and international.



#### What made you decide to pursue a career as a musician?

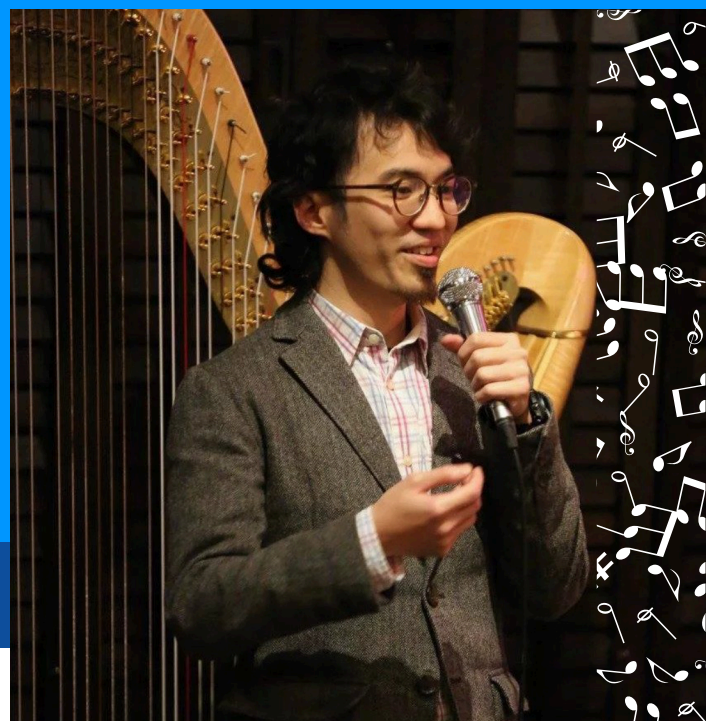
I always wanted to study music, to learn more about music, and always wanted to compose. Throughout my life, I have tried to find ways to carry on composing and see what happens. I could say that I am quite lucky to have had opportunities for commission and collaborations over the years since my move back to Hong Kong. I could also say that I enjoy every moment of my career as a composer and have had no regrets because making music is a way of life that I thoroughly enjoy. I love how, as a composer, I can work with other musicians and artists to achieve something greater in music and the arts collectively.

#### Is there a memorable experience during your career that you would like to share with us?

I met my wife through my work as a composer!

#### What do you consider some of your most outstanding achievements and accolades to be?

I would say the precious friendships developed through my collaborations as a composer with some of the most esteemed musicians in the world. I have been following some of these musicians and listening to their work since I was a young man. Having my music performed by them was like a dream come true, but it is the great friendships and inspiration that I have gained from them as a person that has been life-changing for me.



#### If you could share any advice with the participants, what would that be?

If you discover composing or creativity in music is your thing, or even better, you have already developed a passion for it; please carry on pursuing your passion, regardless of what the result of a competition may tell you.

