

2025

Consort Yu

Yao Hsiao
University of Oregon, hsiaoyaomusic@gmail.com

Follow this and additional works at: <https://trace.tennessee.edu/jatmi>



Part of the [Composition Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Hsiao, Yao (2025) "Consort Yu," *Journal of the Association for Technology in Music Instruction*: Vol. 5 : No. 2 , Article 14.

Available at: <https://trace.tennessee.edu/jatmi/vol5/iss2/14>

This article is brought to you freely and openly by Volunteer, Open-access, Library-hosted Journals (VOL Journals), published in partnership with The University of Tennessee (UT) University Libraries. This article has been accepted for inclusion in *Journal of the Association for Technology in Music Instruction* by an authorized editor. For more information, please visit <https://trace.tennessee.edu/jatmi>.



Journal of the Association for Technology in Music Instruction

Vol. 5, No. 2 (2025)

Consort Yu

Yao Hsiao, composer
University of Oregon

COMPOSITION PERFORMED AT

ATMI National Conference 2025
Spokane, WA

ATMI Showcase Concert
Thursday, October 30, 2025

ABSTRACT

In the piece “Consort Yu,” I was inspired by the traditional Chinese Peking Opera *The Hegemon-King Bids His Lady Farewell*, which tells the story of a battle between two kings, Xiang Yu and Liu Bang. In the opera, Xiang Yu finds himself surrounded by Liu Bang’s forces and on the brink of total defeat. Realizing the gravity of their predicament, Xiang Yu’s wife, Consort Yu, pleads to die alongside her husband. However, he adamantly refuses her request. Later, while he is momentarily distracted, Yu takes her own life using Xiang Yu’s sword.

In this composition, I sought to create connections between traditional Peking Opera and contemporary electronic music. To achieve this, I incorporated timbres and rhythms reminiscent of the original opera *The Hegemon-King Bids His Lady Farewell*. Additionally, I employed musical techniques such as unstable pulses, tempo rubato, and voice glissando—elements characteristic of Peking Opera—that resonate with the tonal palette of contemporary music.

The vocal part prominently features traditional Peking Opera singing styles, and I adapted some of the original opera’s melodic lines, modifying certain notes to introduce new harmonic colors. For the electronic component, I imitated the percussive sounds of traditional Peking Opera and processed them with various granulated layers of the singing voice. Furthermore, I utilized Leap Motion technology to control the music, thereby establishing a connection between the hand gestures of Peking Opera and the live performance setting.

ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Yao Hsiao
University of Oregon
hsiaoyaomusic@gmail.com

Yao Hsiao, a performer-composer from Taiwan, specializes in music, theater, and multimedia art. They earned a Master of Music in Composition at Indiana University and are pursuing a Ph.D. in Data-driven Music Performance and Composition at the University of Oregon under Jeffrey Stolet.

Hsiao has been inspired by literature ranging from Western poems to ancient Chinese poetry and Japanese haikus. Notable compositions include and Consort Yu and Daiyu, which fuses Peking opera and Yue Opera techniques with live electronics. They've performed at prestigious events like NIME, SEAMUS, and ICMC, NYCEMF, Moxsonic, EMM, SPLICE Festival, Click Fest, with Consort Yu named a finalist in the 2024 Sweetwater/SEAMUS Student Commission Competition.

https://youtu.be/I5cIZv_ySUQ