

YING-CHEN KAO

Medium Biography
(269 words)

Ying-Chen Kao (高盈真) is a Taiwanese-American composer, pianist, educator, and graphic and web designer whose music has been lauded as "exceedingly beautiful" by *Soundboard UK* and "an evocative and surreal soundscape" by *Minor 7th: Acoustic Guitar Music Reviews*. Her work has been featured on WBJC and NPR, and presented at venues including Capital One Hall, The Stone, Ningbo Grand Theater, and Kaohsiung Music Center.

In the 2026–2027 season, her newest work, *Where Paths Converge* (2026) for piano and electronics, commissioned by pianist Tina Chong with support from San Diego State University, will receive its world premiere. Her saxophone quartet *Frustration Factory* and solo trombone piece *Ancient Memory* are published by Warwick Music/Hal Leonard Europe. *Falling Still*, a work for cello and piano inspired by the essays of the late Korean-American writer Katherine Min, was premiered by cellist Michael Kannen and pianist Qing Jiang, with narration by the author. Her Prix d'Été winning composition *Lilac . Star . Bird* for solo guitar was released as the title track on guitarist Tracy Anne Smith's debut album, earning acclaim from *Classical Guitar Magazine* as "a work of almost beautiful-sounding dissonance" and "a major work that demands attention."

Ying-Chen is also co-founder of ycArt Design Studio LLC, whose work *Constellation of Voice* appeared on the cover of Carnegie Hall's playbill in 2008. She holds a B.A. from the University of Miami and an M.M. from the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University, and resides in Baltimore with her husband, composer and pianist David Witmer.

For more, visit yingchenkao.com and follow her on YouTube, SoundCloud, Facebook, and Instagram.

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