



WEICHENG ZHAO, organ with FANG GAO, violin

Performed as one movement, this work has three sections based on biblical texts from **The Book of Revelation of St. John the Divine**. This work is dedicated to and was written for Cherry Rhodes to be premiered at the 1984 Annual Conference of the Association of Anglican Musicians held in Pasadena, California. Included on the tape are synthesizer sounds that were composed and performed by Dr. King. At the end of the composition, one hears the recorded bells of Trinity Church, Wall Street in New York City.

Organist and Music Director of Trinity Church, Wall Street from 1968-1989 Larry King was the sixteenth organist of this historic parish, which was chartered by King William II in 1696. During Dr. King's trailblazing leadership, his innovative music program became known throughout the United States and Europe. He was one of the first church musicians to utilize rock ensembles, synthesizers, percussion instruments, and lighting effects, along side traditional music.

Included in a long list of choral and organ compositions performed throughout the United States, is the brilliant score for the 1984 presentation of *The Glory of Easter* commissioned by the Crystal Cathedral in California.

A native of California, Dr. King held degrees from the University of Redlands in California and Union Theological Seminary (Master of Sacred Music) in New York City. In 1990, General Theological Seminary in New York City awarded Larry King, posthumously, a Doctor of Divinity degree, honoris causa, for his distinguished contribution to church music. Fortunately, he knew about the plans for this honor that he so richly deserved.

--Cherry Rhodes

The Butterfly Lovers was composed in 1959 by Gang Chen and Zhanhao He. This piece was originally written for violin and orchestra. The story of Shanbo Liang and Yingtai Zhu has been a familiar love story in China for more than 1000 years and often regarded as the Chinese equivalent of *Romeo and Juliet*.

The young heroine Yingtai Zhu, disguised as a male, and Shanbo Liang are classmates and become inseparable friends for 3 years. One day, Zhu receives a letter from her father, asking her to return home as soon as possible. Liang decides to accompany his "sworn brother" home and they plan to meet after a certain time. To her dismay, Zhu finds that her family has betrothed her to someone else against her will. When she meets Liang again, she reveals her true identity and tells him it is he that she wishes to be with for eternity. Because of the pressure of the patriarchal clan rules and feudal ethics, they are helpless. Liang, brokenhearted, becomes very ill and dies.

On the day of Zhu's wedding, mysterious whirlwinds prevent the procession from escorting the bride beyond Liang's grave. She begs for the grave to open up. Suddenly, the grave opens with a clap of thunder. Without further hesitation, Zhu throws herself into the grave to join Liang. Their spirits turn into a pair of beautiful butterflies and emerge from the grave. They fly away together as a pair of butterflies and are never to be separated again.

Gang Chen and Zhanhao He are professors at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. They composed *The Butterfly Lovers* when they were students there. This piece became one of the most popular and best loved Chinese compositions ever, winning five Golden Record prizes as well as a Platinum Record prize. It has also achieved enormous international success.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2017
7 TO 8 PM**

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PROGRAM

Sonata in A major, op.9, no.4

Jean-Marie LeClair (1697-1764)

- I. Allegro
- III. Sarabanda: Largo
- IV. Allegro assai
- V. Presto

Fang Gao, baroque violin

Revelations of Saint John the Divine for Organ and Electronic Tape

Larry King (1932-1990)

Symphony in the Teapot

Qi Zhang (b. 1984)

The Butterfly Lovers

Gang Chen, Zhanhao He
(b. 1935), (b. 1933)

Transcription by Weicheng Zhao
and Fang Gao
Fang Gao, violin

A Soldier Returns to His Love

Changcheng Zhang, Ye Yuan

Transcription by Weicheng Zhao
and Fang Gao
Fang Gao, violin

Variations sur un Noël, Op. 20

Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)