

《盒子地上音樂會》

文：龔志成

1961 年在香港出生，之後在美跟隨 Allen Trubitt 及 George Crumb 學習古典音樂及作曲。其個人音樂劇場作品包括《行行重行行》、《浮橋》、《迷走都市》及《M 國》。專輯有《行行重行行》及《Bluesilence / Fishdreams》。

盒子於一九八七年由龔志成及彼得小話創立，為本港重要的另類音樂組合。同期的樂隊包括黑鳥、Beyond、達明一派、Martyr 及 AMK 等。

盒子的特色，在於探索不同的表演形式，並以「好玩」的態度，糅合傳統、流行、前衛、即興等各種音樂風格，創作以音樂串連整體脈絡的主題音樂劇場。盒子的音樂劇場，均以「面」來命名，從八七年的第一面，至零七年的第十四面，一路走來，不單經歷了廿年的洗練，連演出場地，也由早期的藝穗會、黃大仙城市當代劇場，經過壽臣劇院、高山劇場，再至文化中心及葵青劇院，見證了本港表演藝術的發展與演出場地的變遷。

十四個音樂劇場中，以第七面《睡公主》為盒子的突破之作，奠定了日後的表演形式、方向與美學觀。盒子的主要作品皆與文學有關，如第三面《橋》（卡夫卡）、第七面《睡公主》（川端康成及童話故事）、第十面《勾月》（聖經故事《莎樂美》）、第十三面《瘋人秀》（童話《美女與野獸》）以及第十四面《藍鬍子城堡》（民間故事）。以上作品非為一般音樂劇，而是運用文本意念為創作基礎的音樂劇場作品。

龔志成自幼研習古典音樂，後赴美國主修作曲。而彼得小話，則是自修音樂的視覺藝術家。二人不同的藝術背景，產生出微妙的化學作用，充分展現於盒子作品之內。

《盒子地上音樂會》，將從歷年作品中，挑選廿二首樂曲，重新編排，聯同合作多年的莫蔓茹及陳偉發，再加上英國結他手 Rob Lamont 及本地敲擊樂手巫俊鵬，與觀眾共同分享盒子廿二年來的足跡。每場更會邀請兩隊有代表性的樂隊／樂手作演出嘉賓，包括郭達年、Ah P @ My Little Airport、迷你噪音及 Crazy Lion。

地下書店

位於香港藝術中心地下，書種包括表演藝術、視覺藝術、攝影、建築、插畫、詩歌和兒童書，還有談話的書，中文書和英文書並重。書店將不時介紹一些讓人耳目一新的海外圖書。地下書店由本地專門出版視藝及文化書籍的獨立出版社 MCCM Creations 營運。

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The Box Concert-Songs from the Wilderness

Text: Kung Chi-shing

Kung was born in 1961 and raised in Hong Kong. He studied classical music and composition in the United States with Allen Trubitt and George Crumb. Since 1996 he has created four full-length music theatre pieces: *Destiny Travels Limited*, *The Floating Bridge*, *City Inside a Broken Sky* and *M Garden*. Kung's recordings on CD include *Destiny Travels Limited* and *Bluesilence/Fishdreams*.

Established in 1987 by Kung Chi-shing and Peter Suart, the Box is one of Hong Kong's most important alternative music groups, emerging from the exciting music scene of the late 80s and early 90s that also produced such bands such as Blackbird, Beyond, Tat Ming Pair, Martyr, and AMK. Kung Chi-shing is a classically-trained musician who studied composition in the United States; Peter Suart is a visual artist and self-trained musician – put together, the two have sparked a mind-baffling chemistry and eclectic dynamism that defines the spirit of The Box.

The Box explores an array of performance styles, always emphasising a spirit of playfulness. Their music fuses a range of idioms, from classical to popular, avant-garde to improvisation, to create their own unique brand of music-driven theatrical concert performances. From The Box's first performance of *Side 1* (1987) to their most recent major work, *Side 14: Bluebeard* (2007).

The Box has traversed twenty years of "artistic adventures" and performed in a collection of venues, from early alternative venues like the Hong Kong Fringe Club and City Contemporary Theatre in Wong Tai Sin, to Shouson Theatre, Ko Shan Theatre, and finally to the Hong Kong Cultural Centre and Kwai Tsing Theatre – in a sense tracing the evolutionary trajectory of the local performing arts scene in Hong Kong.

All The Box's significant works have been abstract interpretations of themes drawn from literature and myth: for example, *Side 3 – the Bridge* is based on the story by Kafka, *Side 7 – Sleeping Beauty* on Kawabata's story *House of the Sleeping Beauties* and the *Sleeping Beauty* fairy tale; *Side 10 – Lockheadjig* on the Biblical

story of Salome; *Side 13 – Beauty and the Beast* on the children's fairy tale; and *Side 14 – Bluebeard* on the folkloric legend of Bluebeard and the scenario from Bartok's opera of the same name. Of their fourteen music-theatre works, *Side 7 – Sleeping Beauty*, is considered by Kung and Suart as The Box's breakthrough performance, grounding their future performance style and aesthetic direction.

The Box Concert – Songs from the Wilderness will be an exciting summation of twenty-two years of The Box, featuring new arrangements of twenty-two songs from the group's monumental history. Performing alongside Kung and Suart will be long-term collaborators Julia Mok and Chan Wai-fat, British guitarist Rob Lamont and local percussionist Mo Chun-pang. The concert will also feature special guest musicians Lenny Kwok of Blackbird, Ah P @ Little Airport, Mininoise and Crazy Lion.

The Bookshop

Opened at the ground floor of the Hong Kong Arts Centre early January this year, The Bookshop carries a selection of art-focused books for booklovers – in performing arts, visual arts, photography, design, architecture, illustration and comics, poetry, and children's and books on books – in both English and Chinese. Occasionally you will also find wonderful books from other countries. The Bookshop is run by MCCM Creations, a local small press that specialises in visual and culture publications.

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