

**CUHK Convocation Outstanding Services
and Creativity Student Awards 2016/17**
香港中文大學校友評議會傑出服務及創意學生獎 2016/17

Name 姓名	Tam Yi Ching
Major 主修	Music

I am very honoured and grateful to have been awarded the CUHK Convocation Creativity Student Award in the Humanities by the CUHK Convocation, to which I would like to express my sincere gratitude. I will summarize the different facets of creativity, in my view, embodied in my works submitted for the selection process.

Concerning my two musical compositions, they together form a series conceptually linked by the idea of “The Unresolved”, musically embodied chiefly by the scalic interval of the tritone (or, diminished fifth/ augmented fourth, an exact half of an octave). Historically, the use of tritone, considered the devilish forbidden interval, was officially banned by the Roman Catholic Church in sacred music from the Medieval Period to the Renaissance; and in relation to the major-minor tonal system commonly used in both classical and popular music, the interval, played alone, provides a sense of directionless-ness, indetermination, thus metaphorically, uneasiness and unresolved-ness. In addition to this meta-theme, however, I allowed myself considerable freedom when composing the two pieces of music, in which the tritone serves different musical-structural roles. Hence, the unfolding process of “The Unresolved” is uniquely distinct in both works.

Thus, the conceptual framework per se is creative in the sense that it permits manifold musical and extra-musical variety within the underlying unity, not only for the aforementioned works already composed, but more importantly, also for potential and potentially better ones to be composed in the future as I mature as a composer. In this way, it also critically challenges, through actual practice, the commonly held notion that a certain musical composition is and should be viewed ontologically as an independent and self-contained work of art; rather, composers and their creative endeavours are more closely connected in a dialectic and interdependent manner which, I hope, my “The Unresolved” series, serving as a kind of musical microcosm, has at least preliminarily illustrated. That I decided to use the idea of “The Unresolved” as the meta-theme of the series also demonstrates creativity of another sort— due to my heavy workload when I was thinking of what to compose for my initial composition course, I was immensely stressed; thus, by choosing “The Unresolved” as my meta-theme, I managed to constructively sublimate my psychological pressure into musical compositions, thereby concurrently undertaking a kind of self-therapy during the compositional process. In other words, while my stress remains unresolved in the musical notes, it was nevertheless resolved in my mind as it had been, so to speak, composed out.

Concerning my music analysis essay entitled “Analysis of Franz Schubert’s “Der Doppelgänger”— the Unfolding of the Objective and Subjective Realities”, the creativity lies chiefly in my original and “compelling reading of Schubert’s representations of subjectivity” in his setting of Heine’s poem, which contains “many well-chosen metaphors that complement the subtlety of Schubert’s setting” (quotations from my professor’s feedback). Importantly, the essay demonstrates that, even at the undergraduate level, music analysis does not have to be mechanistic and passively subject to the music composed as often thought; quite the opposite, it can itself be a creative act that enhances and expands our imagination and understanding of the music otherwise unobtainable.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT, CUHK

Ensemble-in-Residence Programme 2015-16

Composition Concert

ANONYMOUS QUARTET

Gallant Ho (violin) William Lane (viola)
Anna Kwan (cello) Sheryl Lee (piano)

3 May 2016 (Tue)

Open Rehearsal 5:00 pm

Final Concert 8:00 pm

Lee Hysan Concert Hall,
Esther Lee Building,
Chung Chi College

Honourable Guest: Prof. David Gwilt



Featured composers and compositions: (in alphabetical order)

Elena CHIU	Enigma
Emily GRANT	Langsam
LAI Tsoi Yin	Red
SHING Chun Hay	Chiaroscuro
Kevin TAM	The Unresolved: the Destruction of a Dance
YUNG Pok Yin, Jacky	Elegy for Piano Quartet

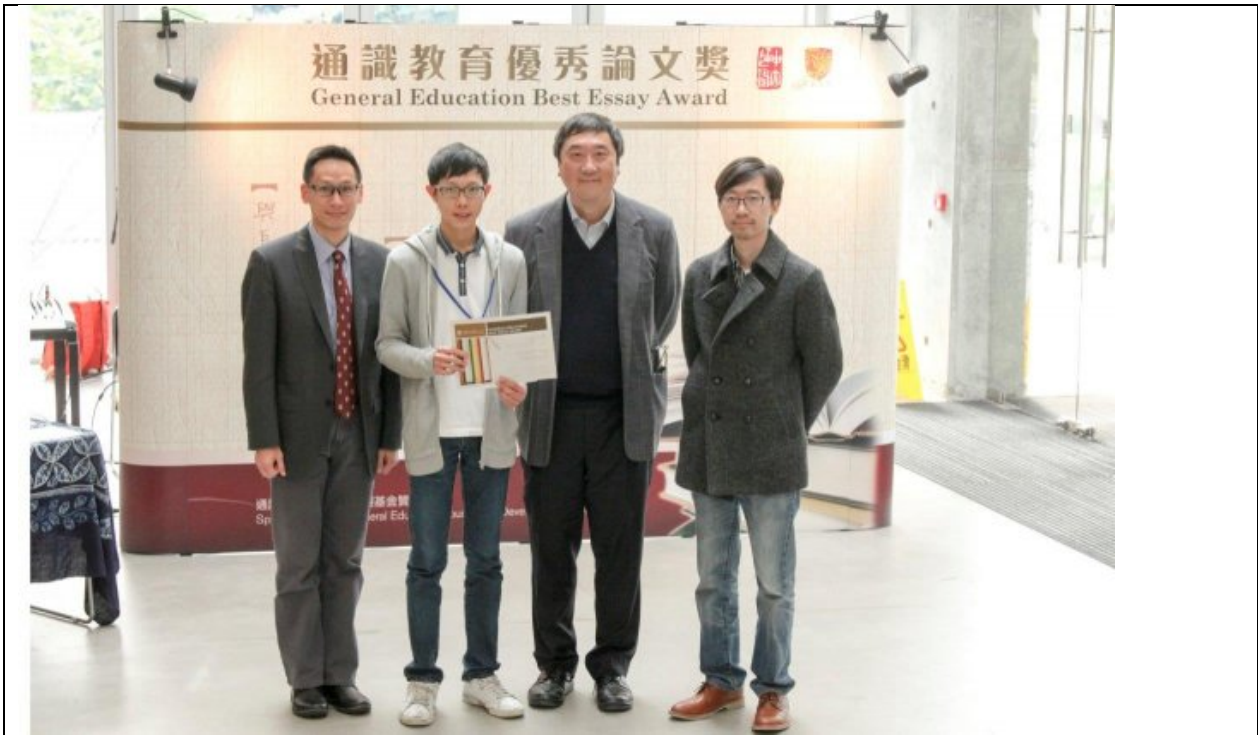
The winner will be awarded "David Gwilt Composition Prize (HKD3,000)".

Music Department
香港中文大學音樂系



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Public Performance of One of My Compositions, "The Unresolved: the Destruction of a Dance", for Piano Quartet



(I am the second one from the left)

I awarded the Gold Award (In Dialogue with Humanity) of the General Education Best Essay Award 2013-14.