

Siu-wah Yu

Yu worked for the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, Radio Television Hong Kong, and the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra in various capacities: musician, broadcaster, and marketing manager, before he went abroad for his graduate studies. Now an associate professor of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Yu has been actively performing on the Chinese bowed lute *erhu*. He performed and gave demonstration lectures in Tokyo (1979), Baltimore (1984), Belfast (1985), the International Festival of Fiddles in Boston (1988), Harvard (1992) and Maine (1993). Yu had been a frequent soloist in Radio WGBH, WUMB of Boston. He enjoys playing metal-stringed *erhu* as well as silk-stringed *erhu*, maintaining a balance between modern and traditional practice in Chinese music.

Yu first went to the University of Maryland Baltimore County in 1983 to study ethnomusicology. In the next year he became an exchange student in the Social Anthropology Department of Queen's University in Belfast, Northern Ireland, where he finished an MA thesis on *erhu* music under the supervision of Professor Rembrandt Wolpert. Subsequently, Yu entered Harvard University to study musicology. Under the tutelage Professor Rulan Chao Pian, he finished a PhD dissertation on "The Meaning and Cultural Functions of Non-Chinese musics in the Eighteenth-Century Manchu Court."

Yu's research interests range from instrumental music, Chinese music history covering Manchu and Mongolian music in the 18th century Chinese court, to the music of Hong Kong popular culture in relation to politics and identity. A frequent lecturer and performer in US campuses, Yu was a Freeman Artist In Residence of the Music Department, University of Hawai'i at Manoa, Honolulu, in 2004. In the following year, he visited University of Emory, Atlanta, where he gave a public lecture and chaired an Inter-departmental forum on "Identity, Culture and Politics of East Asia." Yu has written two books: *Out of Chaos and Coincidence: Hong Kong Music Culture* (in Chinese, 2001) and *Such are the Fading Sounds* (bilingual, 2005).