

130 words:

2016 Doris Duke Artist and Fulbright scholar, groundbreaking multilingual vocalist-composer, multi-instrumentalist, dancer, and producer **JEN SHYU (徐秋雁)** has been named “one of the most creative vocalists in contemporary improvised music” (*The Nation*). She has worked with Steve Coleman, Anthony Braxton, Vijay Iyer, and has produced six albums, with her duo album with Mark Dresser making her the first female and vocalist as band leader on Pi Recordings. Her most recent album *Sounds and Cries of the World* on Pi was voted in the “Top 10 Best Albums of 2015” by *The New York Times* and *The Nation*, among others. A Stanford University graduate dedicated to traditional music study, she has performed her music at such venues as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Brooklyn Academy of Music, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

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250 words:

Jen Shyu is a groundbreaking, multilingual vocalist, composer, producer, multi-instrumentalist, dancer and 2016 Doris Duke Artist. Born in Peoria, Illinois, to Taiwanese and East Timorese immigrant parents, Shyu is widely regarded for her virtuosic singing and riveting stage presence, carving out her own beyond-category space in the art world. She has performed with saxophonist and 2014 MacArthur Fellow Steve Coleman since 2003 and has collaborated with such musical innovators as Anthony Braxton, Vijay Iyer, Bobby Previte, Chris Potter, Michael Formanek and David Binney. Shyu has performed her own music on prestigious world stages such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Rubin Museum of Art, Ringling International Arts Festival, Asia Society, Roulette, Blue Note, Bimhuis, Salihara Theater, National Gugak Center, National Theater of Korea and at festivals worldwide.

Shyu has produced six albums as a leader, including the first female-led and vocalist-led album Pi Recordings has released, *Synastry* (Pi 2011), with co-bandleader and bassist Mark Dresser. Her acclaimed CD *Sounds and Cries of the World* (Pi 2015) landed on many best-of-2015 lists, including those of *The New York Times* and *The Nation*.

Currently based in New York City, Shyu will premiere her next solo work at National Sawdust June 29, 2017, and release her next album *Song of Silver Geese* on Pi October 2017, kicking off a 50-state U.S. tour of “Songs of Our World Now / Songs Everyone Writes Now (SOWN/SEWN),” planting seeds of creativity and threading communities together through art.

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A Stanford University graduate in opera with classical piano, violin, and ballet training, Shyu has studied traditional music and dance in Cuba, Taiwan, Brazil, China, South Korea, East Timor, and Indonesia, conducting extensive research which culminated in her 2014 stage production *Solo Rites: Seven Breaths*, directed by renowned Indonesian filmmaker Garin Nugroho. She has won commissions and support from Doris Duke Performing Artist Awards, MAP Fund, Jerome Foundation, Chamber Music America’s New Jazz Works, New Music USA, Jazz Gallery and Roulette, as well as fellowships from the Fulbright Scholar Program, Asian Cultural Council, Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Korean Ministry of Sports, Culture, and Tourism.

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A Stanford University graduate in opera with classical violin and ballet training, Shyu had already won many piano competitions and performed the Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto with the Peoria Symphony Orchestra by the age of 13. She has studied traditional music and dance in Cuba, Taiwan, Brazil, China, South Korea, East Timor and Indonesia, conducting extensive research which culminated in her 2014 stage production *Solo Rites: Seven Breaths*, directed by renowned Indonesian filmmaker Garin Nugroho. Shyu has won commissions and support from Doris Duke Performing Artist Awards, MAP Fund, Jerome Foundation, Chamber Music America's New Jazz Works, New Music USA, Jazz Gallery, and Roulette, as well as fellowships from the Fulbright Scholar Program, Asian Cultural Council, Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Korean Ministry of Sports, Culture, and Tourism.

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Even with the acclaim she has received for her recordings, Shyu is just as renowned for her dynamic performances. Ben Ratliff wrote in the *New York Times* that her concerts are "the most arresting performances I've seen over the past five years. It's not just the meticulous preparation of the work and the range of its reference, but its flexibility: She seems open, instinctual, almost fearless." And Larry Blumenfeld wrote in the *Wall Street Journal* that "her voice, a wonder of technical control and unrestrained emotion, tells a story dotted with well-researched facts and wild poetic allusions. She claims both as her truths."

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