



American Repertory Theater

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**AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER INVITES AUDIENCES
“BEHIND THE SCENES”
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9 WITH
COMPOSER HUANG RUO AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR DIANE PAULUS**

[Behind the Scenes Images for Download](#)

Cambridge, MA—Composer Huang Ruo joins American Repertory Theater Terrie and Bradley Bloom Artistic Director Diane Paulus for a conversation about his music, recent projects, and his A.R.T. commission, *The Weeping Camel*, at A.R.T.’s next virtual **Behind the Scenes** event Tuesday, February 9 at 7:30PM.

Single tickets of \$20 with a pay-what-you-can option and series packages with tiered pricing are available at AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/Behind-the-Scenes.

On February 9, audiences will get to know composer Huang Ruo, named one of the world’s leading young composers by *The New Yorker*, as he talks with Terrie and Bradley Bloom Artistic Director Diane Paulus about past projects and his A.R.T. commission, *The Weeping Camel*, a new production that will be co-directed by Paulus and Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui (*Jagged Little Pill*), adapted from the Academy Award-nominated documentary film.

Composer Huang Ruo has been lauded by *The New York Times* for having “a distinctive style.” His vibrant and inventive musical voice draws equal inspiration from Chinese ancient and folk music, Western avant-garde, experimental, noise, natural and processed sound, rock, and jazz to create a seamless, organic integration using a compositional technique he calls “Dimensionalism.”

“Duality exists in my music, as it does in life and in the Universe,” he recently explained in an interview published by Ricordi. “I am interested in contrasting points, the space and time between them, and how these two points travel, interact, interchange, and integrate with one another. I believe that who and where we are, and when we exist ultimately defines our music.”

Ruo’s diverse compositional works span from orchestra, chamber music, opera, theater, and dance, to cross-genre, sound installation, architectural installation, multimedia, experimental improvisation, folk rock, and film. They include *A Dust in Time: Passacaglia for Strings*, created during the pandemic; *An American Soldier* with libretto by David Henry Hwang (Opera Theatre of St. Louis, 2018); the installation opera *Paradise Interrupted* (Spoleto Festival USA, 2015, and Lincoln Center Festival, 2016); and *Dr. Sun Yat-Sen* (Santa Fe Opera, 2014). His new opera *M. Butterfly* will receive its world premiere with the Santa Fe Opera in a future season. See below for a full bio.

The **Behind the Scenes** series with the writers, directors and composers who are making new work at the A.R.T. includes multimedia events featuring songs and scenes from the shows in development; conversation about process, research, and collaboration; and interactive Q&As with the audience. Following the events, ten raffle-winning ticket holders, the series sponsors, and all A.R.T. donors of \$500 or more will be eligible to continue the conversation “backstage” in the Virtual Green Room with the artists and A.R.T. staff.

Additional upcoming **Behind the Scenes** events include:

• **THE CIRCLE OF BECOMING**

Tuesday, March 2 at 7:30PM

Tony and Obie Award-winning playwright V (formerly Eve Ensler, **O.P.C.**, **In the Body of the World**, *The Vagina Monologues*), Grammy and Golden Globe-nominated songwriter Justin Tranter (Selena Gomez, Ariana Grande, Demi Lovato, Imagine Dragons), and Tony Award-winning actor, performer, and songwriter Idina Menzel (*Rent*, *Wicked*, *Frozen*) share music and stories about the development of **The Circle of Becoming**, a wild new musical fairy tale about a teenage girl and her posse whose determination to save the planet endows them with powers they never knew they had, directed by Diane Paulus.

• **OCEAN FILIBUSTER**

Tuesday, April 6 at 7:30PM

Co-creators Katie Pearl and Lisa D'Amour, composer Sxip Shirey, and performer Jennifer Kidwell share scenes, songs, and video from **Ocean Filibuster**, a new music theater experience that draws from myth, stand-up, and science to imagine a showdown between Senate leader Mr. Majority and the Ocean itself, commissioned by A.R.T. through a collaboration with the Harvard University Center for the Environment.

• **[UNTITLED NEW MUSICAL]**

Wednesday, May 19 at 7:30PM

Daniel Lazour and Patrick Lazour (**We Live in Cairo**) talk with director Taibi Magar (**We Live in Cairo**, *Macbeth In Stride* upcoming), sharing songs and visual research from their new music-theater piece that explores cancer and relationships across time between patients and caregivers.

*Production support of **Behind the Scenes** is provided by **Alison and Bob Murchison**. Additional production support is provided by **Maxine Isaacs**.*

*The Incubator Fund for new work in development is sponsored by **Allison Johnson**.*

ABOUT HUANG RUO

Composer Huang Ruo has been lauded by *The New York Times* for having “a distinctive style.” His vibrant and inventive musical voice draws equal inspiration from Chinese ancient and folk music, Western avant-garde, experimental, noise, natural and processed sound, rock, and jazz to create a seamless, organic integration using a compositional technique he calls “Dimensionalism.” Huang Ruo’s diverse compositional works span from orchestra, chamber music, opera, theater, and dance, to cross-genre, sound installation, architectural installation, multimedia, experimental improvisation, folk rock, and film. His music has been premiered and performed by the New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, Boston Symphony Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, Netherlands Radio Philharmonic, National Polish Radio Orchestra, Santa Fe Opera, Washington National Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Asko/Schoenberg, Ensemble Modern, London Sinfonietta, and conductors such as Wolfgang Sawallisch, Marin Alsop, Andrew Davis, Michael Tilson Thomas, and James Conlon.

Huang Ruo’s opera *An American Soldier* (with libretto by David Henry Hwang) has recently received its world premiere at the Opera Theatre of St. Louis in June 2018 and was named one of the best classical music events in 2018 by *The New York Times*. His installation opera *Paradise Interrupted* was premiered at the Spoleto Festival USA in 2015 and was performed at the Lincoln Center Festival in 2016, with future touring planning for Europe and Asia. Another opera, *Dr. Sun Yat-Sen*, premiered at the Santa Fe Opera in 2014. His upcoming new opera *M. Butterfly* will receive its world premiere with the Santa Fe Opera in a future season. Other upcoming new operas will be premiered and presented by the Washington National

Opera, Royal Danish Opera, Prototype Festival, and the Hong Kong New Vision Festival. Ruo served as the first composer-in-residence for Het Concertgebouw Amsterdam and was the visiting composer for the São Paulo Symphony Orchestra in Brazil.

Huang Ruo was born in Hainan Island, China in 1976 - the year the Chinese Cultural Revolution ended. His father, who is also a composer, began teaching him composition and piano when he was six years old. Growing up in the 1980s and 1990s, when China was opening its gate to the Western world, he received both traditional and Western education at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. As a result of the dramatic cultural and economic changes in China following the Cultural Revolution, his education expanded from Bach, Mozart, Stravinsky, and Lutoslawski, to include the Beatles, rock and roll, heavy metal, and jazz. Huang Ruo was able to absorb all of these newly allowed Western influences equally.

After winning the Henry Mancini Award at the 1995 International Film and Music Festival in Switzerland, he moved to the United States to further his education. He earned a Bachelor of Music degree from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, and Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees in composition from the Juilliard School. Huang Ruo is a composition faculty at the Mannes School of Music in NY and is the artistic director and conductor of Ensemble FIRE. He was selected as a Young Leader Fellow by the National Committee on United States–China Relations in 2006. Huang Ruo's music is published by Ricordi. For more information about the composer and his music, visit huangruo.com.

ABOUT AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER

American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) at Harvard University is a leading force in the American theater, producing groundbreaking work that is driven by risk-taking and passionate inquiry. A.R.T. was founded in 1980 by Robert Brustein, who served as Artistic Director until 2002, when he was succeeded by Robert Woodruff. Diane Paulus began her tenure as Artistic Director in 2008. Under the leadership of Paulus as the Terrie and Bradley Bloom Artistic Director and Executive Producer Diane Borger, A.R.T. seeks to expand the boundaries of theater by programming transformative theatrical experiences, always including the audience as a central partner. A.R.T. is committed to a long-term process of centering anti-racism in its practice, policies, culture, pedagogy, governance and organizational structure.

Throughout its history, A.R.T. has been honored with many distinguished awards including the Tony Award for Best New Play for ***All the Way*** (2014); consecutive Tony Awards for Best Revival of a Musical for ***Pippin*** (2013) and ***The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess*** (2012), both of which Paulus directed, and sixteen other Tony Awards since 2012; a Pulitzer Prize; a Jujamcyn Prize for outstanding contribution to the development of creative talent; the Regional Theater Tony Award; and more than 100 Elliot Norton and IRNE Awards. Additional Broadway productions include ***Jagged Little Pill***; ***Waitress*** (also US National Tour and in London's West End); ***Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812***; and ***Finding Neverland***. Under Paulus's leadership, A.R.T.'s club theater, OBERON, has been recognized annually as a top performance venue in the Boston area, and has attracted national attention for its innovative programming and business models.

As the professional theater on the campus of Harvard University, A.R.T. is committed to playing a central role in the cognitive life of the University, catalyzing discourse, interdisciplinary collaboration, and creative exchange among a wide range of academic departments, institutions, students, and faculty members. A.R.T. is engaged in a number of multi-year initiatives with partners at Harvard that explore some of the most pressing issues of our day, including collaborations with the Harvard University Center for the Environment to develop new work that addresses climate change and with the Healthy Buildings Program at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health to develop a Roadmap for Recovery and Resilience for Theater that prioritizes a commitment to ethics, equity, and anti-racism as a guiding principle. A.R.T. plays a central role in Harvard's undergraduate Theater, Dance & Media concentration, teaching courses in directing, dramatic literature, acting, voice, design, and dramaturgy. A.R.T. staff also mentors students in the Harvard Radcliffe Dramatic Club working at the Loeb Drama Center and OBERON.

Dedicated to making great theater accessible, A.R.T. actively engages more than 5,000 community members and local students annually in project-based partnerships, workshops, conversations with artists, and other enrichment activities both at the theater and across the Greater Boston area.

A.R.T. acknowledges that its theaters are situated on the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Massachusetts Tribe.

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