

**SHANGHAI STRING QUARTET TO PERFORM THE CANADIAN PREMIERE OF
"STRING QUARTET NO. 2"
WRITTEN BY COMPOSER AND EDMONTON NATIVE VIVIAN FUNG**

NEW YORK, NY – Alberta audiences will experience the **Canadian Premiere** of *String Quartet No. 2* of Edmonton-born composer **Vivian Fung** (b. 1975), performed by the **Shanghai String Quartet**, on **Saturday, March 5, 2011**, at **Convocation Hall, University of Alberta**, presented by the **Edmonton Chamber Music Society**. The work was commissioned in 2009 by the Shanghai String Quartet in celebration of their 25th Anniversary season.

String Quartet No. 2 is an eighteen-minute, six-movement work. Ms. Fung says, "I conceived each movement being a study in a different affect represented in the movements' subtitles. Those representations are not to be taken literally, but are meant to be evocative of a particular mood." The quartet also includes prominent Asian folk influence. Ms. Fung continues, "I strive to represent my individual voice in each of my compositions. Each piece addresses different artistic challenges, but traces of my Asian heritage underscore much of my work. A Chinese folk song forms the basis of the *Introduction, Interlude, and Postlude* movements of this quartet."

The quartet received a standing ovation at its world premiere by the Shanghai String Quartet on April 23, 2009, at the Freer Gallery in Washington, D.C. Ms. Fung says, "I wanted to write music that could highlight the strengths of this group, their tremendous technical artistry, and their beautiful lyricism and sensitivity."

Ms. Fung's upcoming performances in 2011 also include the world premiere of **Yunnan Folk Songs** for voice and large chamber ensemble on **March 22, 2011**, at the **Harris Theater**, Chicago, commissioned by **Fulcrum Point New Music Project**; an April 26, 2011 concert at the **Americas Society** in New York City, highlighting Ms. Fung as one of the rising stars of Canadian music; and the world premiere of a new violin concerto for violinist **Kristin Lee** and the **Metropolis Ensemble**, planned for the fall. Other recent performances of Ms. Fung's music included the world premieres of choral works for the acclaimed **Suwon Civic Chorale** in South Korea; *Chant* by pianist **Margaret Leng Tan** at New York's **Museum of Modern Art**; and her Piano Concerto, *Dreamscapes*, by pianist **Jenny Lin** with the **Metropolis Ensemble** at **Le Poisson Rouge**, New York City.

Vivian Fung has distinguished herself among the foremost composers of her generation. Since earning her doctorate from The Juilliard School in 2002, Fung has increasingly embraced non-classical influences, including jazz and non-western sources such as Indonesian gamelan and folk songs from the minority regions of China. The *New York Times* has described her work as "evocative," and *The Strad* hailed her Uighur-influenced music as being "as vital as encountering Steve Reich or the Kronos Quartet for the first time."

Recognized as "the most memorable part" of the Ying Quartet's 2009 concert at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall by the *New York Times*, Fung's *Pizzicato* has been part of that ensemble's repertoire for the past two seasons. Fung's music has been commercially released on the Telarc, Cedille, and Signpost labels. She has an impressive body of compositions commissioned and performed by such ensembles as the Seattle Symphony, San José Chamber Orchestra, Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, Afiara String Quartet, Music from China and American Opera Projects. This past summer, Fung completed a performance tour of Bali with Gamelan Dharma Swara, culminating in a competition in the Bali Arts Festival.

Fung is the 2010 New York Foundation for the Arts' Gregory Millard Fellow. She has received numerous awards and grants from ASCAP, BMI, American Music Center, American Composers' Forum, and the Canada Council for the Arts. Fung has been composer-in-residence of the *Music in the Loft* chamber music series in Chicago, the San José Chamber Orchestra, Music Teachers' Association of California, and the Billings Symphony. She has also completed residencies at the MacDowell, Yaddo, and Banff arts colonies, as well as two residencies at the Atlantic Center for the Arts.

Born in Edmonton, Alberta, Fung began composition studies with composer Violet Archer. Other early influences include her mentors David Diamond, Narcis Bonet and Robert Beaser. Fung is affiliated with The Juilliard School and is an associate composer of the Canadian Music Centre.