

# THE PRISM

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT MĀNOA INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Conversations in the Arts

Three composers with the UH Mānoa Music Department share their thoughts on international music education and the purpose of the arts in a globalizing world.



Dr. Donald Womack, Dr. Thomas Osborne, and Dr. Takuma Itoh teach composition at UHM and compose for musicians around the world. Their work with students and with international communities goes far beyond the classroom or the concert hall, setting the foundation for strong, lasting relationships on a global scale.

Students who study composition at UHM are fortunate to be part of one of only two programs nation-wide that offer experience composing for Western and non-Western instruments. With a particular focus on Asian traditional instruments, the program offers opportunities for students to work with visiting artists each year to produce a new work. They get to hear their music in performance and are challenged to write for instruments or combinations with which they may not be familiar. The program is unique for the opportunities to work with these top-level performers of Asian instruments and with faculty who are actively composing for international audiences.

Pictured Top: Dr. Thomas Osborne

WHAT'S NEW  
IN THE PRISM?

CONVERSATIONS  
IN THE ARTS  
P. 1-2

MIEW PHOTO  
CONTEST WINNERS  
P. 3

OUTREACH COLLEGE  
UP PROGRAM &  
INTERVIEWS  
P. 4-5

INTERNATIONAL  
EDUCATION LINKS  
P. 6-7

## CONVERSATIONS IN THE ARTS

The program is unique for the opportunities to work with these top-level performers of Asian instruments and with faculty who are actively composing for international audiences. The three composers and many of their students, particularly graduate students, regularly compose for individuals and ensembles in Asia and participate in the tours of their work. Donald, Tom, and Takuma each shared their thoughts on these experiences:

Donald: “I have no single favorite instrument to compose for. If the individual or ensemble is interested in my work when they invite me to compose for them, the project is always interesting. When I’m given a project, I usually have no idea how it will turn out but the process is what’s interesting.”

Tom: “Since coming to Hawai‘i, I’ve found that it’s not just about the music itself. It’s about building relationships between programs and communities. When traveling in Korea, I’ve created a lot of lasting friendships through music.”

Takuma: “I’m currently involved in a project bringing together conservation and music. The Symphony of the Hawaiian Birds brings together composers, animators, scientists, and educators, including the Hawaiian Symphony, to find new ways to spread awareness of endangered species and to engage with local student audiences. (continued)



We create new works to start conversations where they need to happen, bringing people together literally and figuratively.”

All three composers show a true love for what they do. Their work with students and with musicians is an ongoing act of community building. When people know each other, when they have relationships, they are more comfortable with difference.

Through the act of creating, which Donald called an “essential part of being human,” cultures and communities get to know one another and bridge gaps in understanding and interest. As Donald, Tom, and Takuma demonstrate in their ongoing work, the arts help us think about ourselves. They help us learn to be better humans in an uncertain world.

Pictured Left: Dr. Takuma Itoh

Pictured Right: Dr. Donald Womack

**MANOA INTERNATIONAL  
EDUCATION WEEK  
PHOTO CONTEST  
WINNERS**



**”Road Block” by Michelle Au**

The Faculty-Sponsored study abroad trip to Balule Nature Reserve provided unforgettable experiences of learning, culture and beauty. This photo is just one example of a typical day in our amazing outdoor classroom. Dr. Mark Wright and his students watched as two elephant bulls greeted them on a beautiful South African morning. What better way to learn about African Ecology than by the animals that call this amazing place their home.



**”Present, past and future” by Yu-Tseng Lin**

The concept of the photo is about the past (history) - black and white photo - the present, the colorful landscape, and the culture (history) makes who we are and how ”colorful” we are.

”Timeless” by Irene Chen - Regardless of where you go, you are often amongst a diverse group of people shaped by cultures of the world, standing strong in adversity. The Manoa International Exchange and Study Abroad Program allows you to truly immerse yourself with people around the world, especially in places where you find those intimate moments that come and go, unseen and unappreciated by many.



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII at MĀNOA  
OUTREACH COLLEGE

# THE UNIVERSITY PREPARATION UP PROGRAM

In the first semester of the the University Preparation Program -- or the UP Program - students take classes in a core-group of English language courses, test preparation, intercultural communication, and academic reading and writing. These courses are designed to not only increase the likelihood of success at university, but also has components to help students adjust to university life and academic culture. UP is designed for international students who wish to attain a degree in the U.S. and provides maximum support to prepare students for academic study, test taking, and English Language at the university level.

As a pathway program for students who intend to enter a degree-level program, the second semester of the UP Program allows for students to take two courses for up to six credits, with additional support in academic tutoring, interpersonal relationships and issues like homesickness.

**UP Program cohorts are small and intimate, with just five to ten students per semester, ensuring personalized advising toward college admissions and cultural orientation.**



"Students need support and you have to be able to determine what kind of support they need and how to provide it," Dennis Chase, Coordinator for the UP Program, says. "Some students may just need help on the academic side, whereas other students could be homesick, have a problem with their roommate or have other issues at home. Being able to work with students closely to identify what these problems are and how they can be solved is very important."

In fall 2017 Jing Jin and Jie Gao were conditionally accepted to the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's Music Department program. Jing was accepted to the Graduate Division 3+2 program and both students had to study English through the UP Program to be directly admitted. Within three months after arriving in Hawaii, their English -- and that of the rest of their cohort in the UP Program -- had shown "measurable improvement," Chase says. Although Jie and Jin are both hardworking, excellent students, "the only thing holding them back was that their English needed to improve," Chase added. They exemplify, "that with support and additional instruction, students can not only enter into the degree programs at UHM, but be really successful."

Pictured left to right: Dennis Chase, Jing Jin, Judy Ensing.



# Jie Gao & Jing Jin

## OUTREACH COLLEGE INTERVIEW

### **Q: What were some challenges that you faced in your programs and how did you overcome them?**

**Jing:** The language barrier is the most challenging issue for me. Especially in the academic class, understanding the class context and responding to the instructor is very important. So in order to understand the class, I recorded the class and listened to it after I got back to my dorm. I also joined a lot of ensemble activities which pushed my English skills even further than I thought.

**Jie:** I struggled with passing a placement exam but with enough studying and perseverance, I was able to pass.

### **Q: What advice do you have for students who want to apply for UP or 3+2?**

**Jing:** Don't be afraid of adapting to a new environment, the process of the study is more interesting than you imagine.

**Jie:** Don't put too much pressure on yourself and be in good communication with an UP Program Advisor before, during and after applying!

### **Q: How did you find out about the 3+2 program, graduate program, or UP Program?**

**Jing:** My home institute Shanghai Normal University Music School has a cooperation with UH, so I knew most information about the programs from SHNU.

**Jie:** The UP Program was recommended by a Chinese teacher who worked at SHNU.

### **Q: Why did you choose to study at UH Manoa?**

**Jing:** Before I came here, I took my professor's master class in Shanghai, I was so impressed by that. The coordinator from 3+2 program helped me a lot with applying.

**Jie:** UH Manoa is one of the schools in the 3+2 program that I wanted to participate in.

### **Q: What are some of your memorable experiences studying here at UH?**

**Jing:** The beautiful campus view and the proper temperature is the most charming thing. In general my study life in UH is pretty full and enjoyable, everyday is more hopeful than yesterday.

**Jie:** In the UP Program, I met many friends from different countries, I cooked some Chinese food for them, performed concerts for the Music Department and went hiking with my friends.



# UH MĀNOA INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION LINKS

## FACULTY AND SCHOLAR IMMIGRATION SERVICES (FSIS):

FSIS provides immigration services and advising for departments, international visiting scholars, and employees across the University of Hawai'i System.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES (ISS):

ISS is the primary university resource for international students in areas ranging from immigration advising to cross-cultural adjustment. They consult with the greater community on related issues.

## MĀNOA INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE (MIX):

MIX facilitates partnerships with outstanding universities around the world to the benefit of UH Mānoa students, faculty, and staff. MIX promotes cross-cultural education and understanding through the enrollment of international exchange students; and providing UH Mānoa students with study abroad opportunities that have a transformative and positive effect on their lives.

## UHM STUDY ABROAD CENTER (SAC):

SAC provides summer, semester, and year-long study abroad programs for undergraduate student. Faculty are able to teach, mentor students, develop new courses, and pursue their research interests. Students earn UH Mānoa credits for coursework completed overseas.

## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION (COE) – INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES:

COE develops and maintains sustainable international agreements and partnerships in higher education with institutions in China, Japan, Kazakhstan, Norway, Russia, and Vietnam. Activities include collaborative research projects, educational conferences, and student/faculty exchanges. COE annually hosts numerous visiting scholars interested in studying with COE faculty and exchanging expertise.

## COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (CSS):

The International and Special Programs (IASP) at UH Mānoa's College of Social Science (CSS) Dean's Office supports international activities and initiatives for the entire College, striving towards creating a global experience for its students, faculty and staff, with a regional research and practice focus on Oceania and the Asia-Pacific. The unit works collaboratively with academic departments and support units throughout the College in areas of international recruiting, advising and retention of students from anywhere in the world. We believe in fostering a global community of learners, educators, practitioners and researchers.

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTITUTE (ELI):

ELI, housed in the Department of Second Language Studies, supports admitted students at UH Mānoa who speak English as a second language and are found to be in need of ELI's support. ELI provides instruction in English for academic purposes and strategies for more effective study and helps students acclimate to a new academic culture.

## GRADUATE DIVISION – UHM 3+2 International Program:

UHM 3+2 International Program cooperates with prestigious universities overseas to recruit well-performing college students to spend their senior year at UH Mānoa and simultaneously, pursue their master's program at UH Mānoa. After five years, the student will acquire a bachelor's degree from his/her home institution and a master's degree from UH Mānoa.

## HAWAII ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAM (HELP):

The HELP program has been providing the highest quality academic English classes for over 40 years. Through our Conditional Admission pathway, students can enter undergraduate or graduate study at UH Mānoa without a TOEFL score. HELP also offers teacher training workshops and the CELTA English teaching certificate program.

**DO YOU HAVE A  
STORY TO SHARE  
IN THE PRISM?**

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**JOHN A. BURNS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE (JABSOM) - GLOBAL HEALTH/MEDICINE PROGRAMS:**

JABSOM is committed to improving the health of the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin. Our mission is to train a globally competent health workforce with skills to address critical global health problems. JABSOM strives to understand and reduce health inequalities around the Pacific Rim.

**OUTREACH COLLEGE - INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS:**

The International Programs division of the Outreach College provides international students access to UH Mānoa through its CEA-accredited Intensive English Program, conditional admission University Preparation programs, and short-term customized programs on a variety of subjects.

**SCHOOL OF TRAVEL INDUSTRY MANAGEMENT (TIM), IN THE SHIDLER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS:**

TIM is recognized as a leading educational institution in hospitality, tourism, and transportation management. TIM pioneered the concept of integrating all aspects of the travel industry under a single discipline. Built on a foundation of management science, TIM also draws on a broad range of disciplines to provide high-quality education at the undergraduate and graduate levels to current and future professionals.

**SHIDLER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS - FULL-TIME Global MBA Program:**

The Full-time Global MBA program offers students a comprehensive foundation in business fundamentals with its wide array of internship and study abroad opportunities in the Asia-Pacific region. Students can take a semester of classes at one of our partner schools and work at a professional internship in countries such as China, Japan, and Vietnam.

**PACIFIC ASIAN MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE (PAMI):**

PAMI is the center for international business programs with an Asia-Pacific focus. They are the umbrella organization housing the PAMI Summer Program, PAMI Year-Round Programs, PAMI Asian Field Study Program, Center for International Business Education and Research, and Pacific Asian Consortium for International Business Education and Research.

**WILLIAM S. RICHARDSON SCHOOL OF LAW - International Programs:**

WSRSL maintains an active schedule of international programs and activities. The law school offers two degree programs for international students, the LL.M degree for foreign law graduates and the advanced JD program, which grants credit for qualified foreign law graduates. American law students are encouraged to pursue international law study through our exchanges with schools such as with Bucerius Law School in Germany or through programs in China, Hong Kong, or Australia.

**THEATRE AND DANCE:**

Theatre and Dance programs give students an opportunity to work in Asian and Pacific traditions, while also experiencing more Western ones. With a mix of academic coursework and live productions, the department aims to provide a rich global environment in which students strengthen both the mind and the body. The Kennedy Theatre provides a great space for experimentation and community collaboration.

**COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES (CTAHR):**

CTAHR at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa is composed of six academic departments, the Center on the Family, and the Western Insular Pacific Sun Grant Subcenter. The mission of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources is to create and deliver knowledge that supports and strengthens families, agricultural and food systems, and the natural environment.



**Asia-Pacific Association  
for International Education**  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION  
Vancouver, Canada | March 22-26, 2020

