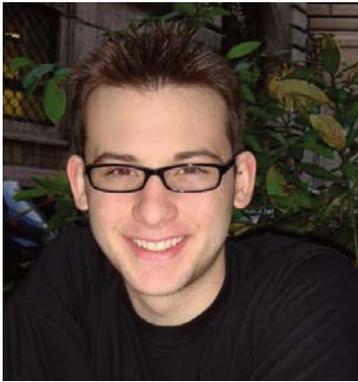


From Mozart to Maroon 5

Tudor Dominik Maican, 20, is a recognized composer and full-time, third-year student at Indiana University. In high school, his family drove to New York, NY, from Potomac, MD, once a week for his classes at the Julliard School. Today, Dominik's music has been performed by Borromeo String Quartet, Eclipse Chamber Orchestra from the National Symphony Orchestra, North South Consonances Ensemble of Contemporary Music conducted by Max Lifchitz, Juilliard Symphonic Orchestra, the New York Art Ensemble, and most recently the Pacifica String Quartet with Richard Hawkins. Dominik is studying both music and biochemistry, "to keep his balance."

Photo courtesy Tudor Dominik Maican



Anna: You were born in Germany of French and Romanian heritage and now live in the United States. Does this multi-cultural background find its way into your compositions?

Dominik: My heritage is even more diverse than this. In my blood flows Jewish, French, Romanian, Greek, and German origins. I consider my life a journey – and I feel that a journey is a process of self-discovery. I don't think of myself as German, or Jewish, etc. I am just a human being, and there is so much to celebrate about human beings. Obviously, the original folklore of each of these countries that I have been fortunate to visit many times, speaks loud and clear in my music. I do not purposely try to evoke one or another folklore of these countries in my music, I just do it naturally.

Anna: Where do you feel most at home?

Dominik: Basically, if I have a pencil and a piece of paper I am at home and happy. Since I was 16 years old I haven't composed so much at the piano.

Anna: What were the challenges for you as a kid growing up in Maryland with this musical talent?

Dominik: By the time I was six years old, I studied for two hours in the morning before I went to school and another two hours immediately upon returning from school. At that time I thought it was real child abuse and

when I told (my mother) one day she kept me for eight hours straight at the piano. Then I stopped complaining and I just understood that there is no shortcut in achieving great goals, but just hard work and determination.

Anna: Do you travel a lot internationally?

Dominik: Yes, I traveled very much, especially as a student of Karlheinz Stockhausen, in Germany, who unfortunately died nearly two years ago. Then I studied with Arie van Beek in France and Dan Buciu in Romania. My next trip will be in December when I will go to Madrid, Spain, where Musica Nova Ensemble of Contemporary Music from Paris will perform my Quintet for clarinet and string quartet.

Anna: Can we hear your music online?

Dominik: Yes, in many places. First of all on the website of the Washington Post, the National Public Radio website, and in a few documentary films made by Hong Kong and German television.

Anna: Who is your favorite band?

Dominik: Any band that plays music that makes sense. I love everything from Celine Dion to Maroon 5, Sister Hazel, and Queen. What a weird collection that is!

By Anna Smith

TRAINEE IN ACTION

Mark Gifford came to the U.S. this summer to learn about IT systems at non-profit art organizations. During his training at International Arts & Artists, Mark develops his IT and web design skills while facing new challenges working at a non-profits. "One new skill that I've had to hone specifically is making sure that every dollar counts. Unlike at some commercial organizations, there isn't a huge pile of money to throw at any problem that comes up and solutions have to take that into account. This is an extra challenge and one that I really enjoy." Mark has previously worked in South Africa, India and Germany as well as his native England. After completing his 12-month training in the U.S. he plans to return to the U.K. to work on IT projects there.

By Joanna Rutkowska



Photo by Joanna Rutkowska





Featured Artist: *Chien-Chiang Hua*

Chien-Chiang Hua is a contemporary artist from Taiwan who specializes in traditional Taiwanese gouache painting. He entered the Arts Education Department at National Taichung Teacher's College of Arts Education with no formal training, and then enrolled in the Master's of Fine Art Program in Taipei National University of the Arts in 2002. He was in residency at the Headlands Center for the Arts in San Francisco in 2007 and he is currently in residency at Cite Internationale des Arts in Paris, France.

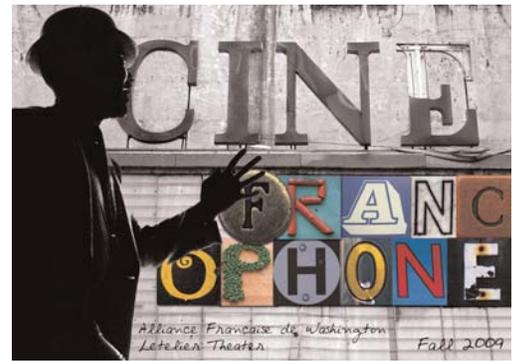
Though Hua works primarily with gouache, which he prefers for its "natural state," he's explored acrylics as well, which he finds more industrialized. Gouache is similar to watercolor but it's heavier, more opaque, and is known for its reflective quality. Chien-Chiang paints with this quick-drying medium in part because it allows him to easily create colorful and energetic compositions.

The artist paints current subjects of contemporary society, creating varied depictions of our ever-changing culture. His work focuses on the people who live around him and he is constantly influenced by his surrounding environment. Hua feels that artists have a social responsibility to respond to the status of the times. His art work can be seen at the AKI Gallery, which specializes in Taiwanese contemporary art. Visit the gallery website at: www.akigallery.com.tw.



By Jane Merkel

Photos courtesy Aki Gallery



Spotlight on... *Ciné francophone in Washington, DC*

Washington, DC. – Here in the U.S. capitol, art galleries, museums, cinemas, jazz clubs, concert halls, and theatres offer cultural events of all kinds. This fall, Ciné Francophone at the Letelier Theatre will showcase French-language cinema, films the Washington public may not normally see. These include: *Coco*, a comedy featuring Gad Edmaleh; *Sagan*, a film by Diane Kurys with Sylvie Testud; the *Jazz Club "Cinema Follies," Paris nous appartient*, by Jacques Rivette; and *Coluche, l'histoire d'un mec*, a film by Antoine de Caunes and Francois-Xavier Demaison. The film series is organized by the Alliance française de Washington. Laurent Mellier, the Alliance's director, recently said about the film series: "The Alliance has several goals: to foster a new artistic forum in Washington; to open a window to the outside world; to raise awareness on the issues tackled in the films; and to facilitate public discussion while encouraging pluralism, dialogue and mutual understanding between nations."

By Anna Smith

Chinese Terracotta Army Visits Poland

For the first time in its history, the Chinese Terracotta Army was recently on view for the Polish public at Galeria Krakowska in Krakow. The Terracotta Army is a form of Chinese funerary art dating to 210 BC. The collection consists of more than eight thousand life-size figures and includes soldiers, war chariots and cavalry horses. Galeria Krakowska displayed more than 100 pieces from this collection. The Terracotta Army is often called the Eighth Wonder of the World. All figures were found at the Mausoleum of the First Qin Emperor in China, which is listed on the UNESCO World Heritage Sites registry. Thus far the collection has been displayed only in four other countries besides Poland – Germany, Great Britain, Russia and Spain.



By Joanna Rutkowska

INTERNATIONAL ARTS & ARTISTS

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