

## DOCTORAL THESIS

### An investigation into new music theater in Hong Kong: thesis and composition portfolio

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## **Abstract**

Collaborative arts incorporate multiple theatrical elements including sound, movements, text, design, technology and visual elements into a synthetic original form of art. The versatile possibilities of the art form allow artists to actualize their boundless imaginations, and to experiment with an innovative expression to exhibit emotions, ideas, social concerns and philosophical issues. This study briefly summarizes the historical development of collaborative arts from Wagner and Kandinsky, and explores the sub-category, New Music Theater, in the contemporary context from the 1950s onwards. Artists and theorists featured include John Cage, Heiner Goebbels, Mauricio Kagel, George Aperghis and Daniel Ott. International composer Manos Tsangaris and Hong Kong artists Kung Chi Shing, Steve Hui and Amy Chan are interviewed to exhibit their personal creative and collaborative experience, as well as the current practice of New Music Theater in Hong Kong. The insights gathered from artists and theorists considered in this study have inspired the composer to create a composition portfolio, in particular a research-based New Music Theater project, *Battle*, along with an analysis to illustrate the interaction between the arts, the collaborative process and the effectiveness of the approach.

## Table of Contents

Declaration	i
Abstract	ii
Acknowledgements	iii
Table of Contents	iv
List of Figures	ix
Chapter 1. Introduction	
1.1. Purpose of The Research	
1.1.1. Artistic Aspiration	p.1
1.1.2. Why Collaborative Art?	p.1
1.1.3. The Objectives	p.2
1.2. Mapping The Field	p.3
1.3. Background of The Study	p.7
1.3.1. Historical Development	p.7
1.3.1.1. Richard Wagner's <i>Gesamtkunstwerk</i>	p.7
1.3.1.2. Wassily Kandinsky's <i>Monumentalekunst</i>	p.8
1.3.2. Contemporary Developments	p.10
1.3.2.1. John Cage's Water Music, Chance and Happening	p.10
1.3.2.2. Mauricio Kagel's Instrumental Theater	p.13
1.3.2.3. Heiner Goebbel's Conceptual Theater	p.14
1.3.2.4. George Aperghis's Composed Theater	p.15
1.3.2.5. Manos Tsangaris's Composed Theater and His Visit to Hong Kong	p.15
1.3.3. The Pop Culture Spin-Off	p.18
1.3.3.1. Blue Man Group & Stomp	p.18
1.4. The development of New Music Theatre in Hong Kong	p.19
Chapter 2. Methodology	
2.1 Introduction	p.23

2.2.	Twofold Approach to Methodology	p.23
2.3.	Research Outcomes	p.25
2.4.	Phenomenology	p.27
2.5.	Practice-Based Research as Methodology	p.28
2.6.	Deliverables	p.29
	2.6.1. Interviews	p.30
	2.6.2. Creative Project: <i>Battle</i>	p.31
2.7.	Performance Analysis	p.32
2.8.	Action Research	p.33
Chapter 3. Interview		
3.1.	Purpose	p.35
3.2.	The Three Artists	
	3.2.1. Brief Biography	
	3.2.1.1. Kung Chi-Shing	p.36
	3.2.1.2. Steve Hui	p.37
	3.2.1.3. Amy Chan	p.37
	3.2.2. Inspiration	p.38
	3.2.2.1. Kung Chi-Shing's Inspiration – from Kafka to Theater	p.38
	3.2.2.2. Steve Hui's Experimental Spirit	p.40
	3.2.2.3. Amy Chan: An Alternative Language for Theater	p.42
3.3.	Definition and Objectives	p.44
3.4.	Artistic Journey: Around and About Their Music Theater	p.46
	3.4.1. The Box and More	p.46
	3.4.2. Steve Hui's Production	p.50
	3.4.3. Amy Chan and Drama COLLaboratory	p.52
3.5.	Three Recent Representative New Music Theaters	
	3.5.1. The Collaborative Model and The Collaborators	p.52
	3.3.2. Collaborative Process	
	3.5.2.1. Recruiting the Team	p.54

3.5.2.2. Transforming a Concept into Performance	p.55
3.5.2.3. The Role of Music	p.58
3.5.3. Summation	p.64
3.5.4. Reflections	p.65
3.5.5. Receptions from Hong Kong Audiences	p.67
3.6. The Future of New Music Theater in Hong Kong	p.69
-- The Artists' Views	

#### Chapter 4. Practice-Based Research (New Music Theater – *Battle*)

4.1. Introduction	
4.1.1. Intention	p.73
4.1.2. The Phenomenon	p.74
4.2. Background Information	
4.2.1. Ólafsfjörður	p.76
4.2.2. Listhus Artist Residency Program (Lair)	p.77
4.2.3. Skammdegi Festival	p.77
4.3. The Production	
4.3.1. Synopsis	p.78
4.3.2. New Music Theater	p.79
4.3.3. The Primary Artists	
4.3.3.1. Priscila Chu	p.81
4.3.3.2. Influence of Shen Wei	p.82
4.3.3.3. Michelle Chan	p.83
4.3.4. Collaboration	p.83
4.4. The Creative Progress (The RSVP Cycles)	
4.4.1. Resources: Conceptual Theme	p.84
4.4.2. Score and Valuation: Rehearsal and Reflection	p.86
4.4.2.1. Phase 1: Communication	p.87
4.4.2.2. Phase 2: Development	p.92
4.4.2.3. Phase 3: Polishing	p.96
4.4.2.4. Phase 4: Combining Elements	p.100

4.4.2.5. Phase 5: Full Rehearsal	p.103
4.4.2.6. Phase 6: Final Rehearsal	p.107
- The Individual Components	
4.4.2.7. The Score	p.113
4.4.3. Performance: Public Performance	p.121
4.5. Evaluation of The Public Performance	p.122
4.5.1. General Characteristics of the Production	p.122
4.5.2. The Visual Elements	p.124
4.5.3. Lighting Design	p.125
4.5.4. Performers' Appearance	p.126
4.5.5. Movement and Dance	p.127
4.5.6. Sound and Music	p.129
4.5.7. Rhythm of The Performance	p.131
4.5.8. The Plot	p.132
4.5.9. The Audience	p.133
4.6. Summary	p.134
Chapter 5. Discussion and Conclusion	
5.1. Introduction	p.135
5.2. An Appealing Art Form (Argument 1)	p.135
5.2.1. Expression and Perception	p.136
5.2.2. Inclusive	p.137
5.2.3. Discovery	p.137
5.2.4. Togetherness	p.138
5.3. The Objectives of a New Music Theater (Argument 2)	p.139
5.3.1. The Integration Model	p.139
5.3.2. Hierarchy of Elements	p.142
5.3.3. Music Driven Process	p.142
5.4. Creative Strategies (Argument 3)	p.143
5.4.1. Research	p.143
5.4.2. Improvisation	p.144

5.4.3. The Score as Product	p.145
5.4.4. Reflection	p.146
5.4.5. Problem Solving	p.147
5.5. New Music Theater in Hong Kong (Argument 4)	p.148
5.5.1. A Fast and 24-Hour City	p.148
5.5.2. By-Product	p.149
5.6. Limitation and Recommendations for Future Research	p.149
5.7. Conclusion	
5.7.1. New Music Theater manifests in Hong Kong	p.151
5.7.2. Influences manifest in <i>Battle</i>	p.154
5.7.3. Reification: Theory to Practice	p.155
Appendix	
i. Interview Transcript – Amy Chan	p.157
ii. Interview Transcript – Steve Hui	p.168
iii. Interview Transcript – Kung Chi Shing	p.181
iv. Patrice Pavis’s Questionnaire	p.196
v. Overall Feedback from Selected Audience Members	p.201
vi. Rehearsal Log	p.209
Bibliography	p.234
Composition Portfolio	
1. Battle	p.1
2. Halika Dito	p.47
3. Echo	p.75
4. A Light Has Dawned	p.123
5. Zephyr	p.136
6. Breathe	p.165
CV	p.171