

IOWA

School of Music



GUEST ARTIST RECITAL

DEL SOL QUARTET

Saturday, February 21, 2026, 7:30 p.m.
Recital Hall, Voxman Music Building

PROGRAM

MEMORY IS WATER

Vivian Fung (b.1975)

UNSEEN

Theresa Wong (b. 1976)

LIFE OF THE WANDERING

Theresa Wong

PASSAGE

Theresa Wong

KEEPER OF MEMORY

Meilina Tsui (b. 1993)

AMNESIA

Meilina Tsui

5 NOTES

Meilina Tsui

LAKE ABOVE LAKE (2020)

Theresa Wong

WEAVING HAND

Theresa Wong

ECLIPSE

Meilina Tsui

MONGOLIAN DANCE (2018)

Meilina Tsui

GATHERING NIGHT AIR

Theresa Wong

WE ARE LIGHT

Vivian Fung

SELECTIONS FROM *FACING THE MOON: SONGS OF THE DIASPORA*

Genny Lim

PROGRAM NOTES

NOTE FROM THE POET

Facing The Moon: Songs Of Diaspora maps the journey of diaspora— migrations travelled over land and sea, through darkness and light to reach Mei Guo, the Beautiful Country. To every doer, seeker and dreamer in the world, the American Dream is an elixir.

What might it look like to map the journeys from our ancestral homelands to the United States as the children of diaspora? Each of us have our own lineages and stories, which are often not pretty, to unpack and reconcile with. How did we get here and what did we endure to survive and succeed? Unfortunately, many of our stories have been lost, forgotten, buried or erased, due to disruptions through wars, famines, deaths or exclusion.

Facing The Moon seeks to navigate the liminal passage of migration through our songs and poems to tell the stories

that made us who we are today. Our multi-media premiere production features Del Sol Quartet's rendering of original compositions inspired by these poems in works by Theresa Wong, Vivian Fung and Melina Tsui.

Our migration stories strengthen our bond as descendants of women, who survived the harsh oppression of patriarchy and racism, as men, who fought the dehumanization of discrimination. As artists, we probe the construction and relationship between history and identity. It's how we cope and heal from historical trauma. Like the moon, our faces change. I look in the mirror and I see myself in a different light today than yesterday.

I understand, for the first time, that I'm a composite, a continuum of many faces and many memories that rise and fall like phases of the moon, season to season, illuminating and changing the landscape of where I am and who I am.

We turn our faces to the moon from every distant corner and continent in the world.

The moon is our mirror, the blank canvas reflecting our innermost thoughts, desires, feelings and consciousness. We navigate the passage of night to seek refuge in her light. Our songs and poems tell us true, what our memories often can't hear.

- Genny Lim

NOTE FROM THE CELLIST OF THE DEL SOL QUARTET

When the DEL SOL QUARTET embarked on a multi-year music project about Angel Island, Ben, Hyeyung, Charlton and I had no idea how much this work would change the course of our lives. Many people, who have been tirelessly championing this history for decades, became our second family.

Genny Lim's poetry and the music of the Del Sol Quartet so easily dance together, and that synergy has led to increasingly ambitious ideas between us. Facing the Moon grew from my desire to share Genny's voice - one that commands great power with both fire and vulnerability -

with the larger musical community. The project blossomed into something that was far greater than the Quartet ever imagined or had previously created - Genny as poet with 3 composers, 2 visual artists, interviews, and more. All of this vulnerable storytelling is laid against the backdrop of the very tumultuous moment we are in.

Despite the chaos swirling around us, the project has remained grounded from the years of being together and listening to one another. From artistic collaborations (and ensuing comical adventures) to meals shared and intimate moments like reading with my daughter, we have woven together the fabric of our lives with love and art-making. Genny's voice has penetrated my soul, and now it's the voice of my dreams. As our dear friend and artist Andi Wong says, "Genny's poetry speaks to a world that is ancient and still becoming, and I hope that everyone who reads will hear her voice - as clear, bright and steady as the moon." My hope is also that you listen carefully, to discover strength for your own journey. And

when you hear the footfall of home, it is my hope that you will bask in the love and the light that embraces us all.

- Kathryn Bates

TERRASTORIES BY ANDI WONG

delsolquartet.com/facingthemoonterrastory

An interactive map highlighting artists' family journeys and the places that shaped their stories.

Terrastories is a geostorytelling application built to enable Indigenous and other local communities to locate and map their own oral storytelling traditions about places of significant meaning or value to them.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

DEL SOL QUARTET

Hyeyung Sol Yoon, *violin*

Benjamin Kreith, *violin*

Charlton Lee, *viola*

Kathryn Bates, *cello*

San Francisco's Del Sol Quartet believes that music can, and should, happen anywhere - screaming out Aeryn Santillan's Makeshift Memorials from a Mission District sidewalk or a rural

high school, bouncing Ben Johnston's micro-tonal Americana off the canyon walls of the Yampa River or the hallowed walls of Library of Congress, bringing Huang Ruo's Angel Island

Oratorio home to the island detention barracks or across the Pacific to the Singapore International Arts Festival. Del Sol's performances provide the possibility for unexpected discovery, sparking dialogue and bringing people together.

Since 1992, Del Sol has commissioned or premiered hundreds of works by composers including Terry Riley, Tania León, Frederic Rzewski, Vijay Iyer, Mason Bates, Pamela Z, Chinonyerem Nwagwu, Chen Yi, Andy Akiho, Erberk Eryilmaz, Theresa Wong, and Reza Vali. They especially value their ongoing relationship with the Gabriela Lena Frank Creative Academy of Music in Boonville, California.

Huang Ruo - A Dust in Time, Del Sol's eleventh album, was described in the New York Times as "excavations of beauty from the elemental." Recent Del Sol recordings include The Resonance Between, a collaboration with North Indian musicians Alam Khan & Arjun Verma, SPELLLING and The Mystery School with Oakland magical-futurist pop phenomenon SPELLLING, and their podcast "Sounds Current," an official selection of the Tribeca Festival.

delsolquartet.com
[@delsolquartet](https://www.instagram.com/delsolquartet)

GENNY LIM

Genny Lim is the 9th San Francisco Poet Laureate and former San Francisco Jazz Poet Laureate. She was a former SF Arts Commissioner and the recipient of two lifetime achievement awards from Berkeley, California and Pen Oakland Writers, as well as the Spirit of Angel Island Award from the Angel Island Immigration Foundation for her translations of the Chinese poems written and carved on the walls of the Angel Island Chinese Immigration Station, published in the American Book Award winning book, *Island: Poetry and History of Chinese Immigrants on Angel Island*, with Him Mark Lai and Judy Yung. Her play, *Paper Angels*, was the first Asian American play to air on PBS's *American Playhouse* in 1985. She is the author of several poetry collections, *Child of War*, *Paper Gods & Rebels* and *KRA!*

VIVIAN FUNG

JUNO Award-winning composer Vivian Fung has a unique talent for combining idiosyncratic textures and styles into large-scale works, reflecting her multicultural back-

ground. NPR calls her “one of today’s most eclectic composers,” and The Philadelphia Inquirer praises her “stunningly original compositional voice.” Fung’s 2025/2026 premieres begin in October 2025 with a new work for string quartet and poet, as part of Del Sol Quartet’s project Facing the Moon: Songs of Diaspora, featuring the poetry of San Francisco-based Genny Lim. In collaboration with Sandbox Percussion and Kristin Lee, Fung is writing a new Concerto for Violin and Four Percussionists for Sandbox and Lee’s U.S. tour this spring 2026. Fung will write a new work for Ensemble for These Times to include homemade percussion for Haruka Fujii.

Continued partnerships include Fung’s first opera, *My Family//Cambodia, 1975* with librettist Royce Vavrek; *Girl from the 905*, a new song cycle with Vavrek and soprano Andrea Núñez; and a new work for violin and electronics to be premiered in early 2027, based on a recent fieldwork trip to Guizhou, China with violinist Nancy Zhou. Born in Edmonton, Canada, Fung began her composition studies with composer Violet Archer and received her doctorate from The Juil-

liard School in New York. She currently lives in California with her husband Charles Boudreau, their son Julian, and their dog Coco. Learn more at www.vivianfung.ca.

MEILINA TSUI

Meilina Tsui (b. 1993) is a Kazakhstan-born, Hong Kong-American composer and pianist based in Orlando, Florida. She is the first Chinese classical composer of Dungan descent whose music has been gaining international recognition. Tsui's works explore her mixed heritage and uniquely intertwine elements of East Asian, Central Asian, and Western cultures.

Described as "gorgeous" (St. Louis Magazine), "irresistible and emotionally convincing" (The Aspen Times), "high-spirited, lively, and colorful" (Texas Classical Review), her music has been commissioned and performed by Houston Grand Opera, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, Aspen Music School & Festival, Hong Kong Arts Development Council, Radio Television Hong Kong, Hong Kong Government Home Affairs Bureau, Hong Kong Phil-

harmonic, Naples Philharmonic, Kazakh State Philharmonic, National Symphony Orchestra of the Republic of Bashkortostan, Kaleidoscope Chamber Orchestra, Hong Kong New Music Ensemble, Lontano Ensemble, PHACE Ensemble, Del Sol Quartet, Quartetto Indaco, Israeli Chamber Project, Mivos Quartet, Kazakh State String Quartet, and countertenor, Key'mon W. Murrah, among others. Her music has been featured by NAXOS Music & Video Libraries, London arts radio "Resonance fm," RTHK Radio 4, and Channel 31.

Tsui's recent highlight in her compositional career has been her opera, *The Big Swim*, commissioned by Houston Grand Opera in partnership with Asia Society Texas Center, listed as one of the "Top 10 operas to see in the world during Spring/Winter 2024" by OPER-AWIRE. The February 2024 premiere marked the beginning of an annual Lunar New Year tradition for 2025 & 2026. Tsui has garnered numerous accolades in composition, including a 2023 OPERA America Opera Grant for Women Composers; 2022 ASCAP Foundation Morton Gould Young Composer Award; 2021 ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award

from the University of Michigan; 2018 Mivos Composition Prize for Chinese Composers worldwide; and the 2018 Intimacy of Creativity Concert 'Audience Vote' Prize, among others. Tsui holds music degrees from University of Michigan (DMA in Composition), King's College London (MMus in Composition), and Chinese University of Hong Kong (BA in Music). Her mentors and composition teachers include Professors Michael Daugherty, Bright Sheng, Gabriela Lena Frank, Christopher Theofanidis, Stephen Hartke, Lo Kingman, Silvina Milstein, and Wendy Wan-Ki Lee.
meilinatsui.com

THERESA WONG

Theresa Wong is a composer, multi-instrumentalist, and intermedia artist active at the intersection of composition, improvisation, and the synergy of multiple disciplines. As a cellist and vocalist, Wong has forged a unique vocabulary on her instruments through extensive explorations in new playing techniques, alternative tunings, and the timbral merging of singing and playing together. Her primary

interest lies in the transformative potential of performance for both the artist and receiver alike through the transmission of vibration and resonance.

A 2024 Guggenheim Fellow in Music Composition, her works include *Fluency of Trees* for cello and voice, which premiered at the Other Minds Festival, *She Dances Naked Under Palm Trees*, commissioned by pianist Sarah Cahill, and *The Unlearning*, a multi-media song cycle inspired by Francisco Goya's *Disasters of War* etchings, released on Tzadik. Her long-standing collaboration with Long String Instrument inventor Ellen Fullman includes *Harbors*, released on room40 and chosen as one of *Wire's* top 50 releases of 2020. Their most recent work, *Soundless*, extends Wong's string explorations into just intonation electric guitar and electronics, and has been presented at the Volume Festival in Sidney, MOCA Los Angeles, and *Roulette Intermedium* in Brooklyn.

Recent commissions include works for San Francisco Girls Chorus, Peninsula Women's Chorus, NakedEye Ensemble, Long Beach Opera, Del Sol Quartet, and Splinter Reeds. She

has shared her work internationally at venues including Cafe Oto and Barbican Centre in London, San Francisco Asian Art Museum, Sydney Festival, and The Stone in New York City.

Wong is a 2012 Civitella Ranieri Foundation Fellow and the founder of fo'c'sle, a record label dedicated to releasing adventurous music from the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond. Originally active in the field of design, she embarked on her current artistic path after encountering experimental music while working as a designer in Venice, Italy.

Wong is a first-generation Chinese American born in Schenectady, New York and currently resides in the San Francisco Bay Area.

theresawong.org

The Del Sol Quartet residency was made possible by a collaboration of the String Quartet Residency Program, the Center for Asian and Pacific Studies and the Obermann Center for Advanced Studies with support from the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Endowment Fund.

UPCOMING EVENTS

For the most current listing of concerts, recitals, and other School of Music events, visit the events calendar.

EVENTS CALENDAR 