



Music of Huang Ruo

A chamber concert featuring **Del Sol String Quartet** in collaboration with **Santa Fe Opera**

Del Sol Quartet

Samuel Weiser, Benjamin Kreith violins

Charlton Lee viola

Kathryn Bates cello

Fang-Tao Jiang soprano

Nina Yoshida Nelsen mezzo-soprano

Yi Li tenor

Yichen Xue bass

Huang Ruo conductor

Richard Vargas spoken word

Richard Vargas was born in Compton, CA. He earned his BA at Cal State University, Long Beach, where he studied under Gerald Locklin. He edited/published five issues of *The Tequila Review*, 1978–1980, publishing early works by Jimmy Santiago Baca, Alberto Rios, Nila Northsun, and many more. His first book, *McLife*, was featured twice, during Feb 2006, on Garrison Keillor's *Writer's Almanac*. A second book, *American Jesus*, was published by Tia Chucha Press, 2007. His third book, *Guernica, revisited*, was published April 2014, by Press 53, and was featured once more on the *Writer's Almanac*. Vargas received his MFA from the University of New Mexico, 2010, where he workshopped his poetry with Joy Harjo (our outgoing national Poet Laureate). He was recipient of the 2011 Taos Summer Writers' Conference's Hispanic Writer Award, was on the faculty of the 2012 10th National Latino Writers Conference and facilitated a workshop at the 2015 Taos Summer Writers' Conference. Vargas also edited/published *The Más Tequila Review* from 2009–2015, featuring poets from across the country. He has read his poetry to audiences in Los Angeles, Chicago, St. Louis, Madison, Albuquerque/Santa Fe, Indianapolis, and Boulder. His poetry continues to appear in poetry journals and anthologies, while his fourth book, *How A Civilization Begins* will be published this summer by MouthFeel Press. Currently he resides in Monona, WI.

Celebration of Silence :: Two Minutes

ANGEL ISLAND 天使島

Oratorio for Voices and String Quartet (2021)

Huang Ruo (b.1976)

II The Seascape 水景如苔千里曲

IV When We Bade Farewell 離別故鄉

VI Buried Beneath Clay and Earth 噩耗傳聞實可哀

About Santa Fe Opera's **ANGEL ISLAND – Oratorio**

Huang Ruo's *ANGEL ISLAND – Oratorio* is a powerful exploration of our history, setting to music the haunting Chinese poetry carved into the walls of the Angel Island immigration station in San Francisco in the early 20th Century. The inscriptions were made by immigrants from China who had embarked for America full of hope for the future, only to find themselves detained behind the walls of the Angel Island detention center due to the Chinese Exclusion Act (1882–1943), a federal law prohibiting the immigration of all Chinese laborers. Their voices can be heard in the poetry they left behind, now set to music in Huang's work. The oratorio for voices and string quartet weaves a story of immigration, discrimination, and confinement—bringing history into the reality of our current lives and the questions we are still facing.

Premiere scheduled Oct. 22–23 A limited number of seats offered at SantaFeOpera.org

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