

## Biography

Born in China in 1985, Zixiang Zhao is the Founder and CEO of Chinese American Music Institute (CAMI) , Director of CAMI Ensemble, and faculty member of Corona Conservatory in Los Angeles, United States.

As a composer, Zhao's music talents were shown when he was young. He began studying piano at the age of four, and his song was published in Taiwan's music magazine, *China Musical Education Journal* when he was eight years old. Also he composed dozens of piano pieces in his teenager. In the past decade, Zhao's music was widely performed in major cities including New York (Carnegie Hall), Los Angeles, Chicago, Boston (Jordan Hall), San Francisco, Vienna (Haus der Musik) and Beijing (National Center for the Performing Arts) etc.. Also he is the winner of the "Palatino Awards" , *the First Chinese Music Competition* (Third Prize, China), *Golden Key International Composition Competition* (First Prize, United States) and the finalist of *the First Sibelius International Composition Competition* and among many others.



While the Zixiang Zhao catalog includes a number of chamber and ensemble works, including orchestral work *Turbo and Concerto for Orchestra*, chamber work *The Portrait of Libra, for violin and piano (2013-14)*, *String Quartet No.2 (2015)*, *Five Scenes of Los Angeles-for piano quintet (2018)*, *Rhapsody Chamber Concerto (2013)* and solo work *Quartet for a Violin Solo (2014-15)* etc., he is best known for his piano music writing. His piano solo work *Celebration for Beijing 2008 (2007)* and *The Pipa Sutra (2013)* has been performed at concert hall, music festival, music college and piano competition among over fifty cities worldwide, and also analyzed by music journals since composed.

As a composition teacher, not only Zhao's composition students were admitted by many important music schools in the U.S including Manhattan School of Music, Mannes College of Music, Boston Conservatory at Berklee, University of Southern California, Arizona and California State, Boston, Indiana University and Central Conservatory of Music in China, but also won prize/award of composition competitions in the U.S, Europe and China.

Zhao is dedicated to performing and promoting contemporary music in addition to traditional repertoires of piano music as a pianist. He premiered more than 10 new solo and ensemble works by Chinese and American composers in the past decade. Instructed by jazz pianist, Professor Dennis Thurmond, he learned jazz piano performance and improvisation for two years at University of Southern California and composed and performed many piano works of jazz or pop style.

Since 2015, Zhao started up his organization named Chinese American Music Institute (CAMI) which is engages in promoting professional music education, performance and new media as part of his career aside from composing, performing and teaching. Now under his leadership, CAMI has become to the one of most influential institute in China and the U.S., which has established official cooperative relationship with many musicians, professors, and Universities. Also the Wechat Public Account of CAMI also the most influential new media in China. The musical articles and videos have been viewed by 5 Million times, and subscribed by more than fifty thousands people in China and overseas.

Zixiang Zhao graduated from Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing (BM) and University of Southern California Thornton School of Music (MM) majoring in Composition. His teacher including Chinese composer Shi Wanchun, Guo Wenjing, American composer Donald Crockett, Frank Ticheli, Sean Friar and Grammy Winner for Best Contemporary Music, Stephen Hartke.