

John Bruce Yeh

Assistant Principal Clarinet and E-flat Clarinet, Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Artist Faculty, Roosevelt University Chicago College of Performing Arts

Performance Video Links

Jim Stephenson, *Liquid Melancholy*

<https://youtu.be/7nvKBLaExGM>

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, *Quintet in A major, K. 581*

<https://youtu.be/cJFnwzaKUzI>



John Bruce Yeh joined the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in 1977, the first Asian musician ever appointed to the CSO, and is now the longest-serving clarinetist in CSO history. Having been appointed to the CSO by Sir Georg Solti as Clarinet and Solo Bass Clarinet when he was 19, John is currently Assistant Principal Clarinet and Solo E-flat Clarinet of the orchestra. He served the CSO as Acting Principal Clarinet from 2008 to 2011 and has performed as Guest Principal Clarinet of the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Guangzhou Symphony in China, the Seoul Philharmonic in Korea and guest Bass Clarinet with the Hong Kong Philharmonic and the Mariinsky Orchestra of St. Petersburg. A prize winner at both the 1982 Munich International Music Competition and the 1985 Naumburg Clarinet Competition in New York, Yeh continues to solo with orchestras and perform on chamber music series and festivals around the globe. A Yamaha Performing Artist since 1990, John has toured Japan, Canada, China, Mexico and Colombia under the auspices of the Yamaha Corporation.

Yeh has performed concertos with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra on several occasions, including the 1998 American premiere of Elliott Carter's *Clarinet Concerto* with Pierre Boulez conducting and the 1993 performance of Carl Nielsen's *Clarinet Concerto* with Neeme Järvi. A concert recording of the Nielsen was released on the CSO CD set *Soloists of the Orchestra II: From the Archives, Volume 15*. In 2004, Yeh was featured in Leonard Bernstein's *Prelude, Fugue and Riffs* in collaboration with the Hubbard Street Dance Company and the CSO conducted by David Robertson.

An enthusiastic champion of new music, John Bruce Yeh is the dedicatee of new works for clarinet by numerous composers ranging from Ralph Shapey to John Williams. His more than 20 solo and chamber music recordings have earned worldwide critical acclaim. A 2007 release by Naxos is a disc, titled *Synergy*, of single and double concertos with clarinet featuring John, his wife Teresa Reilly and his daughter Molly Yeh. In 2018 Cedille Records released *Liquid Melancholy*, John's disc of clarinet music by Chicago composer James Stephenson, who subsequently composed a set of 12 *Yehtudes* for solo clarinet inspired by desserts from Molly Yeh's award-winning food blog mynameisyeh.com. John Bruce Yeh is director of Chicago Pro Musica, which received the 1985 Grammy Award for Best New Classical Artist. He is also a founding member of the Grammy-nominated Chicago Symphony Winds. With clarinetist Teresa Reilly, erhu virtuoso Wang Guowei and pipa virtuoso Yang Wei, Yeh formed Birds and Phoenix, an innovative quartet dedicated to musical exploration by bridging Eastern and Western musical cultures.

Born on May 23, 1957 in Washington, D.C. to music-loving scientist parents and raised in Los Angeles, John attended the University of California Los Angeles for two years in the pre-medical program. While at UCLA, he won the Frank Sinatra Musical Performance Award and performed with the American Youth Symphony under Mehli Mehta. In 1975, he transferred to the Juilliard School in New York where he studied clarinet and bass clarinet with Joseph Allard. Other influential mentors include Gordon Herritt, Gary Gray, Michele Zukovsky, Harold Wright, Marcel Moyse, Ray Still and Allan Dennis. John attended music schools at the Aspen Music Festival and School, the Tanglewood Music Center Fellowship Program and the Marlboro Music Festival.

Passionately committed to music education, John has taught master classes at the Juilliard, Eastman and Manhattan Schools of Music, the Cleveland Institute of Music, Youth Music Culture Guandong (YMCG), the Taipei Music Academy and Festival (TMAF) and many other universities and arts academies worldwide. Serving on the faculty of the DePaul University School of Music from 1979 to 2006, John joined the Artist-Faculty of Roosevelt University's Chicago College for the Performing Arts in 2004. He has served on the Symphony & Ensemble Advisory Panel of the Illinois Arts Council, the Board of Directors of the Chicago Chapter of the Recording Academy and is currently on the Advisory Board of Midwest Young Artists Conservatory in Fort Sheridan, Illinois.

John Bruce Yeh is the proud father of Jenna Yeh, a culinary artist and wine specialist in Chicago; Molly Yeh, a percussionist and Food Network TV personality in Minnesota and multi-talented teenager Mia Reilly-Yeh.