



Stephanie Chou

Composer, Saxophonist, Singer



STEPHANIE CHOU is an American jazz composer/saxophonist/singer who blends influences from her Chinese heritage with Western jazz and pop to create a bracingly original sound that draws audiences on two continents. She's performed at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, B.B. King's, Joe's Pub, and in jazz festivals across the US and Asia where her music creates immediate cross-cultural connections and continues to expand her fanbase.

Comfort Girl, her bold, innovative song-cycle inspired by true stories of Chinese women abducted into sexual slavery during WWII, premiered at Joe's Pub. It's not only a groundbreaking fusion of East-West musical traditions, but has also sparked public dialogue on a formerly taboo subject that still resonates globally for women today. It's been commissioned as an opera by the American Opera Project.

Her quintet combines saxophone and vocals with Chinese violin(erhu), viola, and a jazz rhythm section. Chou's albums include *Prime Knot and Asymptote*, which focused on jazz reinventions of classic Chinese folk songs. Her jazz-ballet *CforG* was commissioned by ABT ballerina Susan Jaffe.

Performance Highlights



Joe's Pub at the Public Theater, NYC
- *Comfort Girl* world premiere
- Album launches & bi-yrly shows since 2017

Lincoln Center Rubenstein Atrium

Carnegie Hall Weill Hall with quintet

Discover Jazz Festival, VT

Lake George Jazz Festival, NY

Quintet tour in Taipei, Taiwan & Beijing, China

Ballet commissioned/choreographed by Susan Jaffe, former American Ballet Theater principal ballerina, premiered at Goucher College

Music included in PBS's documentary series *Roadtrip Nation*

Opera *JSH* to premiere in 2025, commissioned by the American Opera Project



STEPHANIE CHOU QUINTET - Chinese Jazz Fusion

Asymptote Trailer

- Vibrant blend of Chinese musical influences with Western jazz and pop
- Unique combination of traditional Chinese violin (erhu) with vocals, sax, viola, rhythm section
- Vocal music in English/Mandarin and instrumental pieces
- Performances at: Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, B.B. King's, Joe's Pub, Flushing Town Hall, Discover Jazz (Vermont), Lake George Jazz Festival (NY), Musikfest (PA), Taipei, China
- Creates immediate cross-cultural connections and reaches all audiences, inviting people to think about different cultures and music as a key unifying force.
- Her album, *Asymptote*, focused on jazz reinventions of classic Chinese folk songs and tongue-twisters, featured GRAMMY-nominated musicians Kenny Wollesen and John Escreet, and erhu virtuoso Andy Lin.



Scan to Watch!



“With her exquisite arrangements, she led her quartet,...on a rousing and lyrical set focused on her impressive album *Asymptote*...What was so remarkable about Chou’s performance was its tasty diversity of styles.” — *Dan Ouellette, ZEALnyc*

COMFORT GIRL - Song Cycle

- Premiered at Joe's Pub at the Public Theater, commissioned by the American Composers Forum
- 80-minute song cycle exploring the lives of Asian “comfort women” abducted into sexual slavery during WWII
- Not only a groundbreaking fusion of East-West musical traditions, but has also sparked public dialogue on a formerly taboo subject that still resonates globally for women today.
- Performances at: Joe’s Pub at the Public, the cell theatre, Rockwood Music Hall, Comfort Women Justice Coalition, Yale University
- Addition of Broadway singer Orville Mendoza (*Peter and the Starcatchers; Pacific Overtures*)
- Studio album forthcoming 2023, produced by GRAMMY-winning engineer Roy Hendrickson
- Currently being developed into an opera, *Jade Star Hotel*, with librettist Susan Kander commissioned by the American Opera Project, through grants from the New York State Council on the Arts, OPERA America, MAP Fund

Comfort Girl Trailer



Scan to Watch!

-"A stunning work that...shines light on a dark chapter of history." - *DownBeat*

“A Mighty, Harrowing New Suite... a phantasmagorical song cycle...” - *New York Music Daily*

“One of New York’s most socially relevant and ambitious jazz talents...”
- *New York Music Daily*

”What was most striking about the show was not only Chou’s ability to shift between musical styles, but her prowess as a lyricist.” - *New York Music Daily*

Awarded:

- Chamber Music America Artistic Projects
- The MAP Fund
- OPERA America Opera Grants for Female Composers
- New York State Council on the Arts Composer Commission
- Jerome Foundation Artist Grant finalist
- American Composers Forum JFund

Taught masterclasses for all ages at:
Columbia University Business School, Horace Mann School, Packer Collegiate Calhoun School

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