

focus on the arts

A Celebration of the American Dream

The Sarasota Orchestra Performs
Florida Composer Stella Sung's *Rockwell Reflections*

In a celebration of the American dream, The Sarasota Orchestra will perform Peter Boyer's *Ellis Island: the Dream of America* and pay tribute to the art of Norman Rockwell. This moving orchestral and visual tapestry features vintage photos from the Ellis Island archives with live actors reciting short monologues from the journals of seven immigrants who came through Ellis Island.

The second half of the concert features the inspiring work of Florida-composer and Orlando resident, Stella Sung. The piece, titled *Rockwell Reflections*, will be performed with live projections of Norman Rockwell paintings. Sung's composition is written in five movements, each reflecting a painting by Rockwell.

"I am delighted that the Sarasota Orchestra and Maestro Andrew Lane will be performing *Rockwell Reflections* as part of their season this year. This composition has been performed throughout the United States over the past three years, primarily in conjunction with a touring exhibit of the works of the popular American artist, Norman Rockwell.

"The exhibit, titled 'American Chronicles: The Art of Norman Rockwell,' is the inspiration behind my composition, and I have selected five distinctive Rockwell illustrations that will be presented and 'unfold' before the audience



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and the National Federation of Music Clubs, and various other music organizations.

She is a two-time winner of a Florida Individual Artist's Fellowship, sponsored by the Division of Cultural Affairs for the State of Florida, as well as the 2005 recipient of a Florida Artist's Enhancement award. Additionally, a documentary film about Sung's *Concerto for Two Violins and Orchestra* by filmmaker Aaron José, was the winner of two Telly Awards (2007).

during the concert. It is my hope that audience members will experience the art of Norman Rockwell in a new way as they listen to the music, evoking the spirit of America and its people," says Sung.

Sung completed the commission for the Akron (OH) Symphony Orchestra and Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra. A joint commission from both orchestras as well as participation from the Akron Museum of Art and the Orlando Museum of Art, this composition was presented in conjunction with the Norman Rockwell exhibits which were featured at both museums (2007-08 season).

Sung is also the composer for several films (feature and documentary), and also works in developing music for video games. In April of 2006, she released a CD titled *Karma*, which featured new compositions mixed in surround sound. Sung is creating a new genre of music that she is calling "Immersive Ambience," which utilizes surround sound mixing, and which will become an important aspect of her future work.

Sung has been recognized as an American composer of national and international stature. Dr. Sung currently serves as Composer-in-Residence for the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra and Dance Alive National Ballet in Gainesville.

Dr. Sung is the recipient of the 2007-10 Phi Kappa Phi National Artist's Award, and has received recognition and awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, "Meet the Composer", the American Society of Authors, Composers, and Publishers (ASCAP), the American Symphony Orchestra League (ASOL), the Southern Arts Federation, the German Ministry of Culture, the MacDowell Colony

Sung's works are performed regularly throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, Asia, and most recently in South Africa. Premieres have included performances at Carnegie Hall, the Sydney Opera House, the Schauspielhaus (Berlin, Germany) and Symphony Hall (Boston), to name only a few.

Stella Sung is a Professor of Music at the University of Central Florida's Department of Digital Media, and is also the Director of UCF's Center for Research and Education in Arts, Technology, and Entertainment (CREATE). She holds the Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Michigan, the Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Florida, and the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Texas at Austin.

She has been recognized as a "Distinguished Alumna" and an "Alumna of Outstanding Achievement" from the University of Florida, and received a "Distinguished Achievement Award" from UF in 2005. Dr. Sung continues an active teaching career while developing interests in research and applications of music in new media.

About the Program

Ellis Island: The Dream of America

Andrew Lane, conductor

March 19 at the Van Wezel

Single tickets for *Ellis Island: The Dream of America* start at \$29 and are available online at SarasotaOrchestra.org or by calling the Box Office at (941) 953-3434. ♻