

Toisan Railway - August 16 2014

Written by Administrator
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Toisan Railway, a new music work by Jon Jang, pays tribute to the landmark achievement of Chin Gee Hee, an entrepreneur who built the first railroad in Toisan, China in 1920, despite the many obstacles stacked up against him. *Toisan Railway* also honors the Toisanese, the majority of Chinese immigrants from Guangdong Province, who built the first transcontinental railroad in United States and supported the making of the Sunning (Toisan) Railway in China through their labor and financial support.

Toisan Railway adds to Jon Jang's body of works that pays homage to the Chinese laborers who built the railroads in United States and China. Past works include *American Symphony*; *Portrait of Sun Yat-sen* and *Central Pacific, Central Subway*. The 30 minute work, *Toisan Railway* features a chamber music ensemble led by Jon Jang on piano with Francis Wong, tenor saxophone; Jim Norton, soprano saxophone; John Worley, trumpet; Cathleen Torres, French horn; Gary Brown, double bass and Deszon X. Claiborne, multiple percussion. A guest narrator TBA will also perform.

The world premiere of *Toisan Railway* will be performed at the Chinatown Music Festival on Saturday afternoon August 16, 2014 @ Portsmouth Square across from the pyramid shaped skyscraper Transamerica Building