

# OPPOSITES INVERSE

Written by **Jannette Cheong** Composition and Direction by **Richard Emmert**

## CAST

### **Dance/Choreography**

**Akira Matsui, Peter Leung**

### **Hayashi Instrumentalists**

**Richard Emmert (noh flute)**

**Eitaro Okura (otsuzumi)**

**Kayu Omura (kotsuzumi)**

### **Singers**

**Piran Legg (Baritone)**

**Meili Li (Countertenor)**

### **Noh Masks**

**Hideta Kitazawa**

### **Stage Assistants**

**John Oglevee**

**Satoko Shibata**

## Introduction

*Opposites-InVerse* uses elements from classical noh theatre, including poetic structures, vocal and instrumental music, and the movement of a noh masked performer. The vocal elements, however, are sung in an operatic style and the movement is a combination of contemporary ballet and the intense grounded quality of noh.

As collaboration, the intent is for all performers to stay true to their own practice, yet cross boundaries to create a new work combining their different disciplines and styles.

The piece reflects the opposites and differences in life that affect us all. It is in three parts reflecting:

1. differences that oppose each other, presented here by a father and son unable to reconcile,
2. differences that attract each other, presented as young lovers, and
3. differences that find a balance, presented here as an acceptance of one another and themselves.

These cycles of change may seem more apparent in the natural world, but humanity also repeats such cycles time and again.

The work aims to provide food for thought about such patterns of change and what influences them.

# OPPOSITES

Our world is like an open (unfinished) book - the beginning, middle and ending of our story debated and explored by philosophers, scientists and artists alike.

The phenomenon of opposites is an intrinsic part of our story construct. We prove and disprove notions about life and existence – how we perceive, experience, understand and respond to our world. Something positive may also have a negative effect and vice versa.

Opposites challenge human behaviour, relationships and emotions. We are capable of arrogance and humility, greed and benevolence, love and hate – or even co-existing with contrary emotions - and less can mean more.

And our thinking changes over time – subjectivity becomes more objective – allowing new and different perspectives, choices and decisions.

In philosophy, we debate good and evil, right and wrong, justice and crime, even behind the ‘veil of ignorance’.

We learn from opposites. Sometimes from learning ‘what went right’, or the consequence of ‘what went wrong’ – destruction so often quicker than reconstruction.

Opposites are a measure – they help us moderate, compare and change our thinking, perceptions or behaviour, and ‘generally’ prevent us from going too far. Situations do not have to get worse before they get better.

Our world depends on the forces of action and reaction, equal and opposite they balance. Similarly, the interaction between proximity and separation is fundamental to the physical world.

Generations of families, the *mikros kosmos* of human society, are often in opposition – parallel universes, the consequences of which may last more than a lifetime. Each generation’s present is the past of the next generation; creating a new trajectory into the future, with all its unknown positive and negative relationships, circumstances and consequences.

For, when everything is the same, nothing exists.

Melting snowflakes, order and chaos, life and death - eternal cycle - patterns of change...

## Special Tribute and Dedication

I am grateful to all those who have contributed to the soul of this work, friends, mentors and especially Akira Matsui, Richard Emmert, Peter Leung and all the collaborating artists. I shall be ever grateful for their inspiration and wisdom.

Opposites-InVerse is dedicated to my sister, Dianna, and to my great friend and teacher, Dika Eckersley - their love, beauty and lives are at its heart.

**Jannette Cheong**