

COMFORT GIRL



GENERATIONS OF CHINESE SPOKE
OF IT ONLY IN WHISPERS.



CREATIVE TEAM

COMPOSER & CREATOR
STEPHANIE CHOU

LIBRETTIST
SUSAN KANDER

DEVELOPMENT ARTISTS *

LIAN / OTHER COMFORT WOMEN

STEPHANIE CHOU
ALTO

MING / COMMANDANTE / SOLDIERS

ORVILLE MENDOZA
TENOR-BARITONE

INSTRUMENTALISTS

ANDY LIN
STEPHANIE CHOU
KELLY LIN
KENNY WOLLESEN

*List of artists and roles are from the development of *Comfort Girl* as a song cycle.

SYNOPSIS

Comfort Girl is an exploration of the lives of Chinese 'comfort women', a cruel euphemism for the women who were abducted and forced into sexual slavery by the Japanese army during WWII. Many died or were killed. The few who survived stayed silent about their ordeal because it was seen as shameful, and even considered treason. The libretto incorporates survivor testimony and explores themes of trauma, perpetration, and resilience. It tells the fictional story of one girl, Lian, and examines Lian's psychological journey and attempts to regain her identity.

This jazz-opera combines the drama of opera with the energy of improvised jazz.

SCORE & PRODUCTION INFO

DURATION

90'

ROLES

6-8 singers, various voicetypes

COMMISSION & DEVELOPMENT

Comfort Girl, in its prior song cycle form, received its World Premiere at Joe's Pub (NYC) on March 29, 2019. A new chamber opera version is currently in development with The American Opera Project.

INSTRUMENTATION

Chamber ensemble - alto saxophone, violin, viola, erhu, piano, drums, percussion.

INFORMATION & MEDIA SAMPLES

For more information, visit www.aopopera.org/comfort-girl
or

contact Matt Gray, AOP General Director; mgray@aopopera.org

FUNDING

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