

### **The Mutual Permeation of Rap Music and Contemporary Art Music**

As a composer, rapper, and beat-maker with practical experience in contemporary art music in China and Austria, as well as in the underground hip-hop scene in Hohhot, a central question has long puzzled me: how can one bring together the aesthetic preferences, creative techniques, and cultural habits of these two distinct musical fields through musical composition? In my research project, I conducted historical research to trace the histories of Chinese contemporary music and Chinese rap, completing a process of self-reflection and identity positioning. Following this, I conducted several case studies focusing on the compositional practice. In one of these studies, I formed a close connection with Treasure Hill, a rap duo from the Chinese hip-hop scene (Sancebai and Jintiaozao), with whom I collaborated on an experimental rap album. During this collaboration, I employed participatory observation and auto-ethnographic writing to document our discussions and reflections on the music that we created. These artistic works, as outcomes of my project, are not intended as exercises in fusion, crossover, boundary-breaking, or hybridization. Because my goal is not to validate a fixed result but to foster a process of mutual inspiration and nourishment between the two fields, grounded in the capacity for bi-musicality. I term this approach mutual permeation.



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Tian Fu, systematically trained composer, as well as a self-taught rapper and beatmaker. He is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in artistic research at the University of Music and

Performing Arts Vienna. His creative work spans a wide range of genres, from instrumental and electronic music to audio theater and improvisation. Tian Fu's compositions have been showcased in diverse settings, including concert halls, open-air festivals, nightclubs, live-streamed performances, and academic conferences. He has collaborated with prominent ensembles and institutions such as the Tianjin Symphony Orchestra, China National Ballet, China Youth Symphony Orchestra, NAMES Ensemble, OENM Ensemble, E-Max Ensemble, and Yuanyang Ensemble. As a practitioner of Chinese rap, Tian Fu was active in the underground scene in Hohhot during his teenage years. Recently, he has been performing as part of AUUF, an improvisational duo with Antuum, while also collaborating with the Chinese rap duo Treasure Hill.