

April 18, 2011

The Friends of Madame White congratulate Zhou Long for winning the 2011 Pulitzer Prize for *Madame White Snake*, a co-commission by Opera Boston and the Beijing Music Festival. We are so proud of him and of our entire team for their hard work, dedication and belief in this ground breaking work. The Pulitzer Committee described *Madame White Snake* as “a deeply expressive opera that draws on a Chinese folk tale to blend the musical traditions of the East and the West.”

When Cerise Lim Jacobs, the creator and librettist of *Madame White Snake* first conceived of the project as a birthday gift to her late husband, Charles, the Jacobs made a short list of ten composers – five were Americans and five Chinese-Americans. Cathy Chan of the Foundation for Chinese Performing Arts provided the names and introductions to the Chinese-American composers. Cerise and Charles listened to their music and interviewed them personally.

“I recall vividly the day we met with Zhou Long,” Cerise said. “He had a piece of paper with some handwritten notes of ideas he had for the music. He said, ‘I read your libretto and I can hear the music.’ He had such a quiet confidence. Charles and I knew immediately that he was the composer we had been searching for.”

Describing his work on *Madame White Snake* as “an experience of a lifetime”, Zhou Long paid special tribute to Charles, stating “Charles truly believed in my music. I will never forget that.”

Charles shares in our celebration and is deeply missed.

The Friends of Madame White Snake  
Hsiu-Lan Chang, Chair  
The late Charles Jacobs, President