

Press Release 新闻稿

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For Immediate Release

Ding Yi Music Company and Sound of Dragon Ensemble Unite in 'Rising Dragon, Soaring Merlion' Concert

The meeting of two world-class chamber ensembles from Singapore and Vancouver

Singapore, 6 December 2023 – Singapore's Ding Yi Music Company and Vancouver's Sound of Dragon Ensemble come together for an extraordinary collaboration that promises an enchanting fusion of Chinese and Western musical traditions, featuring a diverse program by Singaporean, Canadian and Chinese composers this coming 6th of January.



Following Ding Yi Music Company's successful performance in Vancouver in May 2023, where they captivated audiences with their musical prowess, the Sound of Dragon Ensemble is bringing their unique sound to Singapore, after their debut at Ding Yi's Chinese Chamber Music Festival in 2019. This exchange of musical traditions between these two ensembles aim to strengthen cultural ties and showcase the universal language of music that transcends geographical boundaries.

The concert, aptly titled "Rising Dragon, Soaring Merlion", promises to be a cultural extravaganza celebrating the rich heritage of both ensembles. Wong De Li, Detric, Ding Yi's Resident Conductor and Sound of Dragon's Guest Conductor Chih Sheng Chen from Taiwan will share the podium in leading the ensembles.

"Working with the Sound of Dragon Ensemble has always been a remarkable journey, a harmonious convergence of our musical worlds, and so we're delighted to bring them to Singapore again," said

Wong De Li, Dedic. “They bring a rich tapestry of cultural influences and artistic flair that will captivate Singaporean audiences.”

The program boasts a range of captivating compositions, including Wang Jianmin’s ‘Dream of Angels’, featuring a quintet of Chinese instruments where the striking melody depicts the graceful movements of a female dancer, and Alice Ho’s ‘Four Dragons’, a dramatic composition that draws on an ancient tale deeply rooted in Chinese mythology, folklore, and culture. Artistic Director of Sound of Dragon ensemble, Lan Tung, will also lead the ensemble as vocalist in performing her piece ‘From the Stars’, bringing to life the magic and mystique of ancient narratives.

In addition, Wang Chenwei’s ‘Winds of Affinity’ is a double concerto featuring Ding Yi’s dizi soloist Ng Hsien Han and Sound of Dragon flutist Paolo Bortolussi, with the piece depicting an encounter between two musicians whose friendship gradually blossoms.

“Rising Dragon, Soaring Merlion” promises to be a mesmerising journey through time and history, with each composition weaving a tapestry of emotions and cultural influences. Audiences can expect a night of exceptional performances that transcend boundaries and celebrate the universal language of music.

This concert marks the start of Ding Yi’s 2024 plans of working closely with international ensembles, showcasing a series of extraordinary musical collaborations that transcend borders and featuring the diversity of global talent. The next concert will be *Of Time and Classics*, held on 28 January, Sunday, 7.30pm at the Victoria Concert Hall, together with the Tao Yuan Chinese Orchestra.

Rising Dragon, Soaring Merlion will be held on 6 January 2024 (Saturday), 7.30pm at the Stamford Arts Centre, Black Box. Tickets are available for public sales at \$15 on Peatix [here](#). Terms and conditions apply.

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About Ding Yi Music Company

Established in 2007, Ding Yi Music Company is Singapore's most prodigious Chinese chamber music ensemble and a coterie of accomplished Chinese instrumentalists that trademark Singapore Chinese chamber music in the traditional and contemporary field. The ensemble has captivated audiences with its distinctive approach to music-making and dedication to showcase a vast repertoire that ranges from traditional Chinese music to contemporary interpretations and cross-genre works. For more information, please visit www.dingyimusic.com.

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Concert Posters Artwork



Please download the high-resolution version [here](#).

Featured Artists' Biographies

Image	Write up
	<p>Wong De Li, Dedric, Conductor</p> <p>Wong De Li, Dedric aspired to be a conductor in his teen years, and his interest was ignited again by the renowned Chinese music educator and Singapore Cultural Medallion recipient, Dr Tay Teow Kiat. With his master's degree in orchestral conducting at the China Conservatory of Music in Beijing, under the tutelage of renowned Professor Yang You Qing and guidance from conducting maestro Tsung Yeh, he aims to push Ding Yi to new heights of artistic excellence and to develop a unique Singaporean musical direction.</p> <p>In 2013, Wong was selected to participate in the Conducting Masterclass by renowned conducting maestros Professor Zhang Guo Yong and Qu Chun Quan, organised by the Taipei Chinese Orchestra. While in 2015, he was again selected to attend the Conducting Workshop by Tsung Yeh, organised by the Singapore Chinese Orchestra.</p> <p>As a 2014 National Arts Council (NAC) Arts Scholarship recipient and a two-time recipient of the Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan Arts and Cultural Bursary in 2004 and 2006, he has performed in many countries such as China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, the United Kingdom, the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Cambodia.</p> <p>In 2016, Wong staged his conducting recital with the China Conservatory of Music Middle School Youth Chinese Orchestra with reputable conductor Gu Guan Ren. In the same year, he assumed the conductor role for the Cultural Symphony Orchestra and was also featured as an outstanding NAC scholar in the 2016 Straits Times Scholars' Choice.</p>



Chih Sheng Chen, Guest Conductor

Chen is active on the international stage as a conductor, educator, and arts administrator, crossing between the disciplines of Chinese music, cross-cultural music, and western contemporary music, and in both orchestral and chamber music settings. He founded Taiwan's Little Giant Chinese Chamber Orchestra (gCO) in 2000 and has produced/conducted over one thousand concerts, including the orchestra's national and international tours and full seasons at Taiwan's National Concert Hall.

Chen has been a guest conductor in Europe (Atlas Ensemble, Amsterdam), Canada (Sound of Dragon Ensemble, Vancouver Inter-Cultural Orchestra, Toronto Chinese Orchestra, Edmonton Chinese Orchestra, BC Chinese Orchestra, BC Chinese Ensemble, Dim Sum Ensemble); China (Wuxu Chinese Orchestra, Zhejiang Song and Dance Theatre Chinese Orchestra, Heilongjiang Song and Dance Theatre Chinese Orchestra, Shenfeng Ensemble of Beijing Central Conservatory, Henan Ping Ding Mountain Chinese Orchestra, and Beijing, Chongqing, Chengdu, Fujian, Zhejiang, Jiangsu, Henan, Guangdong, Jilin Chinese Orchestra), Southeast Asia (Singapore's Ding Yi Music Company), and Taiwan (Quanta Philharmonic Orchestra, Evergreen Symphony, Taiwan Chinese Orchestra, Kaoshiung Chinese Orchestra). He has been frequently invited to conduct at various universities and schools throughout China, including the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing. From 2004 to 2008, Chen was the Associate Conductor of the Taipei Chinese Youth Orchestra and Teachers Orchestra. He was the executive director of the Quanta Philharmonic Orchestra.



Chen started his musical training as an erhu (Chinese violin) player at the age of ten. He holds a master's degree in conducting from Taiwan's Fu Jen Catholic University and a Ph. D from the Institute of Microbiology and Biochemistry of the National Taiwan University.




Sound of Dragon Ensemble

The Sound of Dragon Ensemble is dedicated to creating/presenting new works for the combination of Chinese and western instruments and presenting contemporary music of Chinese roots/influences to the world stage. Established in 2015 and debuted at the 2016 Sound of Dragon Music Festival, the Sound of Dragon Ensemble brings together some of the most skillful Vancouver musicians: Lan Tung (erhu & voice), Mark Ferris (violin), Sungyong Lim (cell), Charlie Lui (dizi), Paolo Bortolussi (flute),

	<p>Itamar Erez (guitar), Zhimin Yu (ruan), Dailin Hsieh (zheng), and Jonathan Bernard (percussion). This instrumentation has been carefully selected by pairing Chinese and western instruments in the families of bowed strings, plucked strings, and winds, completed by a collection of percussion instruments from both the east and the west.</p> <p>The Sound of Dragon Ensemble provides the platform to showcase new works and to create opportunities to collaborate and develop. The ensemble is especially interested in the contemporary development of “Canadian Chinese music”, cultivated in our multicultural environment. The ensemble’s repertoire represents original Canadian intercultural art music and breaks down genre boundaries, crossing over Chinese traditions, contemporary music, world fusion, and improvisation. The ensemble has commissioned/premiered/performed music from Canadian composers Mark Armanini, Dorothy Chang, Jordan Nobles, Farshid Samandari, Alice Ho, Itamar Erez, Moshe Denburg, Lan Tung, John Oliver, Adam Hill, Nova Pon, Ali Razmi, Tony Leung, and Bruce Bai. Through call-for-scores, the Sound of Dragon Ensemble has received scores from composers in 13 countries. It has premiered works by Canadian, US, Taiwanese, Chinese, Italian, and UK composers.</p> <p>The Sound of Dragon Ensemble has collaborated with choreographer/dancer Dong Mei (2017), the Toronto Chinese Orchestra Chamber Players (2018 Sound of Dragon Music Festival), Melody of China (2019), and Ding Yi Music Company (2023). The collaboration with Melody of China marked the first time two professional ensembles of Chinese roots from across the US/Canada border have come to work together. Internationally, the ensemble has appeared at the 2019 San Francisco International Arts Festival, 2019 Ding Yi Chinese Chamber Music Festival in Singapore, and Henan Chinese Medicine University and Ping Ding Shan Cultural Centre in China. In a very short time, the ensemble has grown to be a strong voice of contemporary cross-cultural music with enthusiastic support from the music community and the audiences.</p> <p>In addition to concerts, the ensemble gives educational workshops to composers interested in writing for its instruments and holds reading sessions of new works. The ensemble promotes the awareness/appreciation of Canadian intercultural music-making rooted in ongoing collaboration between artists from distinct cultures/traditions.</p>
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	<p>Ng Hsien Han, Dizi</p> <p>Dr Ng Hsien Han joined Ding Yi Music Company in 2012 as a dizi musician, and is also the ensemble manager of Dicapella, the only dizi ensemble in Singapore.</p> <p>He first picked up the dizi under Singapore Chinese Orchestra (SCO) musician Lee Heng Quey, and fell in love with the instrument's resonant, breathy timbre. He later came under the tutelage of renowned dizi performer and educator Professor Zhan Yong Ming. As a visiting scholar at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) in 2020-2021, Ng was also guided by SCO dizi principal Yi Zhi Yang. In 2023, he received a doctorate in Philosophy (Dizi Acoustics) from the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD).</p> <p>Ng has performed as a soloist with many reputable orchestras, and is known for his expressive, melodic flair. He staged a dizi concerto with the SCO in 2010, and in 2013 collaborated with the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts Symphonic Wind Ensemble to perform the piece Madam White Snake, conducted by renowned Taiwanese conductor Lin Chun Chi.</p> <p>He clinched the second prize in the dizi open category at the National Chinese Music Competition organised by the National Arts Council in 2014. In 2017, Ng was awarded the prestigious SUTD President Graduate Scholarship to carry out research in the field of dizi.</p> <p>He also devotes over 20 hours a week to teaching dizi in schools and in private lessons to inspire and hone the next generation of dizi musicians.</p>
	<p>Paolo Bortolussi, Flute</p> <p>Dedicated to championing music by living composers, Dr. Bortolussi has premiered over 150 works for flute, including concerti written for him by Dorothy Chang, Jocelyn Morlock, and Aaron Gervais. Paolo is co-artistic director of the Nu:BC Collective, a new music ensemble in residence at the University of British Columbia. Beyond Shadows, Nu:BC's debut CD, as well as Paolo's recent solo release Israfel have received multiple nominations at the Western Canadian Music Awards. Raised in Halifax, Dr. Bortolussi is a graduate of the University of Ottawa and the Indiana University School of Music. He serves on the faculties of the</p>

	<p>University of British Columbia, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, and Trinity Western University, and has presented masterclasses across North America as well as in Korea and Taiwan. Paolo is principal flutist of the Vancouver Island Symphony where he is the driving force behind the Canadian Concerto Project, which has commissioned, premiered, and recorded five new concerti by Canadian composers for principal players of the orchestra.</p>
	<p>Lan Tung, Erhu / Vocalist</p> <p>Crossing between new music, improvised music, and world music scenes, Taiwanese Canadian Lan Tung is the founder, artistic director, and resident composer of various cross-cultural projects, such as the JUNO nominated Orchid Ensemble, the Sound of Dragon Ensemble, and Vancouver Erhu Quartet. She is the founder/artistic director of the biennial Sound of Dragon Music Festival that showcases innovative projects and facilitates collaboration. She co-leads Naadaleela Ensemble (fusing Taiwanese, Chinese, Indian, and Persian traditions with jazz and other influences) with Curtis Andrews. In 2012, Lan formed Proliferasian to perform her compositions for improvisers. Her duo with cellist Marina Hasselberg is named Have Bow Will Travel, referring to the adventurous journeys in their improvisation. Her latest project Crossbridge Strings uses improvisation to shift organically between Taiwanese, Chinese, Indonesian, Persian, and avant-garde music.</p> <p>Lan collaborates with Ron Samworth and Neelamjit Dhillon in Birds of Paradox, with Liron Man and Jonathan Bernard in Lalun. She performs regularly with the Vancouver Inter-Cultural Orchestra, Sounds Global Ensemble, BC Chinese Music Ensemble, and the NOW Orchestra. Lan has toured internationally and appeared as a soloist with Lublin Philharmonic Orchestra (Poland), Orchestre Metropolitain (Montreal) and Symphony Nova Scotia, and as a soloist/composer with Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, Turning Point Ensemble (Vancouver & Taiwan), Upstream Ensemble (Halifax), Vancouver Inter-Cultural Orchestra (Canada & US), Atlas Ensemble (Amsterdam & Helsinki), and Little Giant Chinese Chamber Orchestra (Taiwan & China).</p> <p>Lan has been a featured soloist at Musica Nova Festival (Helsinki), National Concert Hall (Taiwan), Festival de Morelia (Mexico), Place des Arts (Montreal), and the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts (Vancouver); and as a leader of her ensembles at Esplanade – Theatre on the Bay (Singapore), the Kennedy Centre for the Performing Arts (DC, USA), National Arts Centre (Ottawa), Festival</p>

	International Musique Actuelle Victoriaville, Festival Miami, Vancouver International Jazz Festival, Vancouver International Folk Festival, Ding Yi Chinese Chamber Music Festival (Singapore), Ottawa Folk Festival and Ottawa Jazz Festival.
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Ding Yi Music Company Information and Materials

Ding Yi Music Company Information – Download link for media use:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/zbxyi14itxrttsrp5kwb5/h?rlkey=mmtc9zoeizwi4gx140501o3bi&dl=0>