

## Press Release 新闻稿

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For Immediate Release

### ***Ding Yi Music Company and Taoyuan Chinese Orchestra Unveil Enthralling Second Edition of 'Of Time and Classics'***

*Cast Your Vote and Delight in the Elegance of Classic Chinese Chamber Music Melodies*

**Singapore, 8 January 2024** – Embark on a captivating musical odyssey as Ding Yi Music Company collaborates with the Taoyuan Chinese Orchestra (TYCO), making their debut performance in Singapore, in this highly anticipated second edition of “Of Time and Classics”, a series that stands as a reverential tribute to the origins of Chinese music, weaving together a rich tapestry of traditional Chinese chamber music.



Under the baton of Resident Conductor Wong De Li, Dedric, and the esteemed Guest Conductor Qu Chunquan, this collaboration of musical virtuosos guarantees an unforgettable performance that spans generations, captivating audiences with its mesmerising allure.

"I am truly honoured to collaborate with a conductor of Qu Chunquan's extraordinary caliber," said Wong De Li, Dedric. "Working alongside Maestro Qu is not only a privilege but an enriching experience that allows us to delve deep into the heart of Chinese musical traditions. Working with TYCO also adds another layer of excitement. Their dedication to fostering cultural richness aligns seamlessly with our mission at Ding Yi Music Company. This partnership is a testament to our commitment to showcasing a series of extraordinary musical collaborations that transcend borders and featuring the diversity of global talent."

Ding Yi *Dizi* musician Ng Hsien Han will present a solo 'Song of the Herdsmen', a compelling piece that showcases the instrument's melodic prowess, whilst *Pipa* musician Chua Yew Kok will partake in a mesmerising duet with cello musician Bekhzod Oblayorov for 'Dance of the Yi Tribe', a harmonious blend of Eastern and Western musical elements. Erhu soloist Chang Wei-Yun from TYCO will also feature in "The Ballad of Lan Huahua", depicting a poignant and tragic love story inspired by Northern Shaanxi folk songs.

Experience the magic of this cultural symphony and witness the power of music to connect hearts and transcend borders. Join us for an evening that echoes with the beauty and diversity of Chinese musical heritage.

#### **Pre-Concert Audience Voting Activity**

Audience members can vote for their favourite solo and ensemble pieces from a selection of classic Chinese music to be performed live in the *Of Time and Classics* concert. Voters who voted for the top two pieces also stand a chance to win an exclusive painting sponsored by Qiu Zhai Art Foundation. Audience can submit their votes [here](#) from now till 15 January 2024 (Monday), 5pm.

*Of Time and Classics* is supported by Qiu Zhai Art Foundation. The concert will be held on 28 January 2024 (Sunday), 7.30pm at the Victoria Concert Hall. Tickets are available for public sales at \$38 and \$28 (excluding booking fees) on SISTIC [here](#). Concession tickets at S\$20 for students, senior citizens (aged 60 years and above) & NSFs. PAssion Card members and OCBC Arts Platinum Card members enjoy a 15% discount, while other OCBC card members enjoy a 10% discount. Terms and conditions apply.

## **Annexes**

- A. Concert Posters Artwork
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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](http://www.dingyimusic.com).

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Concert Posters Artwork




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

## Featured Artists' Biographies

Image	Write up
	<p><b>Wong De Li, Dedric, Conductor</b></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>

	<p><b>Qu Chunquan, Guest Conductor</b></p> <p>Qu is a renowned conductor and composer who has served as chief conductor of the Taipei Chinese Orchestra, deputy director and conductor of the Singapore Chinese Orchestra, conductor of the National Experimental Chinese Orchestra, and permanent conductor of the Fo Guang Shan Human World Chinese Orchestra. Qu has premiered and recorded several influential Chinese music works such as "Capriccio on the Great Wall", "Capriccio on the Dabo River", "Mulan", "Wedding Farewell", etc. In recent years, it has vigorously promoted local creation in Taiwan, actively performed and recorded several outstanding large-scale Chinese music works and contributed to the accumulated repertoire of the Taiwanese Chinese Orchestra.</p> <p>As a composer, he has composed and rearranged many compositions in the last few decades, such as "Shanghai Capriccio", "Mist and Clouds Over the Xiang River" for Guqin and Orchestra, double dizi concerto "Sentiments for the Yellow Earth", "View of Jiangnan" for small ensemble, and "I Wish" for Erhu and Orchestra. Over the years, Qu has received a great number of outstanding awards, performance awards, and composition awards issued by the People's Republic of China (PRC)'s Ministry of Culture, the "State Administration of Radio, Film, and Television", and the City of Shanghai.</p>
	<p><b>Taoyuan Chinese Orchestra</b></p> <p>The Taoyuan Chinese Orchestra was established in 2016 and underwent a transformation in 2018 to become affiliated with the "Taoyuan City Cultural Foundation". As a professional orchestra, it has positioned itself as a cultural trademark of Taoyuan City under the theme of "Music City". Led by founding leader Lin Ziyu with flexible and pragmatic approaches, the orchestra allows the aesthetics of music to permeate every corner of Taoyuan, composing a magnificent prelude to the city's splendid transformation. Acting as cultural ambassadors, they convey the city's charm, flavour, imagery, and confidence, taking confident strides toward the international stage.</p> <p>In its 8th year since establishment, the Taoyuan Chinese Orchestra has performed not only in Taoyuan but also in Taipei, Taichung, Tainan, Kaohsiung, Beijing, Japan, amongst others. Apart from organising classical concerts and fusion interdisciplinary performances, the orchestra has also engaged in album production. Their debut album, "Flowering", was released in 2018, followed by subsequent releases such as "Confluence", "A Xiaoist", "The Four Seasons of Taoyuan", "Jiangnan Sizhu: Classy Chinese</p>

	<p>Chamber Music", "Taoyuan Wonderland", "The Four Seasons of Teng Yu-Hsien", "Waiting for the Spring Wind", and "Flowing Clouds and Waving Water", a composition album by Su Wen-Qing. In total, they have released nine albums, spanning classical masterpieces and commissioning new works.</p> <p>Since its establishment, the Taoyuan Chinese Orchestra has been dedicated to documenting contemporary sounds. Their albums have received acclaim, consistently being nominated for the Golden Melody Awards. In 2021, their album "Jiangnan Sizhu: Classy Chinese Chamber Music" was honoured with the "Best Traditional Music Album Award" at the 32nd Golden Melody Awards.</p>
	<p><b>Ng Hsien Han, Dizi</b></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 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>



### **Chua Yew Kok, Pipa**

Chua Yew Kok is a pipa musician in Ding Yi Music Company, which he co-founded in 2007.

An expressive, highly versatile performer, Chua has forged an impressive career as an award-winning pipa instrumentalist and an educator. He picked up the pipa at the age of 14 and went on to give standout solo performances in Singapore and internationally, with notable ensembles and orchestras such as the Singapore Chinese Orchestra.

Among various international awards, Chua won first prize at the Singapore 1998 National Chinese Music Competition in the pipa open category. He was also accorded the National Arts Council Young Artist Award in 2013, Singapore's highest award for arts practitioners aged 35 and below.

He earned a Bachelor of Music (Honours) from the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts in 2006, and a master's degree in arts from the China Conservatory of Music in Beijing. Committed to preserving Singapore's traditional Chinese music and its legacy for future generations, Chua teaches pipa at various schools as a sectional instructor and serves on the secretariat of Singapore Pipa Society.



### **Bekhzod Oblayorov, Cello**


Born in Uzbekistan in 2001, Bekhzod began his studies with Kamola Abdullaeva in Tashkent and later continued under the guidance of Ng Pei Sian (Principal Cello of SSO) and Leslie Tan (former member of the Tang Quartet and Singapore Symphony Orchestra) at the National University of Singapore's Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, graduating with honours in 2023.

He has attended masterclasses led by world-renowned musicians such as Suren Bagratuni, Alexey Seleznev, Daniel Veis, Gautier Capucon, Jan Vogler, Amid Peled, Shlomo Mintz, Qian Zhou, and the Curtis String Quartet, further honing his craft.

Bekhzod has performed at the Esplanade Concert Hall, Victoria Concert Hall, Cambodia Royal Palace, Saratov and Samara Philharmonic Society, and the National Conservatory of Uzbekistan, among others.

In 2017, Bekhzod won the First Prize in the Ilyos Ibrogimov National Cello Competition in Uzbekistan. He also participated in the International Cello Competition I. Knushevitsky (Russia, 2018),



	<p>secured 2nd prize in the Young Talent International Competition (Uzbekistan, 2018), and performed at the Yuriy Bashmet International Festival (Russia, 2018).</p> <p>Bekhzod also shares a passion for jazz, having participated in the International UNESCO Jazz Festival in Uzbekistan from 2015 to 2019. He is currently appointed as a cellist at the Ding Yi Music Company, performing on a 1810 J. Hammig from Germany.</p>
	<p><b>Chang Wei-Yun, Erhu</b></p> <p>Born in Kaohsiung City, Chang Wei-Yun currently serves as the Principal Erhu Player for the Taoyuan Chinese Orchestra. She is also a lecturer at the National Taiwan University of Arts and National University of Tainan. Chang graduated from the Graduate Institute of Chinese Music at National Taiwan University of Arts, where she studied under Professor Lin Yu-Ting.</p> <p>For her undergraduate studies, she pursued a seven-year integrated program in the Department of Chinese Music at National University of Tainan, studying under Professor Chen Ru-qi, Professor Ou Guang-xun, and Teacher Peng Li-tu. At the age of five, she began piano lessons under the guidance of Teacher Meng Mian-mei. Later, at the age of ten, she embarked on learning the erhu under the tutelage of Professor Ding Lu-feng, a renowned player of various ethnic bowed string instruments.</p> <p>During her student years, Chang won numerous championships in national student music competitions. She had the privilege of performing as a soloist with the Taiwan Philharmonic Folk Orchestra and the National University of Tainan Chinese Orchestra. In 2016, she successfully auditioned for the Taoyuan Chinese Orchestra.</p> <p>Chang has collaborated with conductors such as Ku Pao-wen, Qu Chun Quan, Liu Wen-xiang, Kuo Lien-Chang, Yeh Ho Chung, Liu Chiang-Pin, and Lin Yu-Ting, performing popular erhu pieces like "The Great Wall Capriccio", "Amanisha", "Liao Tian-ding", "The True-hearted", "Ode to Hero · Ode to Love", "Night Thoughts", "Ritual of the Sun", and "The Ballad of Lan Huahua".</p> <p>In 2020, she was invited to perform "Flowing Clouds and Waving Water" with the Kaohsiung City Chinese Orchestra under the baton of Su Wen-Qing. In 2022, she was invited to premiere "INVOCATION" for two labaxians, zhonghu and cello with the Taipei City Chinese Orchestra. Additionally, she received acclaim for performances with the Chu Music Ensemble of Yilan and the National University of Tainan Chinese Orchestra.</p> <p>Chang participated in the annual recordings of the Taoyuan Chinese Orchestra in 2020 and 2022, contributing to the double</p>

	<p>erhu concerto "Night Brilliance" and the erhu concerto "Flowing Clouds and Waving Water". Her performances are characterised by their tension, warmth, and expressive power. Proficient in various musical styles, Chang Wei-Yun is recognised as an outstanding young erhu player in Taiwan.</p>
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## **Ding Yi Music Company Information and Materials**

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

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