

Press Release 新闻稿

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For Immediate Release

The magical intricacies of Plucked Strings

Bringing the instruments of the plucked strings section to life

Singapore, 22 March 2024 – Ding Yi Music Company invites you to immerse yourself in the rich tapestry of Chinese Chamber music with “Plucked Strings”, the first of the 2024/25 season’s Chamber Classics category. In championing the finest works within the realm of Chinese chamber music, this captivating concert will spotlight the eponymous section of the *pipa*, *ruan*, *guzheng*, and *yangqin*, bringing to life the intricate beauty of these traditional instruments.

Guided by Artistic Advisor Zhang Ying, the renowned *pipa* virtuoso and Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra's Pipa Principal and curated by Ding Yi *pipa* musician, Chua Yew Kok, the concert features a carefully selected repertoire of works by local and Chinese composers including Wu Hua's “The Deep Night” that takes the audience on a journey through the mystical and contemplative realms of the night and Wang Chenwei's “Vibrant Strings”, a piece that celebrates the strings' versatility with playful melodies and intricate rhythms.



“Zhang Ying’s profound understanding of the *pipa* and her artistic guidance have enriched our exploration of the “plucked strings” section, bringing to life a harmonious fusion of tradition and innovation,” said Wong De Li, Dedric, Ding Yi’s Resident Conductor.

“Working alongside such a distinguished figure has been a privilege, and I am confident that our collaboration will resonate deeply with audiences, transcending musical boundaries,” also said Curator, Chua Yew Kok.



Zhang Ying, pipa virtuoso and pivotal figure in “Plucked Strings”, will collaborate with Ding Yi musicians to innovate, explore classics, and engage in deep, intellectual exchanges, elevating the upcoming performance beyond mere playing to a shared journey of creativity and exploration.

The concert would additionally feature the local premiere of Wang Yun Fei’s “Ten-Mile Red Dowry” and Liu Xing’s “Dance”, a composition that beautifully captures the essence of stars dancing across the night sky. The ensemble will further enthrall the audience with the world premieres of “Moments Between Ledges and Frets” by Hong Kong composer Luk Wai Chun, and Cao Wen Gong’s “Sweetness in Every Step”, an evocative piece that reflects the complexity of human relationships with an overarching narrative of love and longing.

Plucked Strings will be held on 17 April 2024 (Wednesday), 7.30pm at the Esplanade Recital Studio. Tickets are available for public sales at \$28 (excluding booking fees) on SISTIC [here](#). Concession tickets at S\$20 for students, senior citizens (aged 60 years and above) & NSFs. SAFRA and OCBC Arts Platinum Card members enjoy a 15% discount, while other OCBC card members enjoy a 10% discount. 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 is the Resident Conductor of the Ding Yi Music Company, Music Director of the Asian Cultural Symphony Orchestra and Nanyang Collective. In 2014, he received the National Arts Council Arts Scholarship Recipient. In 2016, he was featured by the Straits time Scholars' Choice and in 2019, was a Panellist of the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth Singapore Youth Action Plan.</p> <p>He graduated with Masters in Orchestral Conducting at the China Conservatory of Music, under the tutelage of Professor Yang You Qing, with the guidance of Maestro Tsung Yeh. He had earlier graduated from the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) in 2007 with a Diploma in Music, majoring in Suona Performance. After his graduation, he received guidance in conducting from Singapore's renowned Chinese music educator, Singapore Cultural Medallion Dr. Tay Teow Kiat.</p> <p>In 2016-2017, Wong served as the conducting fellowship with the Singapore Chinese Orchestra. In 2016, he guest conducted and staged his conducting recital with the China Conservatory of Music Middle School Youth Chinese Orchestra. In 2018 he was invited to be the adjudicator of the Singapore National Chinese Music Competition and in 2019, guest conducted the China Sze Chuan Tian Zi Ensemble and the Suzhou Symphony Orchestra String Ensemble.</p> <p>In more recent years, he has been actively performing and representing Singapore in many international arts festivals, in countries such as China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia and Cambodia.</p> <p>With his keen interest in traditional Chinese music, he has received the Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan Arts and Cultural Bursary twice, in the years 2004 and 2006. He currently serves as an executive member of the Singapore Chinese Music Federation, Vice President of the Suona and Guan Society of Singapore and the Ensemble Director of the School of the Arts Chinese Chamber Ensemble.</p>



Zhang Ying, Artistic Advisor

Principal Pipa of the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, Zhang joined the HKCO in 2004 and served as Acting Principal Pipa in 2013, she has served as Principal Pipa since 2016. She is also a director of the Pipa Society under the auspices of the Chinese Musicians' Association, a Master's degree programme lecturer at The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, and is teaching at the University of Hong Kong, The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, Hong Kong Baptist University, the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Education University of Hong Kong. She holds a Master's degree from the China Conservatory of Music and was trained under Prof Zhao Yinan, Ms Li Guixiang, Prof Wu Junsheng, Ms Ren Hong and Prof Yang Jing.

Zhang was the winner of the Silver Award for Pipa Specialism, Youth Section, at the 1st Chinese Instrumental Music Competition organised by the Ministry of Culture in 2002; and the First Prize in the Youth Section at the 3rd 'Longyin Cup' International Ethnic Instrument of China (Pipa) in 2004. Zhang's recent performance include: 'Legendary Heroines Hua Mulan and Mu Guiying' concert in 2021, performing the pipa concerto Hua Mulan; In 2020, Zhang went with the HKCO on a European tour that covered Switzerland, Germany, Belgium, Austria and Hungary, performing pipa solo with the Orchestra in King Chu Doffs His Armour. In Hong Kong, she partnered with pianist Linda Yim in the 'Piano and Pipa Duo Recital by Linda Yim and Zhang Ying' as part of the City Hall Virtuosi Series in 2019. She was an Artist-in-Residence of RTHK Radio 4 in 2016 and appeared in pre-recorded exclusive interviews as well as performed live on air, in May the same year, she was invited by the Xinghai Concert Hall of Guangzhou to give a pipa solo recital entitled 'Music for Tranquillity of Mind – Chinese Solar Term of Corn Forms'.

Zhang has released a solo album for pipa, Dancing in the Wind and a DVD which records her graduation concert in Beijing. Over the years, Zhang has performed in the U.S.A., the UK, New Zealand, Canada, Russia, South Korea, Norway, Germany, and the Czech Republic, etc.



Chua Yew Kok, Pipa, Curator

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

One of his most savoured memories is of the fledgling ensemble clinching the first prize at the 2008 National Chinese Music Competition. Ding Yi went on to receive top honours at the prestigious Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod held in Wales in 2009, and Silver at the Shanghai Spring International Music Festival in 2011.

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.



Tan Jie Qing, Yangqin

Tan Jie Qing's sensitivity and musical camaraderie as a yangqin musician has led to frequent collaborations with ensembles and orchestras in Singapore, as well as the opportunity to perform in hallowed concert halls in Beijing, Shanghai, and Taiwan, to name a few.

She became Ding Yi Music Company's yangqin musician in 2019, drawn by how the progressive, award-winning ensemble honours tradition while embracing contemporary Chinese music in its repertoire. Tan is firmly aligned with Ding Yi's aspirations to become a renowned Chinese chamber ensemble all over the world. She is also the principal yangqin musician in the Singapore National Youth Chinese Orchestra, and has performed with the Singapore Chinese Orchestra, Asian Cultural Symphony Orchestra, Ensemble *Æquilibrium*, and the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts Orchestra.

In 2021, Tan obtained her Bachelor of Music with First Class Honours at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, where she majored in yangqin under the tutelage of Qu Jian Qing, principal yangqin musician in the Singapore Chinese Orchestra. She also studied under educator and prolific yangqin performer Ma Ying Jun of the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing during her time as an exchange student.

Her slate of personal wins includes top honours in the yangqin solo open category of the National Arts Council's National Arts Council Chinese Music Competition in 2018. She also participated in the Nanyang International Music Competition, placing third in the yangqin solo open category 2017 and the ensemble category in the NAC National Chinese Music Competition 2016.

As a soloist and chamber musician, she has premiered works from esteemed composers including Qi Haodi (China), Emily Koh (USA) and Joyce Koh (Singapore). Priding herself on her modern, versatile and creative approach, she says: "I would love to explore more chamber pieces and yangqin solo with chamber ensemble accompaniment and have more opportunities to shine as a yangqin soloist and chamber musician."



Yvonne Tay, Guzheng

An award-winning guzheng musician of Ding Yi Music Company since 2012, Yvonne Tay has extensive experience performing internationally and is a passionate educator. A recipient of the prestigious National Arts Council Arts Scholarship (Undergraduate) in 2015, Tay mastered the guzheng under the tutelage of Madam Yin Qun at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA). She was named Best Graduate as she emerged with a Bachelor of Music (First Class Honours) conferred in 2017 by the Royal College of Music, which invited her to London to stage a solo recital that same year.

Tay was a soloist at the opening ceremony of the Youth Olympic Games 2010, which was televised live globally. She performed a guzheng solo Wonder Full, composed by late Cultural Medallion winner Iskandar Mirza Ismail, for the 2011 premiere of the Marina Bay Sands Light and Water Spectacular. Her solo recording was again showcased at the 2014 countdown. In 2021, Tay was invited once again to record for Marina Bay Singapore Countdown 2021: Light Projection Show – Share the Moment, composed Phang Kok Jun.

Under the banner of Ding Yi, Tay staged sold-out joint solo recitals Proteges of Brilliance in June 2013, and Onwards in April 2018 to critical acclaim.

Her guzheng playing techniques are in the Phoenix Orchestra sample library of traditional Chinese instrumentation and techniques performed by Ding Yi, recorded by Orchestral Tools in 2018. She also performed on the original soundtrack of the Disney movie Mulan in 2019. In 2022, she premiered the local symphony orchestra version of Ru Shi with the Asian Cultural Symphony Orchestra.

She is an adjunct lecturer with the Singapore Raffles Music College and an instructor with several guzheng ensembles in Singapore, and is frequently invited as a guest lecturer, speaker, and an adjudicator. She co-founded the award-winning professional guzheng trio Z3nith Ensemble in 2014, and in March 2022, Tay staged a multisensory concert of music and gastronomy, Music Kneads, as its artistic director and producer.

Tay is the secretary-general of Singapore Qinzheng Association and a member of Singapore Chinese Music Federation Youth Chapter.



Wong Wai Kit, Daruan

Wong Wai Kit brought his skills on the ruan to Ding Yi Music Company in 2023. He is also a guest ruan musician with the Singapore Chinese Orchestra and the Chinese Chamber Music Ensemble and is affiliated with the Ruanxian Association of Singapore.

He began playing the zhongruan at the age of six, and was taught by respected musicians Ding Xiao Yan, Fu Yingying and Han Ying. He has also received tutelage from renowned ruan musician Feng Man Tian, Dilin from Central Conservatory of Music and musician and composer, Lin Ji Liang.

Wong won first place in the open category for zhongruan in the 2016 National Chinese Music Competition organised by the National Arts Council. In 2017, he clinched second prize in the Nanyang International Chinese Music Competition in the youth high school open category.

He graduated with Second Upper Class Honours in Music Performance from the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) and the Royal College of Music in 2021. While in NAFA, he also studied orchestration and arrangements under the guidance of Dr Zechariah Goh and Americ Goh, and studied conducting under Joost Flach and accomplished maestro Lim Yau.

He is currently pursuing a master's degree in ruan performance and research on a scholarship awarded by the China Conservatory of Music, under the tutelage of renowned ruan musician Professor Wei Wei.

Apart from rigorous practice, Wong dedicates time to exploring new works and playing styles. He wields the ruan's versatility for expression in both Chinese classical folk music and contemporary pieces. He also enjoys tinkling the keys on the piano.

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>