

Press Release 新闻稿

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For Immediate Release

Ding Yi Music Company Unveils Third Edition of Disappearing Series *Celebrating Singapore's Musical Heritage with nursery rhymes*

Singapore, 6 May 2024 – Ding Yi Music Company proudly announces the highly anticipated third edition of its “Disappearing...” series, poised to enthral audiences with a vibrant homage to Singapore’s musical legacy. Following the success of preceding editions, this upcoming instalment “Childhood Melodies of Yesteryears” endeavours to bring back the memories of disappearing dialect nursery rhymes and iconic Singaporean folk songs rooted in Chinese, Malay, and Indian traditions. Led by Guest Conductor Quek Ling Kiong, this multidisciplinary concert will create a heartwarming experience for all generations and ages.



“In planning this concert, I sought to embark on a journey of rediscovery and revival,” said Quek Ling Kiong. “I aim to reintroduce, reinvent, and replay the treasures of our past — treasures that hold immense significance to me personally. These nursery rhymes, once integral to our cultural fabric, deserve to be celebrated and preserved. By reimagining them in contemporary forms, we not only honour our heritage but also inspire new generations of musicians to carry forth the torch of cultural preservation.”

From the playful melodies of “Hush-O-Hush” (Teochew) and “Pat-The-Bottom” (Hokkien) to the soothing tones of “Sleep Well” (Cantonese), “Sit in a Row” (Hakka) and “The Fox Returns to Its Cave” (Hainanese), each piece has been meticulously arranged or composed by esteemed musician Liong Kit Yeng. Furthermore, the programme will feature the evocative tunes of “Bintang Kecil Di Langit Yang Biru”, a Malay nursery rhyme arranged by Dr. Zechariah Goh.

The concert’s material is supported by Research Advisor, Tan Beng Luan, whose research provides insights into the historical and cultural significance of the songs, and will also feature Pang Sze Che, Acid, who will serve as the Choir Conductor for the Chordinate Singers. Raghavendran Rajasekaran will grace the stage on the Indian Flute and as a singer, adding a multicultural dimension to the performance.



This production is part of the “Disappearing...” series and also part of Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre’s Cultural Extravaganza 2024. The partnership between Ding Yi Music Company and SCCC marks the collaboration to develop programmes that promote local Chinese arts and culture, through Chinese chamber music. The “Disappearing...” series shines the spotlight and pays homage to the fading heritage and vanishing trades of our Chinese Singaporean culture. Please visit <https://ce.singaporeccc.org.sg/> for more information.

Disappearing...Series: Childhood Melodies of Yesteryears will be held on 1 June 2024 (Saturday), 3.30pm (sold out) and 7.30pm at the Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre Auditorium. Tickets are available for public sales at \$28 (excluding booking fees) on Ticketmaster [here](#). PAssion Card, NTUC, merewards, SAFRA and HomeTeam NS members enjoy a 20% discount. Terms and conditions apply.

Annexes

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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>Quek Ling Kiong, Guest Conductor</p> <p>Leading one of world's most recognised Chinese orchestra, well known for his innovative programming, charismatic conducting, and audience engaging, Quek Ling Kiong is an active conductor in music scene including Chinese Orchestras in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Jilin Chinese Orchestra, Macau, Kaohsiung, Taipei Chinese Orchestra etc. He was winner of the Singapore National Arts Council (NAC) Young Artist Award (2002), recipient of NAC Cultural Fellowship (2013), Meritorious Awards by Compass Singapore (2016), Singapore 'Lianhe Zaobao' iconic personality (2018). In 2019, the Singapore Management University established the 'Quek Ling Kiong Scholarship' to support undergraduates venturing into arts management.</p> <p>In 2023, Quek was appointed as Principal Conductor of Singapore Chinese Orchestra.</p> <p>In his previous position as Principal Guest Conductor in Ding Yi Music Company (2016-2022), he was the mastermind behind major events that promote Chinese chamber music, including the Ding Yi Chinese Chamber Music Festival and "Composium", a competition for new chamber works.</p> <p>Born in Singapore, he studied at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music in China and the Zurich University for Arts in Switzerland. Both Eastern and Western training have equipped him well to create cross-cultural, multimedia, and interdisciplinary works that inspire the world. As a strong believer in the power of music to enrich lives, Quek also leads Singapore's largest inclusive orchestra, The Purple Symphony.</p>
	<p>Dr Goh Toh Chai, Zechariah, Composer</p> <p>As a Senior Lecturer of Composition at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA), a composer of music ranging from choir, symphonic band, wind ensemble and chamber music to large scale orchestral works, Zechariah Goh Toh Chai has carefully fused Southeast Asian-Chinese with Western traditions. He worked on his Doctorate degree majoring in Composition under the guidance of Dr Charles Hoag at the University of Kansas.</p> <p>As a composer, Goh is frequently commissioned to write music for symphonic bands and choirs. Since the 1990s, his choral works have been premiered in Singapore as well as winning many</p>

	<p>international competitions. Goh has been commissioned by organisations and arts groups in Singapore such as SYC Ensemble Singers, Singapore Symphony Orchestra (SSO), Singapore National Youth Orchestra, Philharmonic Winds, West Winds, National Arts Council (NAC), Victoria Junior College, Tampines Junior College, CHIJ Secondary School, River Valley High School, the Arts Education Branch, Ministry of Education in 2003, 2009 and 2016, as well as overseas organisations such as University of Kansas Wind Ensemble (USA), The Amigo Saxophone Quartet, Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts (Hong Kong), the Diocesan Boys' School Choir (Hong Kong) and the Diocesan Girls' School Choir (Hong Kong). Goh's recent premieres are SSO's commission orchestral work <i>Blossoms</i>, Philharmonic Chamber Choir's <i>Farewell</i> and <i>Yang Guan</i> and The Graduate Singers' <i>Singapura Dilangga Todak</i>.</p> <p>Goh is also an active speaker at International music conferences such as the World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles, International Society of Music Educators and Asia Pacific Society of Music Educators etc. For his artistic excellence in the field of music, Goh was conferred the Young Artist Award (Music) in September 2003 by NAC. The award was presented by the President of the Republic of Singapore at Istana. He was also awarded the Artistic Excellence Award from the Composers and Authors Society of Singapore in 2013. Goh was also presented with the distinguished Alumni medal from NAFA in 2014.</p>
	<p>Liong Kit Yeng, Composer</p> <p>Liong Kit Yeng's multifaceted career spans the arts, broadcasting, and education. With a flair for crafting memorable melodies and sophisticated harmonies, she has been commissioned and performed by Chinese orchestras, ensembles, and choirs, including Singapore Chinese Orchestra, Ding Yi Music Company, Singaporean pianist Lim Yan, Paper Monkey Theatre, Sing Song Club, Singapore Lyric Opera Children's Choir, Vocal Associates Festival Choruses, Schola Cantorum Singapore, Natus Cantorum (Taiwan), and Johor Bahru Chamber Choir (Malaysia).</p> <p>Having a keen ear for writing music appealing to children, she was commissioned by the Arts Education Branch of the Ministry of Education to compose the set piece for choir in 2018 (Little Red Dot), as well as Chinese orchestra in 2020 (Kreta Ayer, 饮水思源：牛车水). The set pieces are performed by primary school students during the Singapore Youth Festival Arts Presentation.</p>

	<p>She was appointed Composer-in-Residence of The Purple Symphony (TPS) in 2015 and has since been instrumental in shaping the unique sound of Singapore’s largest inclusive orchestra that comprises musicians with and without disabilities. In 2017, she was appointed Assistant Conductor, leading the TPS Ensemble to perform at outreach performances, including “Resonates With” at National Gallery Singapore (2022), “In Youthful Company” at Esplanade’s Outdoor Theatre (2021), True Colours Festival (2018), as well as the National Day Parade (2017).</p> <p>Apart from writing music, she also provides artistic direction, including the roles of Music Director for Paper Monkey Theatre’s puppetry theatre “Romance of Mistakes” (花田错)(2013, 2019), Artistic Director for “Play with Bamboo”, a musical showcase as part of National Arts Council’s 2017 Arts In Your Neighbourhood programme, Producer for “Silver Stars2014 – Our Music Party!”, a celebration of musical talents amongst seniors, as well as Artistic Consultant for “Moon Conversations”, the 2016 edition of Mid-Autumn Festival traditional arts showcase, presented by the National Arts Council, in collaboration with Gardens by the Bay.</p> <p>As an educator, she was a part-time lecturer at Temasek Polytechnic and Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts and had been invited by the Ministry of Education as trainer to workshops and music camps for secondary school student leaders, as well as imparting knowledge as panellist at career fair talks. She was a bilingual emcee at Esplanade’s Beautiful Sunday series and occasionally lends her voice to Mandarin documentaries as a voice-over artist.</p>
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	<p>Tan Beng Luan, Research Advisor</p> <p>Tan Beng Luan has held positions including Project Coordinator at the Oral History Centre, Second Deputy Director of the National Archives Singapore, Principal of Practice Performing Arts School, Administration Director of Practice Drama Company, and Founding Administration Director of The Substation – A Home for the Arts.</p> <p>In the 1990s when she was with the National Archives, for the ASEAN Committee on Cultural and Information (COCI), she oversaw the collection of Chinese Traditional Nursery Rhymes which ended up including over 300 pieces. Together with colleagues, who were in charge of the collection of Indian and Malay Traditional Rhymes from the National Library, a set of comprehensive booklets with cassettes were released. These materials are now available at the Reading Room of the National Archives.</p> <p>Tan is currently working as an educator in early childhood.</p>
	<p>Pang Sze Chng, Acid, Choir Conductor</p> <p>Acid Pang is currently the conductor of Chordinate Singers, Metro Philharmonic Choir and various local school choirs, as well as a vocal coach and music producer. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Nanyang Technological University and holds a Diploma in Music Production from Altron Music Education, a Masters Certificate in Arranging and Orchestration from the Berklee Online (US), and a Singing Grade 8 from Trinity Guildhall (UK).</p> <p>Acid was an in-house music producer and vocal instructor with Ocean Butterflies Music and Music Forest, and had since produced several albums, composed songs and vocal coach to renowned local artistes. He is also vocal coach to ensembles and individuals for performances, competitions and recording albums.</p> <p>With a passion for choral conducting and music arranging, Acid Pang has studied under teachers such as A/P Ho Hwee Leong, Ng Eng Kee, Yeh Tsung, Apo Hsu and László Norbert Nemes. He has also studied vocal music with the late local composer and founder of the Metro Philharmonic Concert, Leong Yoon Pin, on harmony writing and vocals with Khor Ai Ming.</p>
	<p>Chordinate Singers, Choir</p> <p>Chordinate Singers was founded in 2019 by Acid Pang, with the mission to promote choral singing through Chinese pop music.</p>

	<p>In 2020, Chordinate Singers proudly presented its first self-produced virtual choir project Moonlight in the City. Chordinate Singers also participated in INTERKULTUR Video Award, the first online choir competition dedicated for virtual choirs. Chordinate Singers was the only participating choir from Singapore. In December 2020, a collaboration between two local community choirs - Chordinate Singers and Equaver - titled Dedication of Love, was awarded 3rd in the category for “Choir with Accompaniment” for the second INTERKULTUR Video Award 2020.</p> <p>In 2021 and 2022, Chordinate Singers produced two original songs titled “Dawn of Blessings” and “You Are My Solace”. Both songs are available for listening on all major digital platforms including its own YouTube and Bilibili channel. As a Chinese New Year song, “Dawn of blessings” was featured in the Zaobao.sg online concert. Chordinate Singers also took part in The Purple Parade 2021 online concert and presented “The Rainbow Connection” with the VS Choir from Very Special Arts (Singapore) and Equaver.</p> <p>Since then, the choir had been actively involved in local singing activities, including co-organising Metro Philharmonic Choir’s “Ocean of Songs” series. Other performances include VOS Festival, Sentosa’s and Gardens by the Bay’s Christmas carollings, Esplanade’s Hua Yi Festival 2023, Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre’s “Cultural Extravaganza 2024”, etc.</p>
	<p>Raghavendran Rajasekaran, Indian Flute & Vocal</p> <p>Born and raised in Singapore, Raghavendran Rajasekaran, fondly called Ragha, is a composer, improviser, and performer of the Indian Classical Flute.</p> <p>Rajasekaran pursued his musical dream at LaSalle College of the Arts Singapore and graduated with a bachelor's degree with Honours in Music (Jazz Performance) and holds a master’s in business administration.</p> <p>He began learning the Indian Classical flute at the age of 11 after being inspired by his Guru, Dr Ghanavenothan Retnam.</p> <p>Today Rajasekaran is a teacher at the Temple of Fine Arts in Singapore and a sought-after musician for compositions and performances through the sounds of the Indian Classical Flute.</p>

Ding Yi Music Company Information and Materials

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

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/zbxyi14itxrtsrp5kwb5/h?rlkey=mmtc9zoeizwi4gx140501o3bi&dl=0>