



For Immediate Release

***Ding Yi Music Company Presents Instrumental Theatre Hua Mu Lan***  
*Bringing traditional Chinese legend to modern life*

**Singapore, 30 July 2024** – Ding Yi Music Company is delighted to announce the continuation of its family-friendly instrumental theatre concert series with the Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre (SCCC), featuring the timeless tale of *Hua Mu Lan*. Following the success of the inaugural edition *The Warlords* that took on the historical warfare story of the Chu-Han Contention (War), this all-local star-studded production will immerse audiences in the expressive power of Chinese chamber music and immersive storytelling, showcasing the rich cultural heritage and history of China through the enduring legend of Hua Mu Lan.



“We are thrilled to bring the story of Hua Mu Lan to life through the evocative power of Chinese chamber music,” said Ding Yi’s Resident Conductor, Wong De Li, Dedic. “Ever since we were featured on Disney’s live-action *Mulan* soundtrack, I’ve been deeply intrigued by the idea of bringing this legendary story to life through our instrumental theatre series. We aim to make such legends relevant by blending these traditional stories with contemporary sounds, specially for today’s audiences.”

*Hua Mu Lan* continues the concept of instrumental theatre, pioneered by Ding Yi, where instrumental performance is the main medium to depict characters’ feelings, intentions, and emotional turmoil. This innovative approach reimagines traditional storytelling, offering audiences a unique and immersive theatrical experience with newly commissioned Chinese chamber music works.

“Instrumental theatre offers an avenue for the audience to see instruments as characters, hear the entire score like the development of a dramatic storyline and feel for the musicians playing important

roles in conveying their emotional journeys,” added Danny Yeo, director of this production. “This has been an interesting learning experience for me to better understand chamber music and offer exciting possibilities of how theatre can excite senses, inspire ideas and touch hearts.”

Led by Resident Conductor Wong De Li, Dedric and director Danny Yeo, *Hua Mu Lan* features music by young local composer, Sulwyn Lok, and script by playwright Neo Hai Bin to showcase the legend through a music-focused theatrical experience. Actress Jodi Chan portrays Mu Lan and is accompanied by Ding Yi *yangqin* musician Tan Jie Qing, alongside the rest of the ensemble to convey stories of love, betrayal, pride, patriotism, and fear through the unique sounds of each instrument.



This production is presented by SCCC and produced by Ding Yi Music Company. The partnership between Ding Yi Music Company and SCCC marks another milestone in the collaboration between the two companies to develop and present programmes that promote local Chinese arts and culture, through Chinese chamber music.

*Hua Mu Lan* will be held on 15 September 2024 (Sunday), 3.30pm and 7.30pm at the Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre Auditorium. Tickets are available for public sales at \$20 (excluding booking fees) on Ticketmaster from 8 August 2024. Enjoy an exclusive 50% discount on 8 August 2024, 30% discount from 9 to 11 August 2024. Terms and conditions apply.

## **Annexes**

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### **About Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre (SCCC)**

The Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre collaborates with arts and cultural groups and community partners to promote and develop local Chinese culture. Through engaging and accessible content, we hope to nurture greater appreciation of our multi-cultural identity and a stronger sense of belonging.

Opened by then-Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on 19 May 2017, our centre in the heart of the city welcomes everyone to enjoy exhibitions, fairs, performances, seminars, talks, workshops and other cultural activities throughout the year.

Website: [www.singaporeccc.org.sg](http://www.singaporeccc.org.sg)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/singaporechineseculturalcentre](https://www.facebook.com/singaporechineseculturalcentre)

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/singaporechineseculturalcentre](https://www.instagram.com/singaporechineseculturalcentre)

Wechat ID: sccc\_sg

### **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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## Featured Artists' Biographies

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

**Danny Yeo, Director**

Danny Yeo is a celebrated cross-media personality and veteran arts practitioner with over three decades of rich experience both on-screen and on-stage. In recent years of creative directing, he is focused on developing theatrically immersive musical experiences that integrate aural and visual designs to make the audience an integral part of the productions.

Since 1994, Yeo has played leading roles in over 20 plays and has been actively involved in forum theatre shows, community outreach programmes and training workshops at Drama Box, where he was a board director for 20 years. His directorial debut, *Bondage* (2009), received five nominations, including Best Director at Singapore's Life! Theatre Awards 2010. Yeo has presented workshops at notable events like SDEA's Theatre Arts Conference and the Intervarsity Theatre Forum, and his international productions include performances in Shanghai, Macau and New York. He played a pivotal role in developing Singapore Repertory Theatre's Mandarin children musicals, writing and directing several productions as an Associate Artist (2013-2020). He also directed the critically acclaimed play *Art* (2016) at the National Gallery.

Yeo has created many innovative theatre series, including the murder-mystery *BODY X* and the Esplanade F.Y.I. Series featuring Chinese chamber music with Ding Yi Music Company. He also directed the immersive musical series *Child's Play* (2017-2019) and the digital theatre *BODY X The Culprit* (2020), which used Zoom as an interactive platform. His giant puppet promenade shows *The Rubbish Prince* and *The Rattle King* have been featured in various festivals.

Additionally, Yeo has written for five local movies, published six books, and hosted the record-breaking 40-episode talk show *Face Off*. Since 2015, he has hosted 23 factual infotainment series, winning numerous awards at international festivals including Asia's Best Presenter.

Recently, he has established himself as a studio potter, creating over 300 unique pieces and participating in multiple exhibitions. His work has been showcased in CERAMIX 2022, 1000 Vases in PARIS 2023, Temenggong-SG-Creatives and Potters Across Borders 2024.



### **Sulwyn Lok, Composer**



Described as “magical” and having “plenty of beautiful sounds to savour” (The Straits Times), the music of Singaporean composer Sulwyn Lok draws from his two homes of New York City and Southeast Asia for a unique global cultural palette. Writing music for Hermès, Samsung, and other international brands, as well as scoring films that premiered at the Cannes, Busan, and other film festivals, he advocates the human connection in music regardless of art or commercial works.

Winner of Universal Music's UCompose competition and Best Original Music at the National Youth Film Awards (Singapore), his body of works in film and media is complemented by artistic commissions including the arts councils of New York and Singapore, the Singapore Chinese Orchestra, the Singapore Symphony Orchestra, and Ding Yi Music Company. He also enjoys writing music for video games, children, and theatre, which earned him a nomination at the Marvin Hamlisch International Music Awards (Musical Theatre category).

Fully sponsored by the Singapore Digital Scholarship, Lok graduated from New York University's Master of Music Theory and Composition: Screen Scoring program. He also graduated as valedictorian from the National University of Singapore YST Conservatory of Music with a Bachelor's in Audio Arts and Science.

Associate editor of "Anthology of Singaporean Ruan Compositions", Lok is also resident composer of the Singapore Ruan Ensemble and Reverberance; executive member of the Singapore Chinese Music Federation Youth Chapter; co-founder of Poco Productions, Southeast Asia Music Academy Online, and the Victoria Chinese Orchestra; and a member of the Society of Composers and Lyricists (USA).



	<p><b>Neo Hai Bin, Playwright</b></p> <p>Neo Hai Bin is a performance maker since 2009, having studied actor’s training practices with SCOT (Summer intensive 2014, Japan) and SITI Company (Summer Workshop 2019, NYC). Some of his physical theatre works are Being: 息在 (M1 Fringe Festival 2022), Transit 步 (Esplanade eXchAnge 2023), and OX (Kaleidoscope.V 2023).</p> <p>His literary practice involves research works in social issues and the human condition. As a playwright, he also writes poems, prose, critiques, and short stories, which are mainly published in Lianhe Zaobao. He co-founded theatre reviewers team “劇讀 : thea.preter” in 2017. He also co-founded “微.Weï Collective” with lighting designer Liu Yong Huay, creating spatial experiences for participants since 2017.</p>
	<p><b>Tan Jie Qing, Yangqin</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>



	<p>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.</p> <p>As a soloist and chamber musician, she has premiered works from esteemed composers including Qi Haodi (China), Emily Koh (USA) and Joyce Koh (Singapore).</p>
	<p><b>Jodi Chan, Actress</b></p> <p>Jodi graduated from the University of Exeter, UK, with a Master of Arts degree in Theatre Practice - Physical Performance &amp; Actor Training (Distinction). Since 2014, she has been working professionally as a theatre performer and educator. Her acting credits include The Crab Flower Club (Toy Factory), Electrify My World (Nine Years Theatre), Chinatown Crossings (Drama Box), Rubbish Prince (3Pumpkins) and Four Horse Road (The Theatre Practice).</p>

## **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>