

Press Release 新闻稿

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For Immediate Release

Premiering new chamber works weaving folklore, mythology and nature

Ding Yi Music Company and Artistic Advisor, renowned banhu virtuoso Hu Yu

Singapore, 27 March 2025 – Ding Yi Music Company invites you to experience a mythical journey of Chinese chamber music at *Earth: Unheard*, featuring works inspired by folklore, mythology, and native traditions, each note resonating with human emotions and the vastness of nature, sparking imagination and reflection.

Led by Artistic Advisor Hu Yu, renowned banhu virtuoso and professor at the Central Conservatory of Music, and curated by Ding Yi concertmaster, Fred Chan Hong Wei, the concert features all premiere works, including the Singapore premiere of *Barong Dance*, a sheng solo composed by Young Artist Award recipient Wang Chenwei and performed by Ding Yi sheng musician Soh Swee Kiat. The sheng, one of the oldest Chinese instruments, is rarely heard as a solo instrument, making this performance a unique highlight of the evening. Hu will also present the banhu solo *Polyphonic Returns*, along with his own composition, *Echoes of the Mountain* having its world premiere, guiding audiences to hear the voices of the earth and explore a deeper connection to nature and humanity.

Audiences can look forward to a diverse showcase of chamber ensemble settings to present the versatility of Chinese chamber music. This interplay of textures, timbres, and musical dialogues is the essence of Chinese chamber music, offering a rich and refreshing listening experience each time.



“Learning the banhu under Hu Yu was a turning point in my musical journey,” said Curator and Concertmaster Fred Chan Hong Wei. “From those early days of study to now collaborating on *Earth: Unheard*, we continue to delve deeper into the vast world of Chinese chamber music. This concert reflects that ongoing exploration—where tradition meets innovation, and where the voices of nature, mythology, and native sounds shape our artistic expression.”



Hu Yu will work 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 also feature the local premieres of Tsai Cheng-che’s “Mahākāla”, and Yang Yong’s “Three Folk Sentiments”, a composition that beautifully captures the three most defining emotions in daily life: joy, sorrow, and humour.

Earth: Unheard is part of Ding Yi’s 2025/26 season’s Chamber Classics, focused on championing the finest works within the realm of Chinese chamber music.

Earth: Unheard will be held on 20 April 2025 (Sunday), 7.30pm at the Esplanade Recital Studio. Tickets are available for public sales at \$35 (excluding booking fees) on SISTIC [here](#). Concession tickets at S\$20 for students, senior citizens (aged 60 years and above) & NSFs. PAssion, SAFRA and OCBC Arts Platinum Card members enjoy a 10% 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 Poster Artwork





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


Featured Artists' Biographies

High-Res Photo Link:

https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/39iu1imqq8643b39xc7ng/AE8aCZkh_onBvT-IFTN6y5w?rlkey=35n4mowshgkq3di3jgbmato1o&st=j0ha4xri&dl=0

Image	Write up
	<p>Hu Yu, Artistic Advisor / Banhu</p> <p>Hu Yu is a Professor of Banhu at the Central Conservatory of Music and the Party Secretary of the Central Conservatory of Music Affiliated Middle School. He also serves as an executive director of the Huqin Committee under the China Nationalities Orchestra Society.</p> <p>In 1993, Hu was admitted to the Affiliated Middle School of the Central Conservatory of Music, where he studied Banhu performance techniques under Professor Li Heng. In 2003, he graduated with outstanding results and was directly admitted to the master's program at the Central Conservatory of Music. In 2007, he completed his master's degree with distinction and remained at the conservatory as a faculty member.</p> <p>Hu has served as the concertmaster of the China Youth Chinese Orchestra and the Macao Chinese Orchestra. He is also a member of the Central Conservatory of Music's Beijing Modern Chamber Ensemble and Youth Chinese Orchestra. He has premiered numerous works, including <i>Whispers of a Gentle Wind</i> by Jia Guoping, <i>Breath II</i> by Li Binyang, <i>Drunken Qin</i> by Xie Peng, <i>Guandong Poems</i> by Li Bo, <i>Dao Qing</i> by Yang Yong, <i>Wedding Dress</i> by Li Bochan, <i>On Nine Strings</i> by Yang Yong, <i>Silk Rhyme</i> (chamber version) by Xiang Min, <i>Hu Jia Yin</i> by Zhou Juan, <i>River of Sorrow and Joy</i> by Sun Jing, <i>The Hidden Swordman and Rushan</i> by Li Shangqian and <i>One-Man Stage</i> by Wang Amao, among others.</p> <p>He has compiled and edited educational materials such as <i>Banhu Scale Exercises</i>, <i>Banhu Technical Etudes Collection</i>, <i>Chinese Bowed String Chamber Music Collection</i>, and <i>Li Heng's Banhu Works Collection</i>. He has also composed solo and ensemble pieces for the Banhu, including <i>Capriccio</i>, <i>Pursuit</i>, and <i>Eastward Journey</i> (a 2023 China National Arts Fund-supported project for small-scale theatre and festival productions).</p> <p>As a mentor, Hu has led the Central Conservatory of Music Shengfeng Chamber Ensemble to win the grand championship in the ensemble category of the 2012 CCTV National Chinese Instrumental Music</p>

	<p>Competition and the gold award at the 9th China Golden Bell Award for Music in 2013. He also led the Central Conservatory of Music Yijing Chamber Ensemble to win the silver award in the Small Chinese Chamber Music category at the 5th National Youth Chinese Instrumental Music Competition – Wenhua Art Schools Award in 2014, as well as first place in the Traditional Ensemble category of the 2019 CCTV Chinese Instrumental Music Competition.</p> <p>As the most outstanding Chinese chamber ensembles of the Central Conservatory of Music, both the Shengfeng Chamber Ensemble and the Yijing Chamber Ensemble were selected to participate in the 6th National Youth Chinese Instrumental Music Education and Performance Showcase, hosted by the Ministry of Culture (now the Ministry of Culture and Tourism) in 2017, where they received the highest honour.</p>
	<p>Fred Chan Hong Wei, Curator / Concertmaster</p> <p>Fred Chan is a dedicated huqin musician and has been a musician of Ding Yi Music Company since 2014.</p> <p>He received both his Bachelor and Master of Fine Arts (erhu) from the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, where he studied under the guidance of renowned erhu performer and educator, Professor Zhao Hanyang, and pursued the banhu under musician and Associate Professor Hu Yu. He received a full scholarship from the Chinese government for his studies as well as the Beijing Foreign Student Scholarship for outstanding students.</p> <p>Chan first picked up the erhu at the age of 13 from his seniors after joining the Chung Ling Chinese Orchestra in Penang, Malaysia, and was guided by teachers Lin Shunfa and Lin Shunli.</p> <p>From 2009, he was meticulously guided by professors Yan Jiemin, Wang Ying, Zhou Lingyan and other tutors at the Central Conservatory of Music. That year, he won the third prize in the open category of Malaysia's Yue Lang National Chinese Instruments Solo Competition. He took top honours at the same competition in 2013 and won first prize in the Hua Yue Zhi Yun International Erhu Competition in the professional overseas category that year.</p> <p>While at the Conservatory, he staged well-received erhu solo recitals in 2015 and 2017, including his master's graduation concert titled From Nanyang to Beijing, and performed the gaohu across China with the China Youth Chinese Orchestra.</p>

	<p>In January 2016, he co-founded the WAU! Ensemble, Malaysia's first professional Chinese chamber music ensemble, and debuted three concerts in Kuala Lumpur.</p>
	<p>Soh Swee Kiat, Sheng</p> <p>Soh Swee Kiat was a self-taught sheng musician while serving as the sectional leader in the Chinese orchestra of Chinese High School Batu Pahat in Malaysia.</p> <p>In 2012, he ventured to Singapore to pursue his studies at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) and became the pioneering sheng major in the Diploma in Music Performance programme. Under the tutelage of Guo Chang Suo, he earned his Bachelor of Music (Honours) in Sheng from NAFA in 2017.</p> <p>Soh's exceptional talent was recognised when he participated in the 2014 National Chinese Music Competition (NCMC), where he clinched the first prize in the solo open category and the third prize in the ensemble category. This achievement earned him an invitation from the Singapore Chinese Orchestra to perform a solo concerto at the prestigious NCMC Prize Winner Concert.</p> <p>Soh has represented Singapore at esteemed events such as the International Music Festival Sharq Taronarali in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, and the ASEAN Youth Music Camp in Sagada, Philippines. In 2016, he captivated audiences with the premiere of Fantasia of Two Brothers during the concert Shengscapes at the Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts.</p> <p>Soh's association with Ding Yi Music Company commenced in 2015, and he became its sheng musician in 2017. In addition to performing, he also oversees logistics for the ensemble.</p>

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>