

## Press Release 新闻稿

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For Immediate Release

### ***A SG60 Special – A Multidisciplinary Salute to Singapore by Six Powerhouses of Singapore Arts***

*Ding Yi Music Company presents The River Remembers*

**Singapore, 30 June 2025** – This August, Ding Yi Music Company brings together some of Singapore’s finest creative talents – Dance Ensemble Singapore (DES), led by Creative Director Cai Shiji, and acclaimed theatre director Goh Boon Teck to premiere *The River Remembers*, a poignant and powerful tribute to Singapore’s SG60 celebrations.

*The River Remembers* traces the Singapore River’s journey from trading lifeline to modern waterfront – mirroring the nation’s own evolution and is helmed by some of Singapore’s most celebrated creatives: featuring a newly arranged work by Cultural Medallion recipient Law Wai Lun, direction by theatre-maker Goh Boon Teck, choreography by Cai Shiji under the baton of Wong De Li, Dedric. At the heart of the story is Sharon Au, who joins the stage in the central role of the Mother River — a symbolic figure embodying resilience, transformation, and national memory.

While Ding Yi is recognised for championing contemporary Chinese chamber music, DES is known for its fearless expressive dance vocabulary. Now, for the first time, these two leading forces in the Chinese arts and culture sector come together under the visionary direction of Goh Boon Teck — a rare multidisciplinary collaboration that fuses music, movement, and theatre into one evocative narrative. “This marks a landmark collaboration – the first time our three artistic houses are coming together to create a full-length production,” says conductor Wong De Li, Dedric. “While it takes inspiration from Ding Yi’s well-acclaimed River of Life (2019), this is a complete rebuild of the narrative, bolder in scale, ambition and charged with fresh energy for SG60.”

At the heart of the performance is Sharon Au, former actress and television presenter, as she makes her debut collaboration with a Chinese chamber ensemble. “I believe that engaging with a different musical tradition will open up new ways of thinking about rhythm, texture, and storytelling,” she says. “As I take on the voice of the Singapore River— a living symbol of our nation’s journey, I see it not just as a performance, but as a meeting of histories, music, and memory. This role is more than symbolic; it’s a reflection of how art can flow across boundaries, just like the river itself. I’m incredibly proud to be part of a work that celebrates our shared heritage in such a meaningful and artistically daring way.”

General Manager of Ding Yi, Elvia Goh, frames the production as “*a bold milestone work in our SG60 line-up, celebrating resilience, courage and vision – values that built modern Singapore.*” The

narrative explores how the river has shaped lives across generations — from a boy with humble dreams to the bustling modern metropolis it flows beside today. Infused with youthful energy, the concert speaks to a generation that may never have seen the river as a trade artery, who continue to live its legacy — in ambition, identity, and shared belonging. As a highlight of Ding Yi's 2025 season, *The River Remembers* promises to be a stirring reflection of the past, present and future — not just of a place, but what it means to move forward as a people.



*The creatives, from left to right: (first row) Wong De Li, Dedric, Law Wai Lun and Goh Boon Teck (second row) Cai Shiji, Sharon Au, Dance Ensemble Singapore*

*The River Remembers* will be held on 16 August 2025 (Saturday), 3.30pm and 7.30pm at Drama Centre Theatre, National Library, Level 3. Tickets are available for public sales at \$68 and \$48 (excluding booking fees) on SISTIC [here](#). Concession tickets at S\$20 for PWDs, 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**

- A. Featured Artists' Biographies
- B. Ding Yi Music Company Information and Materials

## **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

High-Res Photo Link:



<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/l3w91tgm2fqiq7su8hja/APEuBjgHuQWEvOsTunqatis?rlkey=bjsw086e8655mplejn6qnd7np&st=3wq8jsph&dl=0>

Image	Write up
	<p><b>Wong De Li, Dedric, Conductor</b></p> <p>Wong De Li, Dedric is the Resident Conductor of Ding Yi Music Company and Music Director of the Asian Cultural Symphony Orchestra and Nanyang Collective. A recipient of the National Arts Council Arts Scholarship in 2014, he was featured in Straits Times Scholars' Choice in 2016 and served as a panelist for Singapore's Youth Action Plan in 2019.</p> <p>Wong holds a Master's in Orchestral Conducting from the China Conservatory of Music, where he studied under Professor Yang You Qing and Maestro Tsung Yeh. He graduated from the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts in 2007, majoring in Suona Performance, with conducting mentorship from Dr. Tay Teow Kiat.</p> <p>He has guest conducted various ensembles, including the Singapore Chinese Orchestra, China Sze Chuan Tian Zi Ensemble, and Suzhou Symphony Orchestra, and has represented Singapore at international arts festivals in countries like China, the UK, and Australia. He currently holds key roles with the Singapore Chinese Music Federation, Suona and Guan Society of Singapore, and School of the Arts Chinese Chamber Ensemble.</p>
	<p><b>Law Wai Lun, Composer</b></p> <p>Born in Shanghai, Law Wai Lun entered the Central Conservatory of Music in 1956, studying piano and music theory. With his exceptional results, he took undergraduate courses in the composition department a year earlier, while still in his final year of high school, learning under Su Xia. In 1962, he started his undergraduate studies, under the famous composer Du Ming Xin and graduated from the Central Conservatory of Music in 1967. It was right in the middle of the Cultural Revolution when he graduated and he became a full-time composer, first at the composition department in the Central Chinese Orchestra, working on projects such as the choral piece Poems of Mao Zedong and later at the Central Newsreel and Documentary Film Studio in Beijing with projects including television and film music for Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, Lu Xun and so on.</p> <p>He joined the Chinese Musicians Association in 1980, and in the same year also received award for the best young composer in Chinese film</p>

	<p>music. He moved to Hong Kong and was later appointed a lecturer at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts. It was from this time that he began composing for the Chinese orchestra. Notable works include Dragon, The Legend of Madam White Snake, The Splendour of Dali, Su Wu and Autumn Colours of Jin Xiang.</p> <p>He migrated to Singapore in 1995 and continued to compose several major works such as The Celestial Web, music for the National Day Parade 2007, Kit Chan – My Musical Journey Concert in Huayi 2011 and The Goddess – A Silent Film Concert in Huayi 2014. His work, Admiral of the Seven Seas, received the honorary award at the Singapore International Competition for Chinese Orchestral Composition in 2006. His arrangement of Beautiful Clouds Chasing the Moon and joint-composition with Lincoln Lo, The Goddess – A Silent Film Concert, were awarded the Golden Sail Award by the Composers and Authors Society of Hong Kong in 2007 and 2016 respectively. He was SCO's composer-in-residence from 2012 to 2014 and is often appointed as a judge for various music competitions. In 2017, Law was awarded COMPASS Artistic Excellence Award and the Cultural Medallion, Singapore's highest honour in arts, for his outstanding contributions and unwavering commitment to shape the Nanyang music style. In 2018, Law was once again appointed as SCO's composer-in-residence.</p>
	<p><b>Goh Boon Teck, Director</b></p> <p>A distinguished Singaporean theatre director, playwright and production designer, Goh Boon Teck's theatrical arts are soulful explorations of human issues treated with contemporary sensitivity. He is the Chief Artistic Director of Singapore's leading bilingual theatre company Toy Factory Productions Limited.</p> <p>Titoudao, a play about his mother Madam Oon Ah Chiam which he wrote, directed, and designed, is one of the most celebrated Singaporean theatre productions. It swept five out of the nine awards presented at the inaugural Life! Theatre Awards in 2000.</p> <p>His commissioned works include PRISM (Japan's Kageboushi Theatre Company, 2003); A Tinted Edge, Spirits, The Morning People, The Crab Flower Club (Singapore Arts Festival, 2000–2009); A Dream Under the Southern Bough trilogy (Singapore International Festival of Arts, 2018–2021); 7 Sages of the Bamboo Grove, All the world is one's stage (Esplanade's Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts, 2020–2021); Masters of Comedy duology, and Ignite The Sun (Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre's Cultural Extravaganza, 2018–2023) among others. He is known for his musical adaptations including I Have A Date With Spring, December Rains, 881 The Musical, Glass Anatomy, Ah Boys To</p>

	<p>Men The Musical, Innamorati duology, and Sometime Moon among others.</p> <p>His recent works are 5lements with Ding Yi Music Compan, PlotSEA 2024 Sang Sinxay, PlotSEA 2025 Thawathotsamat.</p> <p>He held the role of Creative Director for Singapore's National Day Parade in 2007, 2008, and 2017, as well as Singapore Day 2011 in Shanghai.</p> <p>Boon Teck had been conferred the Young Artist Award in 2001 and Singapore Youth Award in 2005. He was presented the Elite Director Award in 2014 at One Drama Awards in Shanghai. He was most recently honoured with the 6th Singapore Chinese Cultural Contribution Award (Individual) in 2023.</p>
	<p><b>Cai Shiji, Choreographer</b></p> <p>Shiji's passion for dancing resonated at a young age. As a child, she trained with DES Arts and later became a professional artiste. In 2009, she received the NAC Arts Bursary (Overseas) to pursue a 'Masters in Choreography (Dance)' at Purchase State College, New York. During her study at Purchase State College, one of her works, Wind. Thunder, was shortlisted to be performed at the Haiti Fund Raising Performance and at New York's Dumbo Festival. Upon returning to Singapore, she pursued a career in dance and is currently DES' Artistic Director.</p> <p>She was a Singapore Heritage Festival Assistant Ambassador (2010-2013) and choreographer of Singapore Chingay (2000, 2009, 2010)'s Chinese Item.</p> <p>She has worked with renowned choreographers like Kunyang Lin (USA), John Mead (USA), Gideon Obarzanek (Australia), Kevin Thomas (USA), Roh Hyun Sik (Korea), Ying Er Ding (Hong Kong, China), Zhang Yi (Hong Kong, China).</p> <p>1990 – 2008    Trained at Yan Choong Lian Dance Troupe</p> <p>2006    Graduated from NUS Bachelor of Social Science (Second Class Honours) in Political Science</p> <p>2008    Graduated from NTU with a Masters in Mass Communication Media</p> <p>2009    Pursued a Masters in Choreography (Dance) at Purchase State College, New York, USA</p> <p>2010    Awarded Best choreography Award for outstanding results</p> <p>2011    Appointed DES Creative Director</p>



	<p><b>Sharon Au, Actress</b></p> <p>Sharon Au is a celebrated Singaporean actress, television host, and media personality. Her career launch came in 1995 when she was talent-spotted in Toy Factory's Hong Kong musical remake <i>I Have A Date With Spring</i>. She rose to fame as the quirky host of <i>City Beat</i>, then gained acclaim for roles including Lulu in the stage musical <i>Beauty World</i>, Chen Mei Guang in the sitcom <i>Right Frequency</i>, and leading roles in Eric Khoo's <i>One Leg Kicking</i> and Jack Neo's hit <i>I Do I Do</i>. Witty and bilingual, Sharon became a prominent figure at Mediacorp, headlining charity events like the <i>President's Star Charity</i> and hosting the <i>National Day Parade</i> for eight straight years. She won multiple accolades including four <i>Best Variety Show Host</i> awards, <i>Best Comedy Performer</i>, and six consecutive <i>Top 10 Most Popular Female Artistes</i> at the Star Awards. In 2005, she left to study at Waseda University, followed by exchanges at Sciences Po Paris and Jean Moulin University Lyon 3. Returning in 2011, she hosted NDP 2011–12 and portrayed Mrs Lee Kuan Yew in <i>The LKY Musical</i> (2015). Her career continued to flourish with her lead role in Nine Years Theatre's <i>Everything For You</i>, earning her a Best Actress nomination at the ST Life Theatre Awards 2025. Since 2018, Sharon has been based in Paris.</p>
	<p><b>Dance Ensemble Singapore</b></p> <p>Dance Ensemble Singapore (DES) was founded in July 1993 with the aim to present multi-faceted dance styles and genres constantly explored by the professional core company, DES Arts, and the Performing Arts Academy. To convey the cultural message infused in our Chinese arts and culture, DES strives to expand its field of dance and thus has engaged in numerous major performances, such as Singapore Arts Festival, ASEAN Dance Festival, National Day Parade, Chingay Parade and many more. DES has also represented Singapore on diverse international cultural exchanges and festivals in varying capacities.</p> <p>The academy sets its educational foundation on Confucianism and moral education, where teachings, such as "Guidelines to being a Good Person", are incorporated in the dance syllabus to enrich the students' learning path. In 2004, DES established a professional main Contemporary-Chinese Dance company, DES Arts, with the goal of professionalising its craft. At the helm of DES Arts' Artistic Director, Mdm Yan Choong Lian, Dance Director, Sharon Low, and run by DES Arts' Creative Director, Cai Shiji, and Programme Director, Goh Yan Dan; with the firm belief in "building the academy to support the main company, forming the company to glorify the academy" (translated), DES Arts actively diversifies its artistic scope in order to generate new platforms for creative mastery. In turn, this expedites</p>

	<p>the development of DES Arts and its journey towards an international stage.</p> <p>In recent years, DES Arts has been actively promoting the ‘Nanyang’ Style of Chinese Dance. The subsidiary was highly commended by Prime Minister, Mr Lee Hsien Loong, during the 2014 National Day Rally for its innovative interpretation and style, as well as for unceasing efforts in pushing boundaries in the local arts and cultural scene. Another of DES Arts’ exemplary full-length work, Motifs: Traces IV (2015), received an exclusive media coverage by Channel NewsAsia Singapore, and was specially invited to perform at the South Korea International Dance Festival.</p> <p>DES hopes to transcend boundaries in the promotion of Chinese dance and culture. Through nurturing the next generation of practitioners, spreading cultural values and innovation, DES continues to present works that embodies the spirit of excellence, wisdom and depth.</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:

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