## Press Release 新闻稿

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For Immediate Release

#### Ding Yi Music Company returns with ECOncert

Exploring sustainability through sound, soil, and storytelling

**Singapore, 24 October 2025** – This year, Ding Yi Music Company presents *ECOncert*, a multisensory experience that takes audiences on a layered descent into the hidden worlds of Singapore's secondary forests — landscapes shaped by time, memory, and resilience.

Inspired by *Seeing Forest*, a project by award-winning visual artist Robert Zhao Renhui for the Singapore Pavilion at the 60th Venice Biennale (2024), the concert traces the story of soil — from surface debris and forgotten urban remnants to the vibrant underground networks of roots, fungi, and life beneath our feet.



#### A DIALOGUE BETWEEN NATURE, MUSIC AND HUMANITY

Now in its third edition, *ECOncert* continues Ding Yi's artistic exploration of sustainability through Chinese chamber music. Each annual edition has reflected a unique facet of humanity's relationship with nature — from the intricate relationship between humanity and the awe-inspiring force of nature (2023) to reflections on waste and renewal (2024).

This year's concert, once again led by Resident Conductor and Creative Director Wong De Li, Dedric and Stage Director and Dramaturg Ang Xiao Ting, deepens that dialogue through the theme of soil — weaving together traditional Chinese instruments, found materials, videos, and spoken word written

by poet Cheyenne Alexandria Phillips. Together, Dedric and Xiao Ting shape a work that fuses music, narrative, and visual storytelling into a contemplative journey through sound and ecology.

Adding her voice and presence to this layered performance is acclaimed singer and actress Joanna Dong, who joins as performance artist, bringing emotional resonance and vocal depth to the concert's musical journey.

The music also features compositions by Malaysian composer Yii Kah Hoe and Korean composer Bumki Kim, an internationally active artist known for his sensitivity to natural environments. This marks Kim's first time writing for Chinese instruments, offering a fresh cross-cultural perspective to Ding Yi's evolving soundscape.

#### BEYOND THE STAGE: ARTS, ECOLOGY, AND RESEARCH

Beyond the concert hall, Ding Yi Music Company is launching a new partnership with LASALLE College of the Arts' McNally School of Fine Arts (MSoFA).

Titled the Ding Yi x LASALLE Arts and Ecology Research Partnership, the collaboration between Ding Yi and the Master of Arts in Arts and Ecology (MAAE) programme — together with the Social Studio Module and other faculties — will explore the intersections of arts, ecology, and education through artistic presentations, research, and public dialogue.

The 2025 pilot begins with a panel discussion and demonstration, before expanding into a small-scale incubation project in 2026, and an expanded *ECOncert* edition in 2027. At the heart of this partnership are student engagement, education, and ecological awareness, aligning with Ding Yi's vision of art to inspire reflection and collective action for a sustainable future.

"Each year, ECOncert challenges us to think about how music can engage with the world around us," says Resident Conductor Wong De Li, Dedric. "This year's theme of soil feels especially grounding — it's about tracing life from what's hidden beneath us, and understanding how stories, memory, and resilience take root over time. Our new partnership with LASALLE's McNally School of Fine Arts marks an exciting step forward in deepening this dialogue between music, research, and ecology."



ECOncert will be held on 15 November 2025 (Saturday), 7.30pm at Esplanade Recital Studio. Tickets are available for public sales at \$35 (excluding booking fees) on SISTIC <a href="here">here</a> and is eligible for purchase using SG Culture Pass credits. Concession tickets at \$\$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.

Annex B

#### **Annexes**

- A. Concert Poster Artwork
- B. Featured Artists' Biographies
- C. 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 <a href="https://www.dingyimusic.com">www.dingyimusic.com</a>.

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### **Concert Poster Artwork**



Please download the high-resolution version here.

#### High-Res Photo Link:

https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/48854uc1xi8g14dkbdx6v/AKhvQRFaOPZHJY06syk161g?rlkey=iw8o ozz5y2ezik4pazmpnailq&st=p6tzdtss&dl=0

# Write up



**Image** 

#### Wong De Li, Dedric, Artistic Director / Conductor

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.

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.

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.



#### Ang Xiao Ting, Stage Director / Dramaturg

Ang Xiao Ting is a freelance hyphenated theatre practitioner (actor, director, dramaturg, facilitator). She is an Associate Artist with The Theatre Practice (Singapore) and Programmer for Practice Tuckshop.

Her practice in Eco-Theatre prioritises the various degrees of an integrated ecological practice, with a focus on Southeast Asian foodways, such as: Recess Time - which toured to World Stage Design 2022 (Calgary) and received an "Honourable Mention" at #CreateCOP27 – a global open call for art in conjunction with COP27.

As an actor, she was last seen in: The Soldier & His Virtuous Wife (playing Sidekick A) and Four Horse Road. Her recent directing credits include Extinction Feast (2021 Singapore Writers' Festival; 2022 The Theatre Practice) and Pickle Party.

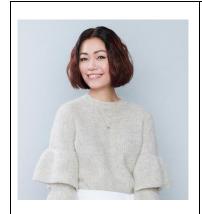
Ang graduated from Lancaster Institute of Contemporary Arts (UK) where she received the LICA prize for Outstanding Achievement in Theatre.

#### **Robert Zhao, Visual Artist**

Singaporean visual artist Robert Zhao Renhuiworks chiefly with photography but often adopts a multi-disciplinary approach, presenting images together with documents and objects in the form of textual and media analysis, video and photography projects. His artistic practice investigates man's relationship with nature, utilising convincing narratives to invoke doubts in its audience towards the concept of truth and its portrayal. His works has been exhibited globally, having held solo exhibitions in Singapore, China, Japan, Australia, and Italy, as well as participating in various biennales and photo festivals.

He was selected to represent Singapore in their national pavilion at the 60th Venice Biennale in 2024, and his recent exhibitions include 14thGwangju Biennale, Gwangju Biennale Exhibition Hall, Gwangju, South Korea (2023); Living Pictures: Photography in Southeast Asia, National Gallery Singapore, Singapore (2022); The First Beijing Biennale, Beijing (2022); Busan Biennale: Words at an Exhibition, Museum of Contemporary Art Busan, Busan, South Korea (2020).

In 2010, he was awarded The Young Artist Award by the Singapore National Arts Council. He was also named as a finalist for the Hugo Boss Asia Art Award 2017 as the only Southeast Asian artist, and the 12th Benesse Prize 2019 for his work in the 6thSingapore Biennale. Most recently, he was awarded the inaugural Silvana S. Foundation Commission Award in 2020 and Excellence Award in the 44<sup>th</sup> New Cosmos of Photography competition in 2021.



#### Joanna Dong, Performance Artist

Joanna Dong may wear many hats but her ability to connect with different audiences threads through her work and sets her apart. Unaffected by trends or popularity, Joanna delivers her best work by following her heart. Despite being unconventional, her debut on Sing! China (2017) was a jazz-inspired rendition of a 90s Chinese classic—delivered with warmth, flair and finesse, capturing the attention of the critical mass.

As a performer, her foundation traces back to her childhood years as a karaoke singer. She was also a member of the choir and jazz band in school where she trained her vocals as if it was an instrument capable of diverse sounds. As a budding young singer with a less mainstream appeal, her participation on Singapore Idol (2004) was unsuccessful, which lead her to focus on niche genres and try her hand at other performing arts. Acting and hosting taught her new modes of expression—each a note in her playbook, layering her performances with range and depth. Not only is Joanna a joy to watch on stage as a seasoned performer, but she also has the rare ability to surprise without detaching from the audience.

While primarily a singer, theatre training opened her body and mind to better connect with her co-performers and the audience. She is also effectively bilingual and pays close attention to the nuances of language in her delivery.

In 2019, Joanna founded Do Be Do Di—short for Do Better, Do Different—to keep pursuing a direction that she believes to be meaningful.



#### Bumki Kim, Composer

Bumki Kim earned his doctorate in composition from Indiana University and his Bachelor's from Seoul National University. His work Aega received the NFAA Arts Award, and he has been featured at UNESCO Cultural Week and as an EMS resident composer. His music, performed by Linea Ensemble and HKNME, has been presented in over 30 countries including the U.S., France, Germany, China, and India. He is currently a professor at Gyeongsang National University.

#### Yii Kah Hoe, Composer

Yii Kah Hoe is a Malaysian composer and Chinese dizi and xiao improviser. Yii has been recognised as one of the major voices



among Southeast Asian composers of his generation. His music has been widely performed in Asia, America, and Europe.

Yii won the National Outstanding Educator Award 2018 presented by the Private Education Cooperative of Malaysia. In the fall of 2015, Yii was the Scripps College Erma Taylor O'Brien Distinguished Visiting Professor at Scripps College in Claremont. Yii was guest composer and guest speaker at Birmingham Conservatoire UK (2013 & 2014), York St John University (2014), Yale-NUS College (2017), Iowa State University (2015), Tianjin Conservatoire of Music (2017), Mahidol University (2017), Guanxi Conservatoire of Music (2014, 2015, 2016).

As a Fullbright Scholar in Residence, Yii taught at Washington State University's School of Music from August 2022 to June 2023.

Yii was the festival director of Kuala Lumpur Contemporary Music Festival 2009, the festival director of SoundBridge festival (2013, 2015), the president of Society of Malaysian Contemporary Composers (2014 – 2016) and a senior lecturer at SEGi College Subang Jaya, Malaysia since 2000.



#### Cheyenne Alexandria Phillips, Writer

Cheyenne Alexandria Phillips is a climate artist, writer, theatremaker, and performer. She is also an Associate Artist with Checkpoint Theatre and a Young ASEAN Storyteller.

With a degree in Environmental Studies (specialising in Environmental Biology) from the National University of Singapore, Cheyenne uses writing and performance to interrogate how environmental concerns intersect with science, society, policy, cultur, e and identity.

Her recent work include: *Playing With Fire* (2024), *A Literary Trail of Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve* (ASEAN Centre of Biodiversity, 2022), *Vulnerable*, an eight-part podcast (Checkpoint Theatre, 2021); *A Grand Design* (Checkpoint Theatre, 2020), *In The Twine: A Tapestry of Stories* (Singapore Writer's Festival, 2018) and *For The Record* (Centre 42's Basement Workshop Residency, 2017). She also co-wrote *The Last Gardener* with Isabella Chiam (The Theatre Practice, 2024). Cheyenne is also a licensed tour guide. She writes a monthly newsletter and runs a spoken-word competition called Outspoken.

### **Ding Yi Music Company Information and Materials**

Ding Yi Music Company Information – Download link for media use: <a href="https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/zbxyi14itxrttsrp5kwb5/h?rlkey=mmtc9zoeizwi4gx140501o3bi&dl=0">https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/zbxyi14itxrttsrp5kwb5/h?rlkey=mmtc9zoeizwi4gx140501o3bi&dl=0</a>