

Press Release 新闻稿

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For Immediate Release

Ding Yi Music Company presents Causeway Connection, its debut performance in Johor Bahru
A Celebration of Singapore-Malaysia Musical Ties

Singapore, 13 January 2026 – Ding Yi Music Company proudly announces its first-ever performance in Johor Bahru with *Causeway Connection*, a dynamic concert celebrating the rich cultural tapestry shared by Singapore and Malaysia. Invited by the Permaisuri Zarith Sofiah Opera House, this special performance serves as the closing concert of its sixth anniversary celebrations, adding particular significance to the occasion. Conducted by Resident Conductor Wong De Li, Dedric, the programme brings together composers, performers, and vocalists from both sides of the Causeway, weaving a vibrant dialogue between Nanyang influences and contemporary chamber music while fostering lasting friendships between Singaporean and Malaysian musicians.



The evening features an exhilarating line-up of works, including *Confluence* by Young Artist Award recipient Wang Chenwei and *Twinkling of Bonfire Night* by Zhou Jia Ying, alongside Ding Yi Music Company's signature repertoire and a diverse selection of Singaporean and Malaysian compositions that reflect the region's shared artistic heritage. Singaporean works such as Law Wai Lun's *A Prosperous River* are presented alongside Malaysian contributions by Chong Kee Yong and Yii Kah Hoe, including Yii's multimedia work *Land Fill-Harmony* and Chong's *Heart Bridge*, a piece symbolic of the performance's goal to foster friendships that transcend nationality, incorporating dialects from both sides of the Causeway.

Causeway Connection is especially meaningful for us as it marks Ding Yi Music Company's first performance in Johor Bahru," says Ding Yi's Resident Conductor Wong De Li, Dedric. "This concert reflects the deep cultural connections across the Causeway, our commitment to fostering bilateral artistic exchange, and our hope to make friends through music all over the world."

A special highlight of the evening is the joint performance of *The Butterfly Lovers*, featuring Kong Zhao Hui performing his celebrated rendition alongside Ding Yi musicians and talented performers from Johor Bahru.

The concert also welcomes Alena Murang, the world's first professional female sape' performer — a traditional Bornean lute historically reserved for male healers. *Pemung Jae* unfolds as an intimate trio for sape', guzheng, and erhu, joined by Ding Yi musicians Yvonne Tay and Fred Chan Hong Wei respectively, weaving together sonorities from Borneo and the Chinese musical tradition. Alena also appears in *Li Ling* with Tan Jie Qing on the yangqin, a piece that explores the interplay between the sape' and Chinese instrumental traditions. Together, these performances reflect Ding Yi's ongoing exploration of global musical traditions and their dedication to connecting audiences through sound.

Causeway Connection promises an evening of connection, creativity, and celebration, highlighting Ding Yi's signature sound while honouring the vibrant, intertwined musical heritage of Singapore and Malaysia.

Causeway Connection will be held on 7 February 2026 (Saturday), 7.30pm at Permaisuri Zarith Sofiah Opera House, Johor Bahru, Malaysia. Admission is free, more information can be found on [Cloudjoi here](#).

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 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/8774uel8k89360x6xxlt8/Alt_mB-c4xpOWcixHs9aVLU?rlkey=kbqh3zgz7eudt5lun74pxi0vy&st=j3rn3osg&dl=0

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



Kong Zhao Hui, violin

Kong Zhao Hui began learning the violin at the age of five, with his father Kong Guangtian. At the age of 11, he was admitted to the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing and studied with Wang Zhenshan and Sui Keqiang. He also worked with violin masters including Yehudi Menuhin, Isaac Stern and Yfrah Neaman.

In 1984, Kong graduated with distinction from the Central Conservatory of Music, where he stayed on to teach. He went on to become the concertmaster of the Beijing Concert Hall Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra and guest concertmaster of the China Broadcasting Symphony Orchestra. In 1987, Kong was invited to perform in the First International Music Festival of Macao, where he played *The Butterfly Lovers* Violin Concerto to great acclaim. To date, Kong has performed this work in over a hundred well-received concerts.

As a soloist, Kong has toured Asia, Europe and Australia and has performed with the Central Philharmonic, China National Symphony, China Philharmonic, National Ballet of China Symphony, as well as many other Symphony Orchestras and Chinese Orchestras in China; Singapore Chinese Orchestra, Malaysian Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, Queensland Youth Orchestra, Macao Orchestra, Macao Chinese Orchestra, Taipei Symphony Orchestra, Taipei Chinese Orchestra, Evergreen Symphony Orchestra, The Presidential Symphony Orchestra of Turkey and the Orchestre Symphonique de Bretagne.




Alena Murang, sape'



"Alena Murang's songs evoke both the mystery of a faraway people and instant identification with their reverence for the sky."
- World Listening Post

Alena Murang is an international artist from Sarawak who delves into her native heritage throughout her work. The first professional female sape' player, she sings in the endangered Kenyah & Kelabit languages - original songs and ones that have been passed down to her.

Deeply influenced by the lives of her ancestors, coupled with influences of rock and folk, her shows are a journey of past and present, along the mighty Baram river that runs from the coast to the highlands of Borneo, through the world's oldest rainforest.

Performing across the world, she aims to share the stories of her people.

	<p>Fred Chan Hong Wei, Concertmaster / Erhu</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>Since joining Ding Yi Music Company, he has performed huqin in various concerts across China, Taiwan, and Singapore.</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>Tan Jie Qing, Yangqin</p> <p>Tan Jie Qing is a yangqin musician currently based in Singapore. Her sensitivity and musical camaraderie has led her to be a frequent collaborator with ensembles and orchestras in the country and provided her the opportunity to perform in hallowed concert halls in Beijing, Shanghai and Taiwan, to name a few.</p> <p>Besides being the resident yangqin musician in the award-winning Chinese chamber ensemble Ding Yi Music Company, she is a former Principal yangqin of the Singapore National Youth Chinese</p>

	<p>Orchestra, and has worked with the Singapore Chinese Orchestra, Asian Cultural Symphony Orchestra, Ensemble Æquilibrium, and the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts Orchestra.</p> <p>As a serial award winner, Jie Qing has won prizes at the yangqin solo open category in the National Arts Council Chinese Music Competition 2018, Nanyang International Music Competition, and ensemble category at the National Chinese Music Competition 2016. As a soloist and chamber musician, Jie Qing has premiered works from esteemed composers including Qi Haodi (China), Emily Koh (USA), Joyce Koh (Singapore), and strives to be an advocate for contemporary creations on the yangqin.</p> <p>Jie Qing holds a Bachelor of Music with First Class Honours from the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, where she majored in yangqin under the tutelage of Qu Jian Qing, Principal yangqin of the Singapore Chinese Orchestra. She also studied with Ma Ying Jun of the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, China, during her time as an exchange student.</p>
	<p>Yvonne Tay, Guzheng</p> <p>An award-winning guzheng musician of Ding Yi Music Company since 2012, Yvonne Tay has extensive experience performing internationally and is a passionate educator. A recipient of the prestigious National Arts Council Arts Scholarship (Undergraduate) in 2015, Tay mastered the guzheng under the tutelage of Madam Yin Qun at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA). She was named Best Graduate as she emerged with a Bachelor of Music (First Class Honours) conferred in 2017 by the Royal College of Music, which invited her to London to stage a solo recital that same year.</p> <p>Tay was a soloist at the opening ceremony of the Youth Olympic Games 2010, which was televised live globally. She performed a guzheng solo Wonder Full, composed by late Cultural Medallion winner Iskandar Mirza Ismail, for the 2011 premiere of the Marina Bay Sands Light and Water Spectacular. Her solo recording was again showcased at the 2014 countdown. In 2021, Tay was invited once again to record for Marina Bay Singapore Countdown 2021: Light Projection Show – Share the Moment, composed Phang Kok Jun.</p> <p>Under the banner of Ding Yi, Tay staged sold-out joint solo recitals Proteges of Brilliance in June 2013, and Onwards in April 2018 to critical acclaim.</p>

	<p>Her guzheng playing techniques are in the Phoenix Orchestra sample library of traditional Chinese instrumentation and techniques performed by Ding Yi, recorded by Orchestral Tools in 2018. She also performed on the original soundtrack of the Disney movie Mulan in 2019. In 2022, she premiered the local symphony orchestra version of Ru Shi with the Asian Cultural Symphony Orchestra.</p> <p>She is an adjunct lecturer with the Singapore Raffles Music College and an instructor with several guzheng ensembles in Singapore, and is frequently invited as a guest lecturer, speaker, and an adjudicator.</p> <p>She co-founded the award-winning professional guzheng trio Z3nith Ensemble in 2014, and in March 2022, Tay staged a multisensory concert of music and gastronomy, Music Kneads, as its artistic director and producer.</p> <p>Tay is the secretary-general of Singapore Qinzheng Association and a member of Singapore Chinese Music Federation Youth Chapter.</p>
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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>