

Composium 2026

The 5th Singapore International Composition Competition for Chinese Chamber Music



OPEN CALL FOR COMPOSITIONS

Submission Deadline: 1st July 2026, 6pm SGT

Composium 2026, the 5th Singapore International Composition Competition for Chinese chamber music, aims to promote international awareness towards Chinese chamber ensembles and their music.

Led by Ding Yi Music Company, Composium is a composition festival which comprises three segments, a composition competition, a series of symposiums, and a series of concerts. Through this platform, Ding Yi hopes to provide a platform for composers of all nationalities and ages to write Chinese chamber music and establishing a wide repertoire of Chinese chamber works.

Composium 2026 is slated to be a multi-day festival in July and August in Singapore and Thailand. Since 2012, we have received hundreds of composition submissions from both local and international composers. A panel of internationally-acclaimed composers will be invited to serve as adjudicators and speakers at this event.

- **Composition Competition**

The competition consists of two stages - a preliminary round and an open rehearsal (final round). Up to eight finalists will be selected for the open rehearsal (final round). Through this open rehearsal format, composers engage in dialogue with the adjudicators, conductor, and musicians, receiving direct artistic feedback while the adjudication continues through their responses, articulation, and demonstrated understanding of their work. The finalists' works will subsequently be performed by Ding Yi Music Company at the Prize-winner Concert, during which the competition results will be announced.

In *Composium 2026*, a new category for Western String Quartet with Chinese instrument will be introduced, expanding the compositional scope of the competition and encouraging cross-cultural exploration.

- **Symposium**

A series of panel discussions/workshops/talks by renowned composers on Chinese chamber music, available in-person and live-streamed.

A new thematic focus, "East Meets West", will frame discussions on cross-cultural collaboration, instrumentation, and compositional approaches across musical traditions.

- **Concerts**

Composium 2026 will feature two main public concerts:

- A **Prize-winner Concert** in Singapore, showcasing the finalists' works performed by Ding Yi Music Company
- An **Adjudicator Compositions Concert** in Thailand, featuring works by the invited adjudicators
- In addition, **Mahidol University** will participate as a key partner, with its musicians performing works from the **Western String Quartet + Chinese Instrumental Quartet** category, further reinforcing the festival's East-West dialogue and international collaboration.

About Ding Yi Music Company

Established in 2007, Ding Yi Music Company is recognised as one of Singapore's most prodigious Chinese chamber ensemble with a vast repertoire ranging from traditional Chinese music to contemporary and cross-genre work, bringing the best Chinese chamber music to the Singapore and international stage.

Ding Yi believes that the composition, interpretation and performance of traditional Chinese chamber music can transport people to different realms and times – from the historic to the contemporary and avant-garde, from places exotic to familiar, from the sensual to the surreal. Their creative diversity is evident from programmes that explore various artistic elements, forms and genres.

For more information, please visit www.dingyimusic.com

Call for Composition 2026 Details

Categories

Category	Instrumentation
A	<p>Full ensemble category Chamber works should be written for all the following instruments. This is based on Ding Yi's instrumentation and full ensemble size of thirteen (13) musicians.</p> <p>1 <i>Dizi</i> 1 <i>Sheng</i>* 1 <i>Yangqin</i> 1 <i>Pipa</i> 1 <i>Zhongruan / Daruan</i> 1 <i>Guzheng</i> 1 Percussion* 4 <i>Huqin</i>#* 1 Cello 1 Double Bass</p>

B (NEW)	<p>East Meets West category (Western String Quartet + Chinese Instrumental Quartet)</p> <p>Smaller chamber works, of eight (8) musicians should be written in the following choice of instrumentation:</p> <p>Western String Quartet (2 Violin, Viola, Cello) with any 4 Chinese instruments from Ding Yi's instrumentation.</p> <p>Example:</p> <p>Acceptable: Western String Quartet + Dizi + Sheng + Percussion + Pipa OR Western String Quartet + 4 Huqin</p> <p>NOT Acceptable: Western String Quartet + 3 Pipas + 1 Huqin</p>
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- * Please refer to Annex A for the detailed list of instruments available for composition.
- # Any combination within the list of Huqin in Annex A is allowed.

Important Note:

1. For every submission, participant must select either Category A **AND/OR** Category B, and to follow the instrumentation stated strictly. Any submission which does not adhere to the instrumentation will not be considered.
2. All submitted works must strictly adhere to Ding Yi's score format, instrumentation, and each instrument's idiomatic range as provided in Annex A. Participants are not allowed to add new instruments or number of musicians beyond the instrumentation list.
3. All submissions are not allowed to be written for Solo or Concerto format.
4. Participants are allowed to submit for both categories but limited to 1 submission per category. Submitting more than one work per category will lead to disqualification.

Duration

Submitted works should range from 6 – 8 minutes.

Awards & Prizes

	Award	Prize
Category A	Composition Award, 1 st	SGD 2,000
	Composition Award, 2 nd	SGD 1,500
	Composition Award, 3 rd	SGD 800
Category B	Composition Award, 1 st	SGD 2,000
	Composition Award, 2 nd	SGD 1,500
	Composition Award, 3 rd	SGD 800
Special	Young Singaporean Composer Award ⁺	SGD 500
	Audience Choice Award [^]	SGD 200

First Prize Winners will have an opportunity to be offered a 1-year Composer Fellowship with Ding Yi Music Company. They will also be offered opportunities and commissions by Ding Yi Music Company.

- + The Young Singaporean Composer Award is exclusively for participants who are Singaporeans or Singapore Permanent Residents aged 35 years and below (as of 31 December 2026).
- ^ The Audience Choice Award will be based on audience voting during the Prize Presentation Concert.

Eligibility

The competition is open to composers of all nationalities and ages.

Submissions must be original composition of the composer (works that have not been performed or published prior to the competition).

Adjudication

The panel of adjudicators are as follows:

Adjudicator (Chairman)	叶聰 Tsung Yeh (Singapore)
Preliminary Round Adjudicators	陈牧声 Chen Mu Sheng (China)
	刘青 Liu Qing (China)
	李元貞 Yuanchen Li (USA)
	钟启荣 Chong Kee Yong (Malaysia)
	Eric Watson (Singapore)
Final Round Adjudicators	叶小纲 Ye Xiao Gang (China)
	郝维亚 Hao Wei Ya (China)
	陈永华 Chan Wing-Wah (Hong Kong, SAR)
	Narong Prangcharoen (Thailand)
	罗伟伦 Law Wai Lun (Singapore)

1. All finalists and prize winners of the competition will be selected by the panel of adjudicators.
2. Adjudicators' decisions are final and any form of correspondence will not be entertained.
3. The panel reserves the right not to award any prizes for any category if the submissions are deemed not to have sufficient merit within the category.
4. During the preliminary selection, the submissions will not display the names of the participants, and all submissions will be judged anonymously based solely on the merits of the work. Names of selected finalists will only be revealed after the preliminary round.
5. In the open rehearsals (final round), finalists will also be assessed based on his/her ability to articulate compositional intentions as well as their interactions with the Panel of Adjudicators, musicians and conductor at *Composium 2026*. Participants are encouraged to join physically in Singapore, with Ding Yi providing 2 nights of accommodation for International Finalists.

Submission Requirements

All participants must submit the following documents in **soft copy only**.

The deadline for submission is **1 July 2026, 18:00hrs SGT (Singapore Time) UTC/GMT +8 hours**.

Wherever possible, applicants are encouraged to submit their works before the final deadline.

Please email the required documents listed below to admin@dingyimusic.com:

- i. Completed registration form (Annex B), affixed with a recent passport sized photograph and identification document that indicates clearly the name, age and nationality of the participant.
- ii. Biography of the participant in both English and Chinese language. (about 200 to 250 words)
- iii. Programme synopsis/notes in both English and Chinese language. (about 100 to 150 words)
- iv. Full score in Sibelius 7 or 8 (.sib), Dorico 5 or 6 (.dorico) or Finale version 27.4.1, bearing the title of the work and name of the participant. Handwritten scores will not be accepted.
- v. Full score in PDF (.pdf) format without the name of the participant.
- vi. Midi realization (or sample recording) of the submitted composition with the title of the piece as the file name. It must be free from names or any form of identification to the participant.

Scores and documents submitted will not be returned.

All participants must provide a valid email address and other contact details as participants will be issued an acknowledgement by email from the organiser within FOURTEEN (14) days upon receipt of submission.

Terms and Conditions

1. Submitted work must be an original piece scored for Chinese music ensemble according to the layout requirements by Ding Yi Music Company.
2. Ding Yi Music Company reserves the worldwide performance rights and publication rights of the score for TWO (2) years for all finalist entries.
3. Ding Yi Music Company reserves the rights to record, publish and promote the finalists' works within THREE (3) years from 1st September 2026.

4. Ding Yi Music Company reserves the rights to terminate the competition in the event that the number of submissions fails to reach a certain quota. In that event, prizes will not be awarded.
5. Finalists are required to send their part scores to Ding Yi Music Company within THREE (3) days upon receiving notification of their selection into the Final Round.
6. All Singapore-based finalists will be required to attend all *Composium 2026* activities physically; while overseas finalists are to attend the *Composium 2026* activities physically/online, where applicable.
7. Ding Yi Music Company reserves the right to change, amend, modify, suspend, continue or terminate the terms and conditions of *Composium 2026* at any time, without prior notice. Updated terms and conditions will be posted on the website www.dingyimusic.com/composium2026. Interested participants are encouraged to check the Ding Yi Music Company's website regularly.

**This Application Form comes in both English and Chinese versions. In the event of any discrepancies, the English version shall prevail.*

Composium 2026 Schedule

1 February 2026	Open Call for Scores Submission
1 July 2026 (18:00 hrs SGT)	Scores Submission Deadline
5 - 8 July 2026	Preliminary Round Thailand International Composition Festival & Adjudicator Compositions Concert
8 July 2026	Finalists Announcement during Adjudicator Compositions Concert
29 & 30 August 2026	Open Rehearsals (Final Round) Composium 2026



Contact Details

If there are any queries, please contact Ding Yi Music Company via email or WeChat;

Ding Yi Office Number: +65 6345 9908
E-mail Address: admin@dingyimusic.com
WeChat ID 微信: dymccomposium
OR scan the following QR Code (WeChat)
to contact Ding Yi Music Company:



To find out more, do visit www.dingyimusic.com/composium2026 or Ding Yi's Facebook page www.facebook.com/dingyimusic.

Annex B

**Composium 2026
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Chinese Chamber Music**

English Name (Underline Last Name)		Chinese Name (if applicable)	(Affix Photo Here)
Nationality	Gender	Date of Birth (DDMMYYYY)	
	M / F		
Place of Birth		Age (As of 31 December 2026)	
Mailing Address		Postal Code	
Contact Number		E-mail Address	
Participating Category (Please circle the chosen option)			
Category A		Category B	
Full ensemble category According to Ding Yi's instrumentation of 13 musicians		East Meets West category (Western String Quartet + Chinese Instrumental Quartet)	
Title of Composition (English and Chinese)	Category (A or B)	Duration	
1.			
2.			
With this completed registration form, please submit the following items to Ding Yi Music Company at admin@dingyimusic.com by 1 July 2026, 18:00 hrs SGT:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Biography of participant in English and Chinese (200 to 250 words). 2. Programme notes (100 to 150 words). 3. Full score in Sibelius 7 or 8 (.sib), Dorico 5 or 6 (.dorico) or Finale version 27.4.1, with the name of the participant. Handwritten scores will not be accepted. 4. Full score in PDF (.pdf) format, <u>without</u> the name of the participant. 			



5. MIDI realisation (or sample recording) of the submitted composition with the title of the piece as the file name, without the name of the participant.

* Late submissions will not be entertained.

By signing this form,

1. I declare that all information provided above is true to the best of my knowledge.
2. I declare that the work submitted is an original and unaided composition.
3. I have read and understood, and will abide to the Terms and Conditions stated in the "Open Call for Compositions" document.

Signature of Participant	Date