

Press Release 新闻稿

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For Immediate Release

Ding Yi Music Company Opens 2026/27 Season with Traversing: A Cross-Cultural Musical Journey

Singapore, 20 March 2026 – Ding Yi Music Company launches its 2026/27 season with *Traversing*, a season-opening concert that embraces music without borders. Conceived as a journey across cultures, traditions, and sonic landscapes, the programme brings together diverse musical languages from East and West, reimagined through the distinctive sound-world of a contemporary Chinese chamber ensemble.

“Traversing reflects the spirit of our new season theme, 《‘樂’无界》 — music without borders,” said Wong De Li (Dedric), Resident Conductor of Ding Yi Music Company. “Together with our Chief Artistic Mentor, Maestro Tsung Yeh, we bring composers and musicians from diverse cultural and musical backgrounds. This season and its opening concert continue our exploration of how contemporary Chinese chamber music can connect with the wider musical world and shape the classics of tomorrow.”



Led by Ding Yi’s Chief Artistic Mentor Tsung Yeh, *Traversing* highlights the artistic exchange between composers, performers, and cultures. Composers engage with musical traditions beyond their own, offering new perspectives shaped by different cultural influences.

A key highlight of the evening is the presentation of two newly commissioned works: *Celtic Knots* by Cultural Medallion recipient Eric Watson and *Sing a Pura* by Chinese composer Su Xiao. Drawing on traditional Welsh, Scottish, and Irish folk melodies, *Celtic Knots* interweaves these musical threads in intricate patterns inspired by both Celtic and Chinese knot symbolism, with melodies shaped around the pentatonic scale shared by both traditions.

In *Sing a Pura*, Su Xiao reflects on Singapore's iconic Merlion, facing the sea as a symbol of the nation's openness to the world and its forward-looking spirit. The music echoes the city's quiet elegance and cultural depth, inviting listeners into a contemplative dialogue with the city, its history, and its aspirations.

The programme also includes Koh Cheng Jin's *Tang: Moonlit Fragrance*, a vibrant homage to the artistic spirit of the Tang dynasty, alongside Jon Lin Chua's arrangement of *Hungarian Rhapsody Op. 68*, performed by Ding Yi cellist Bekhzod Oblayorov, showcasing the virtuosic energy and expressive flair of the instrument.

Another highlight is Tang Jianping's *Guzheng Concerto: Luo Shen*, performed by Ding Yi's guzheng soloist Yvonne Tay. Inspired by the legendary tale of the Goddess of the Luo River, the work reveals the delicate colours and expressive range of the guzheng.

The concert will also feature internationally acclaimed pianist Ning An—Third Prize Winner of the 1999 Queen Elisabeth Competition and First Prize Winner of the 2000 National Chopin Piano Competition—who joins Ding Yi in *Piano Concerto: Youth*, a work brimming with youthful vitality and lyrical expression.

As the opening concert of the new season, *Traversing* reflects Ding Yi Music Company's continued commitment to artistic innovation and cross-cultural dialogue. Through collaborations with composers and performers from different musical backgrounds, the ensemble continues to expand the possibilities of contemporary Chinese chamber music while engaging audiences with new listening experiences.

Worldly, curious, and inviting, *Traversing* sets the tone for Ding Yi's 2026/27 season, one that positions the ensemble as a platform for artistic exchange.

Traversing will be held on 11 April 2026 (Saturday), 7.30pm at the Victoria Concert Hall. Tickets are available for public sales at \$45 and \$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

- A. Concert Poster Artwork
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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/iug77u38z2rljyz52uget/AGtjseis4Gv1T7_0Grp2Yql?rlkey=r8njjeq3i1ph429js9jlungin&st=zxf60de0&dl=0

Image	Write up
	<p>Tsung Yeh, Chief Artistic Mentor</p> <p>Tsung Yeh joined the Singapore Chinese Orchestra (SCO) as Music Director in January 2002. Under his direction, SCO expanded its repertoire with innovative works such as Marco Polo and Princess Blue — A Symphonic Epic, Instant is a Millennium— A Musical Conversation with Tan Swie Hian, The Grandeur of Tang, Thunderstorm, Admiral of the Seven Seas and Awakening. In 2013, Tsung Yeh was awarded the Cultural Medallion, the highest accolade in the arts in Singapore. He is also the advisor to the Singapore Youth Chinese Orchestra.</p> <p>As Music Director of Singapore’s National Day Parade 2007, Tsung Yeh conceptualised a symphonic music structure with supreme, textured virtuosity that incensed the national pride in the air. His illustrious career spans beyond Singapore; he served as the Music Director of the South Bend Symphony Orchestra (SBSO) in the United States from 1988 to 2016 and holds the esteemed title of Conductor Laureate by the SBSO Association. His international collaborations include renowned orchestras from San Francisco, Tokyo, Shanghai, and more.</p> <p>In the realm of education, Tsung Yeh is a distinguished professor at the China Conservatory of Music and a guest professor at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. He imparts his expertise through conducting workshops and masterclasses globally, with recent appointments including Principal Guest Conductor of the China National Traditional Orchestra and roles in prestigious institutions like the Jiangsu Centre for the Performing Arts and the He Luting Chinese Music Research Institute of the Shanghai Conservatory of Music.</p>



Bekhzod Oblayorov, Cello

Born in Uzbekistan in 2001, Bekhzod Oblayorov began his studies with Kamola Abdullaeva in Tashkent and later continued under the guidance of Ng Pei Sian (Principal Cello of SSO) and Leslie Tan (former member of the Tang Quartet and Singapore Symphony Orchestra) at the National University of Singapore's Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, graduating with honours in 2023.

He has attended masterclasses led by world-renowned musicians such as Suren Bagratuni, Alexey Seleznov, Daniel Veis, Shlomo Mintz, Qian Zhou, and the Curtis String Quartet, further honing his craft.

Oblayorov has performed at the Esplanade Concert Hall, Victoria Concert Hall, Cambodia Royal Palace, Saratov and Samara Philharmonic Society, and the National Conservatory of Uzbekistan, among others.

In 2017, he won the First Prize in the Ilyos Ibrogimov National Cello Competition in Uzbekistan. He also participated in the International Cello Competition I. Knushevitsky (Russia, 2018), secured 2nd prize in the Young Talent International Competition (Uzbekistan, 2018), and performed at the Yuriy Bashmet International Festival (Russia, 2018).

Oblayorov also shares a passion for jazz, having participated in the International UNESCO Jazz Festival in Uzbekistan from 2015 to 2019.

Oblayorov currently performs on a 1810 J. Hammig from Germany, and has been a Ding Yi musician since 2024.



Yvonne Tay, Guzheng

Award-winning Singaporean guzheng performer Yvonne Tay is recognised for her “deeply expressive and refined” performances. Praised by reviewers for balancing technical clarity with emotional depth, her musical voice seamlessly bridges heritage with contemporary expression. Under the tutelage of Mdm Yin Qun, Yvonne holds a Bachelor of Music (First Class Honours) from RCM-NAFA, where she was a recipient of the National Arts Council Arts Scholarship and the NAFA Best Graduate Award.

A full-time musician with Ding Yi Music Company, Yvonne has performed extensively across Asia, Europe, and North America. As a versatile soloist, she has appeared with the Singapore Chinese Orchestra and the China National Symphony Orchestra, and notably featured as the guzheng musician on Disney's *Mulan* original motion picture soundtrack.

	<p>Beyond performing, Yvonne is the Artistic Director of Music Kneads, where she curated and staged a multisensory concert of music and gastronomy. She currently serves as Secretary General of the Singapore Qinzheng Association and Member of the SCMF Youth Chapter, contributing to cultural leadership and youth development. An experienced educator, she is a lecturer at Singapore Raffles Music College and a dedicated instructor of guzheng ensembles in Primary and Secondary schools.</p>
	<p>Ning An, Piano</p> <p>Pianist Ning An is a rare pianist who has been hailed as a musician who “combines a flawless technique and mastery of the instrument with an expressive power that is fueled by profound and insightful understanding.” (New York Concert Review) His top prizes from the Queen Elizabeth, Cleveland, and William Kapell Piano Competitions led to performances at Carnegie’s Weill Recital Hall, Salle Verdi (Milan), and the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China. He has been invited to perform at numerous festivals, including the International Chopin Festival in Duszynski, Poland, the Gina Bachauer Piano Festival in Salt Lake City, New Hampshire’s Monadnock Music Festival, the Bourglinster Festival in Luxembourg, and the Interlaken Music Festival in Switzerland. A passionate chamber musician, An has performed with distinguished groups such as the Ysaye, Daedalus, and Takacs Quartets as well as instrumentalists James Ehnes, Paul Neubauer, and Andres Diaz.</p> <p>Since making his orchestral debut at the age of 16 with the Cleveland Orchestra, An has been a featured soloist with orchestras that include the London Symphony Orchestra, Moscow Radio Symphony Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony, the Stuttgart Philharmonic, Tivoli Symphony Orchestra, the Belgian National Symphony, the Flemish Radio Symphony, and many more under the batons of conductors such as Vladimir Fedosyev, Jorg-Peter Weigle, Rafael Fruhbeck de Burgos, and others. An was also a featured soloist on the 100th Anniversary American tour made by the Warsaw Philharmonic under the direction of Maestro Kazimierz Kord.</p> <p>In recent years, An has increased his travels to Asia, where he made solo debuts in the National Grand Theatre in Beijing as well as the major concert halls of Shanghai, Guanzhou and Shenzhen. Recent concerto appearances have included the National Symphony Orchestra of Taiwan as well as the Guangzhou and Shenzhen Symphony Orchestras.</p> <p>Ning An has also been a top prize winner of the Paloma O’Shea Santander Competition, the Tivoli International Piano Competition,</p>

	<p>the Rachmaninoff International Piano Competition, the National Chopin Competition, the American Pianist Association and the Alfred Cortot Prize winner of the International Chopin Piano Competition. He began his musical studies at the Cleveland Institute of Music with Olga Radosavljevich and Sergei Babayan. Subsequently, An continued his studies under the tutelage of Russell Sherman at the New England Conservatory of Music.</p> <p>As a frequent guest lecturer, An has given masterclasses throughout the United States and Asia. He has served previously on the piano faculty of Lee University and California State University Fullerton. He is currently an Associate Professor at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music in Singapore.</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>