

Press Release 新闻稿

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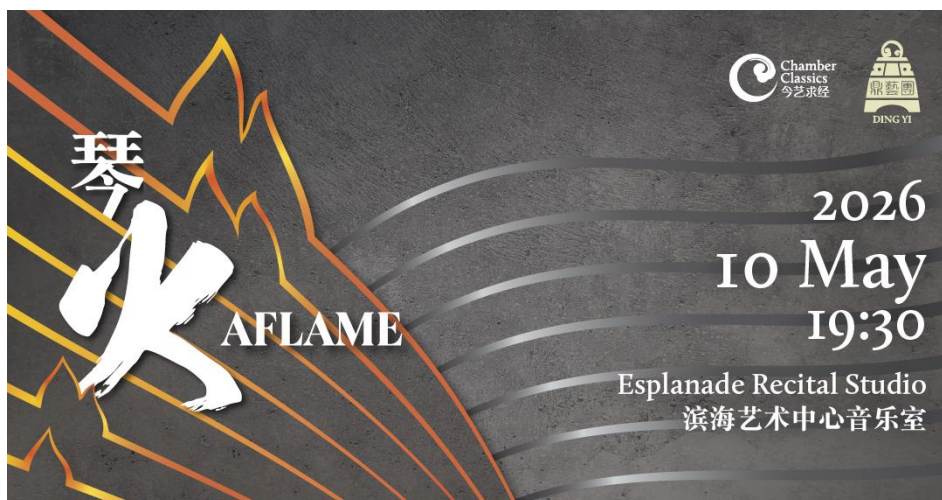


For Immediate Release

***Ding Yi Music Company presents AFLAME: Where Yangqin Meets Cymbalom
with Olivier Ochanine and Matej Cip***

Singapore, 24 April 2026 – Ding Yi Music Company presents *AFLAME*, a concert that explores how sound across traditions can ignite, evolve, and transform — much like fire itself. Co-curated by Ding Yi Concertmaster Fred Chan Hong Wei and yangqin soloist Tan Jie Qing, the concert features Czech cymbalom virtuoso Matej Cip as soloist and is guest-conducted by French-American Olivier Ochanine.

Centred on Chinese chamber music, *AFLAME* brings the yangqin into dialogue with the cymbalom. Rooted in different traditions, these two instruments are united by their bright, percussive energy and expressive range.



“This concert is about setting sound aflame,” said Fred Chan Hong Wei, Concertmaster and curator of the concert. “What interests me is not the image of fire, but its nature, how it transforms, refines, and reveals. In that process, music is shaped until only its most essential voice remains.”

Tan Jie Qing, co-curator and yangqin soloist concurred. “This programme brings the yangqin into dialogue with the cymbalom, not as solo voices, but as part of a shared sound world. Each work connects and responds to the next, allowing the music to unfold as a continuous journey rather than a series of isolated pieces.”

The programme is anchored by a series of premieres that highlight this dialogue. Kenwy Ho's *Fiery Clouds* (local premiere) draws on the ever-changing forms of clouds, reflecting the composer's shifting emotions and perspectives across time and states of mind. In contrast, Liu Chang's *Ethereal Swift* (local premiere) is a refined yangqin solo that showcases the instrument's crystalline clarity and delicate percussive timbre.

Wu Junsheng's *Night of the Torch Festival* (arr. Wong Wai Kit) and Jaromir Dadak's *Concertino for Cymbalom and Chinese Chamber Ensemble* (adapted by Yu Lei) will receive their world premieres in newly adapted versions for Chinese chamber ensemble. The former paints a vivid scene of the Yi people's Torch Festival, a celebration central to their cultural heritage, capturing its vibrancy and spirit, while Dadak's *Concertino* is a notable work in the cymbalom repertoire, blending Neo-Baroque energy with rich modal colours and polyphonic writing.

The programme is further complemented by Li Bochan's *Dukezong*, inspired by the ancient town, and JunYi Chow's *Momentum III*, a piece that channels a driving, flame-like intensity.

AFLAME will be held on 10 May 2026 (Sunday), 7.30pm at the Esplanade Recital Studio. Tickets are available for public sales at \$35 (excluding booking fees) on SISTIC [here](#). Concession tickets at S\$20 for students, senior citizens (aged 60 years and above) & NSFs. OCBC Arts Platinum Card members enjoy a 10% discount. Terms and conditions apply.



Tan Jie Qing (left), Co-curator and Yangqin soloist with Fred Chan Hong Wei, Curator and Concertmaster

Annexes

- A. Concert Poster Artwork
- B. Featured Artists' Biographies
- C. Ding Yi Music Company Information and Materials

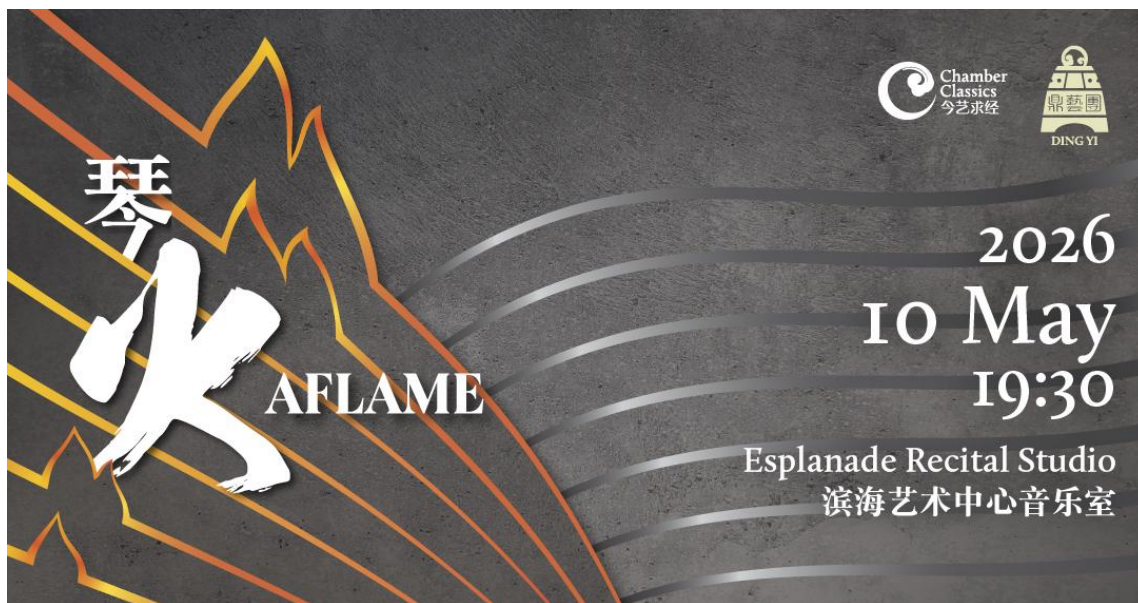
About Ding Yi Music Company

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/im9wo24d4wj50oxmlmqgi/AK1p8G2BQQITuSpB4tc-d7l?rlkey=ep6g9drlztg49dw3kfchqxpep&st=3mlrp24z&dl=0>

Image	Write up
	<p>Olivier Ochanine, Guest Conductor</p> <p>Internationally acclaimed for his expressive artistry, bold programming, and charismatic leadership, Olivier Ochanine is a conductor whose musical vision bridges continents. A first-prize winner of the Antal Dorati International Conducting Competition, Ochanine has led celebrated performances across Europe, Asia, and North America, including appearances at the prestigious Carnegie Hall. Previously, Ochanine served as the Music Director of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, where he was the youngest to ever hold that position. During his tenure, he led the orchestra in its historic U.S. debut at Carnegie Hall, marking a milestone that significantly elevating its international profile. A passionate advocate for musical education and outreach, Ochanine is committed to making classical music accessible and relevant. His programs often balance beloved masterpieces with lesser-known gems, showcasing his belief in music as both a cultural bridge and a force for inspiration.</p> <p>Founding Music Director of Vietnam's Sun Symphony Orchestra, he has rapidly built and transformed the ensemble into one of Southeast Asia's most dynamic orchestras, earning praise for elegant interpretations, compelling programming. Under his leadership, the orchestra has collaborated with world-renowned artists including Jean-Yves Thibaudet, Placido Domingo, Dang Thai Son, Sergei Nakaryakov, Joshua Bell and countless others. He has led concerts with the Moscow State Symphony Orchestra, Thailand Philharmonic Orchestra, Slovak State Philharmonic Orchestra Košice, Győr Philharmonic Orchestra, Budapest MAV Symphony Orchestra and many others.</p>
	<p>Fred Chan Hong Wei, Curator / Concertmaster</p> <p>Fred Chan Hong Wei is an accomplished erhu musician, orchestra conductor, and educator, currently serving as Concertmaster of Ding Yi Music Company in Singapore. With over a decade of professional experience in Chinese music, he is widely respected for his artistic versatility, ensemble leadership, and long-standing dedication to music education.</p> <p>Fred holds both Bachelor and Master of Fine Arts degrees in Erhu Performance from the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing.</p>

	<p>During his studies, he was awarded the Chinese Government Full Scholarship and the Beijing Outstanding Foreign Students' Scholarship in recognition of his academic and artistic excellence. He studied under renowned erhu virtuoso Professor Zhao Hanyang and banhu Professor Hu Yu, and further received mentorship from erhu virtuosos including Yan Jiemin, Tian Zaili, Wang Ying, and Zhou Lingyan. He was also selected as a gaohu musician with the China Youth Chinese Orchestra.</p> <p>Born in Kedah and raised in Penang, Malaysia, Fred began his musical training under the mentorship of Lim Soon Huat and Lim Soon Lay. He quickly assumed leadership roles within local youth orchestras before pursuing professional training in China.</p> <p>As a performer, Fred has appeared at major concert stages and international festivals across Asia. He is a prize-winner of several international competitions, including First Prize at the Hua Yue Zhi Yun International Erhu Competition and the Malaysia National Chinese Instrumental Solo Competition. He has presented two critically well-received solo recitals in Beijing (2015 and 2017). Since joining Ding Yi Music Company in 2014, he has been actively involved in numerous Chinese chamber music and cross-disciplinary performances and has premiered several significant new chamber works.</p> <p>Alongside his performance career, Fred is an established conductor and educator, having mentored numerous students who have achieved top prizes in major domestic and international music competitions. He works extensively with youth orchestras and chamber ensembles. His educational contributions include leading workshops, conducting music leadership camps, and regularly serving as an adjudicator for national-level Chinese music competitions. Through his performing, conducting, and teaching, Fred continues to shape the next generation of musicians while contributing meaningfully to the ongoing evolution of Chinese music in the contemporary arts landscape.</p>
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Tan Jie Qing, Co-Curator / Yangqin

Tan Jie Qing is a yangqin musician with Ding Yi Music Company in Singapore. She graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Yangqin Performance from the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, where she studied under renowned yangqin virtuoso Qu Jianqing, Principal Yangqin of the Singapore Chinese Orchestra. She furthered her studies with Ma Yingjun, a young faculty member of the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing.

Jie Qing began learning the yangqin at the age of 13 under the guidance of Chen Yu Tat. In her early years, she was a member of the Chinese Orchestra of Foon Yew High School (Johor Bahru, Malaysia), where she appeared as a yangqin soloist at the school's annual concert, performing *Beautiful Africa* with the orchestra and demonstrating remarkable musical talent. She later moved to Singapore to continue her studies, embarking on a professional career as a yangqin performer.

In recent years, Jie Qing has been an active presence in Singapore's Chinese music scene and has received numerous accolades, including First Prize in the Yangqin Solo Open Category at the National Chinese Music Competition Singapore (2018), Third Prize in the Solo Open Category at the Nanyang International Music Competition (2017), and Third Prize in the Ensemble Category at the National Chinese Music Competition (2016). Besides being the resident yangqin musician with Ding Yi Music Company, she is a former Principal Yangqin of the Singapore National Youth Chinese Orchestra and has collaborated with ensembles including the Singapore Symphony Orchestra, Singapore Chinese Orchestra, Asian Cultural Symphony Orchestra, Ensemble *Æquilibrium*, and the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts Orchestra. She is currently a guest musician with the Singapore Chinese Orchestra, while continuing to actively promote the art of the yangqin.

Jie Qing has collaborated closely with Ding Yi Music Company in premiering numerous contemporary yangqin works in Singapore, including *Ten-Mile Red Dowry* by Wang Yun Fei and *Formosan Blue Magpie* by Wu Chia-Yu. She has also appeared frequently in instrumental theatre productions, taking on significant roles such as Hua Mulan in *Mulan* and Consort Yu in *The Warlords*. Through the yangqin's distinctive timbre and expressive range, she brings nuanced emotional depth to these characters, breaking away from traditional performance formats and exploring the boundless possibilities at the intersection of music and theatre.

	<p>Jie Qing has performed internationally in countries and regions including China, Canada, Taiwan, the Czech Republic, and South Korea, and has premiered numerous chamber works. She continues to expand her international outlook, bringing the art of the yangqin to broader and more diverse stages.</p>
	<p>Matej Cip, Cimbalom</p> <p>Matej Cip is a rising cimbalom virtuoso and cultural ambassador originally from Hodslavice, Czech Republic. He discovered his passion for the cimbalom at the age of eight and trained under the country’s foremost educators, including professors Ruzena Decka and Daniel Skala. His artistry has earned him numerous awards — most recently the Grand Prize at the 2025 International Cimbalom Competition – the highest honor in the field.</p> <p>Matej began his academic journey in the United States at Northern State University, where he became the first-ever university-level cimbalom student in the country. He later expanded his artistic and cultural horizons at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing; there, he pioneered collaborations between the cimbalom and traditional Chinese instruments, including a celebrated performance at the 2022 Winter Olympics.</p> <p>In 2023, Matej completed his Master’s degree at Berklee College of Music – Berklee NYC. Now based in New York City, he performs regularly and leads innovative projects that bridge tradition with modern expression.</p> <p>Matej has performed at prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall and Trinity Church Wall Street and has presented lectures and concerts at institutions such as The Juilliard School, NYU, Berklee, and the University of Chicago.</p> <p>He actively contributes to events organised by the Czech Center New York and the Consulate General of the Czech Republic. His most recent collaboration is with avant-garde Czech icon Iva Bittova. In 2024, he was elected President of the Hong Kong-based International Dulcimer Arts Alliance, where he devotes himself to promote global appreciation and collaboration among artists of dulcimer-type instruments.</p> <p>Matej performs internationally across Asia, Europe, and the Americas. Through each appearance, he is eager to share his mission: to show that the cimbalom is not merely a historical curiosity, but a living, limitless instrument for the 21st century—one that brings people and cultures closer together.</p>

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>