

Press Release 新闻稿

Ding Yi Music Company Ltd
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For Immediate Release

The Warlords

An instrumental theatre concert to present songs of the warlords through Chinese chamber music

Singapore, 23 September 2022 – Produced by Ding Yi Music Company, *The Warlords*, a refreshing instrumental theatre take on the historical warfare story of the *Chu-Han Contention* (War) showcases the unique blend of contemporary Chinese chamber music and theatre. *The Warlords* will be held on 14 October 2022 (Friday), 8pm at the Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre Auditorium. This programme is part of Ding Yi's 2022 celebratory concerts as we celebrate our 15th year anniversary, *Together with You*.

The Warlords is the second production from the three-year memorandum of understanding between Ding Yi Music Company and Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre. The partnership marks the collaboration to develop programmes that promotes the local Chinese arts and culture, through the presentation of Chinese chamber music.

Presented by 新加坡華族文化藝術中心
Produced by 鼎藝團

THE WARLORDS
楚霸王

DATE 日期:
14 October 2022, Friday
2022年10月14日, 星期五

Time 时间:
8pm
晚上8点

Ticket Price 票价:
\$8

Venue 地点:
Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre Auditorium, Level 9
新加坡華族文化中心表演厅, 九楼

Conductor 指挥: Wong De Li Dedic 黄德励
Director 导演: Danny Yeo 杨君伟
Composer 作曲家: Edmund Song 宋俊杰
Playwright 编剧: Neo Hai Bin 梁海彬

Official Privilege Card: Official Community Partner:

The all-local star-studded artistic team led by conductor Wong De Li Dedic and director Danny Yeo collaborates for the first time ever to reimagine and present *The Warlords*. It features a newly commissioned piece composed by Edmund Song and script by playwright Neo Hai Bin to showcase songs of the warlords through an immersive music-focused theatrical experience.

Following the demise of the Qin dynasty, *Xiang Yu*, the King of (Western) *Chu*, represented by Ding Yi musician Chua Yew Kok on *Pipa* and actor Timothy Wan, provokes and challenges *Liu Bang* from the *Han*, represented by Ding Yi musician Jacky Ng on *Suona* and conductor Wong De Li Detric to a chaotic battle to vie for the coveted empire and throne. The concert also features Ding Yi musician Tan Jieqing on *Yangqin* as *Consort Yu* and musician Eugene Toh on percussion as *Han Xin*, alongside the rest of the ensemble to convey stories of love, betrayal, pride, patriotism, and fear through the unique sounds of each instrument.

This production is Ding Yi's new venture into instrumental theatre concerts. By reimagining the traditional way of storytelling, the performers use instrumental performance as the main medium to depict the characters' feelings, intentions, and emotional turmoil in this historical Chinese warfare story.

With unrest raging in the world, every move is a treacherous step that will decide the fate of many precious lives. This family-friendly concert is a reminder that peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding.

This concert is produced by Ding Yi Music Company and presented by Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre (SCCC). Tickets for *The Warlords* will be available for public sales at \$8 (excluding booking fees) on [SISTIC](#) from 27 September 2022 (Tuesday) onwards. PAssion Card and MeRewards members enjoy a 20% discount. Terms and conditions apply.

Annexes

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

Media Contact



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Concert Poster Artwork



Please download the high-resolution version [here](#).

Featured Artists' Biographies

Image	Write-Up
 <p data-bbox="209 947 624 976">Download high resolution image here.</p>	<p data-bbox="659 342 1082 371">Wong De Li Dedric, Conductor</p> <p data-bbox="659 412 1393 696">Wong De Li, Dedric aspired to be a conductor in his teen years, and his interest was ignited again by the renowned Chinese music educator and Singapore Cultural Medallion recipient Dr Tay Teow Kiat. With his master's degree in orchestral conducting at the China Conservatory of Music in Beijing, under the tutelage of renowned Professor Yang Youqing and guidance from conducting maestro and Music Director of Singapore Chinese Orchestra (SCO) Tsung Yeh, he aims to push Ding Yi up to new heights of artistic excellence and to develop a unique Singaporean musical direction.</p> <p data-bbox="659 734 1393 891">In 2013, Wong was selected to participate in the Conducting Masterclass by renowned conducting maestros Prof Zhang Guoyong and Qu Chunquan, organised by the Taipei Chinese Orchestra. While in 2015, he was again selected to attend the Conducting Workshop by Tsung Yeh, organised by SCO.</p> <p data-bbox="659 929 1393 1086">As a 2014 National Arts Council (NAC) Arts Scholarship recipient and a two-time recipient of the Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan Arts and Cultural Bursary in 2004 and 2006, he has performed in many countries such as China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, the United Kingdom, the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia and Cambodia.</p> <p data-bbox="659 1124 1393 1310">In 2016, Wong staged his conducting recital with the China Conservatory of Music Middle School Youth Chinese Orchestra with reputable conductor Gu Guanren. In the same year, he assumed the conductor role for the Cultural Symphony Orchestra and was also featured as an outstanding NAC scholar in the 2016 Straits Times Scholars Choice.</p>
 <p data-bbox="209 1805 624 1834">Download high resolution image here.</p>	<p data-bbox="659 1361 938 1391">Danny Yeo, Director</p> <p data-bbox="659 1429 1265 1458"><i>Theatre Director, Media Personality, Bilingual Extraordinaire</i></p> <p data-bbox="659 1496 1393 1749">A veteran cross-media practitioner, Danny Yeo is a multi-hyphenate with three decades of rich experience in various fields – radio, television, print, film – and implants himself passionately in theatre directing, acting and creating. In recent years, he has been primarily developing site-specific immersive-interactive theatre productions and has successfully incorporated music and design into participative performances where the audience become an integral part of the show.</p> <p data-bbox="659 1787 1393 1973">Since 1994, he has played leading roles in more than 20 plays, facilitated forum theatre productions, community outreach programmes and training workshops at Drama Box, where he has been a board director since 2005. His directorial debut <i>Bondage</i> (2009) received 5 nominations – including Best Director – at <i>Life! Theatre Awards 2010</i>.</p> <p data-bbox="659 2011 1393 2130">After attending <i>La MaMa's International Symposium for Directors</i> in Italy with a NAC grant, he subsequently presented workshops at SDEA's <i>Theatre Arts Conference 2013</i>, the <i>Intervarsity Theatre Forum 2014</i>, and staged <i>other(s)</i> (2013-2014) at Esplanade's <i>The Studios</i> and a</p>

theatre festival in New York. Other international productions include co-directing the award-winning *Chuang Shi Bu Tian* (2018) with Kok Heng Leun for Shanghai Puppet Theatre in China and writing for mega-production *Destiny* (2018) at Macau's MGM Cotai.

In Singapore, Danny played a pivotal role in Singapore Repertory Theatre's development of Mandarin children musicals where he pioneered the script adaptation efforts, wrote and directed seven The Little Company productions as an Associate Artist (2013-2020). He also directed the critically acclaimed play *Art* (2016) at National Art Gallery to great reviews. Over the years, he has originated a number of innovative theatre series: co-creating/co-directing murder-mystery site-specific *BODY X* with Li Xie (sold-out in 2014 and 2016), writing and directing the *Esplanade FYI Series featuring Chinese Chamber Music* (2015-2018) with Ding Yi Music Company, as well as writing and directing the popular immersive *Child's Play* (2017-2019), commissioned by Esplanade Huayi Festival. Danny wrote, produced and directed giant puppet promenade shows *The Rubbish Prince* (NAC's Arts in Your Neighbourhood 2018) as well as *The Rattle King* for Esplanade's inaugural March On Festival 2021. *BODY X The Culprit* in 2020 was a recipient of NAC's Digital Presentation Grant, the first digital theatre to use Zoom as an interactive, immersive and participative online performance platform, and went out to present five times over the span of a year, including at George Town Festival 2021.

Danny has written for five local movies, published six books in both English and Chinese, winning Page One's *Best-selling Chinese Book* (2007) for *Wei Yan Song Ting* and Singapore Book Awards' *Best Book Cover Design* (2017) for *Yang Sheng Tang*. 2016 saw his return to television, hosting the record-breaking 40-episode talkshow *Face Off*. He is reputed to be the top choice for a male host in infotainment documentaries, having anchored 19 different series from 2016 to 2022. In 2020, he won *Best Current Affairs Presenter (Asia)* at the Asian Academy Creative Awards.



Edmund Song, Composer



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Described with having "richness and variety from his double bass than one would have thought possible" (Straits Times, 2019) and "outstanding" (Straits Times, 2018) for his performances and making regular appearances on the press for his compositions productions, Singaporean composer, performer and curator Edmund Song has been advocating and promoting Asian and Singaporean music and has been letting his heritage be his source of influence for his performances, compositions and productions.

Edmund is known for his effective orchestrations of both Western and Traditional Ethnic instrument or symphonic re-presentations of the traditional arts. Edmund is a frequent guest composer of the Ding Yi Chinese Ensemble (Singapore) and will be premiering his first music theatre work in October 2022. Other than concert pieces, Edmund has produced game music for Game Soul Technology (Taiwan), music production for 24 Gigakus (Sichuan) and EDM for NUS_EMCC "to the beats" (Singapore). Edmund is also a frequent collaborator in the Pop industry writing arrangements for numerous international singers like Nathan Hartono, Rahimah Rahim and Derrick Hoh. In 2022, his composition 《A Joo Chiat Fantasy》 won the first prize with excellence nomination in the 2022 Vivaldi International Music Competition (Composition Category).

	<p>Edmund is currently pursuing a Masters Double Degree at the Jacobs School of Music (USA), studying film scoring with Larry Groupe, composition with PQ Phan & Annie Gosfield and double bass with Kurt Muroki. He was a graduate from the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music (Singapore). Edmund is the composer-in-residence and general manager of the Asian Cultural Symphony Orchestra (Singapore).</p>
 <p>Download high resolution image here.</p>	<p>Neo Hai Bin, Playwright</p> <p>Neo Hai Bin is a performance maker. He is delighted to have made this time-travelling journey with Ding Yi and Director Danny Yeo. How wonderful to have "met" the Hegemon King of Chu, to be inspired by history, and to collectively imagine humanity's future with the audience.</p> <p>He began his theatre debut with Drama Box in 2009, and studied actor's training practices with SCOT (Summer intensive 2014, Japan) and SITI Company (Summer Workshop 2019, NYC).</p> <p>His literary practice involves research works in social issues and the human condition, he writes scripts, poems, prose, critiques, and short stories, which are mainly published in Lianhe Zaobao. Some of his written plays include 招: <i>When The Cold Wind Blows</i> (Singapore Theatre Festival 2018); <i>Cut Kafka!</i> (Esplanade Huayi Festival Commission 2018); <i>Merdeka / 獨立 / சுதந்திரம்</i> (Wild Rice, with Alfian Sa'at, 2019); <i>Tanah•Air 水•土: A Play In Two Parts</i> (Devised with Drama Box, 2019); <i>Being:息在</i> (M1 Fringe Festival 2022).</p> <p>He is part of the theatre reviewers team “劇讀: thea.preter” since 2017. He also co-founded “微.Weii Collective” with lighting designer Liu Yong Huay, creating spatial experiences for participants.</p> <p>He published works include 《房間絮語》 and 《大海的人》, and his writings can be found at: https://thethoughtspavilion.wordpress.com</p>
 <p>Download high resolution image here.</p>	<p>Timothy Wan, Actor</p> <p>Timothy is an actor, singer and musician. He graduated from the National University of Singapore, majoring in Theatre Studies. He is a freelance actor who has actively been involved in both the English and Mandarin theatre scene in Singapore. In 2018, Timothy trained with both the SITI Company in New York, as well as the Suzuki Company of Toga in Toga, Japan.</p> <p><i>Production credits include:</i> Army Daze, The Glass Anatomy, High Class, Red Riding Hood, Firecrackers & Bombshells, Romeo & Juliet: The Musical, Hansel & Gretel, The Nightingale, Junior Claus, Titoudao, The Tempest, December Rains, White Soliloquy, Beauty World, Red Demon, Kumarajiva, Red Sky, Fundamentally Happy, Girl in The White Sand Box, Art Studio, Cut! Kafka, Sometime Moon, Pissed Julie, Lear is Dead, Seven Sages of the Bamboo Grove, Electrify My World, 3 Sisters, Oedipus, The LKY Musical.</p>



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Chua Yew Kok, *Pipa* Soloist

A National Arts Council Young Artist Award Recipient, Chua Yew Kok has forged an impressive career as a *pipa* instrumentalist and as an educator.

Born in Singapore, Chua began his musical pursuits with the *pipa* at the age of 14. Within six years, Chua clinched his first major award, winning 1st prize at the 1998 National Chinese Music Competition, Pipa Open Category. Since his graduation from the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts in 2006, he has pursued his passion avidly. Chua's endeavours were not in vain, for he was awarded the National Arts Council Young Artist Award in 2013 for him to pursue his studies at the China Conservatory of Music.

Chua has also been involved with several notable ensembles and orchestras, including the Singapore Chinese Orchestra. In 2007, he co-founded Ding Yi Music Company, one of Singapore's most distinctive Chinese chamber music ensembles, which he has led to excellence in local and international competitions.

Contributing to the development of Singapore's Chinese orchestral scene, Chua currently serves as the *pipa* soloist of Ding Yi Music Company and the Secretariat of Singapore Pipa Society. He is also a dedicated mentor, doing his part in inspiring the future generation of the Chinese music scene.



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Jacky Ng, *Suona* Soloist

Jacky Ng started his music journey learning suona at the age of 13 under the tutelage of Singapore Chinese Orchestra (SCO) suona musician Liu Jiang. Under his mentor's support, he joined the Singapore National Youth Chinese Orchestra (SNYCO) in 2012 and was appointed as the principal suona and guan musician in 2017. Ng also followed the youth orchestra to perform overseas such as Beijing, Shanghai and Taiwan.

Ng graduated in 2018 from the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) with a Diploma in Music Performance and was the principal of the suona and woodwind section in the NAFA Chinese Orchestra. He is also highly active in the local arts scene where he performed with various arts groups such as Siong Leng Musical Association, Odyssey Dance Theatre, Cappella Martialis and the Reverberance, and also invited as guest suona and guan musician by SCO. He has also staged his debut concerto Nostalgia with Cheng San Chinese Orchestra which inspired his professional music career.

Ng was invited to perform the concerto Farewell My Concubine with the NAFA Chinese Orchestra in 2017. In 2018, at the National Chinese Music Competition organised by the National Arts Council, he was awarded the first runner up in the suona open category.



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Tan Jie Qing, *Yangqin* Soloist

Tan Jie Qing yangqin's journey began at 13, under the tutelage of Chen Yu Tat, she was a member of the Foon Yew High School Chinese Orchestra and since then she began participating in various Chinese music activities in the art scenes. She is currently doing her fourth year of Bachelor of Music (Honours) in the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA), majoring in yangqin under the tutelage of Qu Jian Qing, principal yangqin player from the Singapore Chinese Orchestra.

Tan had also participated in various competitions, including the National Arts Council (NAC) National Chinese Music Competition, clinching the first prize for the yangqin solo open category in 2018 and also the Nanyang International Music Competition, third prize in the yangqin solo open category 2017 and the ensemble category in the NAC National Chinese Music Competition 2016.

She is also a familiar face in the Singapore music scene, playing for various orchestra and ensembles, including the Ding Yi Music Company, the NAFA Chinese Ensemble as yangqin principal, the Singapore National Youth Chinese Orchestra as yangqin principal, and was also featured as a cimbalom player with the NAFA symphony orchestra. Tan also guest played in Singapore Chinese Orchestra and Toa Payoh West CC Chinese Orchestra.



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Eugene Toh, *Percussion* Soloist

Eugene is a percussionist active in the local percussion performance as well as education scene. He has performed under the baton of Tsung Yeh, Lan Shui, Lim Yau, Tan Dun, Chan Tze Law, Quek Ling Kiong, Günther Herbig, among others. Some highlights of his orchestral appearances include the Singapore Chinese Orchestra, Singapore Symphony Orchestra, Metropolitan Festival Orchestra, Singapore Festival Orchestra, Orchestra of the Music Makers, The Philharmonic Orchestra, and The Philharmonic Winds.

Eugene first studied Chinese percussion with Mr Quek Ling Kiong when he joined the Dunman High School Chinese Orchestra at the age of 13. Since then, he had actively explored various fields of percussion under the guidance of teachers such as Nghoh Kheng Seng, Tan Loke Chuah. Eugene holds a Bachelor of Music (Hons) degree conferred by the Royal College of Music, under the tutelage of Mark Suter. From 2015 to 2017, he was a full-time chamber musician with Ding Yi Music Company. He teaches at School of the Arts and the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, and currently studies South Indian percussion under the tutelage of Sri D Rajagopal at the Temple of Fine Arts. He has also studied Middle Eastern percussion with Yshai Afterman, and *konnakol* with Pete Lockett.

Ding Yi Music Company Information and Materials

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