

## Press Release 新闻稿

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For Immediate Release

### ***The first-of-its-kind EConcert***

*An introspection of the world of nature with Chinese chamber music*

**Singapore, 7 November 2023** – Ding Yi Music Company proudly announces the launch of *EConcert*, the first-of-its-kind concert which encapsulates a captivating and thought-provoking journey that delves into the intricate and profound relationship between humanity and the awe-inspiring force of nature through traditional Chinese chamber music.



*EConcert* is an artistic masterpiece that seamlessly blends evocative music and stunning visuals, inviting the audience to contemplate humanity's place in the face of nature's grandeur. Under the creative direction of Wong De Li, Dedic, stage director and dramaturg Ang Xiao Ting, along with Chong Li-Chuan's exquisite soundscapes, compositions by John Sharpley and Yii Kah Hoe and art installations by Quek See Yee and Ferry, this concert is a transformative experience that encourages reflection on the delicate equilibrium between human presence and nature's indomitable spirit.

"Years ago, I encountered a profound piece of art at the ArtScience museum," recounted Wong De Li, Dedic, Ding Yi's Resident Conductor who is also this concert's Creative Director. "It depicted an iceberg in the ocean, but upon closer examination, it revealed itself as a floating plastic bag. I hope to change the perception that music can also wield powerful messaging tools, besides providing pure

entertainment and relaxation. Drawing inspiration from the age-old tradition of Chinese music praising Mother Nature, I aspire that through our music, we can bring awareness to a social message of human's responsibility to protect our beloved Mother Nature."

When asked what audiences could expect from this concert, stage director Ang Xiao Ting added, "Needless to say, the music is absolutely stunning, and the set will integrate an ecoscenographic approach. With this amazing creative team, I hope that the staging can immerse audiences in an environment that evokes hope, wonderment, and a palpable sense of urgency about what it means for urban dwellers to co-exist with the natural environment."

Inspired by the cherished practice of 'forest bathing', *ECONcert* invites the audience to embark on a meditation process about their relationship with the natural environment. With celebrated *Guqin* soloist Zhong Zhi Yue playing a newly commissioned piece, and the soothing embrace of Chinese musical instruments, which have celebrated nature for thousands of years, audiences will be transported into a world where the harmonious coexistence of humans and nature is celebrated.



"Can humans and nature coexist in an urban environment?" This thought-provoking question lies at the heart of *ECONcert*. Ding Yi Music Company invites all on this incredible journey of hope, contemplation, and celebration.

The concert will be held on 15 December 2023 (Friday), 7.30pm at the Esplanade Recital Studio.

Tickets for *ECONcert* are available for public sales at \$28 (excluding booking fees) on SISTIC [here](#). Concession tickets at S\$20 for students, senior citizens (aged 60 years and above) & NSFs. SAFRA Card members, PAssion Card members and OCBC Arts Platinum Card members enjoy a 15% discount, while other OCBC card members enjoy a 10% discount. Terms and conditions apply.

## **Annexes**

- A. Concert Posters 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](http://www.dingyimusic.com).

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Concert Posters Artwork



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

## Featured Artists' Biographies

Image	Write up
	<p><b>Wong De Li, Dedric, Conductor / Creative Director</b></p> <p>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 You Qing and guidance from conducting maestro Tsung Yeh, he aims to push Ding Yi to new heights of artistic excellence and to develop a unique Singaporean musical direction.</p> <p>In 2013, Wong was selected to participate in the Conducting Masterclass by renowned conducting maestros Professor Zhang Guo Yong and Qu Chun Quan, organised by the Taipei Chinese Orchestra. While in 2015, he was again selected to attend the Conducting Workshop by Tsung Yeh, organised by the Singapore Chinese Orchestra.</p> <p>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>In 2016, Wong staged his conducting recital with the China Conservatory of Music Middle School Youth Chinese Orchestra with reputable conductor Gu Guan Ren. 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><b>Ang Xiao Ting, Stage Director / Dramaturg</b></p> <p>Ang Xiao Ting is a freelance hyphenated theatre practitioner (actor, director, dramaturg, facilitator). She is an Associate Artist with The Theatre Practice (Singapore) and Programmer for Practice Tuckshop.</p> <p>Her practice in Eco-Theatre prioritises the various degrees of an integrated ecological practice, with a focus on Southeast Asian foodways, such as: Recess Time – which toured to World Stage Design 2022 (Calgary) and received an "Honourable Mention" at</p>

	<p>#CreateCOP27 – a global open call for art in conjunction with COP27.</p> <p>As an actor, she was last seen in: <i>The Soldier &amp; His Virtuous Wife</i> (playing Sidekick A) and <i>Four Horse Road</i>. Her recent directing credits include <i>Extinction Feast</i> (2021 Singapore Writers' Festival; 2022 <i>The Theatre Practice</i>) and <i>Pickle Party</i>.</p> <p>Ang graduated from Lancaster Institute of Contemporary Arts (UK) where she received the LICA prize for Outstanding Achievement in Theatre.</p>
	<p><b>Chong Li-Chuan, Sound Artist / Composer</b></p> <p>Chong Li-Chuan is a Singaporean composer who is passionate about philosophy, culture, and the arts. Li-Chuan's career in music and sound started in the late '90s, working as a composer and sound designer collaborating with practitioners in theatre, dance, spoken word, architecture, filmmaking, design, and visual art. His creative output includes music composition, sound design, site-specific art, installation, free improvisation, and collaborative work exploring the conversations to be had between music and sound, and across different modes of expression.</p>
	<p><b>John Sharpley, Composer</b></p> <p>Composer, pianist, teacher, and writer, John Sharpley earned a Doctorate in Music Composition from Boston University, Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from the University of Houston, and music diplomas from the National Conservatory of Music in Strasbourg, France. His composition teachers include Michael Horvit, David Del Tredici, John Harbison, and Leonard Bernstein. Formerly composer-in-residence with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra, he is often featured in concerts, universities, and festivals world-wide including Kyoto City University of the Arts, the Australasian Piano Pedagogy Symposium (Melbourne), Illinois Wesleyan University, Texas Music Teachers Association Conventions, Across Oceans International Festival (Toronto), Concordia (Montreal), San Francisco State University, the Hong Kong Asian Arts Festival, Asian Composers League Festivals, Universe of Sound (Singapore), and Our Music Foundation Nepal in Kathmandu. An avid improviser, he developed and teaches a three-year course dedicated to improvisation at LaSalle College of the Arts, Singapore.</p> <p>His book, <i>We Are Music: An Existential Journey Toward Infinity</i>, published by World Scientific, is scheduled for release soon.</p>

	<p>His honours include the Texas Music Teachers Association Composer of the Year Award, an American Cine-Eagle Award, a New York Film Festival Award, and a citation of recognition from Stanford University (USA). Sharpley's compositions include orchestral works, opera, music for theatre, film and dance scores, chamber music, songs, and solo piano works. Ensembles that have performed and recorded his work include The Singapore Symphony Orchestra, the Singapore Chinese Orchestra, the China Philharmonic Orchestra, the Houston Symphony Orchestra, the St. Petersburg (Russia) Philharmonic, the Novosibirsk Philharmonic, the Sheffield Winds (Chicago), the T'ang String Quartet, the Ding Yi Ensemble, the Nanyang Collective, the Young Voices of Melbourne, the Taipei Chamber Singers, and Bridges Collective (Melbourne). He also collaborated with the rock group R.E.M., for the song Lotus on their album "Up".</p>
	<p><b>Yii Kah Hoe, Composer</b></p> <p>Yii Kah Hoe is a Malaysian composer and Chinese dizi and xiao improviser. Yii has been recognized as one of the major voices among Southeast Asian composers of his generation. His music has been widely performed in Asia, America, and Europe.</p> <p>Yii won the National Outstanding Educator Award 2018 presented by the Private Education Cooperative of Malaysia. In the fall of 2015, Yii was the Scripps College Erma Taylor O'Brien Distinguished Visiting Professor at Scripps College in Claremont. Yii was guest composer and guest speaker at Birmingham Conservatoire UK (2013 &amp; 2014), York St John University (2014), Yale-NUS College (2017), Iowa State University (2015), Tianjin Conservatoire of Music (2017), Mahidol University (2017), Guanxi Conservatoire of Music (2014, 2015, 2016).</p> <p>As a Fullbright Scholar in Residence, Yii taught at Washington State University's School of Music from August 2022 to June 2023.</p> <p>Yii was the festival director of Kuala Lumpur Contemporary Music Festival 2009, the festival director of SoundBridge festival (2013, 2015), the president of Society of Malaysian Contemporary Composers (2014 – 2016) and a senior lecturer at SEGi College Subang Jaya, Malaysia since 2000.</p>



### **Zhong Zhi Yue, Guqin soloist**

Zhong Zhi Yue is a highly accomplished individual, having been appointed by the prestigious Shanghai Conservatory of Music as an Associate Professor in the Department of Folk Music, where he also serves as an Instructor for Master's level students. He has further distinguished himself as the recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts Fund's "Youth Art Creation Talent Project" and has earned the esteemed title of "Young Oriental Scholar" within the universities of Shanghai. Additionally, he shares his expertise as an external instructor for Master's students at several renowned institutions, including Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University in Thailand, Chiang Rai Rajabhat University in Thailand, and Singapore Raffles Music College.

Professor Zhong's passion for music began at an early age, and he embarked on his educational journey by majoring in Sheng performance under the guidance of Professor Xu Chaoming. Concurrently, he honed his skills in Guqin professional performance under the mentorship of Professor Dai Xiaolian at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. His thirst for musical knowledge led him to study composition under the tutelage of esteemed composers like Huang Lei, Xu Jianqiang, and Law Wailun. Remarkably, during his undergraduate years, he achieved academic excellence and graduated a year ahead of schedule. Notably, he holds the distinction of being the first Master's student in Sheng at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. Furthermore, his exceptional achievements have earned him the unique honour of being the only double honouree in the history of the Department of Folk Music at the Conservatoire.



### **Quek See Yee, Set and Art Installation Artist**

See Yee is an artist and designer, who relishes in experimentation and research work. She views design as interconnected and intertwined with culture, and social history - expressed across different scales.

Her professional experiences cover a broad range from floristry, product design, interior and furniture. As an artist, she tinkers with foraged botanical materials with a keen interest in tropical forestry. Her early stint with architectural conservation has been pivotal in seeing design intentions and executions as tools for narrative, a means to speak for history or materiality, that doesn't necessarily have a voice.



**Ferry, Set and Art Installation Artist**

Ferry is a maker, installation artist, musician, educator, and collaborator. A graphic and web designer in her previous life, she took a keen interest in cultivating user experience (UX) whilst developing her music and art practice concurrently. Taking a step back from commercial design projects in 2016, she continues to diversify her skillsets and fluency in pedagogy and theatre, recently attaining her Masters in Pedagogy and Practice, Pass with Distinction (Goldsmiths, 2021).

Honed through a practice that spans design, music, art, education and theatre, Ferry's edge is in the ability to synthesise ideas and practices from diverse fields, utilising the different methodologies to create audience experiences that engage through multiple means. Driven by ideas and the audiences' experience, she continues to devise pieces that challenge and change perspectives, especially those surrounding social issues. Ferry's current interest is in regenerative making and developing pedagogies around upcycling, natural making, and recrafting with material waste. She spent 2 months in Bali apprenticing in bamboo building with local bamboo gurus and continues to hone her practice as a maker working with discarded, unwanted, gathered, and found materials, all while advocating for conscious consumption and creating. She has initiated "Dying Trades," a platform dedicated to play, exploration, and experimentation in crafting with these materials. It also serves as a resource for fellow makers and a space for exploring and preserving traditional forms of making that are gradually disappearing. A cross-genre creator and maker, she thrives on ideas and concepts regardless of the form.

## **Ding Yi Music Company Information and Materials**

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Ding Yi Music Company Information – Download link for media use:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/zbxyl14itxrttsrp5kwb5/h?rlkey=mmtc9zoeizwi4gx140501o3bi&dl=0>