

Press release 新闻稿

Ding Yi Music Company Ltd
Stamford Arts Centre
155 Waterloo Street, #02-06, Singapore 187962
Tel (65) 6345 9908
www.dingyimusic.com



Immediate release

DY-Logue: An Intimate Conversation Between Two Home-grown Ethnic Musicians

The first of the series showcasing the musical aspirations and exchange between Chua Yew Kok and Azrin Abdullah in their common language – Music

Singapore, 10 Sep 2019 – Happening on 27 Oct 2019 (Sun), 5pm at the Stamford Arts Centre (SAC) Black Box (史丹福艺术中心黑箱剧场), *DY-Logue* 《鼎有艺思》 is a play with words combining “dialogue” with the initials of “Ding Yi”. *DY-Logue* is an experimental series which provides Ding Yi musicians an avenue to freely express their music artistry and musicianship. This upcoming first concert of the series features an imaginative tapestry between the two contrasting ethnic instruments – Chinese lute *pipa* and Malay lute *gambus* played by Ding Yi Music Company’s musician, 2013 National Arts Council Young Artist Award recipient Chua Yew Kok (蔡友国) and award-winning, multi-talented musician and composer Azrin Abdullah respectively.



[Click on the respective musicians to hear how each instruments sound like!](#)

This dialogue showcase will be Ding Yi’s first concert organised at the SAC since the company’s move to the revitalised traditional arts & heritage building in November 2018. The concert will perform virtuosic *pipa* and *gambus* repertoire such as the Chinese ancient piece *King Chu Doffs His Armour* 《霸王卸甲》 and *Lil Ruh Hadith* composed by Naseer Shamma.

“Like how Singapore is celebrated as a multi-racial society, this concert mirrors that notion, presenting an intimate collaboration between two distinctly different yet similar ethnic instruments,” said Ding Yi Principal Conductor Quek Ling Kiong (郭勇德) who will be facilitating the concert. “This intimate conversation aptly articulates Ding Yi’s artistic vision – bridging between traditional and contemporary music presentation.”

*

About Ding Yi Music Company

“Best known for putting contemporary spin on classic chamber orchestra music alongside more traditional performance” – The Straits Times

Established in 2007, Ding Yi’s mission is to advocate and promote its unique Singaporean identity and sound – Ding Yi Chinese chamber music by producing iconic programmes locally and overseas, proudly flying our Singapore flag high, leaving footprints in many important international music festivals. Ding Yi is also a proud recipient of the third Chinese Cultural Contribution Award in 2019 and NAC Major Company Scheme since 2016. For more information, please visit www.dingyimusic.com.

Media contact

Tan Hong Ging, Marketing Manager

Tel: (65) 6345 9908 | 9617 9316

Email: tan_hongging@dingyimusic.com

###

ANNEX

I. FAST FACTS

II. ARTISTES BIOGRAPHIES

III. ABOUT DY-LOGUE and PHOTOS

FAST FACTS

DY-Logue

27 Oct 2019, Sun

5pm

Stamford Arts Centre Black Box

Ticketing agent: SISTIC

Standard price: \$28

Discounts:

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Concessions for students, NSFs and seniors | \$20 |
| Special Package (Purchase of four or more tickets only.) | \$18 each |
| Card Discounts For PAssion Card, OCBC Arts Platinum Card | 15% |
| For SAFRA Card, OCBC Debit/ Credit Card | 10% |

*All ticket prices exclude SISTIC charge

| | |
|--|---|
| SISTIC Ticketing: | http://bit.ly/2YhnKSj |
| Ding Yi website: | https://www.dingyimusic.com |
| Ding Yi social media Facebook, Instagram, Youtube) : | @dingyimusic |

Images and other information can be downloaded through these links for media use

1. Ding Yi logo

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/wt5pyjd3psnej5q/AABAtpR25TnavlJzrQ1UBt2Qa?dl=0>

2. Ding Yi group photo(s)

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/nqt5fw6tqnskjy/AACfLI2wTRUEvwqbOSulGRxna?dl=0>

3. Ding Yi Bio

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/0kxyjtcn9ipmvmw/AABiOIAITj_laiDi8UnwtNV9a?dl=0

4. Facilitator photo(s) and Bio: Quek Ling Kiong

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/8rq1a1bftqi2m42/AADhChK_qoCPnLNxEs_fEnXla?dl=0

5. Musician's photo(s) and Bio : Chua Yew Kok and Azin Abdullah

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/t39919kjm1aaerk/AABGVNk7BCsWyiHGTdSqxTGia?dl=0>

ARTISTES BIOGRAPHIES

Quek Ling Kiong – Facilitator



Always surprising you with innovative programmes, charismatic conducting, and engaging concert experiences. Winner of the Singapore National Arts Council (NAC) Young Artist Award (2002), recipient of NAC Cultural Fellowship (2013) and Meritorious Awards by COMPASS Singapore (2016), leading Quek Ling Kiong to lead the ensemble in 2016. In 2018, Quek assumed the role of Principal Conductor of Ding Yi, bringing the ensemble to even greater heights. Currently the Resident Conductor of Singapore Chinese Orchestra and the Music Director for Singapore National Youth Chinese Orchestra, Quek is also an active guest conductor internationally, especially in mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Quek is the mastermind behind major events that promote Chinese music to the masses including the Ding Yi Chinese Chamber Music Festival, and Composium (a competition for new chamber works). His educational concerts series for young children has become a brand that brought him to the international stage. Successful community concerts such as *Happy Baton* and *Music for Your Soul*, showcase his belief in sharing good music with all. Also referred to as the “People’s Conductor”, Quek is a strong believer in the idea of borderless music. In 2015, he holds the honour of being the Artistic Director of The Purple Symphony – Singapore’s largest inclusive orchestra comprising musicians with special needs.

Having trained at the Shanghai Music Conservatory and the Zurich University for Arts, Quek acquired the strengths of both the Eastern and Western styles of music that have enabled him to develop more local musical productions of intercultural and profundity.

Chua Yew Kok – Pipa



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.

As a soloist, Chua's artistry has been recognised through a diverse myriad of performance and competition platforms. In 2002, Chua was awarded the Outstanding Performer Prize in the First Youth Artistry Chinese Traditional Instrument Solo Competition for Youths held in Beijing. Thereafter in 2005, he achieved 2nd Prize in the Dun Huang (Yun) Cup Pipa Competition in Hong Kong. Chua has also been selected as a soloist for various works and premieres, including the Ong Teng Cheong Concert (2004) and Spotlight Singapore in Tokyo (2006). Concert tour with Orchestre Symphonique de Bretagne (2015).

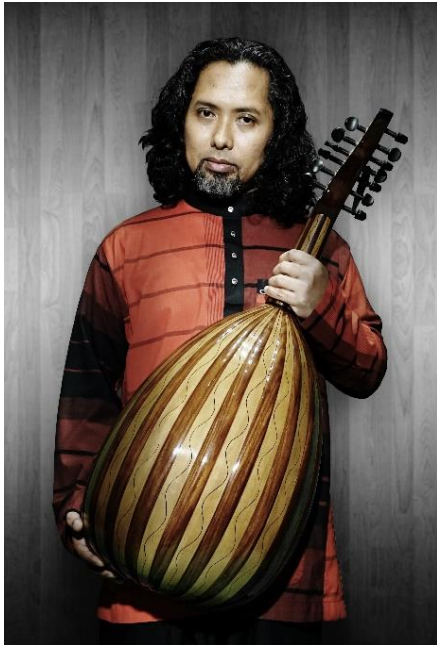
A highly versatile performer, Chua has performed works by world renowned contemporary composers Chen Yi (*"The Points"*, *"Chinese Fables"*), Tan Dun (*Ghost Opera*, concerto for pipa and strings), Law Wing Fai (*Ink Spirit*, *Anecdotic drawing*) has been exploring new works by cooperating with local young composers in hope to promote and the expand the art of pipa playing. In the recent years, he has been actively performing in many international Arts Festival, such as China, Taiwan, Hongkong, Australia, Wales, Philippines, Malaysia, Cambodia and various cities in France.

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. In 2008, the Ding Yi Company Ensemble was awarded 1st prize at the National Chinese Music Competition (Ensemble Open Category). The ensemble has also received 1st prize in the prestigious Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod held in Wales, UK, and the Silver Award at the 28th Shanghai Spring International Music Festival.

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.

More info: <https://www.dingyimusic.com/chua-yew-kok>

Azrin Abdullah – Gambus



Azrin Abdullah started out learning the acoustic guitar at the age of 6, played his first musical performance at the age of 9 and has not stopped playing music since.

Currently an active member of the Malay traditional music ensemble Sri Mahligai, he has composed and arranged numerous musical pieces for Malay dance items & productions since 2003 and has been appointed as Music Director for some theatre & dance productions. Until now, he never stopped and still continued to play as well as composing songs for various national level events & small projects. One of the songs which he co-wrote was “*Menganyam Pelangi*” which can be found in Sri Mahligai’s first album *Jati*. The song went up to no. 7 in the world/ethnic music charts on South Korea’s *Gangwon Radio Station* in December 2004. He has also sessioned for several artists’ recordings & big-scale shows.

Besides composing songs, Azrin had been appointed as Music Director for some theatre & dance productions, some of the recent ones being *Sriwana’s* 60th anniversary production entitled “*Mahkota*” in 2015, *Azpirasi Dance Group’s* production entitled *Karya: Manusia* in 2016, *Kres Dancers’* production entitled “*Kres!: Pejuang Seni Muda*” in 2016 and the *Dian Dancers & Azpirasi Dance Group* collaborative production entitled “*Deruma: Sumpahan*” in January 2017.

Azrin was featured as a musician in *Chingay 2011* as part of the *Malay Arts Contingent* and he was selected to represent the Malay Arts community in *National Day Parade* held at the Floating Platform At Marina Bay in the year 2012. In 2014 he composed the song for the Malay *Chingay* contingent which won the “*Most Lively Contingent*” with a creation entitled “*Anyaman Jati (Weaving Personas)*”.

In September 2014, fully funded by the *National Arts Council*, he attended an advanced instrumental course under the *National Conservatory of Arts* in Kuala Lumpur to further pursue knowledge of the oud.

Under the guidance of *Raja Zulkarnain Raja Mohd Yusof*, he studied the playing styles of *Neçati Çelik*, *Munir Bashir*, *Riyadh Sunbaty*, *Nasseer Shamma* amongst others & studied Arabic & Turkish music, after which he obtained a *Certificate of Completion in Instrumental Studies (Oud)*. On 28 November 2015, he had won 1st Prize in the *Gambus Solo Competition* held during the *Regional Gambus Festival* in Muzium Negara, Kuala Lumpur.

He also produced the 1st *Singapore Gambus Conference*, which was held at the Malay Heritage Centre from 25 to 30 October 2016, in conjunction with the *Malay Culture Festival*, which gathered local & overseas speakers & gambus activists sharing their knowledge & history of the instrument.

ANNEX II

ABOUT DY-LOGUE & PHOTOS

A new series by Ding Yi, *DY-Logue* showcases an enthralling music dialogue between two musicians of very different music background, yet use very similar ethnic instruments in an intimate musical salon, connecting audiences to their music aspiration.



[Click here for the concert photos](#)

Ancient piece 古曲

King Chu Doffs His Armour 《霸王卸甲》

Naseer Shamma

Lil Ruh Hadith

Quek Ling Kiong, Facilitator | 郭勇德, 导聆

Chua Yew Kok, *Pipa* | 蔡友国, 琵琶

Azrin Abdullah, *Gambus* | 甘布思

(1hr, no intermission)