

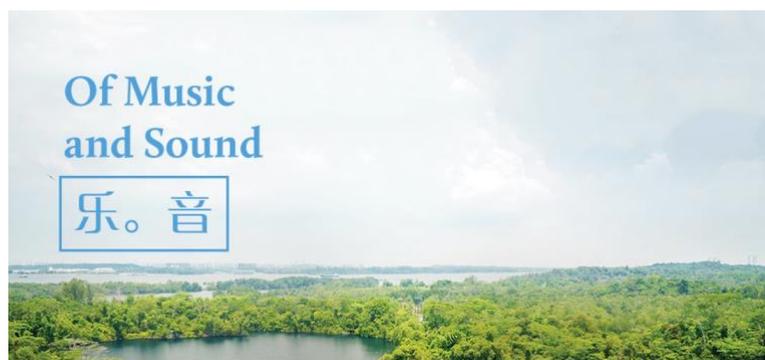
Immediate release

What Is the Sound of Music and Nature?

A first full-length concert composed by Ding Yi Composer-in-Residence Phang Kok Jun incorporating sound art from Sound Artist Zai Tang

Singapore, 3 Dec 2020 – In collaboration with Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, Ding Yi Music Company's (鼎艺团) year-end concert *Of Music and Sound* 《乐。音》 will be presented live at Esplanade Recital Studio on 13 Dec 2020 (Sun), 5pm and 8pm. Due to safety distancing measures, each show will limit to maximum 50 audiences. Led by Ding Yi Music Company Principal Conductor Quek Ling Kiong (郭勇德), immerse in an acoustic Chinese chamber music concert that features an integrated soundscape of Chinese classics and sound art.

The concert amplifies your sense of hearing through sound art recorded and created by Sound Artist Zai Tang (唐在) using the sounds of Singapore nature, and a newly commissioned work by Ding Yi Composer-in-Residence, Phang Kok Jun (冯国峻), incorporating familiar excerpts from ten ancient Chinese classics, such as *High Mountains and Flowing Water*, and *Rain Lashing on the Plantain*. Conceptualised and created over a year-long journey, this concert will take away all your senses, focusing only on the sense of hearing and drawing you to the fundamental element of music - sound.



[Click to hear the nature soundscape of Singapore](#)

"The *Of Music* series is an important annual year-end showcase by Ding Yi to create meaningful and engaging productions of Chinese chamber music and various art forms," said Principal Conductor Quek Ling Kiong, "Despite the pandemic, the team has been working on this production for a year with Kok Jun and Zai, whom have been recording sounds of natural landscapes to present a full auditory experience. This concert came very timely where we had a chance to take a slower pace in life to discover the nature and sounds around us, especially during the circuit breaker period."

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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

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ANNEXES

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FAST FACTS

Of Music and Sound

《乐。音》

13 Dec 2020, Sun

5pm & 8pm

Esplanade Recital Studio

Ticketing agent: SISTIC

Standard price: \$28

SISTIC Ticketing:	https://www.sistic.com.sg/events/omas1220
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. Conductor photo(s) and Bio: Quek Ling Kiong

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

5. Artist photo(s) and Bio: Phang Kok Jun

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/of6bwmgapiyikw8/AACXiONwLnHncuzhMH4SaJp0a?dl=0>

6. Artist photo(s) and Bio: Zai Tang

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/uc68vf082j3a29j/AAA3OYRL48s1MFs9AeJS8QT0a?dl=0>

ANNEX II

ARTISTS BIOGRAPHIES

Quek Ling Kiong – Principal Conductor



Known as the “People's Conductor”, Quek Ling Kiong is the Principal Conductor of Ding Yi Music Company, establishing the ensemble as a trailblazer in pushing the boundaries of Chinese chamber music. His core Chinese music training at the Shanghai Music Conservatory, China, and later his Western music training at the Zurich University for Arts, Switzerland, inspires him to create many profound intercultural music productions that resonate across communities. His charismatic conducting style and innovative music programming have made him an influential leader in promoting Chinese music. Of note are the two Ding Yi Music Company's iconic programs - the triennial Ding Yi Chinese Chamber Music festival and Ding Yi 's international competition and symposium for Chinese chamber music works - Composium. He is also famous for his children's educational shows

internationally. Quek is a recipient of the Singapore National Arts Council's Young Artist Award (2002); the Cultural Fellowship (2013), COMPASS Singapore's Meritorious Award (2016), and featured as one of iconic personality by Singapore Lianhe Zaobao in 2018. In 2019, Singapore Management University (SMU) established “Quek Ling Kiong Arts and Cultural Scholarship” to inspire and support undergrads to venture into management especially for traditional arts. As a guest conductor, Quek has worked with many international orchestras. In China, he worked with Shanghai Chinese Orchestra, Guangdong Chinese Orchestra, Jilin Chinese Orchestra and more. He has also conducted the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra and Macau Chinese Orchestra, and performed with the Taiwan Kaohsiung Chinese Orchestra. Quek is currently the Resident Conductor of Singapore Chinese Orchestra and Music Director of Singapore National Youth Chinese Orchestra. In his free time, he conducts SMU's Chinese Orchestra and lead as their Music Director. His strong beliefs in breaking down barriers for the special needs community with music lead him to be the Artistic Director and Conductor of Singapore and Hong Kong's largest inclusive orchestras - The Purple Symphony and True Colours Symphony.

More info: <https://www.dingyimusic.com/conductor>

Phang Kok Jun – Composer-in-residence



Known to be a “multifaceted composer”, Phang Kok Jun has a diverse repertoire that spans across many genres including concert music, theatre, and media. Drawing influences from a wide variety of musical styles as well as from growing up in the energetic and culturally diverse Singapore, Kok Jun has been described as a composer who “comfortably melds Chinese, Western and popular idioms to excellent effect”. An award-winning composer both locally and

internationally, Kok Jun had been dubbed by The Straits Times as one of “30 rising stars under 30” in Singapore’s arts, entertainment and lifestyle. He is currently Composer-in-Residence of Chinese music ensemble Ding Yi Music Company (DYMC), and is featured in major productions around the world, working with international orchestras, theatre companies, chamber groups, directors, conductors and soloists.

Notable works include numerous *ruan* concertos premiered by the Singapore Chinese Orchestra, community action puppet theatre “The Rubbish Prince” commissioned by the National Arts Council, “Nü Wa Mends the Heavens” by the Shanghai Puppet Theatre, as well as his work with the Esplanade Feed Your Imagination series, in which he produces shows that teaches audience members about music in an accessible and interactive manner.

Kok Jun read music composition at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music (YSTCM), National University of Singapore and as well as the Peabody Conservatory of Music, both under full scholarship from YSTCM. Principal composition teachers include Eric Watson, Ho Chee Kong, Oscar Bettison and Kevin Puts.

For more information, please visit www.phangkokjun.com.



Zai Tang is a multidisciplinary artist based in Singapore. His body of work in both solo and collaborative modes, has grown out of his foundation in sound. Drawing influence from acoustic ecology, phenomenology and electronic & experimental music, his practise is built upon a belief that listening is an invaluable means of attuning to and forming deeper relationships with the world/s we inhabit.

In his work he is currently responding to the question: *What does it mean to listen to nature in a time of ecological crisis and mass extinction?* To this end, he is experimenting with the abstraction and visualisation of animal sounds he has recorded in wildlife-rich habitats under threat in Singapore. Once abstracted from their original state these sonorities are combined with other elements –

drawing, animation, projection and / or performance – to create immersive and reflexive experiences that explore notions of awareness and connectivity between the human and the nonhuman.

As a collaborator Zai plays the role of composer, sound designer and experimental musician across different context, having worked with local and international film-makers, visual artists, choreographers, theatre practitioners, architects and other musicians.

Recent presentations include the Busan Biennale, South Korea (2020) with Rei Hayama; NTTICC, Tokyo (2020); TPAM, Yokohama (2020) with Pichet Klunchun; London International Animation Festival (2020) with Simon Ball; Singapore Biennale (2019); Singapore International Film Festival (2019); Drama Centre Black Box (2019) with Nine Years Theatre; 2nd Yinchuan Biennale, China (2018); Danspace Projects, New York (2018) with Emmanuèle Phuon; Singapore International Festival of the Arts – The O.P.E.N (2017); National Gallery Singapore (2017); Kalaa Utsavam (2017) with Chowk.

For more information, please visit www.zaitang.com

ANNEX III

ABOUT THE CONCERT

Of Music and Sound

《乐。音》

13 Dec 2020, Sun

5pm & 8pm

Esplanade Recital Studio



What makes a sound, and what imagery do certain soundscapes evoke – a wash of nostalgia, a long-forgotten memory, the serenity of wilderness? Experience how sound, a fundamental element of music, integrates with Chinese chamber music. Listen to how sound originates from the natural soundscapes in Singapore and guides you through an immersive aural experience on a voyage of nature.

Of Music and Sound is Ding Yi's annual iconic multidisciplinary series that blends Chinese chamber music with different art forms. Evoking your aural senses, the concert amplifies your sense of hearing with sound art and familiar excerpts from ten ancient Chinese classics, such as *High Mountains and Flowing Water*, *Rain Lashing on the Plantain*, and more.

1hr (no intermission)

Quek Ling Kiong, conductor
Phang Kok Jun, composer
Zai Tang, Sound Artist

[Click to hear the nature soundscape of Singapore](#)