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VENUE

SINGAPORE CHINESE
CULTURAL CENTRE,
AUDITORIUM, LEVEL 9

THE FOREFATHERS

A LECTURE-CONCERT BY
THE TENG ENSEMBLE

PROJECT

PART OF
系列活动

PRESENTED BY
呈献



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THE FOREFATHERS PROJECT



The TENG Ensemble innovates age-old traditions, celebrates Singapore's unsung Chinese music pioneers and reimagines the sounds that were carried in the hearts of Singapore's Chinese forefathers. Presenting a uniquely Chinese Singaporean identity, the lecture-concert features original works inspired by our diverse local Chinese dialect musical traditions.

Interviewing, documenting, and learning from first-generation masters, luthiers, instrument dealers and protégés from the

THE FOREFATHERS PROJECT

local Cantonese, Hokkien, Hainanese, Hakka and Teochew music traditions, The Forefathers Project marks an initiative by The TENG Ensemble to reimagine the possibilities of dialect music.

THE TENG ENSEMBLE



The TENG Ensemble is a critically acclaimed Singaporean Chinese fusion music group that bridges between cultures East and West, boasting musical influences from both the traditional and the contemporary.

As a collective of music educators, scholars and award-winning instrumentalists, the Ensemble's performances have been a staple in Singapore's arts scene since 2009. At the 2015 National Day Rally, The TENG Ensemble was described by Prime

THE TENG ENSEMBLE

Minister Lee Hsien Loong as ‘creating something uniquely Singapore’.

The group has performed at events such as the ASEAN Tourism Forum, TEDxPetaling Street, Youth Olympic Games, Shanghai World Expo, Singapore Day in Melbourne, George Town Festival and Singapore International Jazz Festival.

The Ensemble’s two full-length albums were both rated 4.5 out of 5 stars by The Straits Times and their second album *Stories from an Island City* peaked at #1 on Hong Kong’s iTunes World Music Chart. In 2018, the group was awarded the CHT International Award for Musical Performance and Education. In 2019, TENG released their 3rd full length album and was rated 4 out of 5 stars.

ACCOLADES

“A **spectacular performance** by The TENG Ensemble marrying Eastern and Western musical instruments.”

PRESIDENT HALIMAH YACOB

“A **well-loved Singaporean band** with a unique fusion sound comprising Western and Chinese musical instruments.”

MOTHERSHIP.SG

“The TENG team not only **excels in Chinese music** but is keen to introduce more people to it.”

MINISTER GRACE FU

“The TENG Ensemble injects new elements into traditional culture and created something **UNIQUELY SINGAPORE.**”

PRIME MINISTER LEE HSIEN LOONG

ARTISTIC STATEMENT

BY DR SAMUEL WONG



Such is the melting pot that is known as Singapore - I grew up in an English-educated family, but have been playing the traditional Chinese Pipa for the past 25 years.

Over 17 years ago, while as a graduate student studying Singapore's Chinese

ARTISTIC STATEMENT

music history, I learnt that the first Chinese orchestra in Singapore was set up by the late Mr Yeo How Jiang in 1959, under the auspices of the Thau Yong Music Association.

In 2016, I finally had the honour of meeting Mr Yeo. He was still with the Thau Yong Music Association.

Mr Yeo was a very humble man and an expert pipa player himself. Mr Yeo had however, stopped playing Chinese orchestral music for decades. Instead, he focused his attention on music from the Teochew and Waijiang folk music traditions, which were rooted in his heritage and blood.

Mr Yeo's music was so different from what I was accustomed to. He introduced me to the ebbs and flows of Teochew

ARTISTIC STATEMENT

music: for a year, I learnt from fellow musicians in Thau Yong. Almost every weekend, the Thau Yong musicians drank tea and ate Malay kueh at a long table, while playing Teochew (and occasionally Waijiang) music.

The average age of these musicians was about 75 years old. Nevertheless, despite the age gap between the musicians and myself, they generously accepted me into their ensemble as one of their own.

I had the honour of being the last student taught by Mr Yeo, who passed away in 2017. Through his experiences, I discovered how Chinese music innovated and adapted itself to Singapore, and how the Chinese forefathers in Singapore approached music and music-making. Innovation has always been part of the

ARTISTIC STATEMENT

DNA of our forefathers and it is with this sense of innovation that TENG created The Forefathers Project.

The TENG Ensemble has always been a Singaporean fusion music ensemble that looks to the past to make sense of the present. Our work fuses electronics, technology and a respect for traditional practices. When you listen to TENG's pieces, you may find hidden musical motifs in our works where boundaries of traditional music are pushed with our ideas.

What is traditional and what is contemporary? The modern of today will become the tradition of tomorrow. TENG is not traditional music, nor do we lay claim to being traditional. Our pieces are a tribute and our own homage to the

ARTISTIC STATEMENT

music of our past, created in the present with a contemporary focus.

We hope to invoke a greater appreciation of these folk traditions among the younger generations. I must credit the amazing composers and producers, Chow Junyi, Bang Wenfu and Joel Nah who have been together with me throughout this whole artistic process.

We dedicate this concert to the community of first generation Chinese musicians in Singapore, for without them, there would not be us.

Dr Samuel Wong

Creative Director

The TENG Company

SCCC'S CEO MESSAGE

BY MR LOW SZE WEE



As the Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre celebrates its 5th anniversary, our Cultural Extravaganza is also into its fifth year edition.

Five years may be a short time, but long enough for us to explore new grounds,

SCCC'S CEO MESSAGE

refine our programmes and grow our audiences.

Over the past five years, we have commissioned many programmes celebrating “crossovers”, by examining and expanding new possibilities through cross-cultural, cross-disciplinary and cross-generational collaborations. This journey has also broadened our minds and hearts.

The spirit of “crossover” stands at the very core of Cultural Extravaganza, just like our Chinese Singaporean culture, which has derived its distinctiveness from different influences and “crossovers” of diverse cultures over time.

Through “crossovers”, we seek to showcase the different sides of our multi-faceted and ever-evolving Chinese

SCCC'S CEO MESSAGE

Singaporean culture. For instance, the preservation of traditional artforms can happen concurrently with innovation and renewal as local groups reinterpret them in new ways for audiences of today.

As Cultural Extravaganza enters its fifth year, we hope you will enjoy our showcase and discover something new about our Chinese Singaporean culture!

Low Sze Wee

Chief Executive Officer

Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre

ABOUT SCCC

The Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre collaborates with arts and cultural groups and community partners to promote and develop local Chinese culture. Through engaging and accessible content, we hope to nurture greater appreciation of our multi-cultural identity and a stronger sense of belonging. Opened by our Patron, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on 19 May 2017, our Centre located in the heart of the city welcomes everyone to enjoy exhibitions, fairs, performances, seminars, talks, workshops and other cultural activities throughout the year.

For more information, please visit
www.singaporeccc.org.sg

ABOUT CULTURAL EXTRAVAGANZA

Cultural Extravaganza is an annual festival that represents and re-presents our distinctive Chinese Singaporean culture to audiences from all walks of life. First launched in 2017 in conjunction with the opening of Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre (SCCC), it offers an exciting line-up of programmes by the best of Singapore's Chinese arts and cultural groups.

In celebration of SCCC's 5th Anniversary, this year's Cultural Extravaganza 2022 presents a series of cross-disciplinary, cross-cultural, and cross-generational programmes. The festival brings arts groups from different disciplines together to present traditional themes from the past in new and modern

CULTURAL EXTRAVAGANZA

formats, highlighting the many crossovers between disciplines, cultures, and generations.

PROGRAMME



INSPIRED BY NANYIN

1. Tracing 《寻迹》

Nanyin Pipa, Sheng, Pipa, Guzheng, Erhu, Gehu, Daruan, Guitar, Keyboard and Electronics

2. Xin Zao Beh 《新走马》

Pipa, Guzheng, Daruan, Electric Guitar, Keyboard and Electronics

INSPIRED BY CANTONESE MUSIC

3. Hang Gai 《行街》

Sheng, Cantonese Gaohu, Gehu, Cantonese Qinqin, Keyboard and Electronics

4. Remembering 《难忘》

Sheng, Pipa, Cantonese Qinqin, Guzheng, Cantonese Gaohu, Gehu, Guitar, Keyboard and Electronics

5. Contemporary 《时代》

Sheng, Pipa, Yueqin, Cantonese Gaohu, Electric Guitar, Keyboard and Electronics

PROGRAMME

INSPIRED BY HAINANESE MUSIC

6. Gu Gu Bo Ki 《久久不见》

Sheng, Pipa, Guzheng, Gehu, Yehu, Daruan, Electric Guitar, Keyboard and Electronics

INSPIRED BY WAIJIANG AND TEOCHEW MUSIC

7. Memoir 《回忆录》

Teochew Zheng, Teochew Pipa, Piano and Recording

8. Far From Home 《思乡》

Teochew Pipa, Sheng, Pipa, Teochew Zheng, Erhu, Gehu, Daruan, Guitar, Keyboard and Electronics



The programme duration is 1 hour 30 minutes with no intermission.



All music composed by Chow Junyi and produced by Bang Wenfu.

PROGRAMME NOTES

1. Tracing 《寻迹》

Nanyin Pipa, Sheng, Pipa, Guzheng, Erhu, Gehu, Daruan, Guitar, Keyboard and Electronics

Tracing pays homage to *Lovebirds Singing in Harmony* 《鸾凤和鸣》, which was composed by Zhuo Sheng Xiang and the late Cultural Medallion recipient Teng Mah Seng, who was also the former Chairman of Nanyin group Siong Leng Musical Association. Using structured improvisation and inspiration from the concept of breath used in performing Chinese music, the melody of *Lovebirds Singing in Harmony* is effectively rehashed with a new musical language. While this melody is one that is typically familiar to audiences of Nanyin, the overwhelming presence of counterpoints between the

PROGRAMME NOTES

TRACING

Nanyin Pipa and the other instruments in *Tracing* creates a limbo that evokes the sentiment of déjà vu.

Tracing invites audiences to begin reconsidering their relationship with their roots. How do we retain an appreciation of the past, whilst retaining the impetus to continually move forward and strive for greater heights?

PROGRAMME NOTES

XIN ZAO BEH

2. Xin Zao Beh 《新走马》

Pipa, Guzheng, Daruan, Electric Guitar, Keyboard and Electronics

In *Xin Zao Beh*, the four plucked string instruments – supported by the keyboard and electronics in the background – alternate between coming together to play the melody, and undertaking brief, yet virtuosic solos. The result of this musical collaboration is a jazz harmony that occasionally breaks into atonality and dissonance, and a funky re-imagination of the carefree image of horses galloping around open grasslands in *Eight Horses* 《八骏马》 – which is widely considered as one of four must-know classics in traditional Nanyin repertoire.

PROGRAMME NOTES

HANG GAI

3. Hang Gai 《行街》

Sheng, Cantonese Gaohu, Gehu, Cantonese Qinqin,
Keyboard and Electronics

In everyday usage, the Cantonese words – *hang gai* is commonly used to refer to the act of shopping. This piece *Hang Gai* 《行街》 is a combination of *Autumn Moon Over the Calm Lake* 《平湖秋月》 and *Thunder in Drought* 《旱天雷》, two famous 20th century pieces composed by Lu Wencheng and Yan Laolie respectively.

Hang Gai lulls audiences into reminiscing the homely sensation of walking through a bustling marketplace. In the serene, opening arrangement of *Thunder in Drought*, audiences experience the bliss of having all the time in the world to absorb the sights and sounds of a typical marketplace. Upon transiting into the

PROGRAMME NOTES

HANG GAI

more frenetic *Han Tian Lei*, however, the said marketplace abruptly bursts into life, as if it were on the receiving end of a never-ending influx of shoppers haggling for a good deal. Towards the end of the piece, the music fades off – signifying not just the end of the journey through the marketplace, but also how one is walking further and further away from the memories that have been made there.

4. Remembering 《难忘》

Sheng, Pipa, Cantonese Qinqin, Guzheng, Cantonese Gaohu, Gehu, Guitar, Keyboard and Electronics

Remembering is a fusion of a particular phrase from the music from the opera *Princess Changping* 《帝女花》 (“落花滿天蔽月光”, which roughly translates to “the moonlight is concealed by the falling leaves”) and the children’s lullaby *Moonlight* 《月光光》. On the one hand, *Princess Changping* narrates the star-crossed romance between Princess Changping and her lover Zhou Shixian during the Ming Dynasty. *Moonlight*, on the other hand, alludes to a mother expressing her aspirations for her young child’s future while looking at the moon.

While the stories behind *Princess Changping* and *Moonlight* are significantly different,

PROGRAMME NOTES

REMEMBERING

Remembering reconciles them by positioning their respective melodies in continuous conversation with each other. The result of this musical reconciliation is the creation of two different perspectives of the imagery of the moon, and the gradual evocation of a sense of longing for greater kinship.

5. Contemporary 《时代》

Sheng, Pipa, Yueqin, Cantonese Gaohu, Electric Guitar, Keyboard and Electronics

One of the most famous theme songs in Chinese film history is *A Man Should Stand Strong* 《男儿当自强》, which was made famous by the 1991 Hong Kong-Chinese martial arts movie *Once Upon a Time in China* 《黄飞鸿》. What not many people know is that the melody for *A Man Should Stand Strong* was actually adapted from *The General's Command* 《将军令》, an ancient Cantonese piece that was originally composed for string instruments!

In *Contemporary*, *The General's Command* and the folk song *Horses Galloping in a Spring Field* 《春郊试马》 are melded into a piece with rock and synthesiser pop elements. In the middle of the work,

PROGRAMME NOTES

CONTEMPORARY

the contemporariness of this piece is juxtaposed against a field recording of drums and temple gongs played by Lao Sai Tao Yuan Teochew Opera Troupe. The simultaneous presence of these seemingly incompatible musical elements signifies a common struggle that many music practitioners face today: how does one react to contemporary influences that have skewed our perceptions of the origins of traditional music?

PROGRAMME NOTES

GU GU BO KI

6. Gu Gu Bo Ki 《久久不见》

Sheng, Pipa, Guzheng, Gehu, Yehu, Daruan Electric Guitar, Keyboard and Electronics

Gu Gu Bo Ki's alluring melody comes from the Hainanese folk song 《久久不见,久久见》 (*Gu Gu Bo Ki, Gu Gu Ki*), a hugely popular tune in the Qiongzhou strait – a Chinese strait between Guangdong and Hainan. The theme of this piece surrounds friendship and the call from two friends reminiscing, unlike most dialect music which involves love, or loss.

Written in a call-and-response fashion, the piece starts off with a call by the Sheng that will elicit a response from the ensemble. All the other eight instruments, representing Bayin – the eight sounds used in Hainanese music, will call out for each other before playing together

PROGRAMME NOTES

GU GU BO KI

in waves of unison – symbolising the dynamic and yet nostalgic feelings one gets from friends and friendship.

7. Memoir 《回忆录》

Teochew Zheng, Teochew Pipa, Piano and Recording

In 2016, TENG had the privilege of shadowing the late Mr Yeo How Jiang to learn several Waijiang and Teochew pieces via oral communication. This encounter with Mr Yeo inspired TENG to embark on The Forefathers Project and conduct research into the origins of traditional folk music over the past four years.

Memoir is a posthumous tribute to Mr Yeo and his lesser known contributions to Singapore's Chinese music scene. For the most part, the ensemble plays a rendition of Mr Yeo's all-time favourite Teochew piece *Jackdaws Frolicking in Water* 《寒鸦戏水》, which depicts a flock of

PROGRAMME NOTES

MEMOIR

jackdaws playfully hovering over a body of water. As an interlude, the ensemble's performance is accompanied with rare footage of Mr Yeo playing the Waijiang piece *Little Yangzhou* 《小扬州》. The musical conversation that happens between the ensemble onstage and Mr Yeo's presence begs the question: how do we honour the legacy that our forefathers have painstakingly built up, and maintain a forward-looking mindset at the same time?

PROGRAMME NOTES

FAR FROM HOME

8. Far From Home 《思乡》

Teochew Pipa, Sheng, Pipa, Teochew Zheng, Erhu, Gehu, Daruan, Guitar, Keyboard and Electronics

Far From Home is an interplay between four popular Teochew melodies – *Lotus Emerging from the Water* 《出水莲》, *Feng Qiu Huang* 《凤求凰》, *The Lamentations of Lady Zhao Jun* 《昭君怨》 and *Jackdaws Frolicking in Water* 《寒鸦戏水》.

In the first half of *Far From Home*, the erhu and Teochew pipa play an excerpt from *Lotus Emerging from the Water*, retaining the long, elegant melodies that it was originally composed with. An interlude of *Feng Qiu Huang* is also played in its entirety in the middle of the piece. In the second half of the piece, however, *The Lamentations of Lady Zhao Jun* and *Jackdaws Frolicking in Water* are played

PROGRAMME NOTES

FAR FROM HOME

with a heterophonic texture by the entire ensemble. Through simultaneous variations of the same melodic line, a grand epiphany is created to bring closure to the journey of exploration that the piece has initiated.

Ultimately, *Far From Home* attests to how identity is a concept that is inevitably fluid, and that the labels that one associates with can change to varying extents over time.

THE TENG COMPANY



The TENG Company is a leading not-for-profit Singaporean arts company that re-imagines the possibilities of Chinese music. Founded in 2004, the company comprises a collective of music educators, scholars and award-winning instrumentalists. TENG's work draws its influence from the East and the West; and the traditional and the contemporary. 鑿 (pronounced 'tēng') – as one of the most complex characters in the Chinese language—is an ancient Chinese representation for the sound of a drum. It is a symbol of TENG's aspiration to bring cultures together and empower future generations of musicians and audiences in, and beyond, Singapore.

THE CREATIVE TEAM



CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Samuel Wong

MUSIC PRODUCER

Bang Wenfu

COMPOSER

Chow Jun Yi

HEAD OF MUSIC AND
REHEARSAL DIRECTOR

Joel Nah

THE CREATIVE TEAM
SAMUEL WONG



Samuel Wong
Creative Director
Nanyin Pipa, Teochew Pipa

Dr Samuel Wong is the Co-Founder and Creative Director of The TENG Company, a not-for-profit Major Grant

THE CREATIVE TEAM
SAMUEL WONG

Arts Company in Singapore. TENG is one of the largest traditional arts companies in Singapore. He spearheads the company's Performance, Academy and Research Divisions and re-invents the possibilities of Chinese music by fusing tradition, innovation and a unique Singaporean identity.

Samuel obtained his PhD in Ethnomusicology from the University of Sheffield in 2009 where he was awarded dual scholarships from the Harry Worthington Foundation and the Hokkien Huay Kuan for his doctoral studies in music. His dissertation dealt with the social interactions of Chinese orchestras.

Samuel is also author of the books "Impressions of a Pipa Player" (2003), "QI: An Instrumental Guide to the

THE CREATIVE TEAM
SAMUEL WONG

Chinese Orchestra” (2005) and co-author of “The TENG Guide to the Chinese Orchestra” (2019). His books are used as reference texts for the ‘O’ and ‘A’ Level Music Examinations in Singapore.

Samuel was awarded The Outstanding Young Persons of Singapore Award (2009), The Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry Singapore Foundation’s Culture Award (2009) and Singapore Institute of Management’s Teaching Excellence Award (2012) for his work in Music and Education. In 2021, Samuel was listed in Prestige Magazine’s “40 under 40” list of Singapore’s most successful, influential and innovative young people.

Samuel has lectured extensively on topics pertaining to Chinese music and

THE CREATIVE TEAM
SAMUEL WONG

cultural entrepreneurship and innovation in institutions such as The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Academy of the Performing Arts, Yale-NUS, Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, Conservatorium van Amsterdam, University of Applied Sciences Utrecht, Nanyang Technological University, Silpakorn University, Rangsit University, Kolej Damansara Utama (KDU) University College, ASEAN Committee for Culture and Information (ASEAN-COCI), National Arts Council (NAC) Singapore and the Singapore Teachers' Academy for the aRts (STAR).

In his youth, Samuel was described by the Singapore Business Times as “one of the best Pipa players in Singapore” and was a two-time pipa Champion at Singapore's National Chinese Music Competition

THE CREATIVE TEAM

SAMUEL WONG

(2000, 2002). He has performed internationally in over 30 cities including New York, Shanghai, Beijing, Seoul, London, Copenhagen, Bangkok and Melbourne. Samuel was also a featured soloist in Singapore's National Day Parade (2009), Youth Olympic Games (2010) and the Shanghai World Expo (2010).

Samuel is currently Adjunct Faculty at University at Buffalo-Singapore Institute of Management and LASALLE College of the Arts – two positions that he has held for over 14 years. He is also a Council Member of the Singapore Chinese Music Federation, an Artist Mentor with the National Arts Council and a Board Member with Along the Edge Ltd, an arts festival based in Hong Kong.

THE CREATIVE TEAM

BANG WENFU



Bang Wenfu

Music Producer

Bang Wenfu is one of Singapore's most sought-after composers, arrangers and music producers. His range of creative expression spans a wide musical genre

THE CREATIVE TEAM

BANG WENFU

from classical to pop, the mainstream to the avant-garde. With over 27 years of industry experience, he has been involved in many of Singapore's largest musical events as a producer, director, writer and performer.

Currently he is Kit Chan's musical director and close collaborator. His on-going creative collaborations include works for Universal Studios Singapore, Gardens by the Bay and Esplanade Theatres on the Bay. His other notable clients include Disney, Exxon-Mobil, Tribal Worldwide, Formula One (SG), Glorious (SG), Air Asia, to name a few. He has written over 600 works as of today.

THE CREATIVE TEAM
CHOW JUN YI



Chow Jun Yi
Composer

Born and raised in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Jun Yi began studying piano and music theory at the age of 5. He then joined the Chinese Orchestra, and played

THE CREATIVE TEAM
CHOW JUN YI

cello in middle school. He composed his very first cello concerto based on the Taiwanese folk song *Gao Shan Qing* (Green Mountain) and performed it himself with his high school Chinese Orchestra at 17. It was at that time he decided that he wanted to pursue a career in music and had a few choices laid out before him - Piano, Cello, Conducting, or Composition. After deliberation, he chose to pursue his musical career in composition due to having a mindset that “starting from zero” was a challenge worth undertaking and an adventure he yearned to have.

Jun Yi obtained his Bachelor of Arts for Music Composition at Central Conservatory of Music in China in 2011 under the mentorship and tutelage of Tang Jian-ping, Chen Yong-gang

THE CREATIVE TEAM
CHOW JUN YI

and Win Wen-Chen. He proceeded to complete his Master of Music of the same Major at Indiana University Jacobs School of Music in the USA in 2013 under the guidance of PQ Phan. He sees himself as a global citizen and continuously draws his inspiration from all sorts of cultures and ideas that reflect who we are as one global people. Transforming and integrating these concepts and revelations into his music, Jun Yi wishes to inspire those in the future - just like how they have inspired and reminded him of who he is and what the world is like at the present.

He has received multiple awards, such as the Grand Prize of Best Original Orchestra Work from the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra International Composition Competition. On top of

THE CREATIVE TEAM
CHOW JUN YI

that, he has received commissions from the likes of the Albany Symphony, Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, Singapore National Youth Chinese Orchestra, Georgetown Festival in Malaysia, Malaysian Philharmonic Youth Orchestra and Sound of Arts Festival in New York. His music has been performed wildly across the globe, covering Asia, Europe and the Americas. He is also the co-author of The TENG Guide to the Chinese Orchestra published in 2019 which now serves as a one-stop guide for composers, scholars and enthusiasts alike.

Although Jun Yi is currently pursuing his PhD in Music Composition at University of Hawaii at Manoa in Honolulu, Hawaii in US, he works on various projects remotely - including serving as the Composer-in-Residence of The TENG

THE CREATIVE TEAM

CHOW JUN YI

Company. He also performs on occasion as a classical musician and a music improviser.

THE CREATIVE TEAM

JOEL NAH



Joel Nah

Head of Music & Rehearsal Director

A recipient of Singapore's National Arts Council Arts Scholarship, Joel is the first Singaporean to graduate, summa cum laude, from Berklee College of Music's

THE CREATIVE TEAM

JOEL NAH

Master of Music degree program in Valencia, Spain, majoring in Scoring for Film, Television and Video Games.

Prior to this, Joel studied classical piano under Singapore virtuoso Ong Lip Tat, mentored by Cultural Medallion recipient Iskandar Ismail, and esteemed choral conductor Nelson Kwei. In Berklee, Joel studied composition and orchestration with Alfons Conde, and conducting with Maestro Constantino Martinez Ortiz. Joel has collaborated with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra and Metropolitan Festival Orchestra, the Budapest Art Orchestra, and several principal players from the London Symphony Orchestra and the Orquestra de la Comunitat Valenciana.

Upon his return from studies, Joel has been actively involved in the local musical

THE CREATIVE TEAM

JOEL NAH

theatre scene as a music director, arranger and orchestrator. Selected theatre credits include: Singapore Repertory Theatre's *Forbidden City: Portrait of An Empress* (2006, 2018), *A Peter Rabbit Tale*; Pangdemonium Productions' *RENT*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *The Full Monty*, *Spring Awakening*, *Next To Normal*, *The Rise & Fall Of Little Voice*; Dream Academy Productions' Company, *Crazy Christmas* (2008-2010), *Into The Woods*; *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*; BASE Entertainment (Marina Bay Sands)'s *The Lion King*, *WICKED*, *West Side Story*, *The Phantom of the Opera* (2013); W!ld Rice: *A Singapore Carol*, *Hansel & Gretel* pantomimes. Joel is also a keen composer, having scored for several short films, commercials and stage shows.

THE MUSICIANS



ERHU, GAOHU, YEHU

Darrel Xin

KEYBOARD

Gabriel Hoe

GEHU

Gerald Teo

PIPA

Jeremy Wong

GUZHENG,
TEOCHEW ZHENG

Johnny Chia

GUITAR

Leonard Goh

DARUAN, QINQIN,
YUEQIN

Neil Chua

SHENG

Yang Ji Wei

THE MUSICIANS

DARREL XIN



Darrel Xin

Erhu, Gaohu, Yehu

Darrel started learning the erhu in 1995 as a student in the Chung Cheng High School (Main). He fell in love with the erhu instantly and from that moment on,

THE MUSICIANS

DARREL XIN

his family - and neighbours - listened to his erhu playing daily. Darrel graduated in 2009 with a bachelor's degree in erhu performance from the Central Conservatory of Music In Beijing, China. Although he loves listening to erhu and Western classical music, Darrel is a rocker at heart. He is inspired by blues and rock & roll music from the 1920s to 1960s, as well as classic rock. He also loves playing blues harmonica, reading, watching classic movies and pour-over coffee.

During his National Service, Darrel was a member of the Singapore Armed Forces Music and Drama Company. He was a contract musician with the Singapore Chinese Orchestra (SCO) from 2004 to 2005 and played full time in the Macau Chinese Orchestra from 2009 to 2012. He also co-founded Nen, a Chinese

THE MUSICIANS

DARREL XIN

Instrumental trio that plays self-composed music. In the course of his studies in Beijing he was a freelance musician for the China Central Broadcasting Chinese Orchestra. In the year 2000, Darrel emerged as the champion in the Erhu Senior Category of the National Arts Council (NAC) National Chinese Music Competition.

Darrel has performed as a soloist in many appearances both locally and abroad. He was one of the three chosen by the NAC to represent Singapore at the 2004 ASEM V Performing Arts Festival held in Hanoi. He was also the erhu player for Dick Lee's musical, "*Forbidden City*" for 3 of its seasons as well as for the CD album. His erhu music was also featured in the soundtracks of local movies such as "*Singapore Dreaming*" (2006), "*12 Lotus*"

THE MUSICIANS

DARREL XIN

(2008) and “*The Fortune Handbook*” (2017). As the Concert Master of the 2004 Singapore Youth Chinese Orchestra he performed the erhu concerto “*Erhu Rhapsody No. 1*” accompanied by the SCO. In March 2005, Darrel travelled to Europe with the SCO to perform in Hungary and England. He was the erhu player for National Day Parade 2009. In October 2009, Darrel’s erhu playing was also featured in the Song of Macau “*It’s a Wonderful Place*”. In 2013, he recorded for The Teng Ensemble’s critically acclaimed debut album, “*Eight*”. After which in 2015, Nen released their debut album, “*First Steps*”, featuring all-original self-composed music. In that same year, he was the erhu player for Xinyao legend Liang Wen Fu’s debut concert.

THE MUSICIANS

DARREL XIN

Darrel has also recorded tracks under the Ocean Butterflies label for Chingay 2017. In June 2018, Darrel held his debut solo recital at the Esplanade Concert Hall to a full house and rave reviews. In 2019, Darrel recorded erhu parts and appeared in the 60th Anniversary Music Video of *Majulah Singapura*, sung by Ramli Sarip. His erhu playing was also featured in NDP 2019. Other than performing and recording, Darrel is also committed to inspiring the young to pick up the erhu and develop a love for music. He is currently teaching erhu in schools, as well as privately.

THE MUSICIANS

GABRIEL HOE



Gabriel Hoe

Keyboard

Gabriel Hoe has a lifelong dream - to experience life and culture in as many different parts of the world as possible, through music. In order to achieve that,

THE MUSICIANS

GABRIEL HOE

he has dedicated his life to becoming the People's Musician - a person who enjoys interacting with others, through music. His life revolves mostly around music, in both work and play! Gabriel first picked up the Yamaha Electone when he was 4, and a couple of years later progressed to the piano. During secondary school, as part of the school band, he took up the trumpet as well and still plays it on the side.

Gabriel's strong musical foundation was nurtured from young by the Yamaha education system. He then proceeded to complete a Diploma in Music and Audio Technology in Singapore Polytechnic and his Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance in Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, National University of Singapore. His inspiration

THE MUSICIANS

GABRIEL HOE

for music was drawn from the people he grew up with, his family and friends, and teachers (Yeo Kian Boon, Stella Yu, Lena Ching and Albert Tiu).

There were many notable mentions in Gabriel's career as a result of his diverse interest in music. A highlight for Gabriel was his first big break in the industry which was being the pianist of the Singapore Symphony Children's Choir (SSCC). Following that, he was also the pianist of Singapore Ballet Ltd (formerly known as Singapore Dance Theatre), keyboardist of The TENG Ensemble, and pianist of duodentity - a Singaporean piano duo formed with Adriana Chiew. His achievements include attaining the Top Scorer for his year for the Licentiate of the Royal School of Music (LRSM) in Piano Performance, winning 3rd place

THE MUSICIANS

GABRIEL HOE

in the North West International Piano Ensemble Competition as a piano duo with duodentity, securing the Highest Distinction for his Bachelor of Music and graduating with Merit for his Diploma.

Currently, Gabriel is grateful to be doing what he loves through this pandemic and is now playing regularly for SSCC and SDT. He has also seen an increasing number of ad-hoc projects coming in as a freelance musician. He continues to look for more outreach opportunities to connect more people with his music. An example is his live stream channel on Twitch, where he aims to perform weekly for his online viewers. For more of what Gabriel has been up to, you can visit his website at www.gabrielhoemusic.com

THE MUSICIANS

GERALD TEO



Gerald Teo

Gehu

Gerald Teo is the Co-founder and Board Member of The TENG Company and sits on the Editorial Panel for the Chinese Music Instrumental Grading

THE MUSICIANS

GERALD TEO

Examinations run by The TENG Academy. He obtained his Honours and Masters Degrees from the University of New South Wales, Australia along with a Licentiate from the Royal School of Music in Cello. In 2010, he graduated with a Postgraduate Diploma in Education from the National Institute of Education.

Gerald had extensive engagements with numerous music groups such as Singapore Chinese Orchestra, Asian Cultural Symphony Orchestra, The Philharmonic Orchestra, Singapore National Youth Orchestra, Singapore National Youth Chinese Orchestra and The Singapore Indian Orchestra amongst others. His appointments as principal cellist in various orchestras and ensemble groups have enabled him to perform in

THE MUSICIANS

GERALD TEO

Beijing, Shanghai, Korea, Hong Kong, Philippines, Malaysia and Australia throughout his career.

As an established educator and cellist, Gerald is a much sought-after coach and has tutored many esteemed Chinese Orchestras & String Ensembles in various institutions such as Temasek Polytechnic, Anglo-Chinese Junior College, Raffles Girl's Secondary, Anglo-Chinese School (International), St. Margaret's Secondary, Anglo-Chinese School (Barker Road), Nanyang Girls High School, Catholic High Primary and Rosyth Primary to name a few.

Gerald also dedicates much of his time coaching many talented performers from his own cello studio; many of whom are currently performing in various

THE MUSICIANS

GERALD TEO

Music Ensembles and National Youth Orchestras. Gerald's dedication to his work has inspired and enabled many of his students to obtain distinctions in Graded cello exams organised by ABRSM & Trinity College London; with some having decided to continue pursuing a career in music.

THE MUSICIANS JEREMY WONG



Jeremy Wong Pipa

Marketing Manager at The TENG Company by day, pipa musician and teacher by night, Jeremy enjoys his roles both on and off the stage. He also loves his

THE MUSICIANS

JEREMY WONG

cavapoo, Odin, and enjoys bringing him out for adventures and walks whenever possible! You can fully expect Jeremy to be working on a laptop with his puppy right next to him.

Jeremy's journey into music began when he haphazardly joined the Chinese Orchestra in Anglo-Chinese School (Barker Road) – he has not looked back since. He started with the zhongruan but decided to pick up the pipa after reading *Impressions of a Pipa Player*, a book written by his would-be teacher and mentor Dr Samuel Wong. Following his win at the National Chinese Music Competition 2016, Jeremy spent three fun-filled months at Anglo-Chinese Junior College, and then decided to pursue his passion at Singapore Polytechnic's Diploma in Music and Audio Technology course. Upon

THE MUSICIANS

JEREMY WONG

graduating, Jeremy served his National Service at the Singapore Armed Forces Music and Drama Company following an exceedingly short stint in the Air Force. He then went on to be a freelance musician and instructor at various school Chinese Orchestras and provided enrichment programmes.

Wanting to broaden his horizons, Jeremy completed his undergraduate studies in business management at the University of Manchester. While performing with The TENG Ensemble, Jeremy combined his love for music and passion in music education through his work at the Singapore National Youth Chinese Orchestra. After three unforgettable years working with amazing young talents, he moved on to the marketing and communications team at Singapore

THE MUSICIANS

JEREMY WONG

Chinese Orchestra.

As an award-winning pipa player and ensemble musician, Jeremy studied under Dr Samuel Wong when he was 14. By the age of 18, Jeremy had won the 1st prize and 2nd prize in the Pipa Youth and Open category of the biennial National Chinese Music Competition respectively, while also clinching the 3rd prize at the Asian Youth Music Competition 2007 (Chinese Music). After graduating from Singapore Polytechnic with a Diploma in Music and Audio Technology, Jeremy went on to attain his Distinction in Diploma for Pipa Performance from the NUS. He also took on the role of principal pipa player for Toa Payoh West Chinese Orchestra from 2007 to 2017, which has won multiple prizes - including a 1st in the National Chinese Music Competition

THE MUSICIANS

JEREMY WONG

Ensemble Open category. Since then, he has been featured as a soloist in numerous concerts and events, working with local organisations such as Hsing Hai Arts Association Chinese Orchestra and Toa Payoh West Community Chinese Orchestra, among others. In 2013, Jeremy was invited to perform as a soloist with Orchestre Symphonique De Bretagne in France, under the baton of Darrell Ang, to high acclaim.

Never one to settle for the status quo, Jeremy collaborated with Samuel and formed The Pipa Quartet in 2013, and developed the world's first electro-acoustic pipa. Following the quartet's performances in Thailand and Kuala Lumpur, Jeremy began coaching at various Chinese Orchestras such as Hong Wen School, Anglo-Chinese School (Barker Road)

THE MUSICIANS

JEREMY WONG

and Elias Park Primary School. Jeremy currently performs with The TENG Ensemble and TENG Gives Back.

THE MUSICIANS

JOHNNY CHIA



Johnny Chia

Guzheng, Teochew Zheng

Johnny, born and raised in Singapore, is a classically trained guzheng player and Co-Curricular Activity (CCA) instructor in schools. His love for Chinese traditional

THE MUSICIANS

JOHNNY CHIA

music started from his primary school CCA being Chinese Orchestra. His interest in Chinese music did not falter as he continued on to join the Chinese Orchestra in his secondary school as well. Johnny started picking up the Chinese flute in his first year in Balestier Hill Secondary School, but his attention was soon drawn to the beautiful sound of the ancient instrument known as the guzheng which he picked up later.

Johnny started proper training in guzheng in 1994, under the tutelage of Mdm Chen Hui Lan, Mdm Yin Qun, Miss Xu Hui and Mr Foo Loong Wee. In September 2006, he was enrolled in the China Conservatory of Music, under the guidance of renowned guzheng performer Miss Qiu Ji and obtained his Bachelor of Performing Arts in Chinese Traditional

THE MUSICIANS

JOHNNY CHIA

Music (Guzheng) upon graduation in 2010.

Johnny's guzheng learning journey was tough yet fruitful. On top of learning guzheng, he realised that rich culture was connected to Chinese music and that it enabled him to come in touch with something our forefathers have left behind. From then on, Johnny decided to do his part in the conservation of Chinese music in hopes of advocating for the precious heritage.

Actively involved in the local art scene, Johnny has participated in many music activities like: *Millennium Concert* in 2000 and *Extravaganza of Strings* in 2002 both held by Singapore Chinese Orchestra, *Remembrance of Maestro Liu Ming Yuan Concert* held by China Conservatory

THE MUSICIANS
JOHNNY CHIA

at Beijing National Theatre in 2007, *Remembrance of Maestro Qiu Da Cheng Concert* held by China Conservatory at China Conservatory Concert Hall in 2008, Chinese musical play “*Xiao Er Hei*” held by China Conservatory in 2009 and 2010 at Beijing National Theatre and China Conservatory Theatre, recorded guzheng sections for the themed soundtrack of the Olympics in 2008, recorded guzheng sections for Subway Singapore’s 2014 new year advertisement etc. He has also performed with several local Chinese Orchestras and music organisations: Cheng San Community Centre Echoes of The Valley Chinese Orchestra, Braddell Heights Community Centre Chinese Orchestra, Singapore OmniArts, The TENG Ensemble, Guzheng Association

THE MUSICIANS
JOHNNY CHIA

(Singapore), Siong Leng Music Association.

Upon graduation from China Music Conservatory, Johnny has been engaged as a music instructor to coach Chinese Orchestra and Guzheng Ensemble CCAs in various schools across Singapore ranging from primary schools to polytechnics. Over the years, schools taught by him have achieved numerous Distinction awards in SYF presentations. Apart from teaching, Johnny has also been working on music projects with various organisations to advocate development for Chinese instrumental music. With The TENG Ensemble, Johnny is engaged as a guzheng player to perform newly rearranged compositions - developed from both classic and traditional Chinese works which feature challenging playing

THE MUSICIANS

JOHNNY CHIA

techniques and unprecedented depth at the same time. As vice president of the Guzheng Association Singapore, Johnny has been planning and directing performance events for the association's members. He also works closely with the association to promote and develop guzheng art locally; creating new works for the locally bred art form - a Guzheng Ensemble.

THE MUSICIANS

LEONARD GOH



Leonard Goh

Guitar

In his free time, Leonard - or Leo for short - enjoys video and board games with his friends along with sports such as basketball and badminton. He reads a wide variety

THE MUSICIANS

LEONARD GOH

of literature ranging from thrillers, fiction, Shakespearean works to even light reading such as comics and manga. He first picked up the guitar when he was studying for his Bachelors in Business Administration. It was then that he realised he enjoyed performing, writing and even teaching music more so than the prospects of the corporate world. He got his grade 8 from the Royal College of Music examinations and began diving deeper into the teaching scene before finally deciding to further his studies abroad.

Leo studied Audio Engineering and Music Production at Musicians Institute of Contemporary Music Hollywood (MI) and went on to work in professional studios with Neve, API and SSL boards in studios about LA including The Village, Kingsize Soundlabs, DTLA, Legends

THE MUSICIANS

LEONARD GOH

and many others. This allowed him to thoroughly understand the workflow and signal chain production. In addition, he's helped on several projects as the assistant engineer and producer. His knowledge of sound, frequencies, production and mixing were acquired from shadowing engineers such as Dennis Herring, Dave Pensado and both in recording and mixing. In Singapore, Leo runs his own production studio Soul Dot SG where he produced for Tim De Cotta, Tay Kewei and Alfred Sim, Gail Belmonte, Shaun Jensen, Fathin Amira, Fingerfunk, Thecolorfractal and many more.

In addition to engineering, he is proficient in guitar, having performed extensively and studied under world-renowned teachers at MI. The school demanded high levels of performance in multiple

THE MUSICIANS

LEONARD GOH

genres and styles and this helped develop his creativity and experience of different types of music and their qualities. Leo has worked with Deidre Powell, Stevie Wonder, opened for Macy Gray, Hall and Oates, Michael Macdonald and many more. While his strength lies in the contemporary; he has also studied film scoring and classical pieces to further enrich his versatility as well as musicianship. These all contribute to a diverse, well-rounded way of playing that translate into his musical and production abilities.

Leo is currently in a local RnB Electronic band called Fingerfunk, which was formed when he first returned from Los Angeles. The group went on to win the local NOISE competition and have since performed at the Esplanade, *IGNITE!*

THE MUSICIANS

LEONARD GOH

Festival and many more. They were also flown to Brisbane earlier in 2020 to perform for a music festival. Besides the band, his studio has been producing and recording for the local artists amidst the pandemic, with releases from Gentle Bones and Kewei, National Heritage Board, Derrick Hoh and many more. With the gigs greatly diminished from the pandemic, diversifying has allowed him to stay afloat.

THE MUSICIANS

NEIL CHUA



Neil Chua

Daruan, Qinqin, Yueqin

Graduating from the prestigious Shanghai Conservatory of Music, Neil is the first and the youngest musician of the Conservatory to receive a Masters

THE MUSICIANS

NEIL CHUA

degree in Ruan. Currently a Permanent Resident in Singapore, Neil is the Founder of RuanAtWorkz Musical Arts, a registered Charity in Singapore which promotes traditional culture, music, art and traditional values. Neil is also the first musician to be invited to represent Malaysia to participate in the acclaimed OneBeat Programme, an exchange programme by the U.S State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs in 2014. Through the programme, Neil had the opportunity to interact, educate and promote the Ruan to students and musicians from around the world in the United States of America. Neil's passion also led to an invitation to participate in the Silkroad Ensemble's Global Musician Workshop 2015 & 2017 supported by Cello Maestro Yo Yo Ma.

THE MUSICIANS

NEIL CHUA

Neil staged his first solo performance under the invitation of the Malaysia Professional Cultural Centre Chinese Orchestra in June 2005 at the Kuala Lumpur City Government Concert Hall. Since then, Neil has been invited to perform in numerous events and festivals around the world, including the Asian Performing Arts Market (APAM) in Japan, Setouchi Triennale (Japan) and the Solo International Performing Arts (SIPA) in Indonesia.

Neil is also the Director for the sold-out *Sesaji Segoro – The Daughter of the Ocean*, where he infused 5 different cultures in a groundbreaking opera. Neil's dedication in using music to break borders is clearly reflected in his most recent project *BREVE* where he brought together 7 internationally renowned musicians across

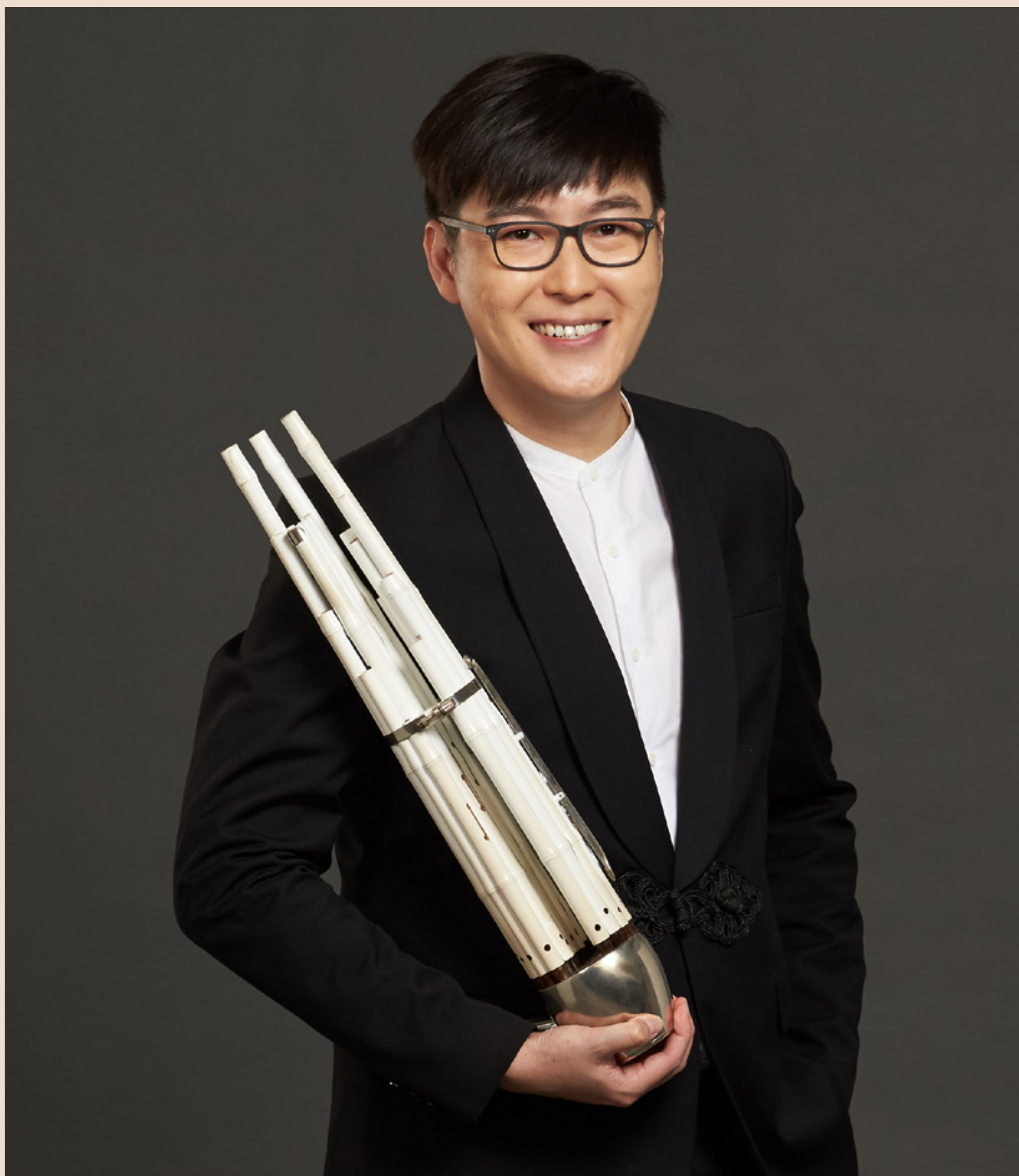
THE MUSICIANS

NEIL CHUA

Asia and USA to Singapore for a 11-day music-cultural exchange with a series of engagement activities with local arts groups, schools and communities.

Neil dedicates his time to promoting the Ruan and works closely with composers and young musicians. He also conducts regular classes to impart his skills to the younger generation.

THE MUSICIANS
YANG JI WEI



Yang Ji Wei
Sheng

Ji Wei read music at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, China under renowned Sheng masters Guo Chang Suo, Professor Yang Shoucheng

THE MUSICIANS

YANG JI WEI

and Feng Haiyun. In 2015, he received the Singapore Youth Award which is one of the nation's highest accolades for outstanding youths. He is also a multiple-award winning Sheng performer and an active advocate in the Singapore music and Chinese cultural scenes.

He is also a recipient of the prestigious Shell-National Arts Council Scholarship in 2005; co-founder and Executive Director of The TENG Company; Treasurer of the Singapore Chinese Music Federation; President of the Singapore Sheng Association; co-founder of the Musicians Guild of Singapore; a member of the China Sheng Musicians Society; Music Director and Founder of the first and only Sheng ensemble in Southeast Asia, "Resonance"; and the Music Director and Conductor of the Chinese orchestras in Raffles Institution

THE MUSICIANS

YANG JI WEI

(Year 1-6), Raffles Girls' School, Anglo-Chinese School (Barker Road), Catholic High School (Primary), Elias Park Primary School and Rosyth School.

As a conductor, Ji Wei has led many orchestras to achieve new heights of musical excellence at the Singapore Youth Festival Central Judging. He was the youngest conductor of a Gold Award winning school at the Singapore Youth Festival Central Judging 2005 and remained as the only conductor in Singapore with a stellar record of producing distinction awards for Chinese Orchestras over the last 10 years of his career.

In August 2018, Ji Wei was appointed Council Member of the Promote Mandarin Council by the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth,

THE MUSICIANS

YANG JI WEI

where he is still currently serving. More recently, Ji Wei was invited to co-host the Mediacorp television programme *At the Crossroad of Realities* 《**华文华语**。今天 明日》, where education and cultural practitioners from different walks of life reflected on the future of the Chinese language in Singapore.

THE PRODUCTION TEAM



DIRECTOR

Koo Chia Meng

PRODUCTION
MANAGER,
STAGE MANAGER

Xu Xin'en

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Gabriel Chan

AESTHETICS AND
MULTIMEDIA

Widewall Pictures

SOUND ENGINEER

Steve Zhang

MONITOR ENGINEER

Aw Wei Zheng

TECHNICAL MANAGER

Terence Lau

THE PRODUCTION TEAM

KOO CHIA MENG

Koo Chia Meng

Director

Trained as a filmmaker, Chia Meng has been actively involved in various aspects of film production since 2009. His latest short films, ‘*Andrew*’ and ‘*After Noon*’, were official selections at regional film festivals including Bangkok ASEAN Film Festival, Singapore International Film Festival, Singapore Shorts ‘21 and Minikino Film Week. Chia Meng also directed live-action films for National Day 2021, featuring interviews with aspiring Singaporeans.

Chia Meng was also Casting Director for Singaporean feature films such as Boo Junfeng’s ‘*Apprentice*’ (2016), Anthony Chen’s ‘*Ilo Ilo*’ (2013) and ‘*Wet Season*’ (2019).

THE PRODUCTION TEAM

KOO CHIA MENG

As Multimedia Designer, Chia Meng's credits include productions by W!ld Rice, The Finger Players, Drama Box, Toy Factory, The TENG Company, Warner Music Singapore and Singapore Repertory Theatre. Chia Meng then ventured into larger scale shows like *Ah Boys To Men: The Musical*, *Michael Learns To Rock 25: Live in Singapore* as well as National Day Parade Singapore.

At the Straits Times Life Theatre Awards 2019, Chia Meng and co-designer Andrew Robert Ng were awarded Best Multimedia for their work on W!ld Rice's '*Supervision*'.

Chia Meng completed his Master of Fine Arts in Film Directing at the Taipei National University of the Arts. He continues to develop video content as

THE PRODUCTION TEAM

KOO CHIA MENG

Fiction Shore's Creative Director, for both the film and theatre industries, along with other collaborators and artists.

THE PRODUCTION TEAM

XU XIN'EN

Xu Xin'en

Production Manager, Stage Manager

Xin'en believes in doing whatever it takes to create magic in the theatre. Motivated by her passion for the arts, she has taken on a myriad of roles within the local theatre industry.

She first gained invaluable backstage experience as a sound operator, before becoming a professional “saikang warrior” at a range of front-of-house duties including ticketing and events management. As a producer, Xin'en has worked with Dream Academy and Double Confirm Productions on popular and critically acclaimed shows such as *KUMAR: What Makes A Man A Man?*, *Company*, *Crazy Christmas*, *The Hossan Leong*

THE PRODUCTION TEAM

XU XIN'EN

Show and the *Hossan-AH!* series, of which, the sold out *Hossan-AH! 50* in 2019 stays closest to her heart.

Later, she made her debut as a stage manager for the 2015 revival of iconic Singapore musical *Beauty World*, directed by Dick Lee. She took on the role of production manager at W!LD RICE in 2016, managing the Singapore Theatre Festival and its annual pantomime. Xin'en was also the multimedia producer for the National Day Parade (NDP) 2017, 2018, 2020, 2021, 2022.

In 2017 and 2018, Xin'en delved straight from NDP into the role of production coordinator in the Singapore F1 Grand Prix.

Xin'en has a Masters in Cultural and Creative Industries from the Taipei

THE PRODUCTION TEAM

XU XIN'EN

National University of the Art. Xin'en has produced a number of commercials and short films, such as *Plague*, directed by Boo Junfeng for the National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre. She has also produced music videos for local artistes like Ugly In The Morning and The TENG Ensemble.

Xin'en was also post producer at Infinite Frameworks Pte Ltd for Asia's Got Talent season 3.

To bring art into homes, Xin'en has moved to producing for a hybrid of live performance and filming, and part of her repertoire include various digital dance performances, including *Danfes Opencall 2020* and products by Frontier Danceland.

THE PRODUCTION TEAM

GABRIEL CHAN

Gabriel Chan

Lightning Designer

Recipient of the National Arts Council (NAC) Overseas Bursary, Gabriel graduated from Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts with First Class Honours in Lighting Design. He was also awarded the Strand Lighting Scholarship, funding his training at the Metropolitan Opera, New York ('09 Winter Opera Season). He was conferred the Young Artist Award in 2019 for his artistic excellence and contribution to Singapore's performing arts scene. A chameleon of a designer, Gabriel is well versed in lighting for the theatre, dance, music concerts and live events.

Gabriel started collaborating with The

THE PRODUCTION TEAM

GABRIEL CHAN

TENG Ensemble for their main stage concerts in 2013, starting with *Eight, Stories from and Island City, Mind the Music*, and most recently, *Heirlooms*. Other lighting design credits for music include *Pipa Virtuoso, Wu Man, in Borderlands* (SIFA 2016), *SCO 25th Anniversary Virtuoso Series I, II, III* (Singapore Chinese Orchestra), *Nine Songs, Soul Journey Ten Years*, (Siong Leng Musical Association) and the *South East Asian Tour of Sound of Wisdom - Heal* (IMMPAC).

Signature theatre designs include *Lifespan of a Fact, Constellations, Rising Son, Shakespeare in the Park: Julius Caesar, Romeo & Juliet, The Tempest* (Singapore Repertory Theatre), *The LKY Musical* (Metropolitan Productions), *First Fleet* (Nine Years Theatre), *A Dream Under the Southern Bough: Existence* (SIFA 2021), *Seven*

THE PRODUCTION TEAM

GABRIEL CHAN

Sages of the Bamboo Grove, Sometime Moon, The Crab Flower Club 2022 (Toy Factory Productions) and *Fluid* (The Theatre Practice).

In the dance scene, Gabriel has designed for *Frontier Danceland's* main seasons since 2012, featuring an array of international choreographers. Other notable dance productions: Festival Lighting Designer for *M1 CONTACT Contemporary Dance Festival 2016* (T.H.E. Dance Company) and *Swan Lake 2015* (Singapore Dance Theatre). Gabriel also opened two European dance commissions in summer 2019 - *Ballroom for Festspielhaus* in St Pölten, Austria, and *Dancing Mahler in the 21st Century*, a double bill for Opéra National du Rhin, France.

Other design ventures include *Symphony*

THE PRODUCTION TEAM

GABRIEL CHAN

of Life, the Gardens By The Bay opening festival anchor, *Marina Bay Countdown 2015: Drum Gaia*, Halloween Horror Nights 2018 and 2019 theatre performances and last but not least, Singapore's National Day Parade 2017, 2018, 2020 and 2021.

Gabriel also goes by the moniker Linesmith www.linesmith.net, authorised directly by Vectorworks Headquarters based in Washington for conducting training of the Vectorworks software, the leading drafting solution for Entertainment and Performing Arts technical design.

THE PRODUCTION TEAM

WIDEWALL PICTURES

Widewall Pictures

Aesthetics and Multimedia

Widewall Pictures is a Singapore-based production company founded in 2013 by three filmmakers who share the same vision and passion in finding the cinematic language of everyday life. The team has produced award-winning fiction films that brought local and regional stories close to the hearts of a global audience. Widewall Pictures also creates collaboration works with dancers, musicians and art galleries, producing highly artistic films where multiple art forms complement each other without sacrificing their own creative languages.

THE PRODUCTION TEAM

STEVE ZHANG

Steve Zhang

Sound Engineer

A graduate from Singapore Polytechnic's Diploma in Music & Audio Technology, Steve is a sound engineer who has worked with SCO, SSO, SCCC and other establishments for their concerts, performances and events. He has conducted workshops and provided training for over 30 private organisations and public institutions on live sound and audio production.

Steve has also worked with Universal Music, Timbre Group, Tin Box Group, etc. as a project manager specialising in audio-visual system integration. He also penned the Chinese lyrics for the 2019 SingTel Chinese New Year Campaign,

THE PRODUCTION TEAM

STEVE ZHANG

whose YouTube video has garnered over 10 million views.

Steve has been the sound engineer of The TENG Ensemble since 2015, touring with the group locally and internationally. After their previous well-acclaimed and sold-out concert at the Esplanade, Steve has joined them once again at SCCC for their Forefathers concert.

THE PRODUCTION TEAM

AW WEI ZHENG

Aw Wei Zheng

Monitor Engineer

Wei Zheng graduated on a scholarship in Yong Siew Toh Conservatory, majoring in Recording Art and Sciences. Under the tutelage of Prof. Zhou Xiaodong, he had the opportunity to work with a diverse group of artists and ensembles, assisting in recordings such as the album of Kit Chan's "*A Time For Everything*", Singapore Symphony Orchestra: Debussy - La Mer, and also produced for the album "*SEVEN: Organ Music of Singapore*".

During his course of study, he picked up live sound mixing for classical music, learning under mentors like Merlijn van Veen, Hans Kipfer and Chris Pyne. As a live sound engineer, he has mixed for local

THE PRODUCTION TEAM

AW WEI ZHENG

arts groups and orchestras such as The TENG Ensemble, Siong Leng Musical Association, Ding Yi Music Company, Singapore Symphony Orchestra, T'ang Quartet, Lorong Boys, etc. He has also worked with artiste Angela Zhang in her Journey World Tour 2018 and Fable World Tour 2019, under award-winning producer and music arranger, Kenn C.

Further pursuing his passion for the arts, he co-founded Poco Productions in 2018; a digital media production company which strives to bring local arts onto an international stage. As Technical Director in Poco, he leads and manages the production team which has delivered hundreds of digital concerts to date.

THE PRODUCTION TEAM

TERENCE LAU

Terence Lau

Technical Manager

Terence Lau is a technical theatre professional who has worked in the Singapore arts scene for more than ten years, managing productions for arts companies such as Arts Fission, T.H.E. Dance Company, TheatreWorks, The Necessary Stage, Wild Rice, and KULT. In his spare time, he is a sound artist who has performed regionally in countries such as the Philippines, Japan, Korea, Vietnam and Hong Kong.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CREATIVE TEAM

Creative Director

Dr Samuel Wong

Composer

Chow Junyi

Music Producer

Bang Wenfu

Head of Music and

Rehearsal Director

Joel Nah

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director
Koo Chia Meng

Production Manager/Stage Manager
Xu Xin'en

Assistant Stage Manager
Anne Lee
Michelle Chan

Lighting Designer
Gabriel Chan

Aesthetics and Multimedia
Widewall Pictures

Sound Engineer
Steve Zhang

Monitor Engineer
Aw Wei Zheng

Technical Manager
Terence Lau

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SPECIAL THANKS

Eason Music

Eng Tiang Huat
Jeff Eng

Lao Sai Tao Yuan Opera Troupe

Siong Leng Music Association

Celestina Wang
Joel Chia
Lim Ming Yi
Lin Shao Ling
Lyn Lee
Seow Ming Fong
Seow Ming Xian

Toh Koon Swee

Thau Yong Music Association

Javier Lee
Lim Soo Hiang
The Late Yeo How Jiang

Tung On Opera

Chen Xiao Rui

Xiao Dong Tian Hokkien Opera Troupe

Yi Sheng Cantonese Opera Troupe

Tse Yee Ling

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

With Gratitude

Here are the people and
organisations who have taken a
leap of faith with us and supported
our cause through the years:

PART OF

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呈献



OUR DONORS

(For the period of 1 June 2019 to 1 June 2022)



The TENG Company Ltd (‘TENG’) was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee on 21 January 2015.

TENG was registered as a charity under the Charities Act (Chapter 37) since 9 September 2015, with an effective IPC status from 1 December 2020 to 31 December 2022.

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(For the period of 1 June 2019 to 1 June 2022)

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(For the period of 1 June 2019 to 1 June 2022)

PURPLE BAMBOO

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ACKNOWLEDGING OUR FOREFATHERS INSTRUMENT ADOPTERS



The Forefathers Project comprises the research of a series of unique instruments that were specially produced by last-generation-artisans. As works of art in their own right, these instruments are up for adoption for an annual donation of \$10,000 per instrument to TENG, to help fund our projects and initiatives.

We would like to acknowledge the generosity of the following individuals who have adopted the following treasured instrument.

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR FOREFATHERS INSTRUMENT ADOPTERS

NANPA



Adopted by
Conrad and
Andrea Lim

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Adopted by
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in memory of
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ACKNOWLEDGING OUR FOREFATHERS INSTRUMENT ADOPTERS

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Adopted by
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ACKNOWLEDGING OUR FOREFATHERS
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ACKNOWLEDGING OUR FOREFATHERS INSTRUMENT ADOPTERS



**All donations to TENG above S\$50
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Kindly write to us at
partnerships@thetengcompany.com
if you would wish to adopt an instrument.

SUPPORT US



Every individual contribution, big or small, is vital to us. When you donate to TENG, you are helping us to further our cause in creating cutting edge Singaporean work, cultivating underserved adolescents in realising their passion for music, and enlivening our beneficiaries in need of comfort. It is a journey that involves colossal support to fund our programmes, and we would like you to join us in making an impact in the lives of others.

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Only for this concert - for every donation of S\$20 and above made, you will receive a limited-edition Forefathers Music Album. It includes a custom-made TENG thumb drive, preloaded with music from The Forefathers Project.

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Your feedback is important to us, we would greatly appreciate you taking 3-5 minutes to let us know about your experience at this concert. 10 respondents who provide the most constructive feedback and complete the full survey for this event will receive a **\$10 voucher** as a token of appreciation!

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