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西九文化區



TEA HOUSE CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES HONG KONG PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

SPIRITED STRINGS

港樂成員四重奏 HK Phil Musicians Quartet 高思嘉 ^{琵琶} Gao Sijia PIPA

黃乃威 鋼琴 Huang Naiwei PIANO 古 弦 共 連 管 弦 樂 團

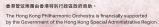
13 MAR 2023

MON 8PM

西九文化區戲曲中心茶館劇場 Tea House Theatre, Xiqu Centre, West Kowloon Cultural District

梵志登 音樂總監 Jaap van Zweden Music Director

hkphil.org





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合辦機構 Co-presenter

茶館室樂系列:香港管弦樂團

四弦共鳴

TEA HOUSE CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES: HONG KONG PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

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SPIRITED STRINGS

P. 2 羅永暉 LAW WING-FAI

11'

《潑墨仙人》,琵琶與弦樂四重奏 (1995)

Ink Spirit, for Pipa and String Quartet (1995)

王亮、桂麗·小提琴 Wang Liang & Gui Li, violin

洪依凡,中提琴 Ethan Heath, viola 宋泰美,大提琴 Tae-mi Song, cello 高思嘉,琵琶 Gao Sijia, pipa

蔡昀恬 TANSY TSAI

8'

《驀然》,琵琶與弦樂四重奏(2014)(香港首演)

Suddenly, for Pipa and String Quartet (2014) (HK Premiere)

王亮、桂麗,小提琴 Wang Liang & Gui Li, violin

洪依凡,中提琴 Ethan Heath, viola 宋泰美,大提琴 Tae-mi Song, cello 高思嘉,琵琶 Gao Sijia, pipa

王建中 WANG JIANZHONG

5'

《瀏陽河》

Liuyang River

黄乃威,鋼琴 Huang Naiwei, piano



請將手提電話及其他電子裝置調至靜音模式 Please set your mobile phone and other electronic devices into silence mode



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演奏期間請保持安靜 Please keep noise to a minimum during the performance



請留待整首樂曲完結後才報以掌聲鼓勵 Please reserve your applause until the end of the entire work









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布拉姆斯 JOHANNES BRAHMS

5'

《F-A-E》奏鳴曲:|||. 詼諧曲 F-A-E Sonata: |||. Scherzo

洪依凡,中提琴 黄乃威,鋼琴 Ethan Heath, viola Huang Naiwei, piano

柴可夫斯基 PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY

5'

《悲歌》Chanson Triste

宋泰美·大提琴 Tae-mi Song, cello 黄乃威·鋼琴 Huang Naiwei, piano

克萊斯勒 FRITZ KREISLER

4'

《中國花鼓》Tambourin Chinois

王亮 · 小提琴 Wang Liang, violin 黄乃威 · 鋼琴 Huang Naiwei, piano

德伏扎克 ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK

13'

第二鋼琴五重奏: 1. 不太快的快板

Piano Quintet no. 2: I. Allegro ma non tanto

王亮、桂麗,小提琴 洪依凡,中提琴 宋泰美,大提琴 黄乃威,鋼琴 Wang Liang & Gui Li, violin Ethan Heath, viola Tae-mi Song, cello Huang Naiwei, piano

P. 5 王亮、桂麗 小提琴

P 6

Wang Liang & Gui Li Violin

洪依凡 中提琴

Ethan Heath Viola

宋泰美 大提琴

Tae-mi Song Cello

高思嘉 羅羅

Gao Sijia Pipa

黃乃威 鋼琴

Huang Naiwei Piano

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SPIRITED STRINGS

INTRODUCTION

When the music from the East and West is explored in the intimate settings found in chamber music, the very nature of music composition can be seen through divergent cultural lenses. Textures, timbres, tonality and rhythms based on ideas that reflect regional experiences, and yet the fundamental tenets of music are shared. Ultimately, our experience of music with its unparalleled ability to transport us to a place we may like to think of as home, is a unifying, humanistic achievement. Each of the composers in this programme explores the range of human emotion through musical techniques and practices of a range of stringed instruments that connect them with a sense of time and place.

THE MUSIC

Law Wing-fai (b. 1949)'s evocative *Ink Spirit* (1995) is inspired by a painting by Liang Jie, a painter of the Song dynasty. In a direct response to the brush strokes and ink washes of the painting, Law uses parallel, antiphonal gestures for the string quartet, interspersed with frenetic passages for pipa. Moments of static intervals allow for eerie calmness, but they are broken with angry interjections from the pipa, played tonight by Gao Sijia. The music explores the range of timbral effects, as the interplay between pipa and Western string quartet reflects the palette of textures and colours in Liang's work. The effect is a neatly structured soundscape that intimately and seamlessly mirrors music and art.

Tansy Tsai (b. 1993)'s work, Suddenly (2014), for Western string quartet and pipa, uses a more contrapuntal approach with the bowed instruments that highlights clashing harmonies against floating overtones. Tsai also utilises the contrasting interruption of aggressive pipa passages, but with more integrated dialogue with the



Immortal in Splashed Ink by Liang Jie (Wikimedia Commons)

ensemble. Extended techniques such as harmonics and glissandi combine with an obfuscated rhythmic language to help connect the East and West. The liberal use of polymeter and hemiola adds to the visceral soundscape which is thoroughly programmatic. The work bases on a poetry by Xin Qiji that highlights the emotions of pining for the one that is so far, yet so near on Lantern Festival.

The well-known folk song *Liuyang River* (瀏陽河) by Tang Biguang (1920-2015) comes from Hunan Province, the location of the river, and it is **Wang Jianzhong** (1933-2016)'s piano arrangement that we hear tonight. Set in the pentatonic *zhi* mode, it comes from the category of lyrical songs known as *xiaodiao* which originate from the Xiang. The piece was written in the 1950s in praise of Chairman Mao after the establishment of the People's Republic of China in 1949. With its four symmetrical and lyrical phrases, it quickly became a popular tune and was transcribed by Wang in the 1970s. The melody follows the traditional sequence of *qi*, *cheng*, *zhuan*, and *he* (opening, inheriting, turning and concluding). The *qi* phrase first introduces the Liuyang River, the *cheng* phrase then further describes the nearby scenery, the *zhuan* phrase addresses Mao Zedong, who was born near the river, and the *he* phrase concludes the song by honouring him.

Composed in Düsseldorf in 1853, the *F-A-E* Sonata, a four-movement piece for violin and piano, is a collaborative work by three composers: Robert Schumann, Johannes Brahms and Albert Dietrich (Schumann's pupil), based on the romantic phrase, "Frei aber einsam" (free but lonely), and each movement incorporates the notes F-A-E as a musical cryptogram and connecting motif. The third movement Scherzo by Johannes Brahms, performed tonight by viola and piano, is the most well-known and most often performed of all the movements. It starts with a quick rhythmic thrust. A lyrical theme is projected in the middle section, contrasting with the fiery section before. Brahms concludes the movement with thematic materials used in the previous sections.

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893) wrote a set of Twelve Pieces for Piano, which comprised his opus 40, in 1878. He wrote to Nadezhda von Meck from Florence, "I have decided that each morning I shall write something new." Each can be seen as a personal expression of the composer and represents a variation of his despondency. The second of these twelve pieces "de difficulté moyenne" (of intermediate difficulty), is performed today in a version for cello and piano, *Chanson Triste* (Sad Song) and features a contrary-motion melody and bass line over a chromatically shifting harmony.

Written in 1910, *Tambourin Chinois* (Chinese Drum), op. 3, heralds from a period in which the "exotic East" was being explored in a range of arts mediums by European composers. This work has little if anything to do with traditional Chinese music but makes use of pentatonicism and parallel fifths. *Fritz Kreisler* (1875-1962) recalled, "I don't mind telling you that I enjoyed very much writing my *Tambourin Chinois*. The idea for it came to me after a visit to the Chinese theatre in San Francisco – not that the music there suggested any theme, but it gave me the impulse to write a free fantasy in the Chinese manner." The piece is playful and dance-like throughout and recalls the sentimentality of pre-war Vienna.

The Allegro ma non tanto of Anton Dvořák (1841-1904)'s Piano Quintet no. 2 explores a deeply expressive and lyrical theme from the cello. The viola introduces the second theme, and both are developed extensively by the violins before concluding with a vivacious recapitulation of both themes. Completed in 1888, Dvořák was enjoying recent success with his visits to England where his choral works were enthusiastically received. The sunny elements of this opening movement contrast with other movements of this work which suggest introspective contemplation: only a decade earlier, he buried the first three of his children. The entire work reflects Dvořák's commitment to nationalistic elements, and his use of Czech folk music unify the piece.

Programme notes by Dr Andrew Sutherland



WANG LIANG Violin

Wang Liang serves as Second Associate Concertmaster of the HK Phil. He collaborated with orchestras and music festivals as a soloist or concertmaster, including the HK Phil, Central Conservatory of Music Orchestra, Shaanxi Symphony Orchestra and Shanghai Summer Music Festival. He has also played the solo in "The Red Violin: Movie in Concert", and was invited by The Chopin Society of Hong Kong – Joy of Music Festival to perform a Saint-Saens' Violin Concerto and *La Muse et le Poete*.

Wang Liang graduated from the Central Conservatory of Music under renowned Professor Lin Yaoji. He plays a 1788 Joseph Gagliano violin, donated by The Ladies Committee of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Society.



GUI LI Violin

Gui Li is a member of the HK Phil's First Violin section. She has been studying the violin since she was five with her grandfather as her very first teacher. She won the Second Prize and the Best Performance of Chinese Composition for solo violin at the National Violin Competition in China (Hubei division). She then gained a Bachelor's Degree from The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA) with a full scholarship. After graduation, she joined the HK Phil and became a faculty of HKAPA.



ETHAN HEATH Viola

Ethan Heath joined the HK Phil in 1998. As chamber musician, he has appeared in venues both in Hong Kong and the United States, including Alice Tully Hall and Miller Theater in New York; at many festivals including the Aspen, Sarasota and Park City Music Festivals; and at the Breckenridge Music Festival, where he also performed as concerto soloist with the National Repertory Orchestra. He has worked to increase the repertoire of contemporary viola music, and successfully commissioned the "Concertpiece for Viola and Piano" from the well-known American composer David Diamond.

Ethan graduated from the Interlochen Arts Academy and continued his studies at the Eastman School of Music, The Juilliard School and the Cleveland Institute of Music.



TAE-MI SONG Cello

Having grown up in Hamburg, Germany, Tae-mi Song studied cello with Wolfgang Emanuel Schmidt and Troels Svane at the Lübeck Academy of Music. She continued her studies with Leonard Stehn at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London where she also received intensive chamber music coaching from members of the Takács Quartet and Belcea Quartet. Tae-mi was selected to be a recipient of the London Philharmonic Orchestra's "Foyle Future Firsts" award and worked with numerous orchestras in Britain. In 2015 she was appointed by Jaap van Zweden to the HK Phil cello section.



GAO SIJIA Pipa

An active pipa performer in Hong Kong, Gao earned a Bachelor of Music with first-class honours and a Master degree with distinction from HKAPA under the tutelage of renowned pipa player Wang Zijing.

Gao's superb performances and delicate interpretations have received accolades. In the Sounds of Harmony concert series in 2005, prominent Hong Kong composer Law Wing-fai complimented, "It is fantastic as she can exhibit vividly his work *Ink Spirit*". In 2022, Gao was invited to perform 'The Muse of Five-string Pipa' in Tan Dun's *The Five Muses of Dunhuang* (Hong Kong Premiere) with Tan Dun and the HK Phil, and was described by Tan Dun as "a graceful and elegant pipa soloist with deep awareness, outstanding technique and perfect musical sense".



HUANG NAIWEI Piano

Huang Naiwei is one of Hong Kong's most promising solo artists and collaborators at the keyboard in chamber music, in both classical and jazz music. His improvisational playing was highly praised by internationally renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma, who said Huang is an "impressive talent". He was invited to work with composer Tan Dun on his piano concerto in 2017.

He has performed in various venues worldwide, including the Great Hall of Stiftung Mozarteum Salzburg in Austria and the Hong Kong Government House. He has also served as a judge for international competitions.

Huang is now tutor of the junior programme at HKAPA.

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Christoph Eschenbach, conductor Ray Chen, violin

巴孚·約菲,指揮 左章, 鋼琴

Paavo Järvi, conductor Zee Zee, piano

莫琳,歌手 雷柏喜,鋼琴 港樂爵士小組 Talie Monin, vocalist

Patrick Lui, piano HK Phil Jazz Ensemble

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