

# 根植「傳統」、涵融創新—— 攜手共構屬於當代的 繽紛藝響

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圖 / 臺北市立國樂團

臺北市立國樂團（以下簡稱「北市國」）主辦的「2024 臺北市傳統藝術季」系列節目即將於 3 月 9 日盛大開幕！2024 年適逢臺北市建城 140 週年以及北市國創團 45 週年，從上半年的傳統藝術季一直到下半年的新樂季，都將圍繞著這雙重慶典進行，節目必將精采可期、熱鬧非凡。本次傳統藝術季節目從「臺北」、「傳統」等議題展開，展演主題在經典傳統與涵融創新之間兼容並蓄；可見到以「臺北風彩」為核心發想議題的節目、或以「傳統」為基點，槓桿展開的各式傳統文化的創意延伸，以及國樂團形式的經典演出。隨著傳統藝術季時序邁入第 37 屆，今年度為期三個月（3/9-6/8）的臺北市傳統藝術季節目共計 30 場次（含售票節目 25 場次、戶外廣場 5 場次），由北市國與國內外許多藝術家及藝文團體輪番上演，表演形式多元豐富，整體可歸類為「精采 TCO」、「傳藝舞繽紛」、「溫馨飛魔力」三個類別。



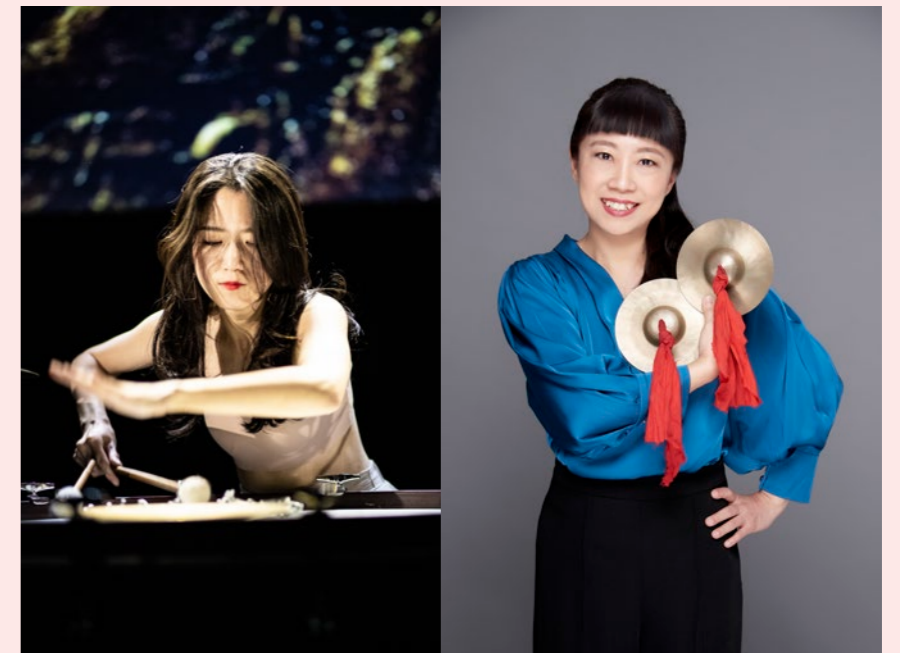
臺北市立國樂團首席指揮張宇安



演奏家 Twincussion 雙子二重奏

## 「精采 TCO」——海內外名家輪番來臺獻藝，共譜琴緣

在疫情始終沒有遠去的今日，國際交流更趨熱絡。本次傳統藝術季期間北市國共計製作 8 場「精采 TCO」系列節目，內容可見從國樂經典作品、傳統戲曲、原住民音樂、世界音樂以及爵士融合等，展現從傳統到跨界、跨文化之繽紛樣態。傳統藝術季期間海內外合作藝術家共計三十餘名，活動從「鼓—2024 臺北市傳統藝術季開幕音樂會」（3/9）揭開序幕，在首席指揮張宇安的帶領之下，特邀屢獲國際大賽獎項的「Twincussion 雙子二重奏」返臺，首次與北市國合作演出《戲·鳴·禪》雙打擊協奏曲。同場還有旅法擊樂家巫欣璇偕同北市國擊樂首席謝從馨連袂演出關迺忠經典作品《龍年新世紀》；期以磅礴氣勢，打造龍年開春第一場節目，震撼開幕。緊叩著傳統藝術季的主題，閉幕音樂會由北市國與國光劇團合作「琴韻新篇—2024 臺北市傳統藝術季閉幕音樂會」（6/8），由林谷芳主持、指揮瞿春泉、京胡演奏家李超、張舒然，以及京劇名角魏海敏、劉珈后、盛鑑、黃詩雅、林庭瑜、孔玥慈等人共同演出《魚躍龍門》雙京胡協奏曲以及《白蛇傳》等多齣經典劇目選段；在師生攜手同臺、展現薪火相傳的動容情誼之餘，也透過重新編曲形式，期能展現經典的再創造。



（左至右）擊樂演奏家巫欣璇、演奏家謝從馨



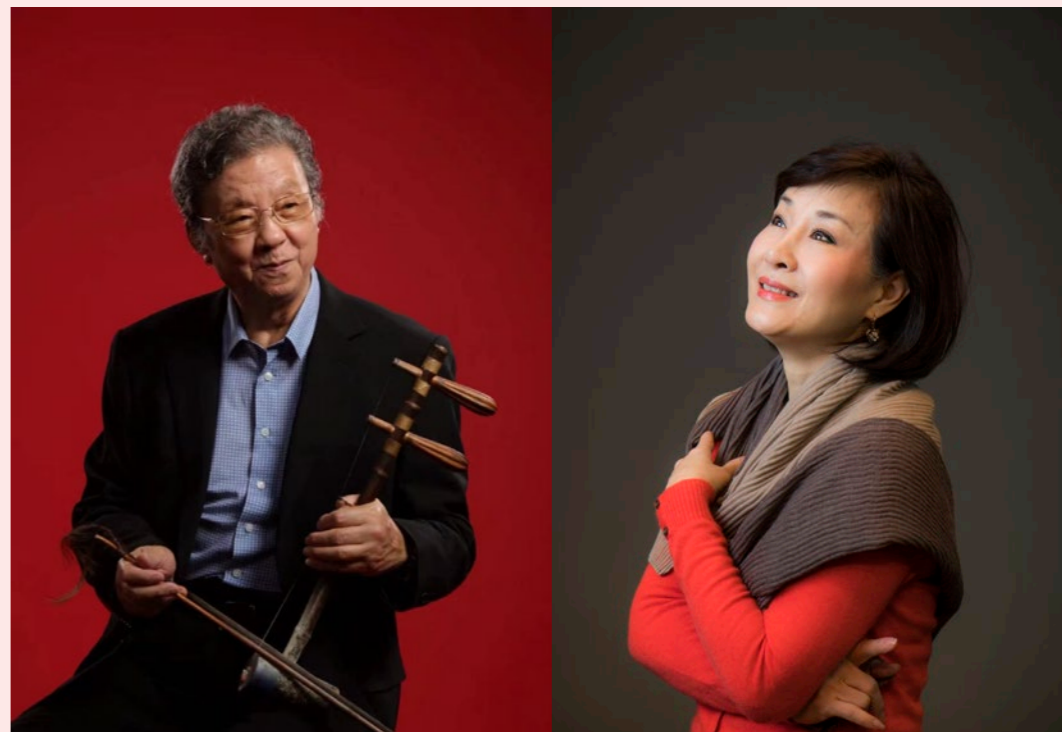
(左至右) 演奏家彼得·史坦納、演奏家呂思清

而為了持續展現與探索當代國樂團的廣大包容性，北市國亦精心策劃了五場風格迥異的專場音樂會，透過國樂團與不同樂器、樂風的結合，擘畫一系列別出心裁的多元聲景。「非常貝斯」(3/16) 係少見以低音樂器為主秀的音樂會，邀請到首次與北市國合作長號協奏曲的義大利籍長號演奏家彼得·史坦納 (Peter STEINER)、跨界爵士低音提琴演奏家徐崇育以及北市國倍革胡首席陳弘之，三人將與葉和中指揮聯手打造一場充滿跨界融合的聽覺洗禮。「和風·狂想」音樂會 (4/13) 由年僅 32 歲即榮獲 2019 年法國貝桑頌國際青年指揮大賽冠軍的日籍指揮家沖澤和佳 (沖澤のどか)，帶來 3 位日本作曲家作品，該場次同臺還有日籍中提琴演奏家笠川惠、北市國中阮演奏家蔡雨彤；音樂會將以國樂新編形式，展現不同的和洋樂風。「愛的三部曲—湯沐海&TCO」音樂會 (5/4) 則可見到享譽國際的指揮大師湯沐海及其愛女湯蘇珊，以及何佩庭、巫致廷夫妻同臺訴說各種愛的樣貌；本場節目中亦將演出國際知名作曲家譚盾《風與鳥》手機國樂交響詩，屆時全場觀眾將共同參與這首具有 Live 即時性的沉浸式展演，值得令人期待。

5 月 19 日，北市國將邀請第 5 任團長鄭立彬回娘家，攜手由陳麗芬指導之 TCO 合唱團、陳翰威、梁又中、宮天平三位聲樂家、小提琴家魏靖儀等人共同演繹蘇文慶、關迺忠、錢南章三位作曲家的「山地印象」。至於與北市國已多次合作、臺灣樂迷相當熟悉的知名小提琴家呂思清，繼 2015 年與北市國合作「再續琴緣 III」之後，將於 6 月 1 日「再續琴緣 IV」音樂會再度上演招牌曲目《梁山伯與祝英台》小提琴協奏曲；同場尚有北市國嗩吶聲部首席林子由臺灣首演大陸作曲家李博所作、講述齊天大聖西天取經故事的大型協奏曲《悟空七章》。

本次傳統藝術季期間亦委託作曲家為不同節目主題創作全新作品，如林岑陵《海祭》(3/9)、江賜良《愛的三部曲》笛子、二胡雙協奏曲 (5/4)、余忠元《走馬·飛馬》南管主題狂想曲—為大型國樂團而作 (6/1) 等，皆即將問世。除此之外，由廖元鈺指揮之「樂無盡—2024 臺北市民族器樂大賽：作曲決賽音樂會」(4/26) 為承續北市國 2023 年舉辦之「2023 TCO 國樂創作國際學術研討會」與「樂無盡—2023 TCO 國樂創作工作坊」，2024 年繼以作曲大賽為主軸，提供年輕音樂家一個國際性創作競技平臺；本場次中亦將聽到多首青年作曲家的創新發想，呈現給樂迷朋友。

另外，「溫馨飛魔力」系列音樂會係由隸屬於北市國的 TCO 學院國樂團、TCO 青年國樂團，分別於 4/20、5/18 舉辦「俠」、「樂旅」年度音樂會。透過北市國的職業演奏家與年輕一代團員的合作，從中看到跨世代音樂人激盪出的溫馨火花，也能欣賞新生代演奏家們展露鋒芒。



(左至右) 閉幕音樂會合作名家李超、魏海敏

## 「傳藝舞繽紛」——多元文化 × 跨界融合，盡現「臺北風彩」

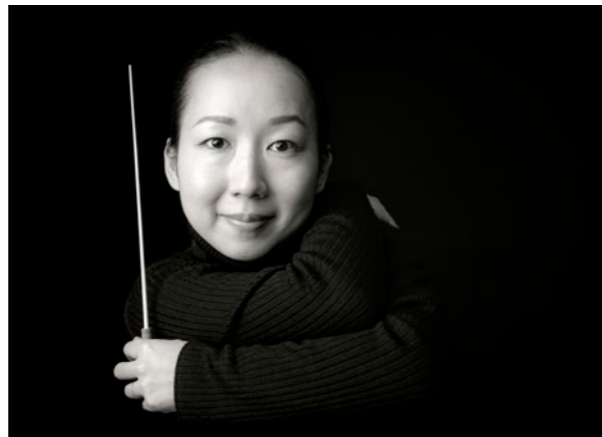
「2024 臺北市傳統藝術季」以「臺北風彩」為主題，透過公開徵件的方式，廣邀海內外藝文團體參與，期望透過豐富的藝文表演活動，彰顯國際都會城市之多元文化樣貌。今年度送件團隊共計 37 件，經由學者、專家之評選，選出符合年度主題之 17 個參演團隊將演出戲曲 (含歌仔戲、客家戲、北管戲以及新編戲)、絲竹樂以及多媒體跨界劇場等精采節目；展演場地以臺北市中山堂為基地，在中正廳、光復廳以及戶外廣場皆能見到多種形式的展演，與民同樂。

在擁有逾 250 萬人口的臺北市，除了臺灣的四大族群之外，亦匯集來自大陸、東南亞以及來自其他國家的新住民及移工，各種文化在臺北揉雜成一幅多元並茂的人文風景。此次「2024 臺北市傳統藝術季」中，以下幾場製作分別從樂器、樂曲、樂人的角度呈現此一主題。首先，由遠道而來的溫哥華跨文化管弦樂團與小巨人絲竹樂團相偕演出「絲竹風彩演臺北」音樂會 (4/6-4/7)，兩團將帶來加拿大及臺灣作曲家以兩地傳統音樂素材創作的特色作品，映現多元文化交織而成的絢爛色彩。「花語季遇」音樂會 (4/14) 係由原源雅集以臺北市四時節令的特色花出發，精選與之呼應的國樂經典作品，帶領觀眾領略一場國樂饗宴。4 月 28 日「臺灣茶業之父李春生」則緊扣臺北建城 140 週年為題，以大稻埕著名茶商李春生的傳奇故事為主軸所製作的多媒體劇場形式展演；全劇以說書人與布袋戲進行跨時空對話，呈現包含傳統絲竹樂、漢詩吟唱、南管樂、詩歌合唱等藝術形式。而由奚和弦胡琴室內樂團製作的「臺北風華」音樂會 (5/26)，以弓弦樂團為主軸，透過重新編曲的方式，以獨奏、重奏等形式演繹傳統與現代風格的國樂作品，體現臺北的千姿百態。還有由嘉義民族管弦樂團製作的「臺北流轉」(6/2)，為該樂團自嘉義出發前往各地方演出的「串流福爾摩沙」系列音樂會第 4 場，邀請陳麗品、張君豪兩位演奏家與樂團協演，牽起來自福爾摩沙的南北情緣。

其次，與臺灣福佬、客家族群傳統生活息息相關的歌仔戲、北管戲及客家戲等傳統表演藝術在歷年「臺北市傳統藝術季」中亦為相當重要的焦點之一。今年度傳統戲曲節目有正明龍歌劇團《王禪鬼點子》(3/31)、鴻明歌劇團《三進士》(5/24)、御綺新時代劇坊《春秋戰國傳》(5/26) 等歌仔戲搬演，以及藝宸戲劇團演出客家戲《河姑》(5/25)、文化部重要傳統表演藝術保存團體漢陽北管劇團演出北管戲《錦囊計》(5/31) 等，皆採戶外形式搭棚演出，重現外臺戲場景。民眾可以路過駐足觀賞，也可以找個喜歡的位置隨意席地而坐，感受舊時候的野臺戲氛圍。在保存



國際級指揮大師湯沐海



日籍指揮家沖澤和佳

傳統原汁原味的同時，部分團體也帶來了與時俱進的新嘗試，例如壹貳參戲劇團此次推出當代戲曲《叛&判》（5/25-5/26），節目以戲中戲形式、融合西方戲劇「史詩劇場」思維，探索傳統戲曲的新意，也企圖帶給觀眾中西文化融合之感，是為傳統文化的延伸路徑之一。

「蒼穹天目」（5/5）以陶藝家張桂維製作的「天目茶碗」為發想，結合三個人樂團、古琴于惠蘭等多位藝術家共同合作，透過絲竹樂音與天目茶碗的現場展覽，以多媒體跨界形式示現中華文化傳統的深厚內涵，希冀打造一場結合視覺藝術與聽覺藝術的藝術饗宴，令人拭目以待。華劇場製作的「青·白一念」（5/11-5/12），以著名文學作品《白蛇傳》中之青蛇、白蛇為主角，結合長笛、戲曲、西塔琴、古箏、擊樂等樂器，並以臺灣歌謠為媒介，串起各種音樂特質的融合。由天鼓擊樂團與黑碼藝識團隊結合的「咚唱新生」（5/18），亦為另一場將人聲口技、科技藝術與二胡、鑼鼓經、唱唸做打等傳統表藝相結合的全新探索；這些傳統跟現代的跨界有機結合，勢將帶給大眾耳目一新的閱聽感受。

另外還有經典國樂大、小編制形式的精采表演也不容錯過，例如來自香港的竹韻小集「粵韻百年·絃歌不絕」音樂會（4/12），將演出《連環扣》、《秋水龍吟》等多首該團整理自早期樂譜與唱片出版之廣東音樂經典作品，復刻百年經典。「擊簡聲繁」音樂會（4/19）由 Drumily 擊樂團與群藝民族管弦樂團連袂演出斑斕多彩的擊樂作品，以各種聲響組合挑戰觀眾的聽覺極限。另有由視障演奏家組成的 365 樂坊帶來「以樂同聚」戶外音樂會（6/1），精選多首經典國樂作品，與樂迷相聚。

正如英國史學家 E.J. HOBSBAWM 等人曾提出，「傳統」並非一成不變，而是在歷史過程中被不斷創造與再創造的人為產物。<sup>1</sup> 究竟什麼樣的「傳統」才符合當代社會、您、我心中的「傳統」呢？1988 年開始的「臺北市傳統藝術季」，或許早已成為屬於臺北市的例行傳統。而一個傳統的建立與延續，需要眾人的參與實踐，才能共同成就榮景；透過每年傳統藝術季的舉辦，北市國持續製作精采好看的節目之餘，亦冀望更多在地民眾一同實際參與，了解國樂最真實的當代樣貌。預祝廣大樂迷皆能在今年度的傳統藝術季系列節目中，累積與構築屬於自己的「傳統」。3 月 9 日至 6 月 8 日，讓我們一起引頸期待「2024 臺北市傳統藝術季」，璀璨奏響臺北城！

<sup>1</sup> HOBSBAWM, E. and Ranger, T., eds. The Invention of Tradition. Cambridge University Press, 1983.

## Rooted in "Tradition," Embracing Innovation: Crafting a Contemporary Kaleidoscope of Chinese Music

Text / LIN Ya-Hsiu (Assistant Professor, Department of Chinese Music, National Taiwan University of Arts)

Image / Taipei Chinese Orchestra

The Taipei Chinese Orchestra (TCO) is poised to grandly launch its series of programs for the "2024 Taipei Traditional Arts Festival" on March 9th! This year marks the 140th anniversary of the founding of Taipei City and the 45th anniversary of TCO's establishment. From the Traditional Arts Festival in the first half of the year to the new music season in the latter half, the programs will center around these dual celebrations, ensuring a spectacular and lively lineup. This year's Traditional Arts Festival programs unfold with themes such as "Taipei" and "Tradition," blending classical traditions harmoniously with innovative creations. There will be programs centered on the theme of "Charms of Taipei," as well as creative extensions of various traditional cultures based on "Tradition" and classic performances by Chinese Orchestras. As the Traditional Arts Festival enters its 37th year, this three-month-long event (March 9<sup>th</sup> – June 8<sup>th</sup>) will feature a total of 30 sessions (including 25 ticketed programs and 5 outdoor plaza sessions), with TCO and numerous domestic and international artists and cultural groups taking turns to perform. The performances are diverse and rich, falling into three main categories: "Spectacular of TCO," "Iridescence of Traditional Arts," and "Warmness of TCO Family."



Conductor- CHENG Li-Pin



Conductor - QU Chunquan



Conductor – YEH Ho-Chung



Conductor – LIAO Yuan-Yu

## "Spectacular of TCO" – Renowned Artists from Home and Abroad Take Turns to Perform, Weaving a Tapestry of Musical Connections

In today's world, where the pandemic has not yet fully receded, international exchanges are becoming increasingly vibrant. During this Traditional Arts Festival, TCO has produced a total of 8 "Spectacular of TCO" series programs, showcasing a diverse range of styles from traditional Chinese music, traditional Chinese Opera, indigenous music, and World Music to jazz fusion, demonstrating the rich tapestry of traditional, cross-genre, and cross-cultural music. More than 30 artists from home and abroad will collaborate during the festival. The event commences with "The Celebration of Percussions - 2024 Taipei Traditional Arts Festival Opening Concert" (March 9<sup>th</sup>), under the leadership of Principal Conductor CHANG Yu-An, featuring the internationally acclaimed "Twincussion" duo returning to Taiwan for their first collaboration with TCO, performing the concerto *Theater · Resonance · Zen* Concerto for 2 Percussionists and Chinese Orchestra." Also featured in the same concert are the French-based percussionist WU Hsin-Hsuan and TCO's principal percussionist HSIEH Tsung-Hsin, who will jointly perform KUAN Nai-Chung's classic work *New Century of the Dragon* Double Percussion Concerto, aiming to kick off the Year of the Dragon with a program that opens with a powerful and majestic performance. In line with the theme of the Traditional Arts Festival, the closing concert, "The New Voice of Beijing Opera - 2024 Taipei Traditional Arts Festival Closing Concert" (June 8<sup>th</sup>), will be a collaboration between TCO and the GuoGuang Opera Company. Hosted by LIN Ku-Fang, with former Principal Conductor QU Chunquan, jinghu players LEE Chao, CHANG Shu-Jan, and famous Beijing Opera performers WEI Hai-Min, Liu Chia-Hou, SHENG Jian, HUANG Shih-Ya, LIN Ting-Yu, and KUNG Yueh-Tzu, the concert will feature performances of *Fish Leaping Over the Dragon Gate*, Concerto for Two Jinghus and selected scenes from *The Legend of the White Snake* and other classic Beijing Opera pieces. The concert aims to showcase the heartfelt bond between teachers and students as they pass the torch from generation to generation while presenting a reimagined interpretation of these classics through innovative arrangements.

TCO has meticulously planned 5 concerts with distinct styles to continuously showcase and explore the inclusive diversity of contemporary Chinese Orchestras. Combining the Chinese Orchestra with different instruments and musical genres has outlined a series of unique and diverse soundscapes. The concert titled "Very Best" (March 16<sup>th</sup>) is a unique performance showcasing low-pitched instruments as the main attraction. It features Italian trombonist Peter STEINER in his first collaboration with TCO on a trombone concerto, alongside cross-genre jazz double bassist Vincent HSU and TCO's bass gehu principal CHEN Hung-Chih. Under the baton of conductor YEH Ho-Chung, they will deliver an auditory experience rich in cross-genre fusion.

The "Rhapsody a la Nippon" concert (April 13<sup>th</sup>) is under the direction of Japanese conductor Nodoka OKISAWA, who won the prestigious Concours International de Jeunes Chefs d'Orchestre de Besançon in 2019 at the age of 32. The concert highlights works by three Japanese composers and features performances by Japanese violist Megumi KASAKAWA and TCO's ruan artist TASI Yu-Tung. It will showcase a fusion of Japanese and Western musical styles brought to life through innovative arrangements for the Chinese Orchestra.



Vincent HSU, Megumi KASAKAWA, Susan TANG, WU Chih-Ting (from left to right)

The "A Triptych of Love - TANG Muhai & TCO" concert (May 4<sup>th</sup>) will feature internationally renowned conductor TANG Muhai and his daughter Susan TANG, along with the husband-and-wife duo HO Pei-Ting and WU Chih-Ting, exploring various expressions of love on stage. The program will also showcase the globally acclaimed composer TAN Dun's *Secret of Wind and Birds* Symphonic Poem for Cellphone and Chinese Orchestra, where the entire audience will actively participate in this live, immersive performance, making it an eagerly anticipated event.

On May 19<sup>th</sup>, TCO will welcome back its fifth conductor, CHENG Li-Pin, to lead the orchestra once again. They will join forces with the TCO Chorus under the direction of CHEN Li-Fen, vocalists Chen Han-Wei, LIANG You-Jhong, Kingston KUNG, violinist William WEI, and others to perform *Impressions of Upland* by composers SU Wen-Cheng, KUAN Nai-Chung, and CHIEN Nan-Chang.

As for the renowned violinist LU Siqin, who is well-known to Taiwanese music fans and has collaborated with TCO several times, he will once again perform the signature piece, *The Butterfly Lovers* Violin Concerto, in the "The Everlasting Romance IV" concert on June 1<sup>st</sup>. This follows his previous collaboration with TCO in "The Everlasting Romance III" in 2015. Additionally, TCO's suona principal, LIN Tzu-You, will perform the Taiwan premiere of the grand concerto *Seven Chapters of SUN Wukong* Suona Concerto by mainland Chinese composer LI Bo, which tells the story of the Monkey King's journey to the West.

During this Traditional Arts Festival, composers have been commissioned to create new works for various thematic programs. These include LIN Tsen-Ling's *The Ritual of Sea* (March 9<sup>th</sup>), Simon KONG Su Leong's *A Triptych of Love* Concerto for Dizi and Erhu (May 4<sup>th</sup>), and YU Chung-Yuan's *Trotting Horses Fantasia* for Nanguan and Chinese Orchestra (June 1<sup>st</sup>), all set to premiere. Furthermore, the "Eternity of Music - 2024 Taipei Chinese Instrumental Competition: Composition Final Round" (April 26<sup>th</sup>), conducted by LIAO Yuan-Yu, builds on TCO's 2023 composition-themed seminars and workshops. In 2024, the competition will continue to serve as the focal point, offering a global platform for young composers to exhibit their creativity. This concert will also present innovative works by emerging composers for music enthusiasts to enjoy.

The "Warmness of TCO Family" concert series features performances by the TCO Academy Orchestra and TCO Youth Orchestra, both affiliated with TCO. They will hold their annual concerts, "Chivalry" and "A Music Journey," on April 20<sup>th</sup> and May 18<sup>th</sup>, respectively. Through the collaboration between TCO's professional musicians and the younger generation, we witness the warm spark of cross-generational interaction and the emergence of new talents.

## "Iridescence of Traditional Arts" – Celebrating Multiculturalism and Cross-Disciplinary Fusion: Showcasing the "Charms of Taipei"

The "2024 Taipei Traditional Arts Festival" embraces the theme "Charms of Taipei," inviting art and cultural groups from Taiwan and abroad through an open call for submissions. The festival aims to highlight this international metropolis's multicultural dimensions with various artistic and cultural performances. This year, out of 37 submissions, 17 groups were selected by scholars and experts for their alignment with the theme. They will showcase an array of exciting programs, including traditional operas (such as Taiwanese Opera, Hakka Opera, Beiguan Opera, and newly composed operas), performances by Chinese music ensembles, and multimedia cross-disciplinary theater. The performances will take the stage at Taipei Zhongshan Hall, with events held in the Zhongzheng Auditorium, Guangfu Auditorium, and the Plaza, offering a feast of entertainment for the public.

In Taipei City, with a population of over 2.5 million, a diverse cultural landscape is created by the convergence of Taiwan's four major ethnic groups, as well as new residents and migrant workers from mainland China, Southeast Asia, and other countries. The "2024 Taipei Traditional Arts Festival" highlights this theme through various productions, each offering a unique perspective on instruments, music, and musicians.

The concert "Silk Maple Bamboo" (April 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>) brings together the Vancouver Inter-Cultural Orchestra and the Little Giant Chinese Chamber Orchestra. This collaboration will present unique compositions by Canadian and Taiwanese composers, drawing on traditional musical elements from both regions to reflect the vibrant interplay of multicultural influences.

The "Flower Language Season Encounter" concert (April 14<sup>th</sup>) by the Yuanyuan Elegant Collection is inspired by the characteristic flowers of Taipei's four seasons. The ensemble will perform classical Chinese Music pieces that resonate with the seasonal themes, offering the audience a delightful journey through the city's floral beauty.

On April 28<sup>th</sup>, the event "LI Chun-Sheng, The Father of Taiwan Tea Industry" commemorates the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Taipei's founding. This multimedia theater performance centers on the legendary tale of LI Chun-Sheng, a renowned tea merchant from Dadaocheng. The production features a storyteller and puppet theater in a cross-temporal dialogue, showcasing a variety of artistic forms, including traditional silk and bamboo music, Han poetry chanting, Nanguan Music, and choral singing.

The "Charms of Taipei" concert (May 26<sup>th</sup>), produced by the He Xian Huqin Chamber Orchestra, focuses on the diversity of Taipei through a String Orchestra. By reinterpreting traditional and modern Chinese Music works in solo and ensemble formats, the concert aims to capture the multifaceted charm of the city.

The "Roaming Taipei" concert (June 2<sup>nd</sup>) by the Chiayi Traditional Orchestra is the fourth part of the "Streaming Formosa" series, where the orchestra travels to different locations to perform. This concert features collaborations with musicians CHEN Li-Chin and CHANG Chun-Haw, highlighting the cultural connections between the north and south of Formosa.

Furthermore, traditional performing arts such as Taiwanese Opera, Beiguan Opera, and Hakka Opera, which are closely intertwined with the traditional lifestyles of the Hoklo and Hakka ethnic groups in Taiwan, have consistently been a focal point of previous "Taipei Traditional Arts Festivals." This year's traditional opera programs include the Jenminglung Opera Taiwanese Company's "WANG Chang's Tricky Idea" (March 31<sup>st</sup>), the Hongming Opera Troupe's "Three Scholars" (May 24<sup>th</sup>), and the Yuqi New Era Drama Workshop's "Tales of the Spring and Autumn Warring States" (May 26<sup>th</sup>) for Taiwanese Opera. Additionally, the Yichen Drama Troupe will perform the Hakka Opera "River Lady" (May 25<sup>th</sup>), and the Han-Yang Beiguan Troupe, an important traditional performing arts preservation group recognized by the Ministry of Culture, will present the Beiguan Opera "Ingenious Strategy" (May 31<sup>st</sup>). All of these performances will take place outdoors, using traditional stage setups to recreate the ambiance of historical outdoor theater. The public is welcome to stop by, find a comfortable spot to sit, and enjoy the atmosphere of old-time outdoor theater. While preserving the authentic essence of tradition, some groups also introduce innovative approaches in line with contemporary trends. For example, the 123 Troupe presents a contemporary take on traditional opera with their production "Betrayal and Judgment" (May 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>), which employs a play-within-a-play format and integrates the concept of Western "Epic Theatre" to explore new interpretations of traditional opera. This endeavor aims to offer the audience a fusion of Eastern and Western cultures, representing one of the pathways for extending traditional culture.



SHENG Chien, LIU Chia-Hou (from left to right)

"Tenmoku and Chinese Music Meet in the Firmament" (May 5<sup>th</sup>) is inspired by the "Tenmoku bowls" crafted by ceramic artist ZHANG Gui-Wei and collaborates with 3PEOPLEMUSIC, guqin player YU Hui-Lan and other artists. Through the combination of silk and bamboo music and a live exhibition of Tenmoku bowls, this multimedia cross-disciplinary presentation aims to showcase the profound connotations of Chinese cultural traditions, creating an art feast that integrates visual and auditory arts, which is highly anticipated. HUA Theater's production "Perception" (May 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>) focuses on the characters of the Green Snake and White Snake from the famous literary work "The Legend of the White Snake". It combines flute, traditional opera, sitar, guzheng, and percussion instruments with Taiwanese folk songs as the medium, weaving together various musical characteristics. "Reawaken Dong Tsang" (May 18<sup>th</sup>) by Tien-Ku Percussion Group and Hey mechanic combines human vocal art technology with erhu, gongs and drums, and traditional vocal and instrumental performances in another exploratory presentation. These cross-disciplinary integrations of tradition and modernity are bound to provide the public with a refreshing auditory and visual experience.

There are also performances in classical Chinese Music with large and small ensemble formats that should not be missed. For example, the "Everlasting Cantonese Music Treasure from a Century Ago" concert (April 12<sup>th</sup>) by Chang Windpipe Chinese Music Ensemble from Hong Kong will feature several classic Cantonese Music works such as *Interlock* and *Qiu Shui Long Yin*, which the ensemble has arranged from early music scores and records, reproducing century-old classics. The "From Simplicity to Miscellaneous" concert (April 19<sup>th</sup>) by Drumily Percussion Group and Arteam Chinese Orchestra will present a colorful array of percussion works, challenging the audience's auditory limits with various sound combinations. Additionally, the 365 Music Group, composed of visually impaired musicians, will bring an outdoor concert, "Music Brings Us Together" (June 1<sup>st</sup>), featuring a selection of classical Chinese Music pieces to meet with music fans.

As British historian E.J. HOBSBAWM and colleagues have proposed, "tradition" is not immutable but a human-made product continuously created and recreated throughout history. What kind of "tradition" fits contemporary society, and what does "tradition" mean to you and me? The "Taipei Traditional Arts Festival," which began in 1988, may have already become a routine tradition of Taipei City. The establishment and continuation of a tradition require public participation and practice to ensure its longevity and relevance. Through the annual organization of the Traditional Arts Festival, TCO continues to produce exciting and enjoyable programs and hopes that more local residents will actively engage with and develop a deeper appreciation for the true contemporary essence of Chinese Music. We hope that all music fans will be able to create and build their own 'tradition' through this year's series of Traditional Arts Festival programs. From March 9<sup>th</sup> to June 8<sup>th</sup>, let us look forward to the "2024 Taipei Traditional Arts Festival," where Taipei City will resound with the brilliance of music!