

從東方出發， 以國樂串連，再登世界舞臺

From the East to the World: Chinese Music on the Global Stage

音樂，即是人與人之間的連結

時至今日，社會大眾、百工百業似乎已都從疫情陰霾走出，但若仔細觀察，有些後遺症卻隱隱然潛藏。自2023/24樂季「樂·極致」開始，臺北市立國樂團（下稱北市國）以「創造疫後國境開放的新起點為脈絡」來思索規劃，讓眾多海外名家的藝術能量重新回到臺灣觀眾的視野之中。緊接於此，2024/25樂季「龍躍四五 傾聽臺北」整體節目在國際化方面，已然幾乎回復至疫前水準，讓人驚喜又雀躍！

新樂季開季，以沈寂許久的海外巡迴演出拉開序幕。「首席指揮系列」首場「臺北之聲」，將在9月份由首席指揮張宇安領軍與臺北觀眾見面，之後樂團便將遠赴捷克與德國，為海外觀眾帶來北市國睽違許久的海外巡演。這次的巡演，契機始於2020年臺北市與布拉格締結姐妹市，布拉格在政治與文化藝術方面皆派員來臺交流，當時北市國的演出令捷克音樂界來訪人員印象深刻，便有了邀演的計畫。2020年時，北市國也因臺灣指揮家莊東杰、大提琴家楊文信與笙演奏家吳巍都在德國，種下德國巡演的計畫。然而兩個巡迴計畫都因疫情戛然而止。時序終於走到2024年，世界也已重復生機，北市國重新整合了德國與捷克巡迴計畫，由旅居在德國的北市國首席指揮張宇安帶領樂團赴歐，將這些過往的美好緣分重新串連，除了讓臺北之聲能再度揚聲國際，也期盼為臺灣聽眾帶來更多姿多彩的聆賞體驗。

音樂會在曲目選擇上，以呈現臺灣民俗風貌與表現國樂當代創作能量為主軸，演出卡司方面更特邀旅歐國際笙演奏家吳巍合作，帶來更豐富的內容。吳巍多年來在國際上以笙這項亞洲地區獨有的簧片樂器獲得國際肯定，與各國音樂家、樂團都有合作，過往在臺灣的演出亦是佳評如潮，受到本地愛樂者的熱烈歡迎。相信「臺北之聲」音樂會，不論是本地資深樂迷或是國外初次欣賞國樂的愛樂者，都能從中感受到臺灣國樂的特有美感，北市國精緻而深刻的節目內涵也將為臺灣的文化外交再添一筆美麗新頁。

「國際化」、「國際演出」、「國際名家」所訴求的並非曲高和寡的殿堂，其真正的意義，在透過人與人之間的交流、連結，造就文明互動、實現文化積累。這些能量與涵養，成為了藝術的沃土，而藝術開出的枝葉花果則再度養護了這片土地。國樂的美好，來自於其多元而複雜的源流，除了真實反映了時代的演進，也擁有無與倫比的可能性。正如同臺灣這片土地對各種文化的兼容並蓄，北市國也將依循這樣的精神，牽起更多朋友的手，持續前行。

Music, the Connection Between People.

Today, society and all professions seem to have emerged from the shadows of the pandemic. However, if one looks closely, some lingering effects remain. Starting with last year's "Extreme Music," the Taipei Chinese Orchestra (TCO) has focused its planning around "creating a new starting point for the post-pandemic reopening of national borders," bringing the artistic energy of many international maestros back into the view of audiences in Taiwan. Building on this momentum, the overall program for the 2024/25 season "Glorious 45: Listen to Taipei" has practically returned to its pre-pandemic international standards, much to the delight and excitement of everyone!

The new season opens with a long-anticipated return to international touring. "Principal Conductor Series" starts with "The Sound of Taipei" in September, featuring Principal Conductor CHANG Yu-An for the Taipei audience. Subsequently, the orchestra will tour the Czech Republic and Germany, reintroducing TCO's presence to the global stage. The tour opportunity arose in 2020 when Taipei and Prague established a sister city relationship to foster political and arts exchanges. TCO's performances made a lasting impression on Czech music officials, leading to this tour invitation. In the same year, TCO also planned a tour in Germany since Taiwanese conductor CHUANG Tung-Chieh, cellist YANG Wen-Sinn, and sheng player WU Wei were all based in the country. However, both tours were abruptly halted due to the pandemic. In 2024, as the world revives, TCO has reorganized its tours to Germany and the Czech Republic. Led by CHANG Yu-An, who resides in Germany, the orchestra's journey to Europe is set to rekindle past connections. They aim to elevate "The Sound of Taipei" internationally while enriching Taiwan's musical landscape with vibrant new experiences.

The concert's repertoire is carefully curated to showcase the rich folk customs of Taiwan and the contemporary creative power of Chinese Music. It features a special collaboration with WU Wei, an internationally acclaimed sheng player based in Europe, to enhance the program. WU Wei has gained global recognition for his mastery of the sheng, a reed instrument unique to Asia, and has collaborated with musicians and orchestras worldwide. His performances in Taiwan have consistently received rave reviews and enthusiastic acclaim from local music lovers. "The Sound of Taipei" concert promises to captivate both seasoned local enthusiasts and newcomers to Chinese Music, offering them a chance to experience the unique beauty of Taiwanese Chinese Music. TCO's refined and profound offerings will also add a vibrant new dimension to Taiwan's cultural diplomacy.

The promotion of "internationalization," "international performances," and "international maestros" is not intended to create exclusive or esoteric environments. The true significance of these endeavors lies in fostering interactions and connections among individuals, resulting in cultural exchanges and the accrual of cultural wealth. These dynamics nurture the fertile ground for the arts, whose blossoms and fruits enrich the land. The beauty of Chinese Music lies in its rich and complex heritage, mirroring the evolution of eras and offering boundless possibilities. Just as Taiwan embraces a myriad of cultures, TCO embodies this inclusive spirit, continually reaching out to forge new connections and advance together.