

# 傳揚45載 「臺北之聲」接軌國際 鄭立彬團長回任北市國

文 / 劉馬利（輔仁大學、東華大學音樂學系兼任助理教授）

圖 / 臺北市立國樂團



鄭立彬團長回任，將帶領北市國寫下「臺北之聲」  
CHENG Li-Pin returns as General Director of TCO and leads the orchestra in unveiling "The Sound of Taipei."



2024.09.03 新樂季記者會暨新任團長就任儀式  
2024.09.03 New season press conference and inauguration of the returning General Director.

臺北，一個擁有 140 年歷史的老城市，隨著時空的輪轉，這座城市兼容並蓄了傳統與時尚，臺北市立國樂團（下稱「北市國」）如今也創團 45 週年了。這個集結了全國的國樂菁英，多年來不斷在音樂的發展上融合庶民文化與精緻藝術，經過不斷的推敲與實驗，將古老的民族聲響注入新的活水，拓展絲竹樂的格局，這是北市國傳承 45 年來的藝術使命。

## 寫下「臺北之聲」的新義

建構「臺北之聲」是北市國多年來的願景，最初由鄭立彬在 2015 年首次擔任團長時提出。他憑藉紮實的指揮功力與豐富的閱歷，為北市國開啓了更寬廣遼闊的視野，並將國樂藝術推向國際，努力探索出更具有時代感的國樂作品。今年，鄭立彬再次回任團長，為「臺北之聲」賦予了嶄新的定義。

對於鄭立彬而言，人生經歷某些關卡會改變一個人的思維，讓人有勇氣做出重大的決定。今年 5 月，當文化局詢問他是否願意回任團長，鄭立彬審慎評估，但猶豫不決，直到 6 月發現身體有一些狀況，讓他重新審視人生未來的規劃，懷著嚴陣以待的心情，思索能為音樂界多做些什麼。

鄭立彬提到：「一方面也在想，如果再回任，我是不是還有什麼事情可以做的比當年更好？其實回到學校這三年，也有觀察到一些現象，以學校端來講的話，其實招生是不理想的，少子化當然是一大影響，可是另一方面我們也在思考，學生畢業後的出路似乎不是很樂觀的情況之下，那是不是還有更多的人願意去投入這個國樂的學習？還有這三年，其實也看到很多國樂的展演活動，其實票房不是很理想的狀態，就是說整個國樂產業出了一個結構性的大問題，「當學校招不到學生、當表演節目找不到觀眾願意購票欣賞，這是一個因果循環的嚴峻問題，也是整個產業面臨的重大挑戰。」

雖是回任「老東家」再次掌舵，跟團隊有一定默契基礎，但對鄭立彬而言，處處是新挑戰，在在是新課題。

「工作夥伴與環境都很熟悉，沒錯，整體來說，業務項目其實都差不多，然而行政單位與團員因為退休或新進，有些許的變動，但最大的變化反而是在思維上面，可能要從另外的角度思考，有哪些新的可能性？要不然如果參照以前的做法，面臨當今的一個巨大的困境中，我覺得會更加辛苦。」

至於北市國新一季的規劃，是以過往的脈絡為基礎，但每一個新樂季總是需要幾個亮點。鄭立彬期許要把觀眾吸引到音樂廳，並積極培養人才。他提到新樂季的規劃：「新樂季的節目內容其實在今年 7、8 月就已確定了，而我是在 9 月 1 號才正式上任，所以新的樂季節目在我上任時其實已經都排的差不多了，所以在那個時間點，只能去做一些微調，最主要的是協助找到這個樂季的一個主軸跟主題。」承襲以往北市國的理念，作曲家與委託創作是一大著眼點。

## 以作曲家為經，再以作品為緯，勾勒出「經典·傳承」的主軸

國樂的演繹發展，作品是關鍵，西樂則比較著眼於經典再現。「從過去到現在，我最常講的一句話就是，國樂的發展其實關鍵在於作品，因為畢竟不像西洋交響樂團，兩三百年下來，早已累積了大量經典作品，他們每一年樂季曲目的選擇就已經很多了，他們是要做更精彩的演繹。」是的，除了流傳千年以上的古曲以外，國樂的經典作品，很多都是 20 世紀之後的作品，通常不超過一世紀的歷史。

鄭立彬這次回任團長時，就設定未來北市國每一個樂季有一位臺灣作曲家做為整個樂季的主題。因此，以作曲家為經，再以作品為緯，勾勒出「經典·傳承」的主軸，再循著歷時性的脈絡，一路爬梳出多元樣貌，展現當代能量，共同見證這個時代的聲響。既然是要聽見「臺北之聲」，國樂必須要本土化，要找到代表臺北的聲音，就要以一位對臺灣國樂發展具影響力的作曲家做為主軸，因此今年樂季選擇瞿春泉與他的作品來做為主題。

瞿春泉對於臺灣國樂界的貢獻是有目共睹的，多年來集創作、指揮、教學於一身，作育英才無數。「瞿老師之前擔任過北市國的首席指揮，我在 2021 年卸任之後，他也都還是北市國的榮譽指揮兼藝術顧問，在 2022 年他也獲得了臺北市文化獎，所以邀請瞿老師來擔任我回來的第一個樂季的主題臺灣作曲家，是最名正言順、最恰當的一個選擇。因此將整個樂季大概做了一個這樣的調整，所以在新的樂季手冊當中，就會有幾個場次，音樂會副標題就叫做『聽見瞿春泉』。」



2024/25 樂季選擇瞿春泉與他的作品來做為主題，將帶來「聽見瞿春泉」系列音樂會  
For the 2024/25 season, TCO will feature QU Chunquan and his works, presenting the concert series "The Music of QU Chunquan."



2024.10.06 指揮瞿春泉帶領北市國與桃園市國樂團共演「好事成雙」音樂會  
2024.10.06 Conductor QU Chunquan leads TCO and the Taoyuan Chinese Orchestra in the "The Merits of Communion" concert.

在樂譜的部份，鄭立彬考量到樂譜的正確性與方便性。「我們常常面對比較早期的一些作品，他的樂譜的正確度其實是有問題的，有些過去排練過的作品，常常譜子拿出來可能不是很清楚，要不然就是有錯誤、缺漏，團員只有在自己的譜子上面做了一些記錄，可是並沒有重新把它校正，可能有些是手抄譜，後來也沒有用電腦打譜來做一些修正。如果這些作品要拿出來再演出的話，就會很不方便。所以我會希望藉由這個機會，將瞿老師的作品去做一些樂譜的校正，然後出版。」

除了為作曲家演繹其代表性的作品，舉辦專場音樂會、出版樂譜，為國樂名家立傳也是不容忽視的事，「我的另外一個想法，也希望藉由一年一位的臺灣作曲家主題，為他們出書立傳，因為我們要讓更多莘莘學子瞭解，原來臺灣國樂也有很多很有故事性。」鄭立彬認為用文字來紀錄並傳承，是刻不容緩的事。

由於北市國的一整年演出場次多，鄭立彬在本年度擔任指揮的場次跟往年相比減少很多，因此與其他指揮家合作溝通是相當重要的事。「整年度的節目場次最多的，是首席指揮。首席指揮基本上會自行規劃他的節目，我們這邊提供行政上的協助，所以我們都尊重首席指揮的節目規劃。當年我和瞿老師一起工作時，我們也是這樣尊重首席指揮的安排。」

既然本年度樂季的場次是採量少質精的方式，鄭立彬希望集中火力把每一場顧好，除了演奏的品質之外，票房也必須多多努力。「當場次數量減少時，每一場的票房就更顯重要。以前北市國也是靠場次量的累積，才有一整年的基本盤。現在場次量減少，每一場就要更加用心。對於一個職業樂團來說，除了首席指揮和團長也需要不同的客席指揮來合作，這樣可以刺激樂團，看看與不同客席指揮合作時會產生什麼樣的火花。」



鄭立彬團長回任，將為「臺北之聲」賦予了嶄新的定義  
Upon his return, CHENG Li-Pin will give "The Sound of Taipei" a new definition.

## 學貫中西，水到渠成

鄭立彬在音樂領域學貫中西，他不辭涓滴，因此已臻水到渠成的境界，但提到橫跨西樂與國樂的指揮經驗，他強調「千萬別誤解認為我用西樂的方式來帶領國樂團。實際上，不論是國樂，抑或是西樂，在聲響上各具特色。特別是國樂中有許多演奏者的加花韻味，這是西樂所沒有的精彩之處，也正是國樂的魅力所在。」

因此，在這個快速變遷的時代，北市國以其獨特的「臺北之聲」，不僅傳承了傳統的精髓，更注入了現代的創新。這種融合與創新，正是北市國 45 年來不變的追求與使命。

鄭立彬透過「臺北之聲」的建構，為臺北市立國樂團注入了新的活力和方向，他對於聲響的美學有宏觀的視野，並致力於推動國樂的創新與發展。這位首度將北市國推向美國卡內基音樂廳的指揮家，將會如何任重道遠，繼續傳承與建造臺北的經典之聲，相信大家都寄予厚望。

# Celebrating 45 Years: "The Sound of Taipei" Goes Global as CHENG Li-Pin Returns to Lead TCO

**Text** / LIU Ma-Li (Adjunct Assistant Professor at Fu Jen Catholic University and National Dong Hwa University)

**Image** / Taipei Chinese Orchestra

Taipei, a historic city with a 140-year history, has embraced tradition and modernity as time passes. This year marks the 45th anniversary of the Taipei Chinese Orchestra (TCO), a cornerstone of Chinese Music nationally. TCO has pioneered the integration of folk culture and fine arts into its musical evolution. Through relentless refinement and innovative experiments, TCO has revitalized ancient ethnic sounds, infusing them with new life and expanding the scope of Chinese music ensemble performances. This ongoing mission encapsulates TCO's artistic legacy, sustained over its 45-year journey.



鄭立彬團長回任，將帶領北市國寫下「臺北之聲」  
CHENG Li-Pin returns as General Director of TCO and leads the orchestra in unveiling "The Sound of Taipei."

## Redefining “The Sound of Taipei”

TCO has long been committed to formulating "The Sound of Taipei," a concept initially proposed by CHENG Li-Pin during his first tenure as General Director in 2015. CHENG expanded TCO's vision with his expertise, propelling Chinese Music artistry onto the international stage and pursuing works that capture the zeitgeist. As CHENG returns to leadership this year, he brings a fresh definition to "The Sound of Taipei."

Life challenges have reshaped CHENG Li-Pin's thinking and motivated him to make significant decisions. He initially hesitated when the Department of Cultural Affairs invited CHENG to return as the General Director in May. However, after discovering some health issues in June, he was prompted to reevaluate his life's direction closely, pondering how to make a more meaningful impact in the music world.

CHENG noted, "On one hand, I contemplate whether returning would allow me to achieve more than before. I've noticed several troubling trends in academia over the past three years. Significant recruitment challenges have arisen due to declining birth rates and bleak job prospects for graduates. Moreover, the lackluster ticket sales for numerous Chinese Music performances indicate a deeper, systemic issue within our industry. The inability of schools to attract students and performances to draw audiences forms a detrimental cycle, presenting a profound trial for the entire Chinese Music sector."

Although CHENG Li-Pin is returning to lead the team with whom he has a strong rapport, he views every aspect as an opportunity for innovation and development.

"The work environment and colleagues are familiar, and the core business activities remain the same. However, there have been changes in the administrative structure and personnel due to retirements and new hires. Yet, the most significant change is in our mindset. We need to consider different perspectives and explore new possibilities. Otherwise, adhering to our previous methods in the face of today's significant obstacles will likely prove even more daunting."

Regarding TCO's new season planning, it is grounded in historical practices yet aims to introduce unique highlights each season. CHENG Li-Pin aims at attracting audiences to the concert hall and fostering talent. He outlined the season's planning process: "The program for the new season was already set by July and August, and I officially took on my role on September 1st. By then, most of the concert schedule was in place, requiring only slight modifications from me. A crucial aspect of my job was establishing a central theme and focus for the season." In line with TCO's longstanding principles, a significant emphasis continues to be placed on engaging composers and creating commissioned works.



2024/25 樂季選擇瞿春泉與他的作品來做為主題，將帶來「聽見瞿春泉」系列音樂會  
For the 2024/25 season, TCO will feature QU Chunquan and his works, presenting the concert series "The Music of QU Chunquan."

## Framing the Theme of “Classics and Heritage” Through Composers and Their Works

In contrast to Western Music, which frequently emphasizes the reinterpretation of classical pieces, creating new works is crucial in Chinese Music. "One thing I often emphasize is that the evolution of Chinese Music critically depends on its new works. Unlike Western symphony orchestras, which have accumulated a vast array of classical works over two to three hundred years, giving them extensive choices for each season's programs, their goal is to provide more nuanced interpretations." Indeed, while Chinese Music includes ancient tunes passed down over millennia, most of its revered classics were composed in the 20th century, typically having less than a century of history.

Upon resuming his role as General Director, CHENG Li-Pin proposed that each season at TCO be centered around a prominent Taiwanese composer. Focusing on composers and their works allows TCO to articulate the theme of "Classics and Heritage," tracing a timeline that showcases diverse expressions and captures the dynamic spirit of the times. By emphasizing authenticity in Chinese Music, the initiative aims to reflect "The Sound of Taipei," highlighting composers who have significantly influenced Taiwan's musical landscape. This season, TCO has selected QU Chunquan and his compositions to highlight this theme.

QU Chunquan's contributions to the Taiwanese Chinese music scene are well-recognized, having produced significant work and mentored numerous emerging talents. "Mr. QU served as the principal conductor at TCO, and after I stepped down in 2021, he continued as an honorary conductor and artistic advisor. In 2022, he was honored with the Taipei City Cultural Award. Therefore, selecting him as the featured composer for my first season back was appropriate and fitting. As a result, we have tailored the season around him, and the new season's brochure highlights several concerts with the subtitle 'The Music of QU Chunquan.'"

Regarding sheet music, CHENG emphasized the importance of accuracy and usability. "We often encounter issues with the fidelity of sheet music for earlier compositions. Scores from past rehearsals might be unclear or contain errors and omissions. Typically, ensemble members have made only personal annotations without systematic revisions. Many are still in handwritten form and haven't been updated or digitized. Re-performing these works under such conditions is challenging. Therefore, I plan to take this opportunity to thoroughly revise and publish Mr. QU's scores."

In addition to performing significant works by composers, hosting special concerts, and publishing scores, creating biographies of distinguished Chinese Music figures is also essential. "One of my initiatives is to feature a Taiwanese composer each year, publishing a biographical volume highlighting their contributions. This effort is to educate students and the broader community about the compelling stories in Taiwan's Chinese Music scene," states CHENG. He underscores the urgency of recording and preserving these narratives in written form as an essential task.

With TCO hosting numerous performances annually and CHENG Li-Pin conducting fewer than in past years, fostering effective collaboration and communication with other conductors has become crucial. "The principal conductor handles most of our performances each year, autonomously planning their programs with our administrative support. We always respect the principal conductor's planning autonomy. This approach has been maintained since I collaborated with Mr. QU.

Given this season's shift towards prioritizing quality over quantity, CHENG Li-Pin aims to ensure excellence in every performance, with an equal emphasis on artistic quality and boosting ticket sales. "With fewer performances scheduled, each one's success at the box office becomes increasingly critical. Previously, TCO sustained its annual operations through a high volume of performances. Now, each event must be crafted with even greater care. For a professional orchestra, engaging with different guest conductors is vital. This collaboration invigorates the ensemble and allows us to explore the unique impacts of diverse conducting styles."



2024.09.03 新樂季記者會暨新任團長就任儀式  
2024.09.03 New season press conference and inauguration of the returning General Director.



鄭立彬團長回任，將為「臺北之聲」賦予了嶄新的定義  
Upon his return, CHENG Li-Pin will give "The Sound of Taipei" a new definition.

## Blending Chinese and Western Music: CHENG Li-Pin's Journey to Exquisite Mastery

CHENG Li-Pin has expansively studied Chinese and Western Music, dedicating himself to mastering these distinct traditions. However, he emphasizes the unique approaches required when discussing his experiences conducting Western and Chinese Orchestras. "Do not assume I lead a Chinese Orchestra in the Western style. Chinese and Western Music each has its unique sonic characteristics. Particularly, Chinese Music is enriched with extensive improvisations and embellishments by performers, features that are not as prevalent in Western Music yet key to the charm of Chinese Music."

Therefore, in this era of rapid evolution, TCO, with its distinctive "Sound of Taipei," not only preserves the essence of traditional music but also integrates contemporary innovation. This fusion of heritage and modernity has been TCO's steadfast pursuit and mission for the past 45 years.

Through developing "The Sound of Taipei," CHENG Li-Pin has infused TCO with new vitality and direction. His broad vision for the aesthetics of sound and commitment to advancing innovation in Chinese Music drive his ongoing efforts to revitalize the orchestra. As the pioneering conductor who led TCO to its historic debut at Carnegie Hall, CHENG Li-Pin shoulders the profound responsibility of advancing and elevating Taipei's Chinese Music legacy, an endeavor met with great anticipation and significant expectations.