

臺北之聲， 開啟這個世代的眾妙之門

The Sound of Taipei: Unlocking the Marvels of Our Generation

建構「臺北之聲」是臺北市立國樂團（下稱「北市國」）一直以來的願景，最初由鄭立彬在2015年首次擔任團長時提出，期許建造北市國鮮明的辨識度，表現出一種足以傲視群雄、獨特的當代聲響，展現民族的精神向度與文化高度。2024/25樂季，不論是北市國遠征歐洲，開季音樂會的名稱亦名為「臺北之聲」。爾今，鄭立彬再次回任團長，為「臺北之聲」賦予了嶄新的定義。

從20世紀中葉，在彭修文等人的努力下，為國樂團的編制奠定基礎，華人地區各地建立了仿效西方交響樂團形式的國樂團。大陸稱之為「民樂」，香港和澳門稱之為「中樂」，馬來西亞和新加坡稱之為「華樂」，而臺灣則稱之為「國樂」，即中華民國樂。鄭立彬擁有豐富的中西樂指揮經驗，熟悉樂團的經營、人才培養與各種合奏形式，他深信國樂本土化的重要，不論是在技術層面或是精神層面，必須要能勾勒出在地化的樣貌。

合奏，在技術層面上，西樂與國樂都有一定的規範，目的是要融合，產生共鳴。早期在聆聽國樂音樂會時，聲響的平衡往往稀釋了音樂的美感。鄭立彬深知這樣的問題，在擔任團長的這幾年，他不斷調整樂團聲部的座位分佈，逐漸改善了音響效果，使樂團的聲音融合得恰到好處。

委託創作，是北市國每年的首要任務。鄭立彬以新加坡的南洋風格與廣東民族樂團的粵樂為例，這些都是在既有基礎上不斷延伸，進行大量的委託創作與演奏。在臺灣，國樂應該以臺灣作曲家或具有臺灣意象的作品為主要努力方向，這樣才能走出與不同文化品味的差異。國樂團對於曲目的需求量很大，新的作品需要不斷演奏，才能成為經典。

行銷與推廣，是北市國持續努力的目標。北市國是國內首屈一指的專業演奏團體，因此在國樂的推廣上，產品端的問題不大，主要是行銷的問題。消費者意識高漲，如何培養觀眾並將他們帶進音樂廳，是很重要的課題。節目規劃方面，從鍾耀光擔任團長開始，就延續了跨界的概念，結合傳統戲劇，如京劇、歌仔戲等，與國樂的調性更接近。

創作需要永續發展，好的作品自然能造就精彩的演出，北市國創立45年以來，一直扮演著關鍵性的角色。回顧過去半世紀的作品史，國樂的創作，抑或是民族音樂在創作上的運用，在當代音樂中大放異彩。觀眾和演奏者的接受度需要經過市場的試煉，當大家對於這個作品有共鳴之後，才会有第二次演奏。

音樂是如此抽象的藝術，但卻可以穿越傳統和現代的隔閡，跨越文化的疆界，出入於文學、戲曲與考古之間，透過演繹，開啟一個世代的眾妙之門，在音樂中遇見那無以名狀、經久不滅的真與美。「臺北之聲」的時代巨輪，在北市國45載的承先啓後之時，持續轉動。

The conceptualization of "The Sound of Taipei" has been a core ambition for the Taipei Chinese Orchestra (TCO), a vision first articulated by CHENG Li-Pin in 2015 when he took on the role of General Director. His aim was to establish a unique and intriguing identity for TCO, characterized by a commanding contemporary sound that embodies the spiritual dimensions and cultural heights of our ethnic heritage. This September, TCO's European tour and the season-opening concert, both fittingly named "The Sound of Taipei," are set to showcase the evolution of this vision. With CHENG Li-Pin's return as, "The Sound of Taipei" is poised to be redefined again.

Since the mid-20th century, pioneers like PENG Xiuwen have laid the groundwork for Chinese Orchestras, modeled after Western Symphony Orchestras, across Chinese communities. The term for Chinese Music varies regionally: "Minyue" in Mainland China, "Zhongyue" in Hong Kong and Macau, "Huayue" in Malaysia and Singapore, and "Gouyue" in Taiwan, which represents the music of the Republic of China. With his extensive experience in conducting both Chinese and Western music, CHENG Li-Pin excels in orchestra management and talent development across various ensembles. He is a staunch advocate for the authenticity of Chinese Music, emphasizing its need to reflect local characteristics in both technique and spirit.

In orchestral ensembles, Western and Chinese Music each follows specific technical standards to ensure a blend and resonance. Historically, at Chinese Music concerts, the balance of sounds often diminished the aesthetic appeal of the music. Aware of this issue, CHENG Li-Pin continually adjusted the orchestra's seating arrangement during his tenure as, proactively enhancing acoustic effects to achieve an ideally harmonious sound blend.

Commissioning new works is at the forefront of TCO's annual agenda. CHENG Li-Pin highlights the development of the Nanyang style in Singapore and Cantonese Music by the Guangdong National Orchestra as examples of where ongoing, extensive commissioning has led to their current evolution. In Taiwan, the focus of the Chinese Orchestra should be on engaging Taiwanese composers or creating works that reflect Taiwanese imagery to distinguish it from other cultural influences. The orchestra has a significant demand for a diverse repertoire and continuously performing new works is crucial for them to become classics.

Marketing and promotion remain central objectives at TCO, Taiwan's premier professional performance group, where challenges lie more in marketing strategies than in the quality of performances. With rising consumer awareness, strategically cultivating and attracting audiences to concert halls is paramount. Under the leadership of CHUNG Yiu kwong, program planning has embraced a cross-disciplinary approach, incorporating traditional theatres like Beijing Opera and Taiwanese Opera, which harmonize closely with the tonality of Chinese Music.

Since its establishment 45 years ago, TCO has been pivotal in ensuring the continuous creation of high-quality works, leading to exceptional performances that have contributed to the enduring success of Chinese music. Chinese music, particularly its innovative use of ethnic elements, has shone brightly in contemporary scenes. Only works that resonate with audiences and performers earn the chance for repeat performances, truly testing their lasting appeal.

Music, an abstract art, can transcend the barriers of tradition and modernity, cross cultural boundaries, and intersect with literature, opera, and archaeology. Through its interpretation, it opens up the marvels of a generation, revealing the ineffable and eternal truth and beauty inherent in music. As "The Sound of Taipei" propels the great wheel of time at TCO, it upholds a legacy of enlightenment and innovation, marking 45 years of its rich history.