

絲竹裡的繞樑韻永—— 臺北市立國樂團 2023/24 樂季「樂·極致」

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圖 / 臺北市立國樂團



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臺北市立國樂團（以下簡稱「北市國」）自 1979 年成立以來，在傳統聲譽的基礎上，不斷尋求國樂的普世價值，努力將國樂的藝術推展至極。這個即將邁入 45 年的職業演奏團體，歷經多年耕耘，他們糊化了傳統與創新的楚河漢界，併揉了本土與國際的文化隔閡，兼擅了國樂與跨界的元素。

北市國為國內首屈一指的職業演奏團體，早已成為跨界演出的先驅，也激發出很多前瞻性的演繹思維。藉由音樂、舞蹈、劇場、多媒體的共創，產生出充分的共鳴、碰撞，所有的藝術因子在此交互輝映、彼此激盪。

縝密細磨，共譜精彩的篇章

對北市國而言，音樂永遠是一個「未完·待續」的志業，不論是作品本身與展演形式，也與社會氛圍緊密相扣。因此，當所有人面對疫情與所有的不可逆的自然現象，只能努力挺過那段藝文活動的「冰河期」。

喜見目前疫情已日趨穩定，許多國際交流逐漸復甦，這種活絡的現象也顯現北市國新樂季的 48 套 54 場次規劃中，有更多元的跨國、跨文化交流，邀請更多國際名家參與演出，如指揮家湯沐海、沖澤和佳（Nodoka OKISAWA），二胡黃安源、黃晨達，琵琶吳蠻，小提琴呂思清、湯蘇珊，中提琴笠川惠（Megumi KASAKAWA），長號 Peter STEINER。承接上一個樂季的形式，今年也規劃了多場「專題音樂會」。

北市國演奏組組長鍾永宏表示，「專題音樂會」其實是幫助大家在最短的時間內，瞭解每一系列的節目內容，也就是採用一種「利基」（Niche）概念，以分眾市場的精準定位來培養國樂的觀眾。「先前因為疫情的關係，讓我們原先規劃的演出活動產生諸多變數，現隨著國際疫情的下降，逐漸走出陰霾，我們也做了調整，並積極邀請國外音



胡琴演奏家黃安源（左）、黃晨達（右）父子

樂家來臺合作演出，其實每一場『專題音樂會』都相當精彩、各有千秋。樂季節目分類方式也有別於兩年前所規劃的大師系列、名家系列、指揮系列等方式，這種想法也是參考其他交響樂團的模式來分類。」

因時制宜，是北市國在規劃音樂會秉持的思維之一。鍾永宏提到：「從 2022/23 年度樂季開始，依照演出團隊及節目演出屬性，大致分為『精彩TCO』、『溫馨飛魔力』與『傳藝舞繽紛』三大系列音樂會，2023/24 樂季也延續這種分類方式來規劃樂季節目。」「一方面希望更貼近北市國音樂會的特質，另一方面對觀眾而言，也算是一種選擇音樂會的指南，樂團也可用這樣的概念去規劃套票。」

其中「精彩 TCO 系列」就是以北市國大團的音樂會為主軸，規劃多元化的音樂會，邀請不同的客席音樂家與北市國合作演出。在首席指揮張宇安的帶領下，延續先前已積極展開的「TCO 委託創作計劃」，2023/24 樂季邀請作曲家，如李元貞、李承宗、王乙聿、潘家琳、范揚景、劉昱昀、鄭光智、謝惠如、林心蕓、林岑陵、刁鵬、李敏中等為北市國創作新曲，讓國樂曲目更為豐富、多元。

國樂作品風格的推移，是以歲月醞釀了濃厚韻味，更在作曲家的生花妙筆與演奏家們的精湛技藝加乘下，有了更完美的詮釋。

鍾永宏分享近年來國樂作品的演變：「早期國樂的作品風格較傳統，音樂本體與演奏技術比較簡單，也就是作品織體結構沒有那麼複雜，結構性單純，如三段體或 ABA 的形式，但是近年來的國樂創作，不論是旋律、節奏、和聲、曲式與聲響結構等，織度都較以前複雜很多，這或許是現階段國樂曲目的趨勢。……這種作品在演奏上需要

高度集中精神，對演奏者、欣賞者都是一種突破。」這些都是北市國長久以來努力不懈的恆久目標。

北市國七大附設樂團所量身訂做的「溫馨飛魔力」系列音樂會，包括：市民國樂團、教師國樂團、學院國樂團、青年國樂團、青少年國樂團、少年國樂團、合唱團。著以國樂會友的精神，鍾永宏提到：「這就是北市國的『國樂人生』計劃，從少年到樂齡的人士，針對不同的族群與其需求，為他們精心設計出不同的參與方式，讓每一個人都能人盡其才的投入其中。」附設樂團的年度音樂盛會，大家都會把這一年來的訓練成果，淋漓盡致展現給觀眾，每年也都會吸引許多愛樂人士前來欣賞。

劇場與音樂共融相生，茶葉馨香馥郁、響遏行雲話當年

「臺北市傳統藝術季」明年即將邁入第 37 屆，於 3 月至 6 月期間舉辦，為期大約三個半月，邀請來自國內外名家、藝文團隊接力獻技，帶來繽紛多元的精彩節目，包括歌、樂、舞、劇等不同領域及藝術形式的節目輪番登場。「這一屆共 18 套 22 場次的外製節目及演出團隊，都是今年 5 月經過公開甄選並脫穎而出的，演出品質絕對保證精彩。」

2024 年的傳統藝術季，不僅有臺灣本地的優秀藝文團隊，也有來自海外的團隊加入演出行列。其中，在 4 月 28 日的「臺灣茶業之父李春生」，就是一場以慶祝臺北建城 140 週年為創作出發點的跨界製作，以李春生的故事為主軸，從大稻埕啟程，邀請師友合唱團、南薰閣等團隊，結合了合唱、布袋戲與南管，從那一張張斑駁泛黃的影像，穿越一段段漫長的時空載記，述說著臺北的西城舊事（大稻埕位於臺北盆地的西南方）。

大稻埕，一個臺北最早期的發展的商業區，是一個很有故事地方。「這場演出會以說唱、絲竹樂的形式來進行，透過一位說書人來講述這段歷史故事，用不同的表演形式來展現，也加入了多媒體元素，讓觀眾可以在現場聆賞音樂，也可以看到臺北市歷史的進程。」



中提琴演奏家笠川惠 (Megumi KASAKAWA)

小提琴演奏家湯蘇珊



擊樂演奏家巫欣璇

小提琴演奏家魏靖儀

5月5日的「蒼穹天目」，與陶藝家張桂維合作，以傳統的天目茶碗陶藝與音樂結合，是一場相當特別的演出。天目茶碗源自宋代，宋代飲茶風氣鼎盛，同時宋代也是古琴藝術蓬勃發展的時代，許多文人雅士都留下著名的古琴曲，這場音樂會特別安排了古琴演奏。

「這次演出分成兩大部份，跨越視覺與聽覺的效果。在視覺上，會將張桂維陶製天目茶碗的過程拍成影片，並在音樂會現場播放。在聽覺上，邀請古琴演奏家于惠蘭操琴，臺灣優秀的『三個人』團隊演奏新創作品，用現代手法與思維，向傳統致敬。」鍾永宏強調了這場演出的獨特性。

在廣東省發展的粵樂，承襲了江南絲竹的傳統，並加入了西洋流行樂隊的創新，是一種共融相生的音樂風格，在4月12日特別邀請香港的「竹韻小集」跨海交流。

「粵樂就是廣東音樂，在1920至30年代左右，在珠江三角洲地區是相當流行的，由於地理位置四通八達，各地區有很多的商業活動，因此混合了多元風格的音樂，它會在傳統絲竹樂器中加入一些西洋樂器，如小提琴、鋼琴、吉他等等，香港竹韻小集就是用歷史發展脈絡來介紹廣東音樂。」通過各種特色樂器的不同組合，以及百年唱片的記譜復刻，重現粵樂在20世紀上半葉的嬗遞與輪轉。

綜觀北市國整個樂季48套大型演出，確實已為臺灣的國樂發展，澆灌充足厚實的養分，在時間軸線的來回更迭之間，繞樞不絕，在未來的一年，持續用音「樂」追求藝術的「極致」。

Boundless Harmonies of Strings and Winds – Extreme Music: The 2023/24 Season of Taipei Chinese Orchestra

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

Image / Taipei Chinese Orchestra

Since its inception in 1979, the Taipei Chinese Orchestra (TCO) has tirelessly pursued the universal appeal of traditional Chinese Music, elevating this art form atop its traditional foundations. As this distinguished ensemble nears its 45th anniversary, it has seamlessly woven tradition with innovation through years of dedication. Effortlessly bridging local and global cultural divides, the TCO skillfully blends traditional Chinese musical elements with influences from other genres.

The TCO stands as a premier professional ensemble in the country, consistently at the forefront of interdisciplinary performances and fostering progressive interpretations. Through collaborations spanning music, dance, theater, and multimedia, they craft performances that resonate deeply, allowing each artistic component to complement and invigorate the others.



Conductor CHENG Li-Pin

Conductor TANG Muhai



Japanese Conductor Nodoka OKISAWA

Masterfully Crafting Resplendent Chapters

For the TCO, Music is an ever-evolving journey deeply connected to the societal zeitgeist, manifesting through compositions and performances. As such, facing the pandemic and all the irreversible natural phenomena, everyone had no choice but to persevere through this 'Ice Age' in arts and cultural events.

With the current pandemic stabilizing and many international exchanges gradually resuming, a revitalized atmosphere can be sensed in the TCO's diverse 48 sets with 54 programs lined up for the new season, featuring a wealth of cross-national and cross-cultural interactions. The audience will be treated to the supreme artistry of such international virtuosi as Pipa soloist WU Man, erhu soloists WONG On Yuen and WONG Sun Tat, violinists LU Siqin and Susan TANG, violist Megumi KASAKAWA, trombonist Peter STEINER, as well as maestros TANG Muhai and Nodaka OKISAWA. Building on the previous season's format, TCO has also included a Themed Concert Series for this year.

When reflecting on the Themed Concerts, the TCO's Ensemble Leader, CHUNG Yung-Hung, emphasized their purpose: to enable audiences to readily engage with the essence of each series. These concerts employ a niche approach, focusing on particular audience demographics to foster a deeper appreciation of traditional Chinese music:

The pandemic previously threw our planned performances into uncertainty. But as the global situation lightens, we have adapted and are actively inviting international musicians to join us in Taiwan for collaborative performances. This season's program categorization differs from the methods planned two years ago, such as the Maestro Series, Renowned Artist Series, and Conductor Series. This idea draws reference from the classification styles of other symphony orchestras.

Adapting to the times is essential for the TCO when orchestrating concerts. CHUNG Yung-Hung stated, "Starting from the 2022/23 season, we have organized our performances into three main concert series based on the ensemble and nature of the program: Spectacular of TCO, Warmness of TCO Family, and Iridescence of Traditional Arts. This classification method will continue into the 2023/24 season for planning the program lineup. These series are tailored to resonate with the distinctive ethos of TCO concerts, guiding audiences, and shaping ticketing strategies."

The Spectacular of TCO series emphasizes the primary ensemble concerts of the TCO, planning a diverse range of events and inviting various guest musicians to collaborate with TCO. Under the leadership of newly appointed chief conductor CHANG Yu-An, the TCO Commissioned Composition Initiative was revitalized. The 2023/24 season invited composers to create pieces for the TCO, including notable names such as LEE Yuan-Chen, LEE Chen-Chung, WANG I-Yu, PAN Chia-Lin, FAN Yang-Jing, LIU Yu-Yun, CHENG Kuang-Chih, HSIEH Hui-Ju, LIN Hsin-Pin, LIN Tsen-Ling, DIAO Peng, and LI Alex Kelvin. Their ensuing contributions have enriched and diversified the orchestra's repertoire.

The evolution of Chinese musical pieces is akin to the rich aging of fine wine. Elevated by the virtuosity of composers and the masterful artistry of performers, these works have found their most exquisite interpretations.

CHUNG Yung-Hung shared insights into the progression of Chinese music over recent years:

Generally speaking, earlier Chinese music compositions were predominantly traditional in style, characterized by their less intricate musical content and performance techniques. Specifically, they had simpler textures, referring to the basic structural elements of a piece, often in a three-part or ABA format. However, contemporary Chinese music, whether in terms of melody, rhythm, time signatures, harmony, or sonic structures, has adopted a more complex texture. Such intricacy represents a significant transition in the current landscape of Chinese music... Such performances demand intense concentration, challenging performers and audiences to break established boundaries.

This drive epitomizes TCO's unwavering and longstanding goal.

The Warmness of TCO Family series is custom designed for the TCO's seven affiliated Chinese music ensembles: Civic Orchestra, Teachers Orchestra, Academy Orchestra, Youth Orchestra, Junior Youth Orchestra, Children Orchestra and Chorus. Emphasizing the spirit of community through Chinese Music, CHUNG Yung-Hung remarked, "This initiative embodies TCO's 'A Lifetime with Chinese Music' vision. From the youth to our senior enthusiasts, we design unique experiences catering to their distinct tastes, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to contribute and excel." The annual musical galas of these affiliated orchestras are events where everyone showcases the culmination of their year's training to the audience in its fullest splendor. These galas attract music enthusiasts to come and appreciate the performances yearly.



Violinist LU Siqin

Trombonist Peter STEINER

Melodies from Old Taipei: A Chinese Orchestra's Ode to Theatre and Tea

For its 37th edition next year, the Taipei Traditional Arts Festival is set to run from March to June, spanning roughly three and a half months. Esteemed artists and performance groups from Taiwan and abroad will grace the festival, offering attendees a rich mix of music, dance, and theater. "These 18 sets with 22 programs and performance groups went through a rigorous public audition in May this year, emerging as the cream of the crop. The excellence of the performances is assured."

On April 28, 2024, the festival will unveil "Li Chun-Sheng: The Father of Taiwan's Tea Industry," a standout performance in honor of the 140th anniversary of the founding of Taipei City. This cross-disciplinary production centers around the tale of LI Chunsheng and springs from the historic roots of Dadaocheng. With the collective talents of the Shih-Yu Chorus and Nanxun Court, the piece merges choral singing, glove puppetry, and Nanguan music. Through time-worn, yellowed images, the performance journeys across vast periods, recounting the tales of Taipei's old western town. Situated in the southwestern part of the Taipei Basin, Dadaocheng stands as a testament to the vibrant history of western Taipei, drawing attendees into its rich narrative.

Dadaocheng, one of Taipei's earliest commercial districts, is steeped in history and lore. "The performance will embrace a fusion of Taiwan Narrative Music and the traditional silk and bamboo ensemble. Guided by a storyteller, the tale will be presented in diverse forms, enhanced with multimedia elements. Thus, while indulging in the music, the audience will also be immersed in the unfolding narrative of Taipei City's history."

On May 5, 2024, the spotlight will shine on "Tenmoku And Chinese Music Meet In The Firmament," a collaboration featuring pottery artist ZHANG Guei-Wei. The performance blends the traditional Tenmoku teacup ceramic art with music, presenting a uniquely captivating showcase. The Tenmoku teacup, originating from the Song Dynasty, represents an era when tea culture was at its zenith. This period also saw the robust development of the guqin—a traditional Chinese musical instrument. Renowned scholars from that era crafted celebrated guqin compositions, and this concert will specially feature select guqin performances.



Conductor YEH Ho-Chung

Conductor LIAO Yuan-Yu



Percussionists Twincussion Duo - Left/CHIEN Jen-Ting, Right/CHIEN Jen-Yu

CHUNG Yung-Hung elaborated, "This concert is divided into visual and auditory experiences. Visually, we will showcase a video capturing ZHANG Guei-Wei's process of crafting the Tenmoku teacup. For the auditory aspect, we have invited guqin maestro YU Hui-Lan to perform classic pieces. The group 3PEOPLEMUSIC will also present their contemporary composition, *Flowing Water*, as a tribute to tradition through modern interpretation." CHUNG emphasized the unique nature of this performance.

Cantonese music, which developed in Guangdong Province, draws from the Bamboo Instruments of Jiang Nan traditions and seamlessly integrates elements from Western pop bands, resulting in a harmoniously blended musical style. On April 12, 2024, we have the privilege of hosting the "Windpipe Chinese Music Ensemble" from Hong Kong for overseas exchange.

"Cantonese Music flourished in the Pearl River Delta region between the 1920s and 1930s. Owing to its prime geographic position as a hub of commercial activity, the region naturally fused various musical styles. Traditional silk and bamboo music began incorporating Western instruments such as the violin, piano, and guitar. The 'Windpipe Chinese Music Ensemble' introduces Cantonese Music within this rich historical context." By merging distinct instrument combinations and reviving scores from century-old records, the ensemble showcases the evolution and dynamism of Cantonese Music during the first half of the 20th century."

Looking ahead to the upcoming season, with its slated 48 grand performance sets, the TCO's dedication has been a steadfast cornerstone for the growth and nurturing of Chinese Music in Taiwan. As these melodies dance back and forth through the pages of history, their resonant echoes remain undiminished. In the upcoming year, they are set to champion the artistic pursuit of "Extreme · Music" with their harmonious compositions.