

# A GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS AND PARENTS

# **USING THIS GUIDE**



Thank you for joining us at the Concert for Little Tots 2016 - Where's My Doggie! 小豆豆音乐会 – 狗狗回来啊!

We believe at the Singapore Chinese Orchestra that music plays an important role in the development of young children. Beyond musical ability, extensive studies have shown that exposure to the arts can shape your child's creative capacities, which has wideranging positive impact on their overall development.

To help you prepare your children for their upcoming concert experience, we have put together this guide to give you more information and context to the concert and Chinese Orchestra music. We hope that it provides useful context that will help you lead your children on the wonderful journey to life-long music appreciation.



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# THE SHOW

In the last episode, Momo lost his spectacles. What did Momo lose this time? Someone has stolen Momo's pet dog! Join Momo's musical trail through the magic universe and help him find his pet doggie! While on the search, we will encounter the major and minor key modes, and the magnificent sounds of wind, plucked strings, bowed strings and percussion! SCO's Concert for Little Tots 2016 promises a wonderful experience of music for the little ones!





# **BACKGROUND**

SCO's Concert for Little Tots - The Trail of the Missing Spectacles was first staged in 2014 to give young toddlers age 2 - 5 years old an opportunity to be exposed to the world of Chinese Orchestra.

2016 sees the sequel Where's My Doggie? return to the stage, with an aim to introduce young audiences to the various sounds of Chinese Orchestra instruments, and impart an understanding of major and minor keys.

The programme uses Dalcroze Euthyhmics methods, a process for developing innate musicality through rhythmic movement, eartraining and improvisation.

The show is conceptualised by PLAYinc and SCO Assistant Conductor Moses Gay, who also plays the main character Momo in the show. The effervescent Vanessa Phang is both narrator and scriptwriter for the show, and the music is composed and rearranged by August Lum.





# THE INSTRUMENTS

A Chinese orchestra consists of musicians playing a wide variety of traditional instruments. Each instrument makes its own unique sound, which combine together to form a harmonious symphony.

The orchestra uses a wide variety of instruments, but not all of them are used in every performance. Learn a bit more about the instruments used in this show and have your children look and listen for them during the performance.

## WIND FAMILY (Chuiguan 吹管)

The wind instruments are flutes or pipes, traditionally made of bamboo though they can be made of other materials.

#### Dizi 笛子:

This is the most commonly seen flute, and is played by holding it horizontally (like a western style flute). There are many different sized Dizi which produce a wide range of tones and pitches.

## Gaoyin Suona 高音唢呐:

The Suona is a double-reeded horn also known as the La Ba. It produces a distinctive loud and high-pitched sound similar to that of an Oboe.

## Zhongyin Suona 中音唢呐:

This Suona is larger and produces a lower tone than the Gaoyin Suona.





## BOWED-STRING FAMILY (Huqin 胡琴)

Chinese bowed string instruments usually consist of a sound box on the bottom and a long, tall neck that has strings attached to it and is commonly played with a bow.

Literally translated as 'Barbarian fiddles', There are more than 36-types of Huqin that are used in the orchestra depending on the repertoire.

### Gaohu 高胡:

Also known as the Yuehu, it usually has a smaller soundbox than the Erhu and produces higher-pitched tones with a brighter and lighter sound.

#### Erhu 二胡:

Perhaps the most iconic Huqin instrument used in Chinese orchestral performances, it has two strings and is often the one playing the main melody.

## Zhonghu 中胡:

Similar but slightly larger than the Erhu, the Zhonghu produces a lower sound with deeper tones and is considered a part of the tenor string section of the Chinese orchestra.

Besides the bowed-string instruments, other string instruments found in the show include the Cello 大提琴 and the Double Bass 低音提琴 which are also commonly found in Western symphonic orchestras.







# PLUCKED STRING FAMILY (TANBO 弹拨)

There are over 40 plucked string instruments that fall into two main categories:

## **Plucked Strings**

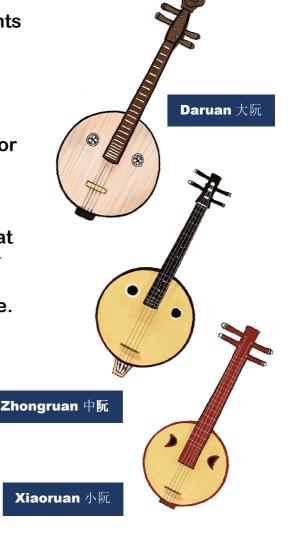
These instruments are played with fingers or a plectrum (similar to a guitar pick).

#### Ruan 阮:

The Ruan is a plucked string instrument that looks like a lute with a distinctively circular body and four strings. It is usually played with plectrums and produces a mellow tone.

There are five different Ruan sizes – the larger the size, the lower the sound. In this performance you will see:

- Daruan 大阮
- Zhongruan 中阮
- Xiaoruan 小阮



## **Struck Strings**

These instruments are played by hitting the strings with bamboo sticks.

## Yangqin 扬琴:

This instrument was introduced by the Persians and Arabs at the end of the Ming Dynasty, and also known as Dulcimer or Cimbalom. It consists of a small table with various strings pulled across it. A pair of wooden hammers are used to tap the strings, producing a bright and harmonious tone.

Yangqin 扬琴



# **CONCERT ETIQUETTE**

One of the most important parts of the show is you - the audience! Prepare your children on what to expect and guide them on how they can be the best audience for the performers and better appreciate the show.



#### LISTEN CAREFULLY

This is an interactive performance that needs your participation for everyone to have fun!

Listen for the instructions of the narrator and follow along

Listen for the different sounds of the various instruments and enjoy the music



#### WHEN TO CLAP

Applaud loudly when you enjoy the performance to show your appreciation to the performers.

Only clap at the end of each music section so you do not miss out on the music and not to distract the musicians.



# **SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES**

Here are some fun things to do at home before or after the performance to teach your children about musical concepts.

#### **MOMO'S THEME**

This phrase will be sung at intervals during the show.

Momo lost his puppy dog, can you please help him?

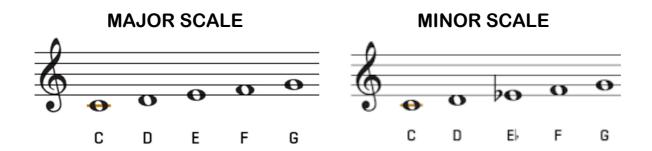
Encourage your children to sing along and follow the actions by using this video! Find the video at this link:

https://youtu.be/ClyTpMYAemU



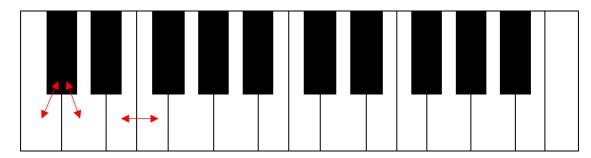
#### **MAJOR VS MINOR SCALES**

Teach your children how to listen for the different tones in major and minor scales.



#### **NEED MORE INFORMATION?**

There are 8 notes in a scale - the main difference between Major and Minor scales lies in the pattern of the notes used in the scale, which results in different tones.



the distance between each note (whether a white key or black key) is a half step (H). Two half steps make a whole step (W)

Major Scale Pattern: W-W-H-W-W-H

Minor Scale Pattern: W-H-W-W-H-W-W

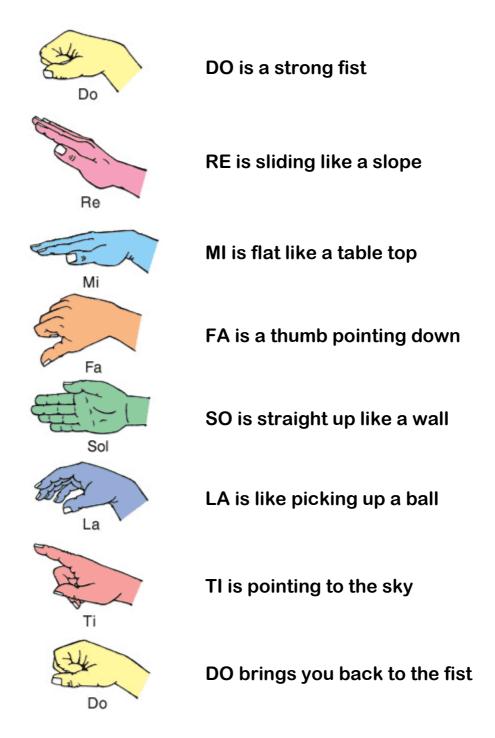
For further reading and suggested e-games for your children: http://trainer.thetamusic.com/en/content/scales



#### **CURWEN / GLOVER HAND SIGNS SINGALONG**

Teach your children to sing with the hand gestures of the 7 musical notes.

The height of your hands matters. The low 'Do' begins at the tummy and the upper 'Do' is at eye level.







# **ABOUT SCO**



Singapore Chinese Orchestra (SCO) was inaugurated in 1997 and is Singapore's only professional national Chinese orchestra. SCO is made up of more than 80 musicians and occupies the Singapore Conference Hall, which is a national monument.

With Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong as its patron, SCO takes on the twin role of preserving traditional arts and culture and establishing its unique identity through the incorporation of Southeast Asian cultural elements in its music.

SCO has a vision to be a world renowned people's orchestra, and inspire, influence and educated through its music. It continues to widen its outreach by performing regularly at various national parks, communities and schools.



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This guide for educators and parents is produced by the SCO Education and Outreach Department.

