

Annex A: Programme line-up

SNYCO-SCO Concert 2024
Legacy II
Conductor: Quek Ling Kiong, Lien Boon Hua

1. Ensemble
For Our Dreams
Conductor: Lien Boon Hua
Composed by Wang Chenwei
2. Erhu Concerto
The Sun Shines on Tashkurghan
Conductor : Lien Boon Hua
SNYCO Soloist: Li Yichen
Composed by Chen Gang
Rearranged by Phoon Yew Tien
3. Zhongruan Concerto
The River Runs Red
Conductor: Lien Boon Hua
SNYCO Soloist: Chong Shao Yih
Composed by Lin Jiliang
Orchestration by Zhou Yu Guo
4. Ensemble, *World Premiere*
Waves, Towards The Lands We Call Home
-a world symphonic poem for humanity and a prayer for peace-
Conductor: Quek Ling Kiong
Composed Sulwyn Lok
5. Ensemble
The Celestial Web
Conductor: Quek Ling Kiong
Narrator: Liu Yanqi, Luo Hanwen
Choir: Vocal Associates Youth Singers
Poem by Tan Swie Hian, Composed by Law Wai Lun

Annex B: Biographies

1. Conductors

Quek Ling Kiong	<p>Quek Ling Kiong is the first Principal Conductor of the Singapore Chinese Orchestra (SCO) to have been born and bred in Singapore. Hailed as the “People’s Conductor”, he joined the SCO in 1997 as Percussion Principal after graduating from the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. He pursued conducting studies at Zurich University of the Arts, and was promoted to Principal Conductor in 2023 after two decades of conducting the SCO.</p> <p>Besides leading one of the world’s top Chinese orchestras, Quek has guest-conducted esteemed ensembles such as the Shanghai Chinese Orchestra, Guangdong Chinese Orchestra, Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, as well as European symphony orchestras.</p> <p>He is also the Music Director of the Singapore National Youth Chinese Orchestra; former Principal Guest Conductor of Singapore’s Ding Yi Music Company (2016-2022); and Artistic Director of Singapore and Hong Kong’s largest inclusive orchestras, The Purple Symphony and True Colors Symphony respectively.</p> <p>Quek’s accolades include the Singapore National Arts Council’s (NAC) prestigious Young Artist Award (2002), NAC Cultural Fellowship (2013), and the Meritorious Award by the Composers and Authors Society of Singapore (2016). The Quek Ling Kiong Arts and Culture Scholarship was also established at the Singapore Management University in his honour.</p>
Lien Boon Hua	<p>Lien Boon Hua is the Artistic Director of Wayfarer Sinfonietta and Guest Conductor of the Singapore National Youth Chinese Orchestra. Previously, he has served as Assistant Conductor of the Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra in Katowice and Assistant Conductor to the Richard-Strauss-Festival 2018 in Garmisch-Partenkirchen.</p> <p>A prizewinner at several international conducting competitions, he was selected for the 2019/20 Peter Eötvös Foundation Mentoring Program, where he received mentorship from renowned conductors and composers to further hone his craft. Highlights of Lien’s recent seasons include debuts with Singapore Chinese Orchestra, Ding Yi Music Company, and leading the Singapore Symphony Orchestra in a celebratory concert for Esplanade’s 20th anniversary. He has made successful debuts with Hong Kong Sinfonietta, NFM Wrocław Philharmonic, Polish Baltic Philharmonic, Kraków Philharmonic, among others. A rising opera conductor, he has led productions with Singapore Lyric Opera, Kuala Lumpur City Opera, The Opera People and Lirica Arts. He has also appeared at numerous festivals including Singapore International Festival of Arts, Thailand International Composition Festival, IntAct Festival, Gdańsk Music Festival and International Mozartiana Festival.</p>

	<p>Lien holds conducting and performance degrees from Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and Eastman School of Music, where he was awarded the Walter Hagen Conducting Prize. Currently based in Singapore, he is on the conducting faculty at his alma mater, Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, and leads its contemporary music ensemble, OpusNovus, where he continues to share his passion for music with the next generation of musicians.</p>
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2. Soloists

<p>Li Yichen</p>	<p>Li Yichen was born in Shanghai and began playing the erhu at the age of four under the guidance of Yu Haiyue. His studies in erhu continued under the teaching of Liu Jie, an erhu musician and conductor of the Chinese Orchestra of the Affiliated High School of Shanghai Conservatory of Music.</p> <p>In 2014, he got into the Affiliated High School of Shanghai Conservatory of Music as the top scorer in the erhu specialization. When he was a student at the conservatory, he studied under Professor Huo Yonggang, a renowned Huqin performer who was also the Director of the Plucked-String Department at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. Li Yichen was elected as the Zhonghu Principal of the high school orchestra and went on multiple tours with the Affiliated High School of Shanghai Conservatory of Music Chinese Orchestra and he earned critical acclaim at each performance.</p> <p>In 2020, Li Yichen’s outstanding results earned him a place in the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, where he studied under the guidance of renowned erhu musician Sunny Wong (Head of Chinese Instrumental Studies at NAFA). During his time as a student, Li Yichen emerged as the winner of the 2020 NAFA Concerto Competition and he won the Silver Award at the 2022 Dunhuang Cup-NAFA Singapore International Erhu Competition. In 2022, his team (NAFA Chinese ensemble 2) won the ensemble B category in the Singapore Chinese Music Competition. In 2023, Li Yichen joined the Singapore National Youth Chinese Orchestra and was appointed Deputy Principal of Erhu II.</p>
<p>Chong Shao Yih</p>	<p>Chong Shao Yih started learning the Zhongruan at the age of 9 under the guidance of Jim Tan Zhong Xiao. Since 2017 he has been under the tutelage of Zhang Rong Hui, Chairperson of the Ruanxian Association of Singapore, and the then Ruan Principal of the Singapore Chinese Orchestra.</p>

	<p>Initially picking up the instrument for school Co-Curricular activities, Shao Yih had actively participated in the Chinese Orchestras of Catholic High School (Primary), and Hwa Chong Institution High School and College sections. He holds a Certificate of Diploma in the Chinese Music Examination at the Central Conservatory of Music. Shao Yih auditioned into the Singapore National Youth Chinese Orchestra (SNYCO) in 2017, and is currently a member of the SNYCO Ruan section. He has also went on to explore and perform with different musical groups, such as the Swan Ensemble, Acceleruando, and the Ruanxian Association of Singapore.</p> <p>Eager to push the limits of his abilities, Shao Yih has actively participated in competitions such as the Singapore Chinese Music Competition, where he won 3rd place in the 2014 Ruan Junior Category, and clinched the 1st place in the Ruan Intermediate Category in 2020. He also achieved a gold award in the competition at the 2020 Singapore International Ruan Arts Festival.</p>
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3. Composer

<p>Sulwyn Lok</p>	<p>Singaporean composer Sulwyn Lok advocates the human connection in music and going beyond cultural boundaries. His unique compositional language amalgamates traditional music styles of different countries; jazz; metal; impressionism; and others. Sulwyn is currently reading his Master of Music Theory and Composition: Screen Scoring at New York University, under the Singapore Digital Scholarship from the Infocomm Media Development Authority.</p>
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