

Esplanade Presents
Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts 2021
19 Feb – 14 Mar 2021
www.esplanade.com/huayi



Most of you would be almost relieved to bid the Year of the Rat goodbye while hoping for better things to come in the brand new Year of the Ox. What a year it has been! Shortly after we presented *Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts* in Feb 2020, we experienced one of the darkest moments in life when the COVID-19 pandemic hit the world. Just like many other arts centres and theatres all over the world, Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay literally went dark as well, shutting our performing venues and cancelling all live performances for months.

But while there was undeniably much loss in many aspects, there was also a growing acceptance and awareness that it was probably also the best time for humanity to take stock, reflect on life and how best we should live. For those in the arts, there were questions on the role of the arts in such times, and as we enter the “new normal”, there were also many reflections and experimentations as to how artistic expressions and presentations would shift.

Being a fan of *wuxia* novels and TV dramas, I am reminded of novels written by celebrated Hong Kong author Louis Cha (also known as Jin Yong). When the protagonist falls into a valley or is forced to seek refuge in a cave, he looks deep into himself and emerges from the prolonged isolation with a new, unparalleled set of martial arts skills. The key is a prolonged period where, free of distraction, one can look deep within but also focus on practice and mastery of new skills.

In a way, the COVID-19 pandemic has enabled the same deep introspection for many of us. Artists all around the world too found their livelihood and their practice being questioned or even threatened. As we present the 19th edition of *Huayi* in 2021, we invite all of you into our artists' worlds and creations. Many of these works were developed during the pandemic when there was new impetus to innovate, challenge and develop ideas.

During these challenging times, Esplanade remains committed to supporting and working with Singapore artists and has commissioned six new works to be presented in *Huayi 2021*. These include Toy Factory Productions' ***All the World is One's Stage*** featuring four Singapore theatre veterans; *Nanyin* concert ***Fantasia*** presented in celebration of Siong Leng Musical Association's 80th anniversary; ***Reflections*** by contemporary Chinese music group MUSA The Collective; puppetry theatre production ***The Universe According to Niu*** by Paper Monkey Theatre; immersive installation work ***Interspace*** by Ricky Sim, as well as a dance film ***Dance en Scene – Rooms*** by Cinemovement on Singapore contemporary dancer Albert Tiong.

Audiences can also look forward to new collaborations between artists in Singapore and overseas. For instance, Singapore's chamber music ensembles re: mix and Asian Cultural Symphony Orchestra String Ensemble will be performing celebrated Chinese composer Huang Ruo's ***A Dust in Time***, which was written as a response to the ongoing pandemic. Tapping on technology and the digital capabilities that we have developed in recent months, Hong Kong sound artist GayBird will be virtually performing live with Singapore's music ensemble Concordia Quartet in ***Not Only Music in Anticlockwise***, a work which responds to the sounds of this era with dynamic images, music, space and installations.

Singapore Mandopop duo The Freshman comprising Carrie Yeo and Chen Diya have also created new material during this break for their first ever full-fledged concert ***That Escalated Quickly*** at the Esplanade Concert Hall during *Huayi 2021*.

We warmly welcome everyone to find some cheer and inspiration through the wide range of quality free performances too, including instrumental music, Chinese dance and Chinese Drums, amongst others.

Together with Esplanade Partner **Ming Yi Foundation**, our Principal Sponsor **Knife Cooking Oil**, Supporting Sponsors **Berries 百力果** and **Hong Leong Foundation**, our Supporters **Polar Premium Drinking Water** and **The Silent Foundation**, and all our artists, we sincerely hope that these programmes will inspire and touch all of you, while injecting much positivity to start the new lunar year. May we all in our little ways become the superheroes or supreme martial arts masters we admire and soldier on, finding the strength and learning the skills to overcome difficult situations to impact those around us too.

Thank you once again for coming back to *Huayi* for your annual dose of nourishment for your soul. See you at Esplanade and online too!

Delvin Lee
Senior Producer
Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts

Last updated: 10 Feb 2021

About Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay

Esplanade is Singapore's national performing arts centre. It hosts a year-round line-up of about 3,500 live performances and activities presented by Esplanade, its partners and hirers. Esplanade also brings the arts virtually to audiences in Singapore and beyond, through its diverse range of digital programmes on [Esplanade Offstage](#), an all-access backstage pass to the performing arts and guide to Singapore and Asian arts and culture, with videos, podcasts, articles, quizzes and resources.

As an arts centre for everyone, Esplanade also creates opportunities for seniors, youth, children and underserved communities to experience the arts. More than 70% of the shows that take place each year at the centre are non-ticketed.

The centre works in close partnership with local, regional and international artists to develop artistic capabilities and content, push artistic boundaries and engage audiences. Esplanade supports the creation of artistic content by commissioning and producing new Singapore and Asian work for the international stage. It also develops technical capabilities for the industry nationally.

To bring even more of the arts to a wider audience and provide more platforms to support Singapore's next generation of artists, Esplanade is building a new theatre along its busy waterfront. Named Singtel Waterfront Theatre, the 550-seat venue will open in 2022.

Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay is operated by The Esplanade Co Ltd (TECL), which is a not-for-profit organisation, a registered Charity and an Institution of a Public Character. The Charity Council awarded TECL the Charity Governance Award – Special Commendation for Clarity of Strategy in 2016, and the Charity Transparency Award for four consecutive years since 2016.

TECL receives funding support from Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth and its Community Programmes are supported by Tote Board Family, comprising Tote Board, Singapore Pools and Singapore Turf Club.

Visit Esplanade.com for more information.

~ End ~

Issued by *The Esplanade Co Ltd*.

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Annexe

Esplanade Presents

Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts

19 Feb – 14 Mar 2021

www.esplanade.com/huayi

Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay invites everyone to explore new arts adventures at its 19th edition of *Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts*. Held from 19 Feb – 14 Mar 2021, this pinnacle arts festival that celebrates Chinese New Year with the community will feature an exciting line-up of theatre, dance, and music programmes by outstanding Chinese artists from Singapore and beyond, for all to enjoy during the festive period.

TICKETED PROGRAMMES

An Esplanade Commission

All the world is one's stage

Toy Factory Productions (Singapore)



Four well-known veteran actors of the Singapore stage, dedicated their lives to their art, wrestling with their dreams and struggles – yet they have always exuded the values of love, respect, passion, and resilience. What keeps them going all these years, and what inspiring stories can we unearth from their lives, both in and outside of the theatre?

From the humble back stages of school productions, to the centrestage of roaring applause in grand halls, a veteran actor recounts how his love for the arts was ignited, and steadily kindled through the different chapters of his life.

An advertising apprentice stumbles into a theatre; it is love at first sight – what makes him want to dedicate his entire being to pursue a new career of performing?

A university schoolgirl daydreams of perfection, or is she in truth yearning for peace of mind? As she looked into her heart for guidance, others around begin to lean in to listen to her soulful voice.

A teacher's passion for acting shines through, she cherishes each moment she lives on stage. It is a dream she yearns for all her life, as she constantly struggles to find a balance between her love for her work, family expectations, and the magic created on stage.

All the world is one's stage is an Esplanade Commission, directed by Goh Boon Teck alongside co-directors Alvin Chiam and Ric Liu. Produced by Toy Factory Productions, this captivating performance of heartfelt life-stories features a stalwart cast of celebrated veterans Yong Ser Pin, Liow Shi Suen, Johnny Ng and Ong Teck Lian, together with talented Timothy Wan, Neo Hai Bin, Jodi Chan and Liew Li Ting. It is a window into Singapore's past, and a look at what the future might hold, off and on the stage.

(1hr 40mins, no intermission)
Performed in Mandarin, with English surtitles.

[At Esplanade]
19 – 21 & 26 – 28 Feb 2021, Fri – Sun
Fri & Sat, 8pm | Sun, 2.30pm
Esplanade Theatre

Ticket Price: \$58*, \$88
*Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors: \$39

Esplanade&Me Special

At Esplanade
Black: 15% savings
White: 10% savings
Discover: 5% savings

The Freshman “That Escalated Quickly” Concert (Singapore)



How does one mark a 10th anniversary milestone? 2020 was meant to be an epic year of celebrations for The Freshman, culminating in their first large-scale concert at the Esplanade Concert Hall. However, the pandemic struck, and the year was spent adapting from the stage to the screen.

Live performances were turned into stripped-down livestream showcases, the conversation bubbles in the comment section took the place of the audience’s applause and interactions, and the usual chorus sing-along of their hit song *Holding On* could only be imagined.

While their plans could not keep up with the constant changes, these shifts eventually brought them back to stage. Now in their eleventh year, The Freshman is happy to be back at Esplanade, a space where they have grown from venue to venue, each one larger than the last. Finally, they will take the stage at Esplanade Concert Hall for the very first time in a full-fledged concert for *Huayi 2021* !

As the title of the show goes, it was indeed a sudden escalation from livestreaming to a hurried return to the live stage. The Freshman are ready and excited to meet friends and fans alike—come join them as they present songs that have accompanied them in these last ten years, along with their new song, *Still* .

(1hr 45mins, no intermission)
Performed in Mandarin.

[At Esplanade] SOLD OUT!
19 & 20 Feb 2021, Fri & Sat, 7.30pm
Esplanade Concert Hall

Ticket Price: \$48*, \$68

*Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors: \$40

[Online: SISTIC Live]
28 Feb 2021, Sun, 5pm (Available online until 14 Mar 2021, Sun, 11.59pm)
Log in to SISTIC Live to watch video up to 3 times only

Ticket Price: \$15

Esplanade&Me Special

At Esplanade

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings

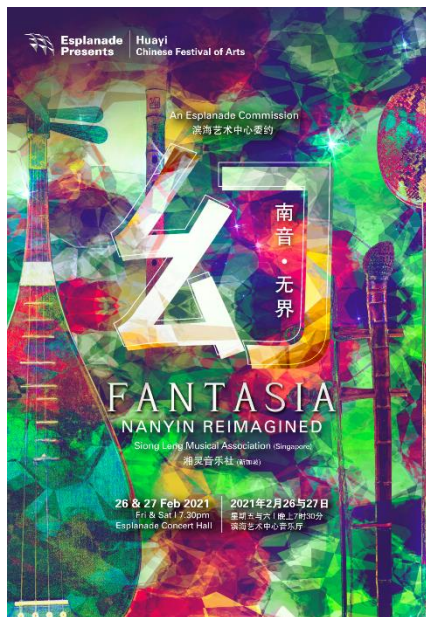
Discover: 5% savings

Online: \$5 savings

An Esplanade Commission

Fantasia – Nanyin Reimagined

Siong Leng Musical Association (Singapore)



Am I still who I used to be?

As we grow and seek greener pastures, we realise that the world is ever-changing, and that there is much more than meets the eye. To protect ourselves, we find comfort in what we are familiar with. But should we take a step outside of our boundaries so that we can grow? So that we can evolve?

In commemoration of their 80th anniversary, Siong Leng Musical Association presents a reimagination of *Nanyin* music, that explores the intertwining of pieces from classic *Nanyin* repertoire such as *Gazing at Love from a Distance* and *Trotting Horses* with electronic music and the use of Western instruments.

Conceptualised by two generations of Siong Leng's artists, *Fantasia* brings new interpretations and broadens the horizons of an ancient art form through the synthesis of *Nanyin*, improvised music, contemporary dance and theatrical elements. Experience a unique concert experience that showcases how traditions are kept alive and revitalised for the modern age.

(1hr, no intermission)

Advisory: Performance will include some use of strobe lighting.

About Nanyin

Nanyin, which literally means “Music of the South”, is one of the most ancient musical art forms in China and is regarded as a “living fossil”. Serene and elegant, *Nanyin* music has soothed and uplifted kings and common folk alike through centuries. Also known as Xianguan or Nanguan, *Nanyin* has its roots in China's imperial courts and later flourished in Fujian's Quanzhou region. Over the years, it has spread to Taiwan, Hong Kong and further to Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore and beyond. The chief musical instruments used in *Nanyin* ensembles are the *pipa*, a pear shaped four-string lute, *sanxian*, a long necked three-string instrument, whose sound box is covered with python skin, *dongxiao*, a vertically-held six-hole bamboo flute and *erxian*, a two-string fiddle. The music is also performed with a full

array of percussion instruments. *Nanyin* is sung in the Minnan dialect and is closely tied with the poetic, rhythmic and dramatic tunes of Central China. The melodies of *Nanyin* are all noted in *gongchepu*, a traditional form of Chinese score notation. Researchers have also found more than 2,000 pieces of *Nanyin* repertoires. In 2009, it was inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

About Siong Leng Musical Association

Siong Leng Musical Association (SLMA) was established in 1941 and owes much of its success to its late chairman, Mr Teng Mah Seng, a Cultural Medallion recipient who worked hard to reform and revive *Nanyin*. Under his guidance, SLMA has become a recognisable arts company known for its preservation and promotion of *Nanyin*. Since Mr Teng's passing, SLMA has kept true to its mission and has cultivated a group of *Nanyin* professionals over the years. It aims to attain an international reputation and create more exposure of traditional and contemporary *Nanyin* through performances as well as education and outreach initiatives.

In 1983, SLMA participated in the 37th Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod and won third prize in the folk solo category with Mr Teng's work *Reminiscence*, and fourth prize in the folk ensemble category with the traditional *Nanyin* piece *Trotting Horse*. In 2010, SLMA took part in the same competition once again and won the first prize in the folk solo category with Mr Teng's work *Facets of Life*. The company has also organised several events to promote *Nanyin*, such as the inaugural Southeast Asia Nanyin Conference in 1977, the International Nanyin Concert & Symposium in 2000, International Youth Nanyin Concert and Symposium in 2015, as well as the International Youth Nanyin Festival in 2018. The company also regularly participates in international *Nanyin* symposiums around Asia, and has also performed in major cities and countries in Europe, Asia and the United States of America. In 2017, SLMA was conferred the inaugural Singapore Chinese Cultural Contribution Award by the Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre.

[At Esplanade]

26 & 27 Feb 2021, Fri & Sat

Fri, 7.30pm | Sat, 3pm

Esplanade Concert Hall

Ticket Price: \$58*, \$88

*Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors: \$42

[Online: SISTIC Live]

27 Feb 2021, Sat, 3pm (Available online until 14 Mar 2021, Sun, 11.59pm)

Log in to SISTIC Live to watch video up to 3 times only

Ticket Price: \$15

Esplanade&Me Special

At Esplanade

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings

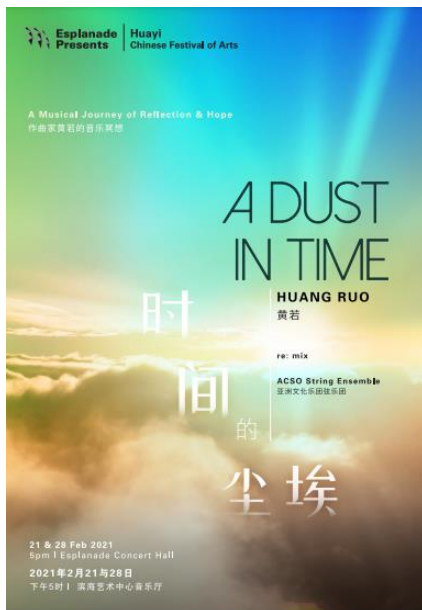
Discover: 5% savings

Online: \$5 savings

A Dust in Time by Huang Ruo

A Musical Journey of Reflection & Hope

re: mix and ACSO String Ensemble (Singapore)



Acclaimed composer Huang Ruo creates a musical space for reflection, healing and hope, as we live through the global pandemic.

A Dust in Time: Passacaglia for Strings is an uninterrupted musical meditation that is structured like a Tibetan sand mandala, a pulsating journey originating from an essential central point and expanding into a colourful fullness, and returning back to its essence again. Running for 60mins to symbolise the cycle of the hour, a spiritual cycle of life is completed, travelling from emptiness to fullness and back.

For all of us who have been affected by the global pandemic where time and space seem to have been frozen, *A Dust in Time: Passacaglia for Strings* provides a space for reflection, for expression, for healing, and for hope. After touring the world to China, the US, UK and Netherlands, this special work written by Huang Ruo—a composer lauded by *The New York Times* for having “a distinctive style”—makes its Singapore debut.

This concert is performed by classical music talents from Singapore string ensembles re: mix, led by violinist Foo Say Ming, and the Asian Cultural Symphony Orchestra String Ensemble, led by conductor Adrian Chiang. Each ensemble presents their unique interpretation of Huang Ruo’s piece in their respective shows.

(1hr, no intermission)

About Huang Ruo

Lauded by *The New York Times* for having “a distinctive style”, composer Huang Ruo has a vibrant and inventive musical voice that draws inspiration from myriad sources, from Chinese ancient and folk music to rock, jazz, noise and the Western avant-garde. Utilising a compositional technique he calls “dimensionalism”, Huang Ruo’s seamlessly integrates his many influences to produce diverse compositional works for orchestra, opera, theatre, dance, multimedia installations, among many others.

His music has been premiered and performed by renowned orchestras such as the New York Philharmonic, Boston Symphony Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra, London Sinfonietta as well as by conductors such as Wolfgang Sawallisch, Marin Alsop, Andrew Davis, Michael Tilson Thomas, and James Conlon. Some of his notable operas include *An American Soldier*, the installation opera *Paradise Interrupted* and *Dr. Sun Yat-Sen*. His upcoming new opera *M. Butterfly* will receive its world premiere with the Santa Fe Opera in 2022. He has also served as the first composer-in-residence for Het Concertgebouw Amsterdam and was the visiting composer for the São Paulo Symphony Orchestra in Brazil.

Huang Ruo is currently a composition faculty at the Mannes School of Music in New York and is the artistic director and conductor of Ensemble FIRE. He was selected as a Young Leader Fellow by the National Committee on United States–China Relations in 2006.

About re: mix

re: mix is an ensemble of classically trained musicians led by violinist Foo Say Ming, the ensemble recognises that classical music is in need of critical transformation in order to have contemporary relevance, and believes that classical music must be taken beyond its traditional boundaries. It cannot limit itself within its domain and must engage with other disciplines such as film, architecture, philosophy, etc. and in the process, not only become a testimony to what emerges from this interaction but also contribute to new ways of thinking about other disciplines. Since its inception, re: mix has commissioned and premiered works by prominent local composers such as Dr. Kelly Tang and the late Iskandar Ismail. Other than re: mix's own projects and charity events, re: mix receives regular invitations to perform locally and in the region such as Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Hong Kong.

About ACSO String Ensemble

The Asian Cultural Symphony Orchestra (ACSO) was founded in 2016 with the aim of championing Asian cultural symphonic music that go beyond melodic and instrumental pastiche, celebrating them with equal regard as their Western counterparts. Based in Singapore, the ACSO also seeks to serve as a platform to showcase Singapore artists through their performances and compositions. Featuring the string section for this performance, it embraces the same strength and vision in anticipation to the next fully assembled orchestral performance. The ACSO is the premier ensemble of Geylang Serai Community Club.

[At Esplanade] FULLY SUBSCRIBED

21 Feb 2021, Sun, 5pm (Performed by re: mix)

28 Feb 2021, Sun, 5pm (Performed by ACSO String Ensemble)

Esplanade Concert Hall

Free, by registration

[Online: SISTIC Live]

Performances at Esplanade will be live streamed on SISTIC Live

(Available online until 14 Mar 2021, Sun, 11.59pm)

Log in to SISTIC Live to watch video up to 3 times only

Free, by registration

Registration Starts 21 Jan 2021, Thu.

Esplanade&Me Priority Reservation 19 & 20 Jan 2021, Tue & Wed

An Esplanade Commission

Reflections – An Interdisciplinary Concert

MUSA The Collective (Singapore)



Our time on earth is but a speck of dust when viewed through the lenses of infinite time.

MUSA The Collective invites you to reflect on our human experience through eight musical movements in one multisensory evening of inspiration.

Reflections is an interdisciplinary music performance centred around the reality of life that everything in it is ultimately impermanent. Featuring life stories, the intimate and paradoxical nuances of our lives are captured and put on display, illuminating a complex truth that is interwoven with contrasts and contradictions.

Rooted in traditional Chinese music and possessing a contemporary style, MUSA is a trio comprising twins Clara Tan Su-Min (*zhong ruan*) and Sophy Tan Su-Hui (*guzheng*), and composer/arranger Dayn Ng. They are joined in this concert—conceptualised together with sound artist and multimedia designer Mervin Wong, playwright Isaiah Christopher Lee and voice-over artist Andy Pang—by an ensemble featuring keyboards, *erhu*, viola, cello and percussion.

(1hr 15mins, no intermission)

Narrated in English, with Mandarin surtitles.

About MUSA

Formed in mid-2015, MUSA comprises of *zhongruan* soloist Su-Min, *guzheng* soloist Su-Hui, along with composer and arranger Dayn Ng. The group believes in the creation of a new contemporary identity that is representative of Singapore's interculturalism by preserving traditional elements of Chinese music and giving it a modern twist in their music.

MUSA's original and rearrangements works can be found on their YouTube channel MUSA_sg, which has amassed more than 8 million views to date. The group has also been featured on various media outlets such as *The Straits Times*, *Channel News Asia*, *Hello Singapore*, *883 JIA FM*. They have performed in several international events, such as for the Consulate

General of the Republic of Singapore in Chennai, China-based television programmes such as *Day Day Up* and *Chinese Music Banquet* Season 2, and music festivals such as the Padang Indian Ocean Music Festival 2017 and Saarang Festival India 2019. They have previously premiered their original works at *Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts* and *Moonfest – A Mid-Autumn Celebration* at Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay.

[At Esplanade]

20 & 21 Feb 2021, Sat & Sun

Sat, 8pm | Sun, 2pm

Esplanade Recital Studio

Ticket Price: \$38

Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors: \$27

[Online: SISTIC Live]

22 Feb 2021, Mon, 5pm (Available online until 14 Mar 2021, Sun, 11.59pm)

Log in to SISTIC Live to watch video up to 3 times only

Ticket Price: \$15

Esplanade&Me Special

At Esplanade

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings

Discover: 5% savings

Online: \$5 savings

Not Only Music in Anticlockwise

GayBird (Hong Kong) & Concordia Quartet (Singapore)



GayBird in Hong Kong on the screen, Concordia Quartet in Singapore in the flesh—together in one pioneering multimedia performance at *Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts* in the Esplanade Recital Studio.

Separated by 2,581 kilometres, Hong Kong media artist/composer GayBird and Concordia Quartet from Singapore overcome the physical divide through a simultaneous live telematic performance. Together, they present an exploration of time and space, featuring dynamic use of music, illustration, lighting effects, and programming.

Not Only Music in Anticlockwise is a daring antichronological response to different periods in music history from psychedelia to classical, from the future to the past. Music is counterpointed with various digital media, creating a compositional narrative that is atmospherically enriching.

(45mins, no intermission)

About GayBird

Hong Kong-born composer and media artist GayBird is a renowned music director, composer, arranger and producer. He has participated in various capacities for a wide range of performances, theatre shows and music productions. His works have both been nominated and awarded at the Hong Kong Film Awards and the Golden Horse Awards, among others.

GayBird breaks away from traditional frameworks of traditional auditory art forms by combining elements of visual art, electro-mechanics, sculpture and installation art to offer a comprehensive experience. His works have been exhibited in numerous cities around the world including Arts Electronica in Austria, OzAsia Festival in Australia, Athens Digital Arts Festival, EXIT Festival in France and many more. With the support of the Hong Kong Arts Development Council, GayBird was commissioned for the 11th OzAsia Festival in 2017, exhibiting his first large-scale outdoor sound installation, *Home*, in Adelaide. In September 2018, his installation work *Fidgety (in between up and down)* received the 3D/Interactive Award under the renowned British digital art award, the Lumen Prize.

About Concordia Quartet

Performing under the banner of Singapore-based musicians' group Resound Collective, Concordia Quartet consists of four prize-winning musicians: Edward Tan, Kim Kyu Ri, Matthias Östringer and Theophilus Tan.

It was formed to bring chamber music in the string quartet form to greater audiences, sharing in Resound's vision of enriching the classical music landscape by performing at the highest level.

Immediately following their successful debut in February 2020, Concordia Quartet was part of the cast in Wild Rice's *The Importance of Being Earnest*. The quartet also staged two virtual livestreamed concerts in June and September 2020.

Concordia Quartet looks forward to bringing more string quartet performances to the community in the future, as part of their ongoing outreach efforts.

[At Esplanade]

26 & 27 Feb, Fri & Sat

Fri, 7.30pm | Sat, 5pm

Esplanade Recital Studio

Ticket Price: \$38

Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors: \$27

Esplanade&Me Special

At Esplanade

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings

Discover: 5% savings

Citizen X

The Finger Players (Singapore)



In 1928, China's Liu Shuo Tian set sail from Swatow Harbour to Singapore. In 1998, his grandson Liu Xiaoyi began his journey towards Singapore from Swatow Airport. Their paths never crossed; Liu Shuo Tian was a muffled memory framed in a family photo, and Liu Xiaoyi but a name in the family almanac, the erosion of its imprint slow but sure. One story, two lives, 70 years apart; the uncanny overlap of their journeys down south, and how their fates seem to be inextricably entwined.

Inspired by real-life events, and spanning a century, *Citizen X* traces the great migration towards Nanyang from the 1920s, spanning tumultuous events in China's history. These include the war with Japan, the Civil War, Cultural Revolution and the eventual economic reforms and opening up of the country. Follow the waves of change and its impact on this family rooted in nothing but flux, their fates and future determined by change and change alone.

Following successful collaborations on *Citizen Pig* in 2013 and *Citizen Dog* in 2018, Oliver Chong and Liu Xiaoyi embark on the long-awaited last instalment in their 'Citizen' trilogy.

Citizen X is written and performed by Liu Xiaoyi and directed by Oliver Chong.

Director / Set Designer: Oliver Chong

Playwright / Cast: Liu Xiaoyi

Sound Design & Operations: Ctrl Fre@k (Lee Yew Jin)

Lighting Designer: Gabriel Chan

(1hr 15mins, no intermission)

Performed in Mandarin and Teochew, with English surtitles.

Advisory: This performance contains some coarse language.

[At Esplanade] SOLD OUT!

19 – 22 Feb 2021, Fri – Mon

Fri, 8pm | Sat - Mon, 3pm & 8pm
Esplanade Theatre Studio

Ticket Price: \$38

Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors: \$27

Esplanade&Me Special

At Esplanade

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings

Discover: 5% savings

An Esplanade Commission

The Universe According to Niu – Puppetry Production for Children

Paper Monkey Theatre (Singapore)



There was once a corrupt kingdom where rich fools can become court officials through bribery. An intelligent young man, Niu, realised this injustice when he failed his exam despite getting all the answers right.

One day, the country was attacked by a neighbouring land but none of the officials had any solutions to thwart this invasion. Will Niu be disheartened by his failure to become a court official or will he use his intelligence to turn the tide in favour for his beloved kingdom?

Follow Niu as he learns about courage, resilience and the importance of doing the right thing at the right time. *The Universe According to Niu* is told through a mix of modern and traditional Chinese puppetry and keeps young audiences enthralled as they find out what it takes to soldier on. The young ones will also learn more about Ox-related Chinese idioms in a fun and engaging way.

Psst! Can you spot three Ox-related idioms hidden in the illustration?

(45mins, no intermission)

Performed in Mandarin, with English surtitles.

Recommended for ages 5 and above. No admission for ages below 5.

About Paper Monkey Theatre

Nestled in the lush greenery of Goodman Arts Centre lies Paper Monkey Theatre, where we create theatre productions and workshops infused with puppetry for children and family entertainment, encourage artistic development and enrich learning experiences.

The company is formed in April 2008 and helmed by well-known puppeteer/playwright in Singapore, Benjamin Ho, with a vision to create a platform for lasting, meaningful theatrical experiences for both children and adults in Asia.

[At Esplanade]

27 Feb 2021, Sat, 11am, 3pm & 5.30pm

28 Feb 2021, Sun, 11am & 3pm

Esplanade Theatre Studio

Ticket Price: \$50 (1 adult + 1 child)
Tickets have to be bought in pairs.

Esplanade&Me Special

At Esplanade

PIP's Club: 10% savings (Limited)

Enjoy savings for 2 or 4 tickets. Terms & conditions apply.

Workshop: Paper-cutting Decorative Light Box

Lim Bee Ling (Singapore)



Chinese New Year is made more fun when you make your own decorative light box through paper-cutting! Using simple materials such as coloured paper, parents can bond with their children through this hands-on activity of making creative light art that celebrates the year of the Ox.

About Lim Bee Ling

Lim Bee Ling is a practicing printmaker based in Singapore. She attained a Master's Degree in Education (Art) at National Institute of Education, Singapore, and often explores notions of physical space through collective memories and archival imagery. She was also involved in the National Art Council Silver Arts programme in 2015, 2016 and 2019.

Video Duration: 40mins

Activity Duration: Between 1 – 2 hrs

Conducted in Mandarin, with English and Mandarin subtitles.

Recommended for ages 6 to 12 with an accompanying adult. Accompanying adults must be above 16.

[Online: SISTIC Live]

19 Feb 2021, Fri, 5pm (Available online until 14 Mar 2021, Sun, 11.59pm)

Log in to SISTIC Live to watch video up to 3 times only

Ticket Price: \$18 per set

Workshop: Hand-dye Your Own Mask Pouch

STPI (Singapore)



Get ready for Chinese New Year festivities with a handmade Mask Pouch! Create this useful accessory from the comfort of home with your very own workshop kit delivered right to your doorstep, providing you with all the materials required. Through a detailed instructional video accessible online, you will be guided through a hands-on process involving running-stitch sewing and fabric resist-dyeing methods to produce a unique mask pouch embellished with decorative motifs and symbols. Keep yourself and your relatives safe this CNY in a fun and festive way!

About STPI

STPI is a dynamic creative workshop and contemporary art gallery based in Singapore. Established in 2002, STPI is a non-profit organisation committed to promoting artistic experimentation in the medium of print and paper, and has become one of the most cutting-edge destinations for contemporary art in Asia. STPI sits alongside National Gallery Singapore and the Singapore Art Museum as part of the national Visual Arts Cluster of leading institutions in the region.

Video Duration: 40mins

Activity Duration: Between 1 – 2 hrs

Conducted in English, with English and Mandarin subtitles.

Recommended for ages 16 and above.

[Online: SISTIC Live]

19 Feb 2021, Fri, 5pm (Available online until 14 Mar 2021, Sun, 11.59pm)

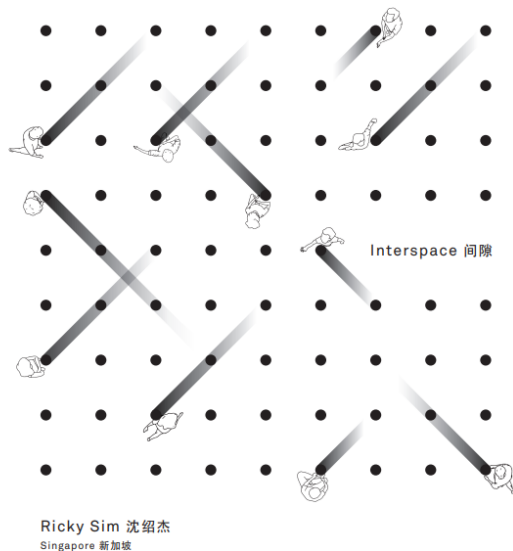
Log in to SISTIC Live to watch video up to 3 times only

Ticket Price: \$18 per set

An Esplanade Commission

Interspace

Ricky Sim (Singapore)



You could just stand there, or you could run amongst the forest of columns...and that's ok.

Singapore dance artist Ricky Sim presents an immersive installation work that considers the spaces in between as we learn to navigate a socially distanced world. For the past year, we have been living in a new reality with a heightened awareness of space, and an increased sense of isolation. How do we adapt and go through our daily lives that have been changed fundamentally?

Interspace invites participants, either singly or in pair, to enter a hypnotic space of awareness, discovery and assurance. Encountering a lone socially distanced performer along the way, participants are free to experience the interplay in their own way and time, coming to terms and building trust with an unfamiliar environment.

Appearance of performers at the courtesy of RAW Moves.

(20mins, no intermission)

Admission for ages 16 and above. No admission for ages below 16.

Advisory:

- There will be no latecomer entry allowed for this performance. **Please arrive 10mins before the start of the performance.**
- Participants are recommended to wear comfortable clothing and covered shoes.
- Participants may feel discomfort in a confined space.
- Participants will be filmed as part of this performance, and the resulting video will be used during the performance.
- Performance may include use of strobe lights.

About Ricky Sim

Ricky Sim's career spans over 25 years, working as a professional dancer, choreographer and dance educator. In 2011, Ricky founded RAW Moves, a contemporary dance company which focuses its connection and direction of work in the spirit of inquiry. Ricky works closely

with practitioners of diverse backgrounds and has gained a reputation as a director and choreographer who is collaborative and provocative.

Ricky has choreography many notable works, including *Transparent Ground* in Brisbane (2003), *X-ray* (Singapore Arts Festival, 2007), *Visible Cities* (Napoli Teatro Festiva and Singapore Arts Festival, 2009), *It Appears That...* (Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, 2010) and *Turandot* (Teatro alla Scala, 2011). He has been commissioned for over 50 works and interdisciplinary collaborations with local and international artists, and has worked with The Arts Fission Company (Singapore), Singapore Dance Theatre, Katsura Kan & Saltimbanques (Japan), Theatre Nordhausen (Germany) and Fattore K and Teatro all Scala (Italy).

Ricky is often invited as a speaker and guest lecturer for dance and education at various forums and institutions, including the National Arts Council Singapore, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (Singapore), LASALLE College of the Arts (Singapore), Thammasat University (Thailand) and Teatro De Flippo, University Rome (Italy).

**[At Esplanade]
19 – 28 Feb 2021**

Various timings

Esplanade Annexe Studio

Ticket price: \$14 per slot

Participant may choose to attend alone or in pairs.

Dance en Scene

Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay (Singapore), National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts (Weiwuying) (Taiwan), National Taichung Theater (Taiwan), Tai Kwun - Centre for Heritage and Arts (Hong Kong)



About Dance en Scene

Dance films, a coming together of two art forms that empowers dance artists and filmmakers alike to rethink movements and transform storytelling. Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay joins hands with various arts centres in the region through *Dance en Scene*, an initiative which dedicates to commission dance films that invite artists to find inspiration from sites or themes of meanings and significance, celebrating the diversity of culture and artmaking of Chinese artists living in different cities.

Dance en Scene features four films:

- *Rooms, a film by Cinemovement*, commissioned by Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay (Singapore)
- *Chou Shu-yi x William Lü x Wang Yu-jun: After sea-level rise, I...*, commissioned by National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts (Weiwuying) (Taiwan)
- *Transmission: Beginning Step into Walk/Dance Project*, commissioned by National Taichung Theater (Taiwan)
- *Terry-fying (work in progress)*, commissioned by Tai Kwun - Centre for Heritage and Arts (Hong Kong)

(1hr)

An Esplanade Commission

Rooms, a film by Cinemovement

Co-directors: Elysa Wendi and Liao Jiekai
Choreographer / Performer: Albert Tiong

Duration: Approximately 15mins

An introspective dance portrait of a career in movement through rooms—physical and metaphorical—that inhibit and encase, but were also inhabited and embraced. *Rooms* delves

into the soul of Singapore contemporary dancer Albert Tiong, uncovering and revealing the intimate milestones of a key contemporary dance figure's coming of age in Singapore.

For over three decades, Albert Tiong pushed towards his goal of being an eminent dancer, choreographer and educator. Through this journey, he discovers that his personal spaces of safety for his body and mind have protected him as much as moulded him. Behind all the armour, beneath all the layers, who is he really?

Rooms is co-directed by Elysa Wendi and Liao Jiekai and produced by Jeremy Chua—three practitioners of Cinemovement, an artist-run platform for artists to explore interdisciplinary propositions between the dance and film practices in various settings.

Rooms is a dance film commissioned by Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay. It is presented as part of *Dance en Scene* by Esplanade, in partnership with National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts (Weiwuying) (Taiwan), National Taichung Theater (Taiwan) and Tai Kwun - Centre for Heritage and Arts (Hong Kong).

Chou Shu-yi x William Lü x Wang Yu-jun: After sea-level rise, I...

Commissioned by National Kaohsiung Center of the Arts (Weiwuying) (Taiwan)

Choreographer / Performer: Chou Shu-yi
Co-directors: William Lü and Chou Shu-yi
Music Designer: Wang Yu-jun
Duration: Approximately 20mins

Choreographer, dancer, curator and Weiwuying Artist-in-Residence Chou Shu-yi has been exploring relationships between human bodies and the city. As his artistic response to the pandemic, Shu-yi swiftly curated *Unfolding Futures – Body Motion Short Film Festival* to rethink the ethos of art. On the roof of the Weiwuying architecture, Shu-yi created a piece that integrates body and video, sharing his perspectives on the future of climate change and flood – “perhaps one day, this would become the refuge of life.”

After sea-level rise, I... is a dance film commissioned by National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts (Weiwuying) (Taiwan). It is presented as part of *Dance en Scene* by Esplanade, in partnership with National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts (Weiwuying) (Taiwan), National Taichung Theater (Taiwan) and Tai Kwun - Centre for Heritage and Arts (Hong Kong).

Transmission: Beginning Step into Walk/Dance Project

Commissioned by National Taichung Theater (Taiwan)

Project Director / Concept / Performer: Yu Yen-fang
Co-creator / Performer: Chen Wu-kang
Co-creator / Film Director: Maurice Lai
Duration: Approximately 15mins

Two of Taiwan's renowned choreographers in their 40s, Chen Wu-kang and Yu Yen-fang, have come together in a collaborative dance project that explores the island through walking. This film documents their mountaineering journey as guided by acclaimed visual artist and mountain guide Kao Jun-honn through the Savage Line along the Llyung Topa (Dabao River), which culminates in an improvisational performance of this experience at HORSE Dance Theatre in New Taipei City.

Transmission: Beginning Step into Walk/Dance Project is a dance film commissioned by National Taichung Theater (Taiwan). It is presented as part of *Dance en Scene* by Esplanade, in partnership with National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts (Weiwuying) (Taiwan), National Taichung Theater (Taiwan) and Tai Kwun - Centre for Heritage and Arts (Hong Kong).

Terry-fying (work in progress)

Commissioned by Tai Kwun - Centre for Heritage and Arts (Hong Kong)

Concept, choreographer and performer: Terry Tsang

Researcher and Performer: Wong Yiu Kuen

Cinematographer and Editor: Vincent Ip

Duration: Approximately 10mins

Ashes to ashes, dust to dust.....

Nothing can be brought away, only the karma that follows.

This is a presentation of a work-in-progress, inspired from Terry's own work *Terry-fy* from a year ago which demonstrated his fear of hair. With this research focusing on life and death, he further investigates the impact of space and sound on the human body.

Based on "breaking hell", a traditional Taoist ritual for the dead, Terry explores the power of the sound of chanting scriptures from this ritual to generate different body textures, or even to travel through different spaces.

The research will continue and eventually develop into a complete live performance.

Terry-fying (work in progress) is a dance film commissioned by Tai Kwun - Centre for Heritage and Arts (Hong Kong). It is presented as part of *Dance en Scene* by Esplanade, in partnership with National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts (Weiwuying) (Taiwan), National Taichung Theater (Taiwan) and Tai Kwun - Centre for Heritage and Arts (Hong Kong).

[Online: SISTIC Live]

26 Feb 2021, Fri, 5pm (Available online until 14 Mar 2021, Sun, 11.59pm)

Log in to SISTIC Live to watch video up to 3 times only

Free, by registration

Registration starts in mid Feb 2021.

MORE FREE PROGRAMMES

Celebrate the Chinese New Year with us as Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts brings you a host of free performances and activities both online and live at Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay. Join us for a huat opening with spirit-lifting drums and energetic lion dance performance at our festival opening on 19 Feb 2021!

Online Programmes

in::music online

Various artists



Even if we can't see each other in person, we can still meet at *in::music online* for a great time! UFM 100.3 DJs Cheng Yao and Wei Long host a special Facebook Live show featuring returning *in::music* artists and up-and-coming fresh faces.

Grab your favourite earphones and tune into an intimate *in::music online* session on Facebook Live as we catch up with Chinese music artists from the region—Taiwanese avant-pop music artist Peggy Hsu, Hong Kong city-folk music artist Chet Lam, China multi-talented singer-songwriter Jude Chiu, Singapore Mandopop band NEKO Highway and Japan-born Malaysian music producer RYOTA.

Enjoy a casual comfortable evening as Chengyao and Weilong chat with these artists and get a glimpse into their lives, as they share some of their music with all of us.

in::music showcases some of the most inspiring Chinese singer-songwriters performing their original compositions.

(2hrs)

Performed in Mandarin and Cantonese.

[Online: Huayi Facebook Live]

21 Feb 2021, Sun, 8.30pm

Huayi Facebook (@huayifestival)

(Available online until 14 Mar 2021, Sun, 11.59pm)

Esplanade Outdoor Theatre

Advisory: Programmes held at the Esplanade Outdoor Theatre are pilot trial performances with up to 100 audience members each. No tickets will be issued. Seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Huayi Huat Opening!

Yiwei Athletic Association and DRUM FENG (Singapore)



Rousing drumbeats and energetic lions! Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts opens with a breathtaking, heart-thumping performance by the award-winning Yiwei Athletic Association on high poles at the Outdoor Theatre, followed by an energetic percussion presentation by DRUM FENG. Here's to an 'Ox'spicious Chinese New Year!

(1hr)

[At Esplanade]

19 Feb 2021, Fri, 7pm

Performance will also be live streamed on Huayi Facebook (@huayifestival). Available until 14 Mar, Sun, 11.59pm.

A Soaring New Year!

DRUM FENG (Singapore)



Usher in the Year of the Ox with DRUM FENG!

Witness the highly coordinated and powerful exchange between drummers during *Ox vs Tiger*, a classic Chinese percussion piece depicting the intense battle for supremacy between the ox and the tiger. Be mesmerised as well by the group's title track of the year, *Soar!*, as they showcase their drive, passion, youthful energy and synergy to convey their hopes for everyone to endeavour and push through all obstacles and SOAR through the year!

About DRUM FENG

DRUM FENG is a Singapore-based percussion ensemble group which centres their mission around three 'R's: to rediscover, redefine and reinvent Chinese percussion to connect with the 21st century audience. Aside from traditional classics, they specialise in Chinese-Fusion New Age percussion works, using a mix of Chinese and Western percussion instruments to put on visually impactful trademark performances that display their spirit, musicality and technical ability. Officially founded in 2018, the group's core members comprise young and passionate percussionists who have been performing together for over a decade.

(45mins)

[At Esplanade]

19 Feb 2021, Fri, 7.15pm* & 9.15pm

*As part of *Huayi Huat Opening!* Performance will also be live streamed on Huayi Facebook (@huayifestival). Available until 14 Mar, Sun, 11.59pm.

Reverberance of Spring

Reverberance (Singapore)



REVERBERANCE

Reverberance presents a repertoire featuring works that incorporate different music elements from various influences as a reflection of Singapore's multicultural society. This includes the arrangement of music which originated from other countries as well as the incorporation of musical ideas from Asian countries into traditional Chinese pieces.

Through this show, Reverberance hopes to change the general mind set of the public that a Chinese Wind and Percussion ensemble is only capable of performing traditional pieces.

In celebration of Chinese New Year, the repertoire includes music traditionally played during such festive events, and features renditions that have been influenced by musical ideas from other Southeast Asian countries.

About Reverberance

Reverberance is a Chinese wind-percussion ensemble comprising young award-winning local musicians. As a relatively new ensemble, Reverberance consists of members with a common dream of making wonderful music together and spreading their passion to the community. The group has put up numerous concerts over the years, such as *Blast Chinese New Year* concert 2018 – 2020, all of which were sold out. Recently, Reverberance clinched first place in the Ensemble category during Singapore Chinese Music Competition 2020. Apart from pursuing their interest in making music, the ensemble also sees much potential in developing music within our community, particularly with senior citizens.

(45mins)

[At Esplanade]

20 Feb 2021, Sat, 7.15pm* & 9.15pm

*Performance will also be live streamed on Huayi Facebook (@huayifestival). Available until 14 Mar, Sun, 11.59pm.

Visiting Spring

TCR Music Station (Singapore)



Let the simple melodies and beautiful lyrics of Taiwanese campus folk songs accompany you this festive Spring! Featuring Cai Yiren and Shirley Wong from TCR Music Station, the duo will present a showcase of evergreen classics including *Visiting Spring*, *Spring Breeze*, *Little Jasmine* and more.

(45mins)

Performed in Mandarin.

[At Esplanade]

21 Feb 2021, Sun, 7.15pm* & 9pm

*Performance will also be live streamed on Huayi Facebook (@huayifestival). Available until 14 Mar, Sun, 11.59pm.

Can't Love You Enough, 90s

The JumpStart (Singapore)



Get ready to hit all the right notes with local band The JumpStart as they shuttle you back in time to the '90s! Expect to sing away the night with The JumpStart's own take on chart-topping tunes from the most popular singers and bands of that time, including Cantopop's Four Heavenly Kings and A-Mei!

About The JumpStart

The JumpStart is made up of a group of friends and music enthusiasts, aiming to give music its deserving new lease of life. As a bilingual live band, The JumpStart's music can be easily distinguished through its tight harmonies and interactions which culminate in a creative and refreshing mix of sounds. The members of The JumpStart have each conquered numerous big stages around Singapore, Malaysia and China, and have had the honour of performing at large-scale concerts, competitions and events for organisations such as NParks, National Gallery Singapore and Volkswagen, as well as showcases for dignitaries such as former President Tony Tan. Some of the artists that they have worked with include popular Singaporean singers JJ Lin, Kit Chan, Taiwanese entertainer Jacky Wu and international artists such as Power Station.

(45mins)

Performed in Mandarin.

[At Esplanade]

26 Feb 2021, Fri, 7.15pm & 9.15pm

Hokkien Opera Showcase

Traditional Arts Centre (Singapore)



Do not miss out on this exciting showcase of traditional Hokkien opera classics, including *Touring the Imperial Garden*, *Yichun Leaving Behind the Umbrella* and *Xue Dingshan and Fan Lihua*!

About Traditional Arts Centre (Singapore)

Traditional Arts Centre (Singapore) first opened in 2012 as a non-profit organisation that facilitates arts education, established by Ms. Cai Bixia, winner of the Singapore Young Artist Award in 2008. In January 2020, the Centre officially became a charitable organisation in Singapore. Its mission is to promote Chinese culture and traditional arts, as well as to propagate Chinese opera in Singapore. Since its establishment, the Centre has worked towards this goal by sending opera instructors to primary and secondary schools across the country to conduct classes and organise performances staged by the students.

(45mins)

Performed in Hokkien with English and Mandarin surtitles.

[At Esplanade]

27 Feb 2021, Sat, 7.15pm & 9.15pm

Crazy Smooth

MICappella (Singapore)



Come join a cappella band MICappella as they perform originals from their latest EP *LOVE, MICappella* along with popular covers and medleys such as *Evolution of Chinese Songs!*

Known for their signature wall of sound, infectious energy and musical versatility, MICappella is one of Asia's leading vocal bands based in Singapore. The band had the honour of appearing at the National Day Parade 2018 Celebrations and Singapore Day 2019 in Shanghai. That same year, they were also invited to perform their rendition of the National Anthem during the Singapore Grand Prix Flag-off ceremony.

MICappella has released three albums to date and their latest 2019 EP *LOVE, MICappella* was well received and was conferred awards from organisations such as The Contemporary A Cappella Society (CASA). The band tours extensively and have performed in Europe, Australia, China, USA, Russia, Malaysia, among others.

(40mins)

Performed in Mandarin.

[At Esplanade]

28 Feb 2021, Sun, 7.15pm & 9pm

Esplanade Concourse

Advisory: Programmes held at the Esplanade Concourse are pilot trial performances with up to 50 audience members each. No tickets will be issued. Seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

We are Singer-songwriters! • Anie Fann (Taiwan)



Get a glimpse into the mind of a singer-songwriter as Anie shares some of the stories behind what inspires her songs, with topics such as staying true to yourself, our relationship to social media, adapting to “the new normal”, and other thought-provoking themes.

About Anie Fann

Born in Taipei, Taiwan, Anie immigrated with her parents to Canada as a child and had been interested in music from an early age. She started learning piano in elementary school, frequently competing in local children's piano competitions. In 2006, Anie joined Hummingbird Music as a writer and artist and in 2009, attended the Musicians Institute in California to study music theory, arrangement and production. In 2015, she participated in a year-long project with Taiwan label Enjoy Music for hands-on training in music production, songwriting, and recording.

At around the same time, she began work on her debut album with renowned guitarist and producer Eiji Kadota *Can You Or Can You Not Understand My Mandarin* released in March 2017. The album was nominated for a Golden Melody Award for Best Vocal Recording Album (Technical Category) and Eiji Kadota was nominated at the Golden Indie Music Awards for Best Guitarist for his work on the album.

In 2020, Anie released her second album *Artemis 1889* and explored themes like the dark side of technology, social media and our changing society.

(45mins)

Performed in Mandarin.

[At Esplanade]

19 Feb 2021, Fri, 6.15pm

We are Singer-songwriters! • Lee Ein Ein

(Singapore)



Everyone has their own little kingdom in their hearts.

As we grow older, time and experience will shape our kingdom in ways we cannot even fathom. One day, we might find ourselves lost in our own maze and it's only through finding our purest initial selves, the foundation our kingdom was built upon, will we truly shine.

Through her songs, Ein Ein will share her journey in pursuing her childhood dream of joining the music industry, from writing songs to performing and becoming a music producer. She will share how she faced the fears, gathered her determination, explored the unknown, and eventually returned to her humble beginnings.

About Ein Ein

Ein Ein began her career as a songwriter and has flourished as an artist. She is a member of several different bands across a vast array of musical genres including MICappella, Fun Jam Band and duo Kewei & Ein Ein, with which she has released an EP *Keep!*. With MICappella, she took part in *The Sing-Off China* and emerged as the first runner-up with the band, landing a record deal that culminated in the album *Here We Go* as well as an Asia-wide tour. MICappella was nominated for four awards at *Singapore Hit Awards 2014*, winning the Media Recommendation Award. Never one to shy away from new challenges, Ein Ein made the decision to pause her career five years ago in order to expand her musical knowledge, travelling to the States to further her studies in music. Now, she is back with her latest work *My Little Kingdom*, one that is entirely self-produced, from the initial composition down to the arranging and mixing of the songs, thus achieving a new milestone for herself. Upon her return, she has actively pursued a career as an all-rounded music producer and songwriter. With her newfound skills, she has participated in various positions for a variety of musical projects, including Kewei & Ein Ein's *Ex Girlfriends*, Rao Zijie's *Tick Tock*, MICappella's *Sheng Ming Huo Yan* and *You Yi Wan Sui*, Tay Kewei & Alfred Sim's *Momo I Love You*, TZ Huang's *The Third Day* and Isaac Yong's *Late At Night* to critical acclaim.

(45mins)

Performed in Mandarin.

[At Esplanade]

20 Feb 2021, Sat, 6.15pm

We are Singer-songwriters! • Wilson Huang (Singapore)



Let us journey into Wilson's world and find out more about his journey and how music is deeply intertwined with his life. Every song tells a different story, each one attached to an unforgettable experience. Join him as he tells his life story with his original songs.

About Wilson Huang

Wilson is a self-taught musician and has been a singer-songwriter for four years. He spent a good number of his teenage years with his guitar and enjoys every single moment he has with his music. He is currently a full-time singer at music venue Tin Box the Live House. He has honed his craft through previous performing experiences and hopes to bring more beautiful tunes to people all around.

(45mins)

Performed in Mandarin.

[At Esplanade]

21 Feb 2021, Sun, 6.30pm

A Dance of Dunhuang

Xiao Jing & Li Yingying (Singapore)



Dunhuang is located in the middle of Asia and it is surrounded by the Mongolian highlands, the Taklamakan Desert of Xinjiang and the Tibetan Plateau. This county-level city is strategically located at the crossroads of the ancient Southern Silk Road and was considered the centre of communication between ancient China and the rest of the world, as well as a major hub of commerce.

In the past centuries, various religions, arts, languages and cultures from Europe, Central Asia and India have converged in this city. Their complete fusion with Chinese heritage has made Dunhuang culture a gem of the world.

Dunhuang dance draws inspirations from frescos, instruments and music scores found in the rock caves. It encompasses the charm of the Tang Dynasty and the sacredness of religion. The performance of the dance today is a resounding ring of the bell of history, chiming the reverberations of the past in modern times.

About Xiao Jing

Xiao Jing graduated from the Beijing Dance Academy and has been living in Singapore for the past 20 years. She has been working relentlessly in the Chinese dance scene, promoting and preserving the vocabulary of this traditional dance genre. Xiao Jing plays various roles in her life: she is a mother who dreams of being an author; a dance instructor who advocates education on the foundation of love; a choreographer who is always racking her brains, and occasionally a part-time actor. She believes there is light in life, soul in dance, and that the arts makes ordinary life extraordinary.

About Li Yingying

Li Yingying entered Beijing Dance Academy at the age of 11, learning classical Chinese dance and traditional folk dance. Upon graduation in 1995, she entered the China National Song & Dance Ensemble and came to Singapore in 2004, where she started teaching at various schools. She has aspired to be a dance instructor and hopes to plant a seed in every child who has passion for dance, and nurture them as they grow.

(30mins)

[At Esplanade]

22 Feb 2021, Mon, 7.15pm

Performance will also be live streamed on Huayi Facebook (@huayifestival, available until 14 Mar, Sun, 11.59pm) and premiere on Esplanade Offstage from 23 Feb, Tue, 7.15pm.

New Journey

GIMA Band (Singapore)



GIMA band will be presenting their new single released in 2020, *New Journey*, as well as their renditions of familiar local tunes and Chinese folk songs.

About GIMA Band

GIMA Band is a Singaporean fusion-folk music band, and the first Mongolian *morin khuur* and guitar fusion band in Southeast Asia. GIMA blends ancient folk cultures with a modern style and creates new soundscapes with their arrangements. They enjoy exploring the musical cultures of Asia, creating cultural music exchange and collaborating with other musicians.

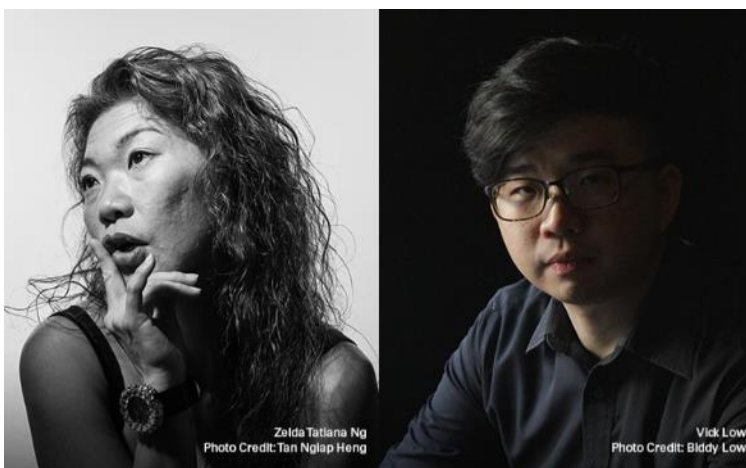
(45mins)

[At Esplanade]

23 Feb 2021, Tue, 7.15pm

Story Time with Boh Choo – Bring on the Bull!

Zelda Tatiana Ng and Vick Low (Singapore)



Welcome to the year of the Golden Bull! Celebrate the Lunar New Year with legends and folk tales about the mythical bull in the first of two storytelling performances at the Esplanade Concourse, told in Cantonese.

Do you know why the bull only eats grass and hay? Why, despite his impressive size, is he second in line behind the tiny mouse in the Chinese zodiac? These well-loved folk legends have evolved into different stories over the years. Which one is your favourite?

Created by multilingual theatre practitioner Zelda Tatiana Ng as Boh Choo, this entertaining storytelling work is performed in her favourite language, Cantonese, with sound and foley by electronic musician and cellist Vick Low.

Join Boh Choo for some fun and laughs as we brave the new year, and yes — *Bring on the Bull!*

About Zelda Tatiana Ng

Zelda Tatiana has been working as an arts practitioner for over 20 years in the Singapore arts scene. She is multilingual and is proficient in English, Mandarin, Cantonese and Hokkien, with rudimentary understanding of Malay and Japanese. (Basically, she just loves languages!) However, Cantonese still remains as her favourite as she sees it as a 'heart' language, connecting to her childhood. She was once fascinated with street *wayang* performances in the '60s and '70s and has derived an eccentric style in storytelling. As a practitioner, she was involved in numerous international collaborations and her interests in intercultural and multilingual works led her to initiate her own arts company, GroundZ-0.

About Vick Low

Vick is a sound designer and an electronic musician who plays the cello. He graduated from LASALLE College of the Arts in 2015, with a Bachelor of Arts with Honors Degree specialising in Music Technology. Through his career, he developed and worked on methods of manipulating sounds from his cello to bring upon a bigger sonic spectrum, which aids him in composition and sound design. This propelled his venture into electronic and abstract composition. He has designed and composed immersive soundscapes and textures for various theatre productions such as *A Dream Under the Southern Bough* (Toy Factory Productions) for Singapore International Festival of Arts 2018, *PLAYtime! The Dragon's Dentist* and *US* by Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay in 2019, *Transition Room* (Toy Factory Productions), *The Hawker* (Second Breakfast Co) and *The Watching* (Toy Factory Productions), for which he was nominated for Best Sound Design at The Straits Times Life Theatre Awards 2019. He is currently part of Third Sound, a collective of designers and a subsidiary of SAtheCollective. His works are mainly influenced by ambient and minimalist musicians such as Brian Eno and Ryuichi Sakamoto. His style and methods of composition comprises of sounds from both organic and electronic sources, to create intricate and complex textures.

(40mins)

Performed in Cantonese with English and Mandarin surtitles.

[At Esplanade]

24 Feb 2021, Wed, 7.15pm

Performance will also premiere on 26 Feb, Fri, 7.15pm on Huayi Facebook (@huayifestival, available until 14 Mar, Sun, 11.59pm).

Legend of the Civet Crown Prince

Doreen Toh and Ferry (Singapore)



Celebrate the Lunar New Year with a tale from the Ming and Qing era, in the second of two storytelling performances at the Esplanade Concourse, this time told in Hokkien!

A mystery lies at the heart of the court of Song Dynasty Emperor Zhenzong. A jealous consort swops a baby prince for a civet cat in a scheme that leads to the banishment of a rival concubine, who is separated from her son. In a chance encounter, Justice Bao meets the concubine and learns of her tragic story. He leads a charge in a search to uncover the truth, which culminates in a happy reunion of mother and son.

This famous tale of Justice Bao and the Civet Crown Prince comes to life in this Hokkien storytelling performance created by acclaimed veteran theatre actor Doreen Toh, with sound by multi-hyphenate artist Ferry. This lively and engaging work, inspired by the roadside storytellers and Hokkien street *wayang* performances of yesteryear, will be set in an aural landscape of live music and foley.

About Doreen Toh

A professional theatre actor since 1992, Doreen has chalked up over 100 performances to date and is recognised by her peers and community as a seasoned theatre veteran. Other than performing with many leading theatre companies in Singapore, she has also performed internationally in Bangladesh, Vienna, Hong Kong and Macau. Aside from acting in theatre productions, Doreen has also delved into the film scene in recent years, acting in many of Singapore's local film projects. In 2004, she won the Best Ensemble Acting award at Singapore's annual Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards. In 2010, she scored a nomination for Best Drama Performance By An Actress in a Supporting Role at the Asian Television Awards for her role in August Pictures' *Letters to Heaven*. Her first feature film *Their Remaining Journey* also had its world premiere at the 2018 Rotterdam International Film Festival.

About Ferry

FERRY is an installation artist, musician, educator, and collaborator. Honed through a practice that spans design, music, art, education and theatre, FERRY's edge is in the ability to synthesise ideas and practices from diverse fields, utilising the different methodologies with ease to create audience and learner experiences that engage through multiple means. Her works range from large-scale installations such as *Sky Kave*—first commissioned by Singapore International Festival of Arts (May 2018), recommissioned for Reflections Festival (Oct 2018) and Light to Night Festival (Jan 2019)—to collaborative theatrical performances with various art makers such as *Songs of Tau* for Project Utopia (2019) and *Poppy* (2020). Her latest collaboration *O/Aural Waves* with Kamini Ramachandran (Textures, Mar 2020 &

Esplanade, Oct 2019) is a hybrid work that merges storytelling, live foley and set installation. Driven by ideas and the audiences' experience regardless of the form, she continues to devise pieces that challenge and change perspectives, especially those surrounding social issues. FERRY is currently an associate artist with The Theatre Practice and is pursuing her Masters in Pedagogy & Practice (Goldsmith's, University of London & Lasalle College of the Arts, 2021).

(40mins)

Performed in Hokkien with English and Mandarin surtitles.

[At Esplanade]

25 Feb 2021, Thu, 7.15pm

Performance will also premiere on 26 Feb, Fri, 7.15pm on Huayi Facebook (@huayifestival, available until 14 Mar, Sun, 11.59pm).

Spring & Strings

Stringanza (Singapore)



Be delighted by the flavourful sounds of Stringanza, serenading you with a unique blend between the Chinese fiddle, the *erhu* and its variations, the *gaohu* and *zhonghu*, and the Western cello. The quartet will bring the festive spring atmosphere to you through the resonations of their strings, showcasing familiar Chinese New Year tunes as well as evergreen classics, such as music by Teresa Teng.

(45mins)

[At Esplanade]

26 Feb 2021, Fri, 6.15pm

Jazz for Kids – Nursery Rhymes

Dawn Wong & WEBE (Singapore)



We're dusting off our toys for this very special Mandarin nursery rhymes edition of *Jazz for Kids*! Join us in person for a performance of songs from our childhood. Presented by Dawn Wong and her quirky musical trio WEBE on violin, melodica, ukulele and more in their signature folk jazzy voice.

About Dawn Wong & WEBE

Jazz Association Scholar and mummy Dawn Wong is the force behind *Jazz for Kids* performances that introduce jazz music to young children. Dawn performs with fellow parent-musicians Kailin Yong and Felix Phang as WEBE, playing folk tunes and jazz-influenced original music. The trio is named after a colloquial Hokkien phrase "*Wu Eh Bo Eh*", which means "this and that".

(45mins)

Performed in Mandarin.

[At Esplanade]

27 Feb 2021, Sat, 6.30pm

Night of Reminiscence

Cheryl Fong (Singapore)



Enjoy an evening of evergreen songs from old movies and drama classics such as *Love and Passion* and *Aces Go Places*.

About Cheryl Fong

Known for her versatility, local singer Cheryl Fong performs a wide repertoire consisting of various genres and languages. Her joyful and endearing character also helps to add warmth to the performances, touching the hearts of the audiences.

(45mins)

Performed in Mandarin and other dialects.

[At Esplanade]

28 Feb 2021, Sun, 6.30pm

Performance will also be live streamed on Huayi Facebook (@huayifestival). Available until 14 Mar, Sun, 11.59pm.

PIP's PLAYbox

The Ox and the Songbird

Jonathan Shin & Rit Xu (Singapore)



It's the Chinese New Year celebrations, a joyful time for reunion and festivities but not for poor Ox! His best friend, the shy and reticent Songbird, is quarantined in the trees and the two best friends cannot reunite, at least... not for a while.

But clever Ox comes up with an idea: what if they could play together and enjoy each other's company through music?

Come join Ox and Songbird for an afternoon of stories and song at PIP's PLAYbox!

(30mins)

Performed in English.

There will also be a hands-on workshop activity happening from 12pm – 12.30pm each day.

[At Esplanade]

20, 21, 27 & 28 Feb 2021, Sat & Sun

11.15am, 2.30pm & 4.45pm

Free, by registration

Huayi x Sanity “Huat” Bag



Huayi and Sanity Coffee Bar present this limited-edition merchandise with items to sustain you through the festival season. Recharge with a cup of Sanity coffee or wind down with some caffeine-free tea as you savour Huayi shows online at home. There’s nothing like a hot cup of kopi or tea to inspire the warmth, comfort and a sense of positivity, and that’s what we hope Huayi 2021 will bring to you!

Available for purchase on [Shopee](#) or at the Sanity Coffee Bar at Esplanade Mall #02-19. Available until 14 Mar 2021, or while stocks last!

Sanity Coffee Bar Opening Hours:

Wed – Fri: 9.30am to 5pm

Sat: 11am to 5.30pm

Sun: 11am to 5pm

Huat’s in the bag:

1. Limited Edition “Huat” Canvas Drawstring Bag (170mm x 230mm)
2. Sanity Coffee Bar: Aleta Wendo Coffee Drip Bag
3. Sanity Coffee Bar: Snow Chrysanthemum Tea Drip Bag (*Caffeine-free)
4. Huayi 2021 Sticker Sheet

\$12.80

Early Bird Promo: \$10.80

Purchase between 5 – 18 Feb 2021, or while stocks last.

Item will be delivered within 3 to 5 days upon confirmation of order.

About the Drip Bags

Sanity Coffee Bar: Aleta Wendo Coffee Drip Bag

Aleta Wendo

Tasting notes: Dried Apricots, Berries, Sweet-toned

Region: Sidama, Ethiopia

Variety: Heirloom
Altitude: 1,600-2,200m
Process: Natural

Sanity Coffee Bar: Snow Chrysanthemum Tea Drip Bag (Caffeine-free)

From the alpine region of the Kunming Mountains in Xinjiang, China. This rare flower grows at high altitudes on the cliffs and only blooms once a year in August.

Produces a delicious, silky-smooth cup of amber tea with tasting notes reminiscent of dark honey and wolf berries.

Snow Chrysanthemum tea contains high amounts of amino acids which are beneficial to your health.

Brew Instructions:

Pour freshly brewed water until the flower buds are covered, steep for 1 min, transfer drip bag to another cup and repeat. 1 bag of tea makes 2 cups!