



# 新加坡南洋艺术学院狮城华乐团 CITY CHINESE ORCHESTRA (SINGAPORE) LTD

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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15 July 2014



### *Footprints 《40 足迹》*

*City Chinese Orchestra Celebrates Forty Years of Unique Musical Achievements  
in Gala Concert at the Esplanade Concert Hall*

17 August 2014 (Sunday) ♦ 5:00pm ♦ Esplanade Concert Hall

SINGAPORE—In a befitting celebration of its steadfast presence in the traditional Chinese music world, City Chinese Orchestra (CCO) presents its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Concert, *Footprints*, and it promises to wow supporters and audiences all over again.

“2014 has been such a momentous year for City Chinese Orchestra, with our participation in the inauguration of the Singapore Chinese Music Federation coinciding with our fortieth anniversary celebrations,” said Mr Tan Shao Tong, City Chinese Orchestra’s executive chairman. “In this concert, we showcase our diverse contributions to Singapore’s traditional Chinese music scene, and underscore our special role in the history of the Chinese Orchestra in Singapore,” said Mr Tan.

Such an ambitious undertaking will manifest itself in a concert repertoire that will be diverse and musically invigorating. “We want to give our audience glimpses of all the things that make City Chinese Orchestra a noteworthy Singaporean Chinese orchestra,” said Dr Tay Teow Kiat, CCO’s founding music director and conductor for the concert. “One significant area, of course, has been our collaboration with notable musicians and practitioners of traditional Chinese music throughout the years.”

For *Footprints*, City Chinese Orchestra will collaborate again with prominent Chinese vocalists Zhang Feng Lian and Ding Ba Te from Inner Mongolia, who will perform popular vocal pieces, *Meeting at the Yurt* 《敖包相会》 and *Fading Affection* 《远情》. “We are excited



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to be performing alongside the accomplished City Chinese Orchestra once again, and are heartened that under the baton of Dr Tay, CCO has mastered numerous genres and regional styles in Chinese music," said Zhang from her office in Baotou City in Inner Mongolia. Zhang, the current Deputy Director of the Man Han Opera Theatre in Baotou, is a nationally-recognised First Class Vocalist in China with considerable international performance experience. Zhang and Ding last collaborated with CCO in 2010. "The influence of CCO and Dr Tay extends far and wide, and our audiences look forward to welcoming this Singaporean Chinese Orchestra to Baotou City someday," added Zhang.

In another noteworthy collaboration, *dizi* maestro Zhan Yong Ming will take the stage alongside CCO again to perform the evocative *dizi* concerto, the *Gada Meilin Capriccio* 《嘎达梅林随想曲》. "The piece itself is not the only reason we are excited to collaborate with Maestro Zhan," said Tay Soon Dee, CCO's concertmaster and principal *dizi* player. "We consider Maestro Zhan a good friend of the Orchestra. He has shared in our musical pursuits throughout the years, and we are delighted that he will participate in our anniversary celebration," added Tay.

"Just like we want to give the stage to Mr Zhan, a concert celebrating our Orchestra's achievements cannot neglect our committed members and instructors who have quietly but diligently shaped the Orchestra's culture and music," said Mr Tan. "For this reason, *Footprints* will also feature CCO's musical instructors who are not only accomplished professional musicians in their own right, but who have also devoted years of loyal service to our enterprise," he added. For the concert, *huqin* soloists Wang Gui Ying and Ling Hock Siang will perform the *huqin* duet, *Song of Everlasting Sorrow* 《长恨歌》, while veteran *suona* soloist Ding Huai Cheng performs Lu Liang-hui's *suona* concerto, *Happiness* 《乐》. "Just as City Chinese Orchestra has matured into a Singaporean Orchestra with its own identity, as musicians, we too have grown through our years of work with CCO," noted Wang Gui Ying. Collectively, Wang, Ling and Ding have dedicated more than fifty years of service to City Chinese Orchestra, and have left their mark on the propagation and education of traditional Chinese music in Singapore.

As City Chinese Orchestra shares with supporters and audiences its rich history and achievements in its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, members have been careful not to take the Orchestra's vitality for granted. "Besides our small team of professional musical instructors, our members are, after all, non-career musicians. The Orchestra itself is run entirely by unpaid volunteers, from Music Director right down to our stagehands!" commented Chan Choon Seng, CCO's veteran member and *pipa* instructor.



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“While we are heartened by the diversity and vitality of Singapore’s traditional Chinese music scene which we have helped shape, this has made our operating environment more challenging. More than ever before, CCO depends on goodwill and human relationships – among members and with the public,” added Mr Tan.

“Dr. Tay Teow Kiat and his musical enterprise are a formidable force in Singapore and the region. Anybody who has heard this Orchestra play will agree that even though City Chinese Orchestra is a non-career Orchestra, it can hardly be called ‘amateur’!” said Wang Cheng Quan, CCO’s Resident Composer and nationally-rated First Class Composer in the People’s Republic of China. Wang’s newly-commissioned piece, *In Place of Her Father* 《代父从军》, will be premiered by CCO at the concert.

“We do believe that City Chinese Orchestra has played a special role in the development of Chinese music in Singapore, and we hope that we can continue to do so for many years to come. Please join us as we celebrate our past, and look toward the future,” said Dr. Tay.

Tickets to the concert are now available at all SISTIC outlets and at <http://www.sistic.com.sg/events/ftprints0814>. For more information, visit [www.cityco.com.sg](http://www.cityco.com.sg) or [www.facebook.com/cityco.sg](http://www.facebook.com/cityco.sg).

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Annex A

## CONCERT INFORMATION

### About the Programme

In this 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Concert, City Chinese Orchestra will showcase its innovative and rich programming in collaborating with *dizi* maestro Zhan Yong Ming and renowned folk singers from Inner Mongolia. The Orchestra will present well-known tunes from the traditional Chinese music repertoire. These include the classic *dizi* concerto, the *Gada Meilin Capriccio* 《嘎达梅林随想曲》, as well as well-loved vocal pieces *Meeting at the Yurt* 《敖包相会》, and the theme song from the television series *Courtyard of Family Qiao* 《乔家大院》 - *Fading Affection* 《远情》.

The Orchestra will also use the occasion of our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration to honour and celebrate our the artistic accomplishments and virtuosity of our own instructors, Ding Huai Cheng, Wang Gui Ying and Ling Hock Siang. These soloists will take the stage to perform popular concertos such as the *suona* concerto *Happiness* 《乐》 and *huqin* duet concerto *Everlasting Regret* 《长恨歌》. City Chinese Orchestra will also perform compositions by our resident composers: Li Chong Wang's *Yan Men Pass Capriccio* 《雁门关随想》 showcases the technical competence and musical voice of the Orchestra, while the world premiere of Wang Cheng Quan's *In Place of Her Father* 《代父从军》 showcases the Orchestra's commitment to developing new music while paying tribute to tradition and heritage.



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## Select Repertoire

*Gada Meilin Capriccio* 《嘎达梅林随想曲》

*Everlasting Regret* 《长恨歌》

*Happiness* 《乐》

*Meeting at the Yurt* 《敖包相会》

*Fading Affection* 《远情》

*Yan Men Pass Capriccio* 《雁门关随想》

*In Place of Her Father* 《代父从军》\*

*Fisherman's Song of the East China Sea* 《东海渔歌》

\* Premiere

## Concert Details

Date: 17 August 2014 (Sunday)

Time: 5:00pm

Duration: 2 hours, with a 20-minute intermission

Venue: Esplanade Concert Hall

Ticket Prices: \$18<sup>^</sup>, \$24<sup>^</sup>, \$28, \$32

<sup>^</sup>Concessionary prices for students, NSF and Senior Citizens – \$14 and \$18

Schools may use the Tote Board Arts Grant to subsidize up to 50% (excluding GST) of the ticket price.

Tickets may be purchased at all authorised SISTIC outlets, online at <http://www.sistic.com.sg/events/ftprints0814>, or via the SISTIC hotline at 6348 5555.

## General Enquiries

For more information, please contact us at 9732 7574 (Mr Gavin Swee), email at [info@cityco.com.sg](mailto:info@cityco.com.sg) or visit us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/cityco.sg](http://www.facebook.com/cityco.sg).



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## Annex B

### LEAD PERFORMERS & CREATIVES

#### Ding Huai Cheng 丁怀成 (Suona Soloist)

Ding Huai Cheng is the music instructor for the woodwind section of the City Chinese Orchestra. He is also a member of the China Musicians' Society and the China Woodwind Music Society. Graduating from the China Conservatory of Music in 1982, Ding held the position of Lecturer at the China Conservatory of Music till 1992. Ding is also an instructor at Shangyin Music School and several primary and secondary schools. His proficient teaching has yielded notable results and garnered numerous accolades with the orchestras that he has instructed.



#### Wang Gui Ying 王桂英 (Erhu soloist)

Wang Gui Ying is the *erhu* Principal and chief instructor of the Strings section of City Chinese Orchestra. Graduating from the Tianjin Conservatory of Music in 1990, Wang has studied under many eminent *erhu* performers such as Ju Wen Yu, Min Hui Fen and Liu Chang Fu. Her playing has been commended by famous Chinese music critic Liu Zai Sheng as "full of passion, yet elegantly measured, reflecting a thorough grasp of the music." Wang holds a Masters degree in Musicology from Beijing Normal University, and is conductor of the Raffles Girls' School (Secondary) Chinese Orchestra.



#### Ling Hock Siang 林傅强 (Erhu soloist)

Ling Hock Siang is recipient of the 2004 Young Artist Award and Singapore Youth Award (Culture and Arts Team Category, The Huqin Quartet). A talented *erhu* performer, Ling holds a Masters degree in *erhu* performance (the first Singaporean to do so) from the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. Ling is currently *erhu* Associate Principal at the Singapore Chinese Orchestra (SCO) and member of the Huqin Quartet. He currently holds the positions of Artistic Instructor of the City Chinese Orchestra (CCO), *erhu* Instructor of the Singapore Youth Chinese Orchestra (SYCO), and Adjunct Instrumental Teacher (*erhu* Performance) of the School of the Arts (SOTA).





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## Zhan Yong Ming 詹永明 (Dizi soloist)

Zhan Yong Ming is a renowned *dizi* performer and educator, and currently holds teaching and leadership positions in several leading Chinese music associations in China and in Singapore. He frequently travels around the world for performances and lectures, and has been described as a “Magic Flute”. Maestro Zhan has won numerous awards for his performances and recordings, and some of his representative works include *Ting Quan* and *West Lake in Early Spring*.



## Zhang Fenglian 张凤莲 (Vocalist)

Famous Man Han Opera performer Zhang Fenglian is a nationally-recognised First Class Vocalist in China and recipient of the 4th Wen Hua and 10th Plum Blossom Awards. She has represented China and Inner Mongolia to perform in eight European countries and in Singapore, garnering stellar reviews from experts and audience members alike.



## Ding Ba Te 丁·巴特 (Vocalist)

Dubbed “the Prince of Mongolian ballads”, Ding Ba Te is a National First Grade performer and a Gold prize-winner of the *Provinces of North China Folk Song Competition*. He has travelled to Mongolia to perform and was granted the title of Friendly Ambassador (友好使者) by Mongolia.



## Dr. Tay Teow Kiat 郑朝吉 博士 (Conductor and Music Director)

Dr. Tay is an accomplished Chinese Orchestra conductor and educator, and has been active in the Chinese music circles in Singapore, China and Asia for over forty years. He is the founding President of the Singapore Chinese Music Federation, Music Director of City Chinese Orchestra and Dingyi Music Company, and Resident Conductor of the Dunman High School Chinese Orchestra. For his accomplishments and contributions, Dr. Tay was awarded the Cultural Medallion by the National Arts Council in 1993. He holds a PhD from Beijing Normal University.





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Annex C

### ABOUT CITY CHINESE ORCHESTRA

City Chinese Orchestra (formerly the Singapore Broadcasting Corporation Chinese Orchestra) was formed in 1974 and has been a steadfast presence in the Singapore and international traditional Chinese music scene, with a repertoire of more than 1,000 compositions. City Chinese Orchestra is known for commissioning new works from accomplished composers, as well as its programmatic innovation and depth. Recent programming firsts include the Singapore premiere of popular Chinese musical *Xiao Er Hei's Marriage* in August 2012, a concert introducing the Pingtan genre from Suzhou in March 2012, a Manhan Opera feature in collaboration with Esplanade-Theatres on the Bay as part of Moonfest 2010, as well as a concert of theme songs from China's Four Literary Classics (四大名著) in 2009.

A non-profit entity, City Chinese Orchestra presently comprises 150 members across five musical sections. Members are either students and undergraduates in reputable educational institutions, or professionals in industries such as law, finance, banking, accountancy, government service, teaching, heritage, and higher education. Many have won prizes in Chinese traditional music competitions in Singapore and overseas. From the nurturing grounds of the Orchestra, several have gone on to become influential figures in the Singapore Chinese traditional music scene and have contributed greatly to the development of Chinese traditional music in Singapore.

The Orchestra's founding music director is Dr Tay Teow Kiat. For his leadership of the Orchestra and his musical attainments, Dr Tay was the first Chinese music practitioner to be awarded the Cultural Medallion in 1993. In 2014, he was elected as the founding President of the Singapore Chinese Music Federation. Dr Tay led City Chinese Orchestra to great critical acclaim in Beijing and Tianjin in 1996, Zhengzhou in 2002, Changchun and Beijing in 2007, and Taiwan in 2013.

Since its early years, City Chinese Orchestra has been a forerunner in collaborating with established and emerging names in the traditional Chinese music world. The Orchestra currently has as its resident composers Mr Li Chong Wang, Mr Wang Cheng Quan, and Mr Lin Wei Hua. Over the years, CCO has collaborated with numerous other Chinese music luminaries, often performing world premieres and commissioned pieces. These include: Hu Tian Quan, Lu Chun Ling, Liu De Hai, Li Min Xiong, Zhao Song Ting, Min Hui Fen, Zhu Feng Bo, Zheng Xu Lan, Li Guang Zu, Chen An Hua, Wang Zhong Shan, Liu Chang Fu, Jiao Jin Hai, Zhu Chang Yao, Wu Bi Xia, Zhang Xiao Feng, and Wang Li Ping.

In the last 40 years, with the support of the public and the National Arts Council, City Chinese Orchestra has contributed significantly to the development and popularity of Chinese traditional music in Singapore. CCO will continue to present the many facets of Chinese traditional music to audiences in Singapore and to raise the level of such music in the country and the region.