

Phang Kok Jun, composer

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Summary

Multifaceted composer, musician, educator, and speaker. Over 100 original works and 200 more arrangements commissioned to date, with a repertoire that includes music for concert halls, theatre, film, and other forms of media. An award-winning composer both locally and internationally. Interested in the unique relationship between music and storytelling, and constantly working with artists of all fields to discover new possibilities in music-making.

Education

- Master of Music in Composition**, Peabody Conservatory, Johns Hopkins University, 2015-2017
Recipient of full scholarship from the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Singapore
- Bachelor of Music in Composition**, Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, National University of Singapore, Graduated with First Class Honours, 2011-2015
Dean's List (Sem 1 AY2013/2014 and Sem 1 AY2014/2015)
Recipient of full scholarship from the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Singapore
- Overseas Exchange program**, Peabody Conservatory of Music, Johns Hopkins University, 2014
Dean's List with High Honours (Spring, 2014)

Honours

- New Classics Competition – International Competition of The Moscow Conservatory for Young Composers**, First Prize, Popular Modern Classics Category. 2018
- SCANTEAK Jingle Contest, Singapore Chinese Orchestra**, First Prize and Commendation Prize 2018
- National University of Singapore**, NUSS Medal for Outstanding Achievement 2017
- Straits Times**, 30 of Singapore's Rising Stars Under 30 2015

Professional Experience

- Composer**, Freelance 2010-present
Composer, arranger, and orchestrator. Key expertise in orchestral, chamber, Chinese ensemble, film, musical theatre and media music. Notable and significant works listed below.

Concert Music:

- *Three Colours of the Ruan* (Double Ruan Concerto), Taipei Liuqin Ensemble, 2019, Taiwan
- *Wings of Resonance* (Full-length concert), Closing of Traditional Flute Festival 2018, Singapore
- *52407* (Mixed Ensemble), Moscow Conservatory New Classics Competition, 2018, Russia
- *By The River* (Chinese Orchestra), Commissioned Set Piece, SYF 2019, Singapore
- *In Seven Steps* (Chinese Orchestra), Commissioned Set Piece, SYF2016, Singapore
- *Hustle Bustle* (Violin Solo), Alan Choo, The Embassy Series 2015, USA
- *Distant Bells* (Daruan Concerto), Singapore Chinese Orchestra, 2014, Singapore

Theatre:

- *Rattle King* (Giant Puppet Theatre), Esplanade March On, 2021, Singapore
- *Child's Play – The Story of the Banyan Tree* (Children's Theatre), Esplanade Huayi 2019, Singapore

Professional Experience (cont.)

- *The Rubbish Prince* (Community Theatre), NAC Arts in Your Neighbourhood, 2018, Singapore
- *Little Woods* (Musical), Berries World of Learning, 2018, Singapore
- *Nü Wa* (Puppet Theatre), Shanghai Puppet Theatre, 2018, China
- *Child's Play – The Story of Redhill* (Children's Theatre), Esplanade Huayi 2018, Singapore

Others:

- *Kotak Foto* (Installation), NAC Arts in Your Neighbourhood, 2021, Singapore
- *Share the Moment* (Lights Projection), Marina Bay Countdown 2021, Singapore
- *大声D茶室 / Warung Cakap Apa* (Online series), 3pumpkins, 2020, Singapore
- *Aerial* (Film score), 2020, Singapore
- Theme to *The Dream Catchers* (Theme Song), Mediacorp, 2019, Singapore
- *Shiyun: Island Interludes* (Chinese Poetry and Music), Arts House, 2019, Singapore
- *Power Singapura* (Guinness World Record for Largest Chinese Percussion Ensemble), 2014, Singapore Chinese Orchestra, Singapore

Musician, Freelance 2010-present
Freelance *huqin* performer with a repertoire ranging from contemporary improvisation (with the Six Tones and London Sinfonietta), fusion pop (with Starlight Paradigm), to jazz (with Peabody Latin Jazz Ensemble, Dark Horse Jazz Band)

Composer-in-Residence, Ding Yi Music Company, Singapore 2011-2021
Promoted from **Arranger-in-Residence**. Key duties include writing for the ensemble's major concerts, events, and overseas tours. Head of the organising committee of triennial new music festival - Composium, featuring a composition competition for Chinese chamber music and symposium. Major commissions listed below.

- *Of Music and Sound*, co-commissioned full length work for music and sound design, 2020
- *The Musical Canvas*, audio-illustration-picture book co-produced with Esplanade, 2020
- *The Musical Canvas*, art and music production co-produced with Esplanade, 2019
- *Bukit Ho Swee*, musical co-produced with Esplanade's Feed Your Imagination 2017, 2018
- *Ten Years a Minute*, commissioned for Ding Yi's 10th Anniversary concert
- *A Legend Begins*, musical co-produced by Esplanade's Feed Your Imagination 2015, 2016
- *Pipa Xing*, co-commissioned full length work for music and dance, 2015
- *Storytellers on Ann Siang Road*, commissioned for Ding Yi's Taiwan Odyssey 2014
- *Voices*, co-commissioned for Esplanade's 10th Anniversary concert 2011

Huqin Musician, Ding Yi Music Company 2010-2019
Performed *zhonghu* and *erhu* with Ding Yi both locally and overseas, with repertoire ranging from traditional Chinese music to contemporary works

Discography

- *Scenes of China*, West One Music Group UK, media music album, co-composer, 2020
- *China - Festivals and Celebrations*, West One Music Group UK, media music album, co-composer 2020
- *Wings of Resonance*, Tan Qing Lun, works for dizi and various instruments, 2019
- *Storytellers on Ann Siang Road*, Ding Yi Music Company, *Storytellers on Ann Siang Road* and *Bho Shambo*, 2016
- *SCO and Marcus Chin*, Singapore Chinese Orchestra, various arrangements, 2016
- *SG Inspirations*, Various Artistes, *Hustle Bustle* and *Wind Chimes*, 2015
- *Voyage to Nanyang I: Tunes of Old Streets*, SCO, various arrangements, 2014
- *The Oriental Moon*, Liang Wern Fook and Ding Yi Music Company, various arrangements, 2012
- *Passion*, I-sis Trio, *Reminisce*, 2011

Teaching and Speaking

Adjunct, Faculty of Music, School of the Arts Singapore 2020-present
Mentor for students in the "Creating" track in the school from 2020. Chinese ensemble instructor on improvisation, ensemble playing, and musicianship in 2019.

Hosting and Speaking, Freelance 2011-present
Bilingual speaker, moderator, and host for concerts, symposiums, and panel discussions on music. Notable engagements and appearances include:

- *SCAPE Music Day Out 2019 symposium moderator, Singapore
- Ding Yi Music Company's *Chinese Chamber Music Festival 2019* talks, workshops, pre, and post-concert talk facilitation and translation, Singapore
- Ding Yi's *Composium 2018*, symposium conceptualisation and facilitation, Singapore
- Singapore AYE Young Composer delegate in the PGVIM International Symposium "Music, Myths, and Realities 2017", Bangkok, Thailand
- 36th CANZ Nelson Composers Workshop 2017, mentor and speaker, Nelson, New Zealand
- International Symposium "Classical Music of ASEAN on the World Stage", *Music Expert* representative for Singapore, 2015, Bangkok, Thailand
- Esplanade *Chinese Chamber Music Series*, host, post-concert talk translator and facilitator, 2013-15, Singapore

Workshop Facilitator, Freelance 2011-present
Bilingual facilitator, instructor, and host for workshops on topics that include music appreciation, Singapore music, Chinese music, improvisation, and composition. Notable engagements include:

- Ministry of Education's *Music Elective Programme Camp 2019* lead instructor for "Composing for Chinese Instruments" workshop
- Ministry of Education Arts Education Branch's *Combined Music CCA Camp 2018*. Creative Music Workshop conceptualisation and lead instructor

Teacher, Raffles Institution 2017-2017
Relief teacher covering Music Elective Programme years 1 to 3