



JOHOR BAHRU • MALAYSIA

R&F Princess Cove Opera House Chinese Orchestra

Johor Bahru's first professional Chinese chamber orchestra — inviting you to create new sounds of the South with us.

LATEST

Debut concert “Radiance Across the Strait”
successfully held on 19 Sept 2026

VENUE

Permaisuri Zarith Sofiah Opera House
Johor Bahru

CONTACT

Sia Huan Ping, Artistic Administrative Director
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Rooted on the Johor Strait, bridging East and West, linking Malaysia and Singapore — the first professional Chinese chamber orchestra in Johor Bahru.

The R&F Princess Cove Opera House Chinese Orchestra was formally established on 2 June 2026 and is based at the Permaisuri Zarith Sofiah Opera House on the Johor Strait. Committed to heritage and cross-genre innovation, it brings together professional Chinese-music performers in Malaysia, produces high-quality concerts, discovers local timbres and talents, and builds a cultural bridge with Malaysian musicians working in Singapore.

Just over three months after its founding, the orchestra staged its debut concert “Radiance Across the Strait” on 19 September 2026, alongside the “Moon Calling” art exhibition. That result reflects a team that combines professional standards with cross-disciplinary production ability — and it is the starting point we hope to extend together with our partners.



After the debut concert: musicians and guests at the opera house lobby

2 Jun 2026

Orchestra founded

12–20

Founding ensemble size

1

Debut concert successfully held

602

Seats at our home venue

Vision & Mission

- ◆ Gather professional Chinese-music performers in Malaysia to produce high-quality concerts
- ◆ Discover the character, timbre and talent of Malaysian Chinese music
- ◆ Raise appreciation of Chinese music in Malaysia
- ◆ Build a cultural bridge with Malaysian musicians working in Singapore

Three-Year Programming Direction

- ◆ High-quality, accessible programmes centred on the audience
- ◆ A fusion of East and West, and of diverse ethnic musics
- ◆ A focus on Malaysian and Nanyang character, spotlighting local performers and composers
- ◆ Two formal concerts and three community outreach events each year
- ◆ Themed concerts for Mid-Autumn, Lunar New Year, Christmas and other festivals



On stage: the orchestra with pianist Claudia Yang in the “Youth” Piano Concerto

From festival concerts to cross-disciplinary curation, we pair professional performance with full production capability to build culture projects that matter.

① Co-produced concerts

Themed concerts planned with institutions, associations or brands — Mid-Autumn, Lunar New Year, Christmas and more — with the orchestra leading artistic production and performance.

② Cross-disciplinary projects

“Radiance Across the Strait” combined the “Moon Calling” exhibition, dance and stage visuals, showing our ability to integrate music and visual art.

③ Commissions & premieres

Composer-in-Residence Simon Kong Su Leong wrote “Princess R&F” for the debut concert; original works can be commissioned for partners.

④ Community & association events

Anniversary celebrations, fundraising galas and community outreach performances — tailor-made programmes, supported by three community events a year.

⑤ Guest artist collaboration

Partners can co-invite international guest artists, such as pianist Claudia Yang, who performed the “Youth” Piano Concerto with us.

⑥ Video & content production

We have produced a promotional film, concert highlight video and live photography, providing quality audiovisual material for joint projects.



Guzheng with Chinese chamber ensemble: lighting and stage design set the mood



Dance meets Chinese chamber music

“To let local creators be seen and heard in their own city, and gradually form a musical language of the South.” — Geoffrey Xie, General Manager, Opera House

From founding to debut in just over three months — professional, efficient, and already delivering.

2 Jun 2026

Orchestra founded • Launch ceremony

Guests took the stage to announce the orchestra's founding; Artistic Advisory Board members received certificates before a full house.



Launch ceremony: guests take the stage to announce the orchestra

3 Jun 2026

Featured in Sin Chew Daily

A full report on the orchestra's founding affirmed its role in local cultural development.

14–19 Sept 2026

"Moon Calling" exhibition

Shown in the opera house lobby during concert week, combining painting, light installations and artworks, curated by Chen Min Suen.



Sharing session at the launch event

19 Sept 2026

Debut concert "Radiance Across the Strait"

At the Permaisuri Zarith Sofiah Opera House: pianist Claudia Yang returned home to perform, and Simon Kong's commissioned work "Princess R&F" was premiered.



Concert key visual poster

Our Strengths

- ◆ Johor Bahru's first professional Chinese chamber orchestra, filling a gap in local cultural infrastructure
- ◆ Musicians and artists from Singapore, Malaysia and abroad
- ◆ A world-premiere commission and a cross-disciplinary exhibition delivered at our debut
- ◆ Close partnership with the opera house, with a professional theatre as our home base



World premiere of “Princess R&F” — the orchestra’s first commissioned work, by Simon Kong Su Leong

“Radiance Across the Strait” — a Mid-Autumn crossover of sound and sight

On the evening of 19 September 2026, the orchestra held its historic debut at the Permaisuri Zarith Sofiah Opera House. Taking the “bright moon” as its theme, the concert merged with the “Moon Calling” exhibition. The programme wove together Nanyang character, Chinese classics and an international outlook, with large-screen visuals and lighting echoing the mood of each piece.

A star returns home

Malaysian-born international pianist Claudia Yang came home from Beijing to perform the “Youth” Piano Concerto with the orchestra.

World premiere

“Princess R&F” by Composer-in-Residence Simon Kong Su Leong — the first work commissioned by the orchestra.

Voice and instruments

Tenor Wong Jun Wen sang “Song of the Red Bean” and “A Night on the Prairie”, adding depth to the programme.

Crossover stage

The “Moon Calling” exhibition, dance and stage visuals blurred the line between concert hall and gallery.

Piece	Composer	Format / Soloist
《歡慶》 Celebration	Yang Chao Sheng	Chinese chamber music (Nanyang-style opening)
《在那遙遠的地方》	Li Bo Chan	Chinese chamber-music classic
《煙姿》 Yan Zi	Liu Chang	Yangqin & ensemble • Tan Jie Qing
《蘭亭》 The Orchid Pavilion	Wang Yun Fei	Guzheng & ensemble • Cloud Teo
《紅豆詞》《草原之夜》	—	Tenor & ensemble • Wong Jun Wen
《水樣年華》	Robert Zollitsch	Chamber ensemble • a Western composer’s take on Chinese music
《青年》 Youth Piano Concerto	Liu Shikun et al.; arr. Pan Yaotian	Piano & ensemble • Claudia Yang
《富力公主》 Princess R&F	Simon Kong Su Leong	Chamber ensemble • world premiere (founding commission)

A selection of pieces performed on the night.



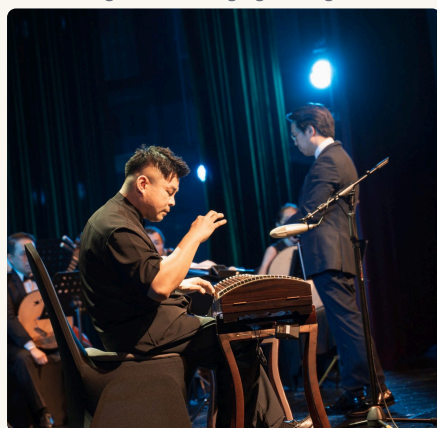
Claudia Yang with the orchestra in the "Youth" Piano Concerto



Tenor Wong Jun Wen singing "Song of the Red Bean"



Yangqin with chamber ensemble



Guzheng solo



Conductor Dedic Wong with pianist Claudia Yang



The orchestra in performance



Principal Conductor Dedic Wong



Dance meets Chinese chamber music

Leading performers and artists from Singapore and Malaysia are the foundation of every collaboration.

**Claudia Yang****Piano • Guest soloist**

Malaysian pianist based in Beijing; graduate of the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna; has performed with the London Symphony Orchestra and other leading orchestras; Artistic Director of the Silk Road International Art Center; recipient of a Hungarian cultural contribution award.

**Cloud Teo****Guzheng • Soloist**

Master's in guzheng from the China Conservatory; President of the Malaysian Guzheng Association and Principal of the Malaysia Guzheng Academy; silver prize at the 2007 CCTV National Instrumental Music Competition; album "Zhi Yue".

**Tan Jie Qing****Yangqin • Soloist**

Yangqin player with Singapore's Ding Yi Music Company; graduate of NAFA; studied under Qu Jianqing, yangqin principal of the Singapore Chinese Orchestra; 2018 Singapore National Chinese Music Competition open-category yangqin champion.

**Wong Jun Wen****Tenor**

US-trained lyric tenor; graduate of Louisiana State University; bronze at the 9th Global Chinese Bel Canto Vocal Competition (New York) and winner of the ASEAN International Vocal Competition, Bangkok Opera.

**Chen Min Suen****Creative Strategist • Exhibition Artist**

Philosophy graduate of NTU Singapore and MFA from LASALLE College of the Arts; social media strategist and producer for mainstream media in Singapore; curator of the "Moon Calling" exhibition.

**Dedric Wong De Li****Principal Conductor**

Young conductor active in Malaysia and Singapore; leads the artistic presentation and rehearsals of the orchestra's concerts.

"A bright moon lights the southern frontier; a thousand stars adorn the stage." — dedicated to every partner who walks with us.

A professional team forming the artistic and administrative backbone of the orchestra.



Sia Huan Ping

Artistic Administrative Director

Oversees operations, programming and external partnerships.



Simon Kong Su Leong

Composer-in-Residence

Creative core of the orchestra and composer of “Princess R&F” .

Consultant

Geoffrey Xie

General Supervisor

Zhang Yanyan

Artistic Administrative Director

Sia Huan Ping

Composer-in-Residence

Simon Kong Su Leong

Principal Conductor

Dedric Wong De Li

Guest Concertmaster

Fred Chan Hong Wei

Associate Concertmaster

Lee Harng

Publicity Officer

Ong Xuan Ning, Tey Zhi Qiang

Lighting Designer

Hiew Fook Yung

Sound Designer

See Phooi Yi

General Affairs Officer

Chia Jia Hou, Lee Le Han

Creative Strategist

Chen Min Suen

Artistic Advisory Board

Moses Gay En Hui, Tan Guang Yu

Founding Musicians (selected)

Dizi: Guest Musician • Sheng: Su Rui Jie • Suona: Poh Chee Boon • Yangqin: Tan Jie Qing • Pipa: Sim Teck Sing • Ruan: Lam Zi Peng, Wong Wai Jan • Guzheng: Cloud Teo • Percussion: Tey June Da, Liu Feng Hua • Gaohu: Lee Harng • Erhu: Fred Chan Hong Wei, Ryan Tay Ler Yan • Zhonghu: Ng Xi • Double Bass: Lim Kai Xuan

The orchestra's founding was covered by leading Malaysian media, affirming its role in local cultural development.

Sin Chew Daily • Greater Johor Focus • 3 June 2026

地方 | 大柔佛焦点 请星洲喝杯咖啡

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新山富力公主湾歌剧院华乐团 艺术新声 本土音乐生态

立足南方边陲奏响时代新声 新山歌剧院华乐团正式成立

摄影: 张柔生



"Rooted at the southern frontier, sounding a new voice of the era: Johor Bahru opera house Chinese orchestra officially founded" (press clipping)

"To let local creators be seen and heard in their own city, and gradually form a musical language of the South."

Geoffrey Xie • General Manager, Opera House

"Located at the crossing of Johor Bahru and Singapore, the opera house can become a key hub for Chinese music and arts exchange in Southeast Asia."

Zhang Yanyan • Operations Manager, Opera House



Guests take the stage to announce the orchestra



Geoffrey Xie presents certificates to Artistic Advisory Board representatives



A full house at the sharing session

Photo credits: Sin Chew Daily (photographer Zhang Rou Sheng) and orchestra launch-event documentation, 2-3 June 2026.



Let's Create Together

Whether it is a co-produced concert, a cross-disciplinary project, a commissioned work, or an association or community event, we look forward to exploring the collaboration that best fits your organisation.

Co-produced & festival concerts

Themed concerts, anniversaries, fundraising and community events

Cross-disciplinary projects

Music × exhibition × dance × visuals

Commissions & guest artists

Original commissions and international guest artists

Video & media partnerships

Promotional films, live documentation and content co-creation

Contact Sia Huan Ping (Artistic Administrative Director)

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Orchestra R&F Princess Cove Opera House Chinese Orchestra

Venue Permaisuri Zarith Sofiah Opera House, Johor Bahru