



MM MUSIC STUDIO

Annual Concert Series · Third Annual Concert

Chinese Music

on

Western Instruments

& Voice

音樂

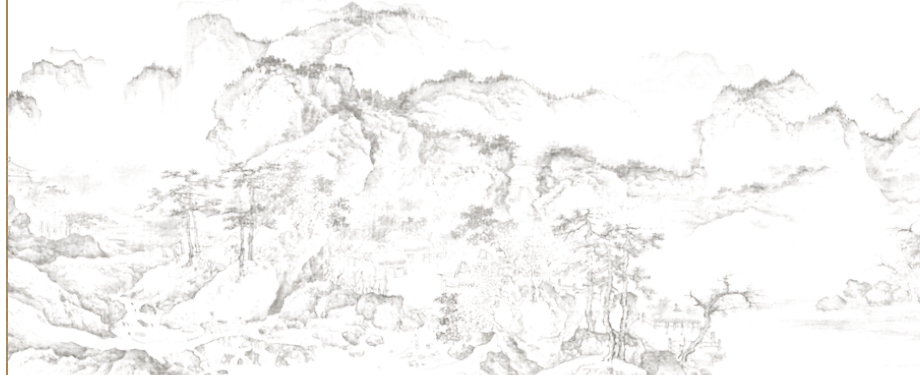
西洋乐器和声乐上的中国音乐

CONCERT PROGRAMME 节目单

Saturday, October 3, 2026 · 6:30 pm

Riverside United Church · 695 Riverside Drive, London, Ontario

FREE ADMISSION · DONATIONS WELCOME



Part One 上半场

壹

Dear You 《亲爱的你啊》

Qu Ziqian 瞿子千

Dr. Jillian Yang *violin* · Mengmeng Zhang *piano*

贰

Fishermen's Harvest Song 《丰收渔歌》

Li Zili 李自立

Dr. Jillian Yang *violin* · Mengmeng Zhang *piano*

叁

Youth Waltz 《青春舞曲》

Uyghur folk song, adapted by Wang Luobin 王洛宾

Pearl and Jade 《珠玉》

Yu Jiaoyan 鱼椒盐

Rassie Leung & Yisu Chen *piano four hands*

肆

Jasmine Flower 《茉莉花》

Chinese folk song, arr. Peter Schindler

Mengmeng Zhang *piano*

伍

Song of the Chilè Grassland 《敕勒歌》

Liu Zhou 刘洲 · words by *Xue Baoqin* 薛保勤 & a Northern Dynasties folk poem

Jia Li *voice* · Mengmeng Zhang *piano* · text p. 7

陆

View from the Wall 《壁上观》

Zhou Mingcong 周明聪 · words by *Xiao Liu* 小六

Jia Li *voice* · Mengmeng Zhang *piano* · text p. 8

Intermission 中场休息

Exhibition and silent auction of works by local artists

Part Two 下半场

柒

Pastoral 《牧歌》

Sha Hankun 沙汉昆

Susan Millar Boldissar *cello* · Mengmeng Zhang *piano*

捌

Night in Ulaanbaatar 《乌兰巴托的夜》

G. Pürevdorj

Susan Millar Boldissar *cello* · Mengmeng Zhang *piano*

玖

Ballet of the Spring 《春天的芭蕾》

Hu Tingjiang 胡廷江

Joshua Dai *piano*

拾

A Single Thought 《一念》

Dong Dongdong 董冬冬

Dr. Jillian Yang *violin* · Susan Millar Boldissar *cello*

Mengmeng Zhang *piano*

拾壹

Lantern Festival's Night 《青玉案·元宵》

Words by Xin Qiji 辛弃疾 · *music by Li Yan* 李砚 · *arr. Deng Yao* 邓垚

Jia Li *voice* · Dr. Jillian Yang *violin*

Susan Millar Boldissar *cello* · Mengmeng Zhang *piano* · *text p. 9*

Your Hosts 本场主持



David Shen



Emily Shen

Programme notes begin on page 5 · Song texts on pages 7-9

A Note from the Studio



Dear friends,

Welcome to the third annual Chinese Music on Western Instruments concert. This year the series takes a new step: for the first time, the human voice joins piano, violin and cello.

Tonight's programme spans some fifteen centuries — from a folk poem of the northern grasslands to songs from recent television dramas. Some of these melodies may feel like home; others may be entirely new. We hope that each, carried by Western instruments, brings you both the warmth of the familiar and the delight of discovery.

My heartfelt thanks to my fellow musicians, Dr. Jillian Yang, Susan Millar Boldissar and Jia Li; to our student performers and their families; to our hosts and their parents; to the volunteers who give their time behind the scenes; and to our sponsors, whose generosity keeps this evening free for everyone. I am also deeply grateful to the local artists whose work is part of tonight's intermission exhibition and silent auction.

Thank you for being here. Enjoy the music.

亲爱的朋友们：欢迎来到第三届「西洋乐器和声乐上的中国音乐」音乐会。今年，这个系列又向前迈出一步——声乐第一次加入钢琴、小提琴与大提琴的行列。今晚的曲目跨越一千五百年，从北朝草原上的古老民歌，到近年热播剧中的动人旋律。有些旋律或许承载着你的乡愁，有些也许是第一次听到；愿这些中国旋律借西洋乐器之声，带给你熟悉的温暖，也带来新鲜的相遇。

衷心感谢同台的音乐家 Dr. Jillian Yang、Susan Millar Boldissar 和 Jia Li，感谢学生演奏者和他们的家人，感谢本场主持和他们的家长，感谢在幕后默默付出的志愿者们，也感谢各位赞助商的慷慨支持，让这场音乐会得以免费向公众开放。同时衷心感谢本地艺术家们参与今晚的中场艺术展拍活动。感谢您的到来，祝您聆听愉快！

Mengmeng Zhang

FOUNDER, MM MUSIC STUDIO

Programme Notes

壹 Dear You 《亲爱的你啊》

Qu Ziqian

The theme song of the 2025 television drama 《无尽的尽头》, about prosecutors who stand up for children. First sung by Ren Suxi, it speaks tenderly to a child growing up in a small fishing bay: one day you will cross the mountains and see open sky.

贰 Fishermen's Harvest Song 《丰收渔歌》

Li Zili

Written in 1973, after the composer lived among the fishermen of Shanwei on the South China Sea. The violin follows the boats out through wind and waves and brings them home with nets full — a cornerstone of the Chinese violin repertoire.

叁 Youth Waltz 《青春舞曲》 · Pearl and Jade 《珠玉》

Uyghur folk song, adapted by Wang Luobin · Yu Jiaoyan

Wang Luobin collected this Uyghur tune from Xinjiang around 1940: the sun sets and rises again, flowers fade and bloom again — but youth, like a bird once flown, does not return. It is paired with *Pearl and Jade*, the 2025 song made famous by Shan Yichun on *Singer 2025*.

肆 Jasmine Flower 《茉莉花》

Chinese folk song, arranged by Peter Schindler

Sung in the Jiangnan region since Ming–Qing times, this is perhaps the best-known Chinese melody in the West: Puccini wove it into *Turandot*. Tonight's arrangement by the German composer Peter Schindler comes from *Lang Lang's Piano Book* (2019).

伍 Song of the Chilè Grassland 《敕勒歌》

Liu Zhou · words by Xue Baoqin and a Northern Dynasties folk poem

First sung by Tan Weiwei on CCTV's *Classics Chanted* in 2019. New verses frame a sixth-century folk poem of the northern steppe — “the sky, a great yurt, arches over the land” — which returns as the chorus. Text on page 7.

陆 View from the Wall 《壁上观》

Zhou Mingcong · words by Xiao Liu

A traveller in the Mogao caves at Dunhuang is drawn into a Tang-dynasty mural: dancers whirl, flutes and pipa sound, and then the colours fade — and the singer wakes as “a watcher on the wall”, a play on the idiom 作壁上观. Text on page 8.

After the Intermission

柒

Pastoral 《牧歌》

Sha Hankun (1926–2023)

Written in 1953, while the composer was a student at the Shanghai Conservatory, on an Inner Mongolian long-song from Hulunbuir. He had never seen the grassland; he said film images and the ancient Chilè song — heard before the interval — gave him the picture. Originally for violin, it is often played on cello.

捌

Night in Ulaanbaatar 《乌兰巴托的夜晚》

Geserjavyn Pürevdorj

A Mongolian song of 1985, with words by P. Sanduijav: a calm spring evening in the composer's home city. First heard by many Chinese listeners in the 2004 film *The World* 《世界》, it has in recent years become hugely popular in China, sung far and wide — not least by Tan Weiwei.

玖

Ballet of the Spring 《春天的芭蕾》

Hu Tingjiang

First a coloratura waltz-song, premiered by the soprano Chang Sisi for the 2010 Spring Festival. Heard tonight as a piano solo — spring itself, dancing.

拾

A Single Thought 《一念》

Dong Dongdong

From the 2026 drama 《逐玉》 *Pursuit of Jade*, by the composer of “Where Has the Time Gone?”. A duet for two leads whose pretended marriage becomes true love amid war, it turns on one line: 一生风雨片刻花期 — “a lifetime of storms, a moment of blossom.”

拾壹

Lantern Festival's Night 《青玉案·元夕》

Xin Qiji (1140–1207) · music by Li Yan · arranged by Deng Yao

The Southern Song poet Xin Qiji paints a Lantern Festival night of fireworks and crowds — and the moment of turning back to find the one he sought “where the lantern light burns low”. Li Yan's 2021 art song, arranged by Deng Yao, brings all four musicians together to close the evening. Text on page 9.



Song of the Chilè Grassland

敕勒歌

Music by Liu Zhou 刘洲 · words by Xue Baoqin 薛保勤 and a Northern Dynasties folk poem

NEW VERSES 新词

心随天地走 意被牛羊牵
My heart roams with sky and earth, led on by the flocks;

大漠的孤烟 拥抱落日圆
a lone plume of desert smoke embraces the setting sun.

在天的尽头 与月亮聊天
At the far edge of the sky I talk with the moon;

篝火映着脸 醉了套马杆
firelight on our faces — even the lasso-pole is tipsy.

心随天地走 寻找那达观
My heart roams with sky and earth, seeking a boundless calm;

情缘你在哪 姑娘问着天
"Where are you, my destined love?" a girl asks the sky.

在天的尽头 与月亮把盏
At the far edge of the sky I raise a cup with the moon;

篝火映着脸 走马敕勒川
firelight on our faces, we ride across the Chilè plain.

THE ANCIENT POEM 古辞 · 北朝民歌

敕勒川 阴山下
The Chilè plain, beneath the Yin Mountains;

天似穹庐 笼盖四野
the sky, a great yurt, arches over the land on every side.

天苍苍 野茫茫
Blue on blue the heavens, the grassland without end —

风吹草低见牛羊
the wind bows the grass, and cattle and sheep appear.

Sung as: verse one, verse two, the ancient poem twice, then a coda returning to the opening verse and ending “情缘你在哪·走马敕勒川”.

View from the Wall

壁上观

Music by Zhou Mingcong 周明聪 · words by Xiao Liu 小六

一刹那栩栩缕影浮光映宫阙

In a flash, living shadow and light fill the palaces —

错问今夕是何年

bewildered, I ask what year this night might be.

轻胡旋伎舞灯火在何处长眠

The whirling dancers, the lamplight; where do they sleep?

伴着繁星映诸天

Keeping the stars company, they light every heaven.

遗忘的沙绕指尖流转

Forgotten sand slips and swirls through my fingers;

云楼仙子 水袖缠绵

maidens of the cloud towers, long sleeves entwining.

迦蓝菩提下客到来

Beneath the temple's bodhi tree a traveller arrives,

梦邀起舞八部天

in a dream bidden to dance with the heavenly hosts.

嶙峋的沟壑起伏层峦

Jagged ravines, ridge rolling upon ridge;

笙箫琵琶 金色步辇

sheng, flute and pipa, a palanquin of gold.

千秋黄沙 不曾褪减

A thousand years of yellow sand have never dimmed

全唐的浓墨重彩

the deep ink and bold colours of the Tang.

雪浸染万千华光钟声塑佛龛

Snow steepes the splendour; the temple bell shapes the shrine.

此去蒙尘饮乐宴

Since then, dust has settled on the feasts and the music.

朱颜改怎不见窟画昔日璀璨

Bright faces fade — where is the caves' old brilliance?

却醒来作壁上观

And I wake: a watcher on the wall.

Lantern Festival's Night

青玉案 · 元夕

Words by Xin Qiji 辛弃疾 (1140–1207) · music by Li Yan 李砚 · arranged by Deng Yao 邓珏

东风夜放花千树，

By night the east wind sets a thousand trees in bloom,

更吹落、星如雨。

and shakes down stars that fall like rain.

宝马雕车香满路。

Fine horses, carved carriages — fragrance fills the road;

凤箫声动，玉壶光转，

phoenix flutes sing, the jade-pot moon turns its light,

一夜鱼龙舞。

and all night the fish and dragon lanterns dance.

蛾儿雪柳黄金缕，

Moth-wing pins, sprays of snow-willow, threads of gold —

笑语盈盈暗香去。

laughing, they drift past, trailing a hidden fragrance.

众里寻他千百度，

A thousand times I searched the crowd for that one;

蓦然回首，

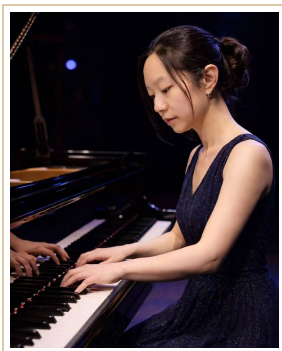
then, turning back on a sudden —

那人却在，灯火阑珊处。

there, after all, where the lantern light burns low.

The whole poem is sung twice; its last three phrases return as a coda.

Meet the Musicians



PIANO · CONCERT ORGANIZER

Mengmeng Zhang

Mengmeng Zhang is a pianist, educator and concert organizer, and the founder of MM Music Studio in London, Ontario. She trained at the China Conservatory of Music, completing a Bachelor of Music in Music Education and master's-level studies in Piano Performance and Piano Pedagogy, and earned a Master of Music in Collaborative Piano Performance at Western University.

Her awards include First Prize in Asia at the World Peace Award of the American International Piano Competition in Macau and a Memorial Prize at the France Mérignac International Piano Competition. An RCM Piano Advanced Specialist and ORMTA member with more than 18 years of teaching experience, she has been invited to adjudicate the 2026 OMFA Provincial Finals, and several of her students have performed at winners' recitals at Carnegie Hall. She organizes the annual Chinese Music on Western Instruments concert series.



VIOLIN

Dr. Jillian Yang

Violinist Jillian Yang earned her ARCT diploma from the Royal Conservatory of Music before completing both a Master of Music in Performance and Literature and a Doctor of Musical Arts in Violin Performance (2025) at Western University, where she appeared as soloist with the Western Symphony Orchestra in Paganini's Violin Concerto.

A prizewinner of the Maritsa Brookes Concerto Competition and the London Music Scholarship Competition, she has performed with the National Youth Orchestra of Canada, London Symphonia and Accademia Europea dell'Opera in Italy, and serves as Principal Second Violin with the Summerhill Orchestra in Toronto. An RCM Advanced Specialist, she teaches in Toronto; in 2024 five of her students performed at Carnegie Hall's winners' recital.

Meet the Musicians



CELLO

Susan Millar Boldissar

Cellist Susan Millar Boldissar holds a Bachelor of Music from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and a Master of Music from Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music, where she won the Eva Heinitz Award and served as Associate Instructor of Violoncello.

Winner of the National Academy Orchestra concerto competition in 2008, she has performed across the U.S. and Canada as a soloist and chamber musician, including The Jeffery Concerts in London, and with orchestras including the Memphis Symphony and the Louisiana Philharmonic. Her playing also embraces improvisation and the morin khuur, the Mongolian "horse-head fiddle". In London she leads cello instruction at El Sistema Aeolian and maintains a busy teaching studio.



VOICE

Jia (Lisa) Li

Jia (Lisa) Li is a Doctor of Musical Arts candidate in Voice at Western University and a graduate teaching assistant at the Don Wright Faculty of Music. She holds a master's degree in Educational Leadership and has spent two decades contributing to vocal pedagogy, performance, vocal health and therapy.

A member of NATS (National Association of Teachers of Singing), the Performing Arts Medicine Association, the London Art Songs Collective and the Chinese Arts and Medicine Association, she teaches individual and ensemble voice to students of all ages in both Mandarin and English, spanning classical, opera, art song, musical theatre and pop.

Our Student Performers

Students of MM Music Studio



Yisu Chen

Yisu is a fifteen-year-old Grade 10 student who began studying piano at five and joined MM Music Studio at seven. His achievements include performing at Carnegie Hall as piano accompanist for a violin quartet, First Class Honours with Distinction in his 2025 RCM Level 9 Piano examination, and First Place in the Baroque Works — J. S. Bach category at the 2026 Kiwanis Music Festival. Outside music, Yisu enjoys hockey, cross-country, soccer and swimming.



Rassic Leung

Rassic began playing piano at the age of four, and that early love of music has remained a constant in her life. Since joining MM Music Studio in 2023, she has continued to hone her skills through dedication, discipline and a deep emotional connection to every piece she performs. The two defining moments of her musical journey so far — a solo performance at Carnegie Hall in New York and an honorary award of distinction at the OMFA Provincial Finals — were both dreams realized through years of hard work and passion.



Joshua Dai

Joshua began piano lessons with Mengmeng Zhang at the age of four and has shown a strong passion for music ever since. He has earned multiple awards for his performances at the Kiwanis Music Festival, receiving trophies in both piano and cello in 2025. In 2026 he qualified for the Provincial Finals in piano and placed third in the cello category at the Provincial Finals. He won the Silver Prize in the Piano Intermediate Star category at the 2024 Virtuoso International Music Competition, and is the recipient of his school's 2025–26 Music Award.

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— FREDERICK DOUGLASS —

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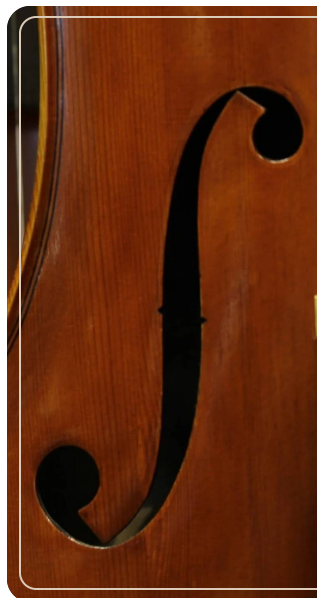
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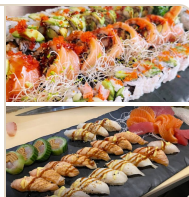


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to the local artists sharing their work in tonight's intermission exhibition and silent auction, and to every family, volunteer and friend who helped behind the scenes. Admission is free — donations are gratefully received and help keep this concert open to all.



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Thank you for sharing this evening with us.

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MM



小红书

