

**WESTERN SYDNEY**  
UNIVERSITY



Institute for  
Australian and Asian  
Arts and Culture

**WESTERN SYDNEY**  
UNIVERSITY



Humanities and  
Communication Arts

**WESTERN SYDNEY**  
UNIVERSITY



Writing and Society  
Research Centre

# Visual-Music Energies

**6 September 2025**

**Sydney Opera House**



Four extraordinary musicians **Ying Liu** (erhu), **Chuqiao Zhao** (guzheng), **Yuyan Tang** (guzheng) and **Joshua Hill** (percussion) and others perform new Western Sydney music to short films curated by international award-winning filmmaker Vincent Tay, based on leading Asian-Australian artists Jin Sha, Louise Zhang, Mai Nguyễn-Long, Lucy Pulvers, Cheolyu Kim and Richard Wu, with poetic responses by Kate Fagan, Kim Pham and Joshua Mostafa.

*Qiyun* in Chinese aesthetics are a type of intertwined energies across human breath, ink splashing and string sonic vibrations. In this multi-artform project musicians skilled in ancient Chinese erhu and guzheng and contemporary percussion and others perform compositions and improvise live responding to the works by the Australian artists of Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese and Korean heritages interpreted as a series of Short Films, with poetic responses in-between like interweaving leaves. The full weight of the creativity includes a dynamic group of creatives from Western Sydney University (WSU) including our outstanding Music and Music Therapy Discipline, the Institute for Australian and Asian Arts and Culture (IAC) and Writing and Society Research Centre (WSRC).

Western Sydney musicians featured include composers with established international reputations and respected Sydney live-music scene improvisers Brendan Smyly (saxophone/electronics) and John Encarnação (acoustic guitar) and Oliver O'Reilly (piano), Shufang Zhang (piano), Andrew Milne and Noel Burgess (electronics), and composers Clare Maclean, Diana Blom and Bruce Crossman. Completing this rich tapestry of creativity are filmmakers Vincent Tay, Chris Mallas, Billy Moar, Abubakr Sajid working with designers Behrad Rezaei and Lucy Wang.

# PROGRAMME

## 6.30-7.10pm | Forum

A cross-cultural arts and music panel discussion.

Speakers: Jing Han (chair), Richard Wu, Leo Robba, Andrew Milne, Alison Short, Clare Maclean and Kate Fagan

## 7.30-9.30pm | Concert

**Welcome to Country:** WSU Indigenous Elder

**Introduction:** Professor Saba Bebawi (Dean, School of Humanities & Communication Arts)

### ***Fisherman's Song at the Dusk (Chinese Traditional Music)***

Performers: Ying Liu (erhu) & Chuqiao Zhao (guzheng)

Artist: Richard Wu

Designers: Behrad Rezaei & Lucy Wang

### ***Blooms Late When Spring is Gone (Bruce Crossman)***

Performers: Ying Liu (erhu)

Artist: Richard Wu

Designer: Behrad Rezaei

### ***The Other Shore (Ying Liu & Shenghan Huang)***

Performers: Ying Liu (erhu) & Shufang Zhang (piano)

Artist: Richard Wu; Designer: Behrad Rezaei

### **Poetry Reading 1: Amplifier Birch Coil (after Cheolyu Kim)**

Poet: Kate Fagan

### ***Fire-Huǒ-Afi (Bruce Crossman)***

Performers: Chuqiao Zhao (guzheng) & Joshua Hill (percussion)

Artists: Cheolyu Kim; Poet: Kate Fagan

Filmmaker: Vincent Tay

### ***Blackbird (Clare Maclean)***

Performer: Chuqiao Zhao (guzheng)

Artist: Louise Zhang; Filmmaker: Chris Mallas

### ***Comprovisation 1 (Oliver O'Reilly & Yuyan Tang)***

Performers: Oliver O'Reilly (piano) & Yuyan Tang (guzheng)

Artists: Lucy Pulvers; Filmmaker: Billy Moar

## **INTERVAL**

### **Poetry Reading 2: Tran Sends Ants**

Poet: Kim Pham

### ***Improvisation 1 (Brendan Smyly & John Encarnação)***

Performers: Yuyan Tang (guzheng), Brendan Smyly (saxophone/electronics) & John Encarnação (guitar)

Narrator: Kim Pham; Artist: Mai Nguyễn-Long;

Filmmaker: Abubakr Sajid

### ***Electroacoustic Composition 1 (Andrew Milne)***

Performers: Yuyan Tang (guzheng) & Andrew Milne (electronics)

Filmmakers: Chris Mallas, Billy Moar & Abubakr Sajid

### **Poetry Reading 3: A Child is Born**

Poet: Joshua Mostafa

### ***Electroacoustic Composition 2 (Noel Burgess)***

Performers: Yuyan Tang (guzheng) & Noel Burgess (electronics)

Artist: Jin Sha; Poet: Joshua Mostafa; Designers: Behrad Rezaei & Angelica Teng

### ***Spin: A Quantum Entanglement (Diana Blom)***

Performers: Ying Liu (erhu) & Diana Blom (piano)

Artist: Louise Zhang; Designers: Behrad Rezaei & Lucy Wang



# Performers



**Chuqiao Zhao**



**Joshua Hill**



**Ying Liu**



**Yuyan Tang**

# Visual Artists



**Mai Nguyễn-Long**



**Cheolyu Kim**



**Louise Zhang**



**Jin Sha**



**Lucy Pulvers**



**Richard Wu**

# Musicians



**Andrew Milne**  
(electronics)



**Noel Burgess**  
(electronics)



**Oliver O'Reilly**  
(piano)



**Shufang Zhang**  
(piano)



**Brendan Smyly**  
(saxophone/  
electronics)



**John Encarnação**  
(guitar)

# Poets



**Kate Fagan**



**Joshua Mostafa**



**Kim Pham**

# Composers



**Clare Maclean**



**Bruce Crossman**



**Diana Blom**

# filmmakers & Designers



**Vincent Tay**



**Christopher Mallas**



**Billy Moar**



**Abubakr Sajid**



**Behrad Rezaei**



**Lucy Wang**

WESTERN SYDNEY  
UNIVERSITY



Institute for  
Australian and Asian  
Arts and Culture

WESTERN SYDNEY  
UNIVERSITY



Humanities and  
Communication Arts

WESTERN SYDNEY  
UNIVERSITY



Writing and Society  
Research Centre

Executive Producer: Bruce Crossman

Film Director & Technical Director (visual): Vincent Tay

Technical Director (sound): Alexander Frendo

Poetry Director (Concert): Kate Fagan

Music Director (Concert): Ying Liu

Programme Designer : Lindsay Liu

Organised by School of Humanities and Communication Arts  
together with the Institute for Australian and Asian Arts and Culture,  
and Writing and Society Research Centre at Western Sydney University

## Sponsors



*International Chinese  
Art & Culture Association*

中华国际艺术文化协会

Cover images: Cheolyu Kim, *Journey to Nowhere* (pen on birchwood panel)  
& Vincent Tay, *Fire* (short film)