



TAIWANESE CANADIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY

台加文化協會

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## 2025 Taiwanese Canadian Cultural Festival

### Performance Group from Taiwan - 3peoplemusic

Founded in 2013, **3peoplemusic** is an inventive chamber ensemble rooted in the classical traditions of Taiwan, but with a keen eye on the horizons of contemporary music. The trio consists of KUO Jing-Mu on *guzheng* (plucked zither), PAN I-Tung on *zhongruan* (Chinese lute), and JEN Chung on *dizi* and *xiao* (transverse and end-blown bamboo flutes). This unique combination of traditional Chinese instruments allows 3peoplemusic to explore a vast sonic landscape, blending elements of classical, contemporary, and world music into a cohesive and innovative sound.

The ensemble's journey began with a vision to bridge the gap between the rich heritage of classical Chinese music and the dynamic expression of modern musical narratives. This endeavor was recognized by the Traditional Arts Center when they were selected for the prestigious Master, Apprentice and Partner Program.



Their eponymous debut album, released in 2016, earned them a nomination at the 28<sup>th</sup> Golden Melody Awards for Traditional Arts and Music, while a 2021 second album, *Change*, showcased their ability to cross musical boundaries, winning Best Crossover Music Album at the 33<sup>rd</sup> Golden Melody Awards, as well as receiving nominations for Best Composition and Best Recording. Their international acclaim was further solidified with a Bronze at the 2022 Global Music Awards, while *Catalysis: Fusion of Senses*, a third album released in 2023, earned the trio a nomination for Best Crossover Music Album at the 34<sup>th</sup> awards.

Beyond the studio, **3peoplemusic** has toured extensively, sharing their innovative sound with audiences in China, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, India, Germany, France, and beyond, representing the new voice of Taiwan to the world. They have also produced and performed at events including *Folk Tune Variations*:



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*3peoplemusic and Mystery Guests* in 2016, performances at the Taiwan International Arts Festival (TIFA) in 2018 and the National Theatre & Concert Hall IDEAS Lab in 2019, a 2020 collaboration with France's Le Phénix theatre to produce *Battle!*, and a partnership with the renowned French string quartet Tana Quartet.

The trio's dedication to reinventing traditions, cross-genre collaborations, and contemporary music has led them to commission new works tailored to their unusual instrumentation, further expanding their repertoire and the possibilities of traditional Chinese instruments. *3peoplemusic* not only showcase the versatility and beauty of these instruments, but also redefine the boundaries of chamber music, inviting listeners to experience a rich tapestry of sounds that transcend national borders and generations.

### Landmarks

- September 2024: Invited to perform at the closing ceremony of the Weimar Arts Festival in Germany
- August 2024: Invited to perform at the 2024 Taiwan Pavilion at the Paris Cultural Olympiad
- May 2024: Invited to perform *Tenmoku and Chinese Music Meet* in the Firmament, part of the Taipei Traditional Arts Festival
- November 2023: Performed at the National Taiwan University of Arts' Concert Hall for the Dagan International Arts Festival *Island Voices*.
- November 2023: Played the *3peoplemusic Tenth Anniversary Concert* at the Odeum (Ya Song Fang) in National Taiwan University (NTU).
- October 2023: Invited to participate in *Poetry and Song: A Dialogue Between Tea and Music*.
- October 2023: Invited to participate in Wind Music's *World Music Festival*.
- October 2023: Gave the opening performance at *C-LAB Taiwan Sound Lab 2023*.
- June 2022: Participated at the *Organ Donation Thank You Concert*.
- September 2022: Performed at Chiayi Performing Arts Center as part of the *Chiayi Traditional Music Festival*.
- June 2022: Performed at Yilan's National Center for Traditional Arts for the *2022 Loud Music Festival*.



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- June 2022: Invited by the National Theater & Concert Hall (NTCH) to take part in the 2022 IDEAS Lab, producing *Catalysis: Fusion of Senses* - 3peoplemusic x String Quartet x Li Hao x Lin Chunhui.
- December 2021: Released the new album *Change* at the Authentic Playground theater.
- November 2021: Invited by the Trend Education Foundation to perform a concert at the Central National Library's Multipurpose Performance Hall for *Authentic Playground at the Central National Library*.
- August 2021: Participated in the *Hsinchu Chinese Music Festival* at Hsinchu Performing Arts Center.
- May 2021: Invited to the National Center for Traditional Arts in Yilan for the *2021 Loud Music Festival*.
- November 2020: Invited by Wind Music to perform at the Hakka Music Festival at Huashan 1914 Creative Park.
- November 2020: Performed at Lee Teng-fan's Ancient Residence.
- August 2020: Performed at Taichung City Seaport Art Center.
- June 2020: Invited by Canada's Sound of Dragon Society to perform for the Dragon Boat Festival in Canada.
- February 2020: Co-produced a program with Le Phénix, a nationally accredited theater in France, collaborating with the renowned contemporary string music ensemble Tana Quartet.
- July 2019: Invited to be part of IDEAS Lab 2019 at NTCH, producing *Misreading Sounds* - 3peoplemusic x Xu Wei-En.
- April 2019: Invited to play at the Spring Festival in Tokyo 2019.
- September 2018: Invited by the Sakurazaka Theatre in Okinawa, Japan, to hold a special concert and workshop as part of *Crossing World Music* at Sukiyaki Okinawa 2018.
- August 2018: Invited by 13-Month Beijing to perform *Summer 2018 New Music Festival* in Yangzhou.
- March 2018: Performed *3X3 Project: Abnormal Echoes* at NTCH's invitation as part of the 2018 Taiwan International Festival of Arts (TIFA).
- September 2017: Performed at the Jeonju International Sori Festival (JISF) in South Korea.
- July 2017: Performed at the Schlitzlerländer Trachtenfest Folk Dance and Music Festival in Schlitz, Germany.



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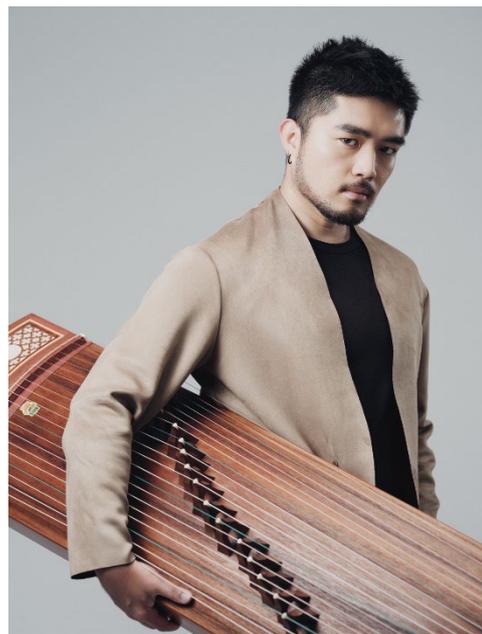
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- May 2017: Performed at the Taipei Traditional Arts Festival in Taipei.
- April 2017: Performed at the Taiwan International Music Festival event *Sound Journey: From Taiwan to Hungary*.
- December 2016: Annual concert: *One Two Three, How Many People?*
- November 2016: Participated in the Delhi International Arts Festival (DIAF) in New Delhi, India.
- November 2016: Performed for *Formosa Excursions: Soundscape of Taiwan*, part of Taiwan Month at Hong Kong University.
- May 2016: Performed *Folk Tune Variations: 3peoplemusic and Mystery Guests* for the NTCH Chamber Music Series.
- April 2016: Selected for the Taiwan Music Institute at the National Center for Traditional Arts' *Musical Talent Cultivation - Master, Apprentice and Partner Program*.
- November 2015: Annual concert: *3peoplemusic: Let's Go Crazy*.
- September 2015: Participated in Shanghai Bandu Music's *First Bandu Music Festival: Ruan* in Shanghai.
- August 2015: Participated in the *Hakodate International Folk Art Festival* in Hokkaido, Japan.

### Leader: KUO Jing-Mu - Guzheng

KUO Jing-mu hails from Yilan in Taiwan. He graduated from National Taiwan University of Arts (NTUA) with an MA in Chinese Music, studying *guzheng* (plucked zither) under Professor CHANG Li-Chiung. He is a lecturer in the Department of Chinese Music at NTUA, the leader of 3peoplemusic, and a member of the C-Camerata. He has won numerous national *guzheng* competitions since a young age and has dedicated the last few years to further exploration of the *guzheng* repertoire, immersing himself in contemporary music performance to probe the relationship between himself, *guzheng* music, and today's world.





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Between 2017 and 2019, he organized three *guzheng* concerts on the theme of new music entitled *New Perspectives on the Guzheng*. Jing-mu has also published a number of compositions including *Fern*, a piece for Chinese orchestra that was selected for the IRC International Composers' Broadcasting Conference in 2019, and the orchestral work *So This World Is Still Here*, which won an award at the National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra's 2018 Youth Composition Competition. His composition for Chinese orchestra *Elegy* won first place at the Taipei Chinese Orchestra's Boundless Thoughts - 2016 Taipei Chinese Orchestra (TCO) International Composition Competition in 2016. In 2015, he independently released and produced the album *Nature - For Seven-String Zither*, which was nominated for Best Crossover Music Album at the Golden Melody Awards, and was followed by his second album *The Mountain* in 2020. In 2022, he compiled a collection of contemporary works for *guzheng* entitled *New Perspectives on the Guzheng*. In 2023, he produced the *Waterfall*, a concert for solo *guzheng*, as well as commissioning and premiering five contemporary pieces for solo *guzheng* and ensembles.

### **Musical Director: JEN Chung - Dizi and Xiao**

A native of Taipei, Taiwan, JEN Chung is a *dizi* player, composer, and pianist. He is a doctoral student of interdisciplinary art studies at National Taiwan University of Arts and specializes in *dizi* and piano, as well as studying composition theory and conducting. A regular winner at major music competitions across Taiwan since an early age, Jen won first place with distinction at the child, young person, high school, college and adult levels of the Chinese Music Society's *dizi* section, as well as the Huang Zhong Award. He is currently the musical director of 3peplemusic and teaches at National Taiwan University of Arts, Chinese





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Culture University, and National Taiwan College of Performing Arts. As a *dizi* performer, he has collaborated with celebrated conductors including LEE Che-Yi, HSU Ching-Hsin, and CHIANG Chih-I, and frequently receives commissions to create works for institutions such as the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, Taipei Chinese Orchestra, Kaohsiung Chinese Orchestra, Taoyuan Chinese Orchestra, Tainan Chinese Orchestra, the Department of Chinese Music at National Taiwan University of Arts, and the Chinese Music Association of Taiwan. He has collaborated with conductors including KUO Lien-Chang, Lin LIAO, WONG Cheng-Ping, KUO Che-Chen, YEH Ho-Chung, HUANG Kuang-Yu, CHEN Chih-Sheng, CHIU Chun-Chiang, and Felix CHEN on publications and releases. His compositions, which have been the subject of academic theses, include the *dizi* concerto *Year by Year*, the erhu concerto *Island Festival*, the musical theater piece *Tower of Babel: Reclaiming the Heart of the Brave*, and the yangqin and piano duet *Night Falls*.

### **Music Producer: PAN I-Tung / Ruan**

*Ruan* player and producer for 3peoplemusic, PAN I-Tung is also a part-time teacher in the Department of Chinese Music at Chinese Culture University. She has dedicated herself to *ruan* (Chinese lute) performance and composition over recent years, and in 2012 was recognized as an emerging talent in traditional instrumental music by the National Performing Arts Center at the National Theater & Concert Hall (NTCH). In 2007, she won the Star of the South prize and took first place in the college level *ruan* section of the Taiwan Music Competition, before going on to win first place in the youth level *ruan* section Taiwan Music Competition in 2005; she also won first place in the youth level *ruan* section of the Taiwan Plucked String Instrument Competition in both 2002 and 2004.



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In April 2012, she performed LIU Xing's concerto *A Single Flower Admires Itself* with the National Chinese Orchestra Taiwan at the Chiang Wei-Shui Theater in Yilan, while in May the same year, she took part in the highly acclaimed 2012 Rising Stars of Traditional Instrumental Music concert organized by NTCH, which featured both P PAN I-Tung and KUO Jing-mu. In July, she joined the group A Moving Sound at Britain's WOMAD Music and Arts Festival, as well as performing the solo piece *Mountain Song* on the BBC Radio 3 Stage. In May 2013, she performed LIU Xing's *Memories of Yunnan* with the Taiwan



Philharmonic Chinese Orchestra, and in 2014, she performed SUI Li-Jun's *Masked Bonfire Dance* with the Hsinchu Municipal Chinese Classical Orchestra. In 2017, she gave a recital of compositions for solo *zhongruan* (tenor *ruan*) sponsored by the National Culture and Arts Foundation (NCAF), and in December the same year, she reprised her performance of *Memories of Yunnan*, this time backed by Hsinchu Municipal Chinese Classical Orchestra. In 2021, she performed LIU Xing's *Second Zhongruan Concerto* with the TCO Academy Orchestra. In March 2023, she performed *Yue* by JEN Chung with Taoyuan Chinese Orchestra, while in April, she gave a solo recital based on the concept of "allowing the *ruan* to speak with greater ambition", sponsored by the National Culture and Arts Foundation.

The sheet music for I-Tong's *zhongruan* compositions *Red Felt* and *Midnight Reverie* has been published by Taipei Chinese Orchestra.

**For full program details, please visit: [tccfestival.ca](http://tccfestival.ca)**

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