

It gives me great pride and pleasure to introduce you Singapore's foremost string ensemble, the **T'ANG QUARTET**. Described by the Boston Globe as "astounding" and whom the renowned American – based Chinese composer, Bright Sheng, was "...impressed by their technical sophistication...".

This press kit provides information on the **T'ANG QUARTET** and the background to its individual members. I have also enclosed a copy of the Quartet's debut CD, **The Art of War**, released in 2005, to give you a taste of the **T'ANG QUARTET**'s style and talent. It has been described by UK's *The Strad* as "sensational", where "their technique is beyond criticism; balance is perfect and the engineering has a presence so vibrant and energizing as to capture the attention on its own..."

The **T'ANG QUARTET** is at an exciting period of their artistic growth. As a home-based group of Western trained musicians, they are unique in being able to blend Eastern influences harmoniously into their music, and yet maintain their separate identity. We are committed to bringing their innovative music to wider audiences and firmly believe that **T'ANG QUARTET**'s distinctive and vibrant brand of chamber music would be very well received internationally.

For images of the Quartet, visit <http://tangquartet.com/download02/>. Please feel free to contact me if you need any further information. I can be reached via email [limmeelian@tangquartet.com](mailto:limmeelian@tangquartet.com) or on my mobile (+65) 9680 4943.

Yours faithfully,

[contact@tangquartet.com](mailto:contact@tangquartet.com)

**Lim Mee Lian (Mrs)**

Manager, T'ang Quartet

M: +65-96804943

T: +65-65462685

E:[limmeelian@tangquartet.com](mailto:limmeelian@tangquartet.com) or

E:[limmeelian@gmail.com](mailto:limmeelian@gmail.com)





**THE T'ANG QUARTET**

**NG** Yu-Ying, *1st Violin*

**ANG** Chek-Meng, *2nd Violin*

Lionel **TAN**, *Viola*

Leslie **TAN**, *Cello*

T'ang is an acronym of the players' surnames

The **T'ANG QUARTET**, formed in 1992, started their professional career in 1999 with unanimity of purpose: to break new ground by extending the sheer fun and enjoyment of classical music to a larger audience, as well as setting new standards of artistic achievement.

Trained individually in London and Moscow, **T'ANG QUARTET** was awarded a fellowship in 1997 to work in the USA with celebrated artists Martha and Paul Katz of the Cleveland Quartet, Norman Fischer, Kenneth Goldsmith and Sergiu Luca at the Shepherd School of Music, Rice University, USA.

The Quartet's hip and upbeat stage personality together with their collaboration with celebrated artists such as pianists Noriko Ogawa, Tedd Joselson and Horia Mihail, and cellists Carter Eneart and Paul Katz, have captivated audiences in the USA, Europe, Australia, China and Southeast Asia.

The Quartet's performances have garnered many international awards. They were prizewinners at the 2nd Internationaler Joseph Joachim Kammermusikwettbewerb in Weimar, Germany in 1999, receiving in addition the Special Jury Prize for best interpretation of a contemporary composition. The same year saw the Quartet awarded a National Endowment for the Arts grant from the US Government to be a resident ensemble in a special programme of Chamber Music America. In 2000, T'ang Quartet was also awarded the Bartok prize in Austria by the Prague-Vienna-Budapest Sommer Akademie and presented with the Cultural Award by the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Singapore.

The Quartet has since performed to critical acclaim internationally - from their highly praised 2005 debut at London's Wigmore Hall to the Tanglewood Festival. It also made appearances at the Cervantino Music Festival (Mexico), Cheltenham Festival(UK), West Cork Chamber Music Festival (Ireland), Canberra International Chamber Music Festival and the Huntington Estate Music Festival (both Australia).

Following the critical success of its London debut at Wigmore Hall in 2005, **T'ANG QUARTET** was invited to record for the BBC World International Recital Series in January 2006.

In June 2007, **T'ANG QUARTET** premiered *Optical Identity*; a collaborative production with Theatre Cryptic (Scotland) was commissioned by the Singapore Arts Festival. The European premiere took place at the Edinburgh International Festival in August, and the production then traveled to the Alicante International Contemporary Music Festival (Spain) in September, and tours Scotland in October and November 2007.

Besides participation of the Arts Festival, recitals in Singapore, the Quartet is also very active in music education and outreach programmes, performing at different venues from schools to discotheques, including a profile stint on MTV Asia.

**T'ANG QUARTET** participated in Festival-onedotzero-singapore in 2006 and Republic Polytechnic's Community Arts Festival– Reflection in 2007. It was also accorded the prestigious honour of performing at the opening of Singapore Biennale, and to foreign dignitaries at the IMF and World Bank Annual Meeting in 2006, ASEAN Summit in 2007.

**T'ANG QUARTET** was invited to perform Azerbaijan composer Franghiz Ali Zadeh's *Mugam Sayagi* at a UNESCO award Ceremony in Paris on 3 April 2008, where she was receiving the honorary title of UNESCO Artist for Peace.

In 2008, **T'ANG QUARTET** was presented the Artistic Excellence Award (Classical) by Composers and Authors Society of Singapore (COMPASS).

**T'ANG QUARTET** has made two commercial recordings. Its debut, *The Art of War*, received a rave review from The Strad in 2005. A second recording, *Made in America*, was released in May 2006. T'ang Quartet has also recorded the soundtrack for Feet Unbound, a feature film retracing the Long March as undertaken by teenage girls, directed by Ng Khee Jin

The **T'ANG QUARTET** served on the faculty of Boston University's Tanglewood Festival from 2000 to 2005 and is currently quartet-in-residence at Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music at the National University of Singapore.

Of the many accolades received, *The Strad* in UK praised the **T'ANG QUARTET** as 'a fine-toned, well-balanced, thoughtfully blended ensemble without a weak-link – and with an excellent sense of style'. And the *Boston Globe* described the Quartet 'astounding'... for their 'confidence, bravura and charisma'; Critics at London's *Evening Standard* commented that 'this ensemble is outstanding. Unanimity of attack is uncanny, and the intonation and internal balance both impress greatly. These are plainly minds which share a wavelength '.

*The T'ANG QUARTET's rhythmic delivery was exceptionally tight and sharp...their command of timbre and internal balance seemed ideal...making the music sound as fresh as it had been written yesterday ..."* **The Irish Times Jul 2006**

*"...flashes of inspired synchronicity that fired the senses into overdrive, even euphoria."* **The Scotsman Aug 2007**

'T'ang' symbolizes the golden age of the arts in Asia - the Tang Dynasty, and is also an acronym of the players' surnames. Members of **T'ANG QUARTET** play instruments on generous loan from the Rin Collection and Mr. Jiri Heger.

As at Nov 2007

# NG YU-YING

1ST VIOLIN

---



---

Ng Yu-Ying embarked on his professional career as a violinist in the Singapore Symphony Orchestra after graduating with first-class honours from the Royal Academy of Music, UK, where he studied with Clarence Myerscough and Erich Gruenberg. He was awarded the Alex Templeton Prize, Roth Prize and Dominion Fellowship for his Graduation Recital.

In 1997, Yu-Ying became a founding member of Singapore's first professional string quartet, which has performed to critical acclaim in America, Australia and Europe. Aside from chamber music performances, his collaborations with violist, Jiri Heger, have also brought him to the Czech Republic where he performed in concerts and in live telecasts on Czech television.

Yu-Ying is now on the faculty of the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music at National University of Singapore and was with the Boston University Tanglewood Institute from 2001 to 2005.



# ANG CHEK-MENG

2ND VIOLIN

---



Winner of the Singapore National Music Competition in 1985 and 1987, Ang Chek-Meng went on to further his studies under a Singapore Symphony Orchestra Scholarship at the Royal Academy of Music in London. He studied under Jean Harvey, Erich Gruenberg, as well as members of the Amadeus Quartet. For his outstanding results, Chek-Meng was awarded the Countess of Munster Trust Scholarship and graduated with honours.

Chek-Meng joined the Singapore Symphony Orchestra in 1991 and left 7 years later to pursue his love for chamber music by becoming a member of the award-winning **T'ANG QUARTET**.

The Quartet was appointed the first Quartet-in-residence at the Shepherd School of Music, Rice University, USA. There, Chek-Meng worked with world-renowned artists like Paul and Martha Katz of the Cleveland Quartet, Kenneth Goldsmith and Norman Fischer.

As a member of the Quartet, Chek-Meng has performed to critical acclaim at major venues such as the Aspen Music Festival, Tanglewood Festival, Music Mountain Chamber Series, Melbourne Festival, and New Zealand Arts Festival as well as in engagements around Asia.

Chek-Meng is currently a faculty member at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music at the National University of Singapore. His previous appointment with the Boston University Tanglewood Institute was from 2001 to 2005.



# LIONEL TAN

VIOLA

---



Lionel Tan began viola studies under Jiri Heger and was awarded a scholarship to study at the Royal College of Music in London where he graduated in performance and pedagogy. He was bestowed the Lionel Tertis Prize for outstanding performance.

Lionel started his professional career playing the viola in the Singapore Symphony Orchestra. Aside from extensive experience gained from 11 years as a violist in the Orchestra, he has also established himself as a prize-winning soloist and chamber musician which has taken him all over the world.

Lionel also studied the viola with Martha Katz and Karen Ritscher in the USA, and with Margaret Major, Christopher Wellington and Milan Skampa in Europe. As a member of the award-winning and critically acclaimed **T'ANG QUARTET**, he was a pupil of Paul Katz, Norman Fischer and Kenneth Goldsmith at the Shepherd School of Music, Rice University, USA.

Lionel is now appointed to the faculty at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music at National University of Singapore, and joined the faculty at the Boston University Tanglewood Institute from 2001 to 2005.



# LESLIE TAN

CELLO



Leslie Tan, cellist of the internationally renowned **T'ANG QUARTET** has performed, both as a soloist and a chamber musician, to critical acclaim in major venues and festivals around the world.

Some of these festivals include the Tanglewood and Aspen Festivals in the USA; the Melbourne and Port Fairy Festivals in Australia; the New Zealand Arts Festival; the Hong Kong Arts Festival; and the Prague-Vienna-Budapest Sommerakademie and Aarhus Festival in Europe. He has also been broadcasted by the BBC in London.

In 1980, after only 4 years of cello studies, Leslie was awarded a scholarship to further his studies in London where he graduated from both the Trinity College of Music and the Royal College of Music. Leslie went on to the Tchaikovsky-Moscow State Conservatory as a graduate-assistant of Natalia Shakhovskaya. In the USA, he was a pupil of Paul Katz and Norman Fischer.

Leslie was a cellist in the Singapore Symphony Orchestra for 13 years. In a career that has spanned almost 20 years, from orchestral to chamber and solo performances, he is very much sought after as a pedagogue as well as a performer. Leslie is also in demand as a collaborative artiste with performers in other disciplines such as dance, theatre and even pop music.

Leslie is now on the faculty of the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music at the National University of Singapore and was with Boston University Tanglewood Institute from 2001 to 2005.



# REPERTOIRE

Bartok	Quartet Op. 7 No. 1	Mozart	Quartet in C, K.157 Quartet in E flat, K.171 Quartet in G, K.387 Quartet in D minor, K.421 Quartet in C, K.465 Quartet in D, K.575 Quartet in F, K.590 Clarinet Quintet in A, K.581
Beethoven	Quartet Op. 18 Nos. 1 and 6 Quartet Op. 59, 95, 135	Mozetich	"Lament in the Trampled Garden"
Borodin	Quartet No. 2 in D	Puccini	"I Crisantemi"
Brahms	Quartet in A minor, Op. 51 No. 2 String Sextets, Op. 18 and 36 Piano Quintet	Rachmaninov	Romanze and Scherzo
Bright Sheng	String Quartet No. 3	Respighi	"Il Tramonto" for Mezzo Soprano and String Quartet
Britten	Simple Symphony	Sculthorpe	Quartet No. 8
Chen Yi	"Sound Of The Five" For Solo Cello And String Quartet	Schostakovich	Quartet No. 7 Quartet No. 8 Quartet No. 9 Elegy and Polka Piano Quintet
Debussy	Quartet in G minor, Op. 10	Schubert	Quartet in D minor, D180 Quintet, Op.163
Dohnanyi	Piano Quintet Op. 1	Schulhoff	Quartet No. 1 Five Pieces for String Quartet
Dvorak	Quartet in F, Op.96 "American" Quintet in E Flat, Op. 97 Two Waltzes, Op.54	Schumann	Quartet No. 1 Piano Quintet
Er Yenn Chwen	"Rasa"	Smetana	Quartet in E, No. 1 "From My Life"
Glazunov	Five Novelettes	Stravinsky	Three Pieces
Gougeon	"Jeux de Cordes"	Suk	Meditation on the Czech Chorale "St. Wenceslas", Op. 35a
Haas	Quartet No. 2 "From the monkey mountains"	Tymoczko	"This Picture Seems To Move"
Haydn	Quartet Op.3 No.5 Quartet Op.64 No.5 Quartet Op. 76 Nos. 2 and 3 Quartet Op. 77 No. 2	Wolf	Italian Serenade
Hu Xiao Ou	MoXie for String Quartet	Zhou Long	"Soul" For Pipa And String Quartet Poems From Tang
Janacek	Quartet No. 1 "Kreutzer Sonata"		
Lavenda	Clarinet Quintet		
Maier	"Crystal Vermin" for String Quartet, Cello and Double Bass		
Mendelssohn	Quartet in A minor, Op. 13 Quartet in D, Op. 44 No. 1 Octet in E flat, Op.20		

## REVIEWS

"...flashes of inspired synchronicity that fired the senses into overdrive, even euphoria."

**The Scotsman Aug 2007**

... The **T'ANG QUARTET**'s rhythmic delivery was exceptionally tight and sharp... 'their command of timbre and internal balance seemed ideal...'making the music sound as fresh as it had been written yesterday...

**- The Irish Times, June, 2006**

... a fine toned,well-balanced, thoughtfully blended ensemble without a weak link and with an excellent sense of style .

**- The Strad, June 2005**

...undeniable enthusiasm, energy and commitment ...

**- The Times, London, March 2005**

...a lively and excellent young ensemble...

**- The Spectator, December 11, 2004**

...played by the astounding **T'ANG QUARTET**...with such confidence, bravura and charisma that they won the largest ovation of the Tanglewood Festival...

**- Boston Globe, July 24, 2002**

Quartet plays with zing of confidence.

...a smooth sheen to the sound... this quartet is its own master and commands that organic unity ...

**- The Australian, April 6, 2001**

The **T'ANG QUARTET** plays with the tight empathetic unison and apparent telepathic abilities of the best small chamber groups; they made every single note seem right and significant.

**- Andante.com, April, 2001**

☆☆☆ out of 4 Stars. ...the **T'ANG QUARTET** brought more emotion and a greater sense of risk to its program that ultimately left me more exhilarated.

...the T'ang is blessed with an incisive point of view .

**- Detroit Free Press, February 28, 2000**

...upbeat stage personality...trademarks of their tireless crusade to change the opinion that classical music is only for stuffed shirts.

**- The Straits Times, Singapore, 1994**

...an excellent, professional string quartet. Four outstanding young musicians showing up a very disciplined ensemble technique...and talented approach to music...

from Mozart and Brahms to Bright Sheng.

**- Sandor Devich, Bartok Quartet**

...Impressed by their technical sophistication, musical maturity and their commitment to the music...

**- Bright Sheng**

...a fine ensemble of four very good instrumentalists and musicians.

**- Paul Katz, Cleveland Quartet**

The **T'ANG QUARTET** is a very gifted, professionally polished and broadly experienced group...

**- Milan Skampa, Smetana Quartet**

... very high standards. I very much recommend them.

**- Norbert Brainin, Amadeus Quartet**

# AWARDS

## 2008

- Artistic Excellence Award (Classical) presented by Composers and Authors Society of Singapore

## 2000

- Bartok Prize, Wien-Prague-Budapest Sommerakademie
- Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) Cultural Award

## 1999

- 3rd Prize and Special Jury Prize for Best Interpretation of a Contemporary Composition
- 2nd Joseph Joachim International Chamber Music Competition, Weimar, Germany
- Catherine Filene Shouse Institute Artistes, Great Lakes Music Festival, Michigan
- Residency Grant, National Endowment for the Arts/Chamber Music America

## 1998

- Fellowship, Shepherd School of Music, Rice University, Houston
- Fellowship, Advanced Quartet Studies Programme, Aspen Music Festival
- Fellowship, Takacs Quartet Seminar, University of Colorado, Boulder

## 1997

- Fellowship, Shepherd School of Music, Rice University, Houston