

# Raffles Institution Chinese Orchestra Open House 2020



# About Us



# About Us

Raffles Institution Chinese Orchestra (RICO) was founded in 1987 by then-Headmaster Mr Eugene Wijeyesingha, Since then, we have grown into an internationally competitive orchestra with 120 members in 5 sections.

RICO is made up of 5 sections : Huqin (胡琴), Tanbo (弹拨), Chuiguan (吹管), Percussion (打击乐), and Cellobass (低音弦).

As a modern and progressive Orchestra, we incorporate the best of both Chinese and Western music in our performances, playing contemporary Chinese pieces, and renditions of modern pop, along with traditional orchestral pieces.

RICO envisions itself becoming an accomplished, world-class orchestra. We values camaraderie, musical talent and hard work among members, and seek to give every member a stake in the orchestra and foster a conducive environment for self-discovery through immersion in the dynamic landscape of Chinese music.



# Our Conductor

RICO is honoured to have [Mr Yang Jiwei](#) as our conductor since 2010.

He is also the co-founder and Executive Director of the [TENG Company](#), and has received many accolades and awards in recognition of his work in promoting Chinese music and culture.

Moreover, Mr Yang is an established conductor, conducting at RI, RGS, ACS(B), Catholic High (Primary) and many other Primary schools, Secondary schools and Junior Colleges.

Learn more on our site: <https://sites.google.com/view/ri-co/home>



# Our Teachers and Instructors

RICO is guided and mentored by our two teachers-in-charge, *Dr Wong Joon Hwang* and *Ms Kuo Ching-I*.

Every section is also taught by esteemed instructors who are prominent members of the Chinese Orchestra community in Singapore.

**Percussion:** Mr Joachim Lim

*Percussionist, TENG Ensemble*

**Yangqin:** Mr Patrick Ngo

*Co-founder, Nen Ensemble*

**Suona:** Mr Meng Jie

*Zhongyin Suona musician, SCO*

**Cello:** Mr Xu Zhong

*Cello principal player, SCO*

**Guzheng:** Mr Johnny Chia

*Musician, TENG Ensemble*

**Sheng:** Mr Vincent Tan

*Former SCO member*

**Bass:** Ms Wang Lu Yao

*Double Bass musician, SCO*

**Ruan/liuqin:** Mr Jonathan Ngeow

*Member, SCO*

**Erhu:** Mr Darrel Xin

*Huqin musician, TENG ensemble*

**Pipa:** Ms Avilyn Sim

**Dizi:** Mr Sherman Lee

*Dizi principal player, SNYCO*

**Erhu:** Ms She Ling

*Gaohu musician, SCO*



# Our Achievements

RICO has grown by leaps and bounds, and under the baton of our conductor, Mr Yang Jiwei, we have set many important milestones along the way. Some of our most recent achievements include:

**2017:** Participated in the **Nanyang International Music Competition**, achieving **1st place** in the youth orchestra division

**2019:** Participated in the **Singapore Youth Festival**, achieving **Distinction**

Learn more on our site: <https://sites.google.com/view/ri-co/home>



# Our Performances

RICO has had the privilege to perform at various concerts.

2016 Held **Voices of the Dragon XIII: Splendour** - our biennial concert, jointly held with RJCO at SCH  
Performed at Hong Kong Disneyland

2017 Held **Confluence**, a joint concert with the RI Military Band

2018 Overseas exchange with Mingdao school in Taiwan

2019 Held a joint **RICO-RJCO concert** at the Esplanade as part of *In Youthful Company 2019*

Learn more on our site: <https://sites.google.com/view/ri-co/home>



# CCA Life





# Our Sections

- The Cellobass section consists of the Cello and Double Bass.
- They play key roles in providing harmonic and rhythmic support for the orchestra, forming the foundation of our music.
- Both the Cello and Bass are incredibly versatile instruments. They can be bowed, plucked, or even used as percussion instruments.
- The Cello and the Bass in the Chinese Orchestra is said to be a representation of “East meets West”, where Western instruments are used in the making of Chinese music, creating a perfect harmony of both cultures.

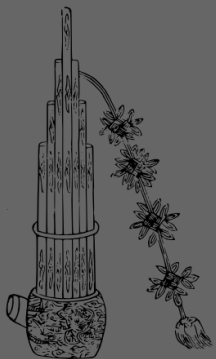


## 低音弦 • Cellobass



# Our Sections

- As the name suggests, Chuiguan is a section comprising three main groups of Chinese wind instruments: Sheng (笙), Dizi (笛子), and Suona (唢呐).
- Chuiguan is a versatile section, capable of playing anything from traditional solo/ensemble pieces to pop songs.
- Depending on the pieces we play, chuiguan instruments can take the role of the melody or accompaniment



## 吹管 · Chuiguan



Chuiguan with Y56 seniors before the 2019 Esplanade Concert

# Our Sections

- Huqin (Chinese: 胡琴, pinyin: húqín) is a family of bowed string instruments popularly used in Chinese music.
- It is primarily made up of three different instruments: The Gaoju (高胡), the Zhongju (中胡), and the Erhu (二胡).
- The most common instrument is the Erhu, which is tuned to a middle range; followed by the Zhongju, which is tuned to a lower register, and the Gaoju, which is tuned to a higher pitch.
- It is essentially the Chinese variant of the Violin, but with only two strings.

## 胡琴 · Huqin



# Our Sections

- Percussion (打击乐) is the family of instruments that are played by striking or shaking them.
- Percussion is unique as it has the largest variety of instruments among the sections
- Other sections rely on percussion to keep their pace, hence it is often called the “heart of the orchestra”
- It has both Chinese and Western instruments! Here are some examples:
  - Drum Set
  - Xylophone
  - Timpani
  - Bass drum
  - 大鼓 - Da Gu (Big Drum)
  - 木鱼 - Mu Yu (Wood Blocks)
  - 排鼓 - Pai Gu

## 打击乐 · Percussion



# Our Sections

- Tanbo (Chinese: 弹拨, pinyin: Tánbō) is the family of plucked string instruments in the Chinese Orchestra.
- It consists of a wide variety of instruments, some of which have their own variations.
- These are the instruments that are considered to be part of the Tanbo section:
  - Guzheng (古筝)
  - Yangqin (扬琴)
  - Ruan (阮)
  - Liuqin (柳琴)
  - Pipa (琵琶)
  - Sanxian (三弦)

## 弹拨 • Tanbo



# Our CCA Sessions

In RICO, there are 2 main CCA sessions: **sectionals** and **combined**.

Sectionals are sessions where students gather based on their instruments to be taught by their instructors, and is typically held on Mondays, from 4-6.30pm.

Combined is when the entire orchestra comes together to practice and rehearse pieces under the guidance of the conductor, and is typically held on Fridays, from 3.45-6.45pm.

Through these sessions, members get to develop their musical skills and learn to work together as an orchestra



# Our CCA Events: Camps and outings

- Here in RICO, we plan different kinds of events to make CCA life fun and interesting, such as camps and outings.
- Every year, RICO holds a camp to increase bonding amongst members of different sections.
- We also have section meals where sections go out together for meals. These meals help every section to become closer and more bonded.



# Our CCA Events: Taiwan Trip

- RICO also occasionally participates in overseas trips! Most recently, RICO went to Taiwan for a CO exchange trip.
- We performed in a live concert in Zhong Zheng Cultural Centre and it was broadcasted on Facebook too.
- It was a really memorable experience where we expanded our knowledge on the Chinese culture.





# Why should you join RICO?

RICO is one of the largest and most inclusive CCAs in RI. We accept students who are interested in Chinese Orchestra, regardless of musical background or race. No matter who you are, as long as you are interested, you are sure to feel welcome in our diverse family of over 110 members!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oJVF7cqNqrc>



Learn more on our site: <https://sites.google.com/view/ri-co/home>



# Find out more about us!

**YouTube:**

[youtube.com/user/ricoinconcert](https://www.youtube.com/user/ricoinconcert)

**Facebook page:**

<https://www.facebook.com/Raffles-Institution-Chinese-Orchestra-597788750404435>

**Instagram:**

<https://www.instagram.com/rico.la14>

**Website:**

<https://sites.google.com/view/ri-co/home>

Do head to our website should you have any queries 😊

