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Shanghai Symphony Orchestra and Music Director Long Yu announce 2019/20 season

27 September 2019 – 30 June 2020



- **Long Yu's eleventh season as Music Director of the SSO**
- **Visiting conductors from across the world include Jaap van Zweden, Daniel Harding, Krzysztof Penderecki, Zhang Guoyong, Charles Dutoit and Ion Marin**
- **Grammy-nominated composer Zhou Tian is the 2019/20 Artist-in-Residence**
- **Visiting ensembles as part of the 'SSO Presents' series include the London Symphony Orchestra with Sir Simon Rattle, Lucerne Festival Orchestra with Riccardo Chailly, Collegium Vocale Gent, the Shanghai Quartet and more**
- **Beethoven's 250th anniversary celebrated with soloists including Stephen Hough, Andreas Haefliger, Isabelle Faust and Alexander Melnikov**
- **Focus on bringing opera to audiences, including concert performances of Handel's *Semele* and *La Damnation de Faust* by Berlioz**

The Shanghai Symphony Orchestra (SSO) today announce its 2019/20 season, the Orchestra's eleventh with Long Yu as Music Director. It includes 77 concerts of symphonic, opera and chamber music.

Ahead of its new season, the Orchestra embarks on a three-week tour this summer to mark its 140th anniversary, with concerts in Lucerne, London, Edinburgh, Amsterdam and more [14 Aug – 1 Sep].

Long Yu and the Orchestra open the season with cellist Jian Wang in a concert celebrating the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. With a programme featuring two prominent Chinese composers – Ding Shande (Long Yu's grandfather) and Zhou Tian, the SSO aims to bring together old and new. Jian Wang will perform the world premiere of *Gift* by Zhou Tian, which was commissioned by the SSO, in addition to his Cello Concerto *Flowing Sleeves*. The Orchestra pair this with Ding Shande's famous work *Long March Symphony* [27



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Sep].

ZHOU TIAN

Grammy-nominated composer Zhou Tian is the 2019/20 Artist-in-Residence. The Orchestra commissioned Zhou Tian to compose *Gift*, a new work which will be premiered during the first concert of the season with cellist Jian Wang [27 Sep]. Eight of Zhou Tian's works will be performed throughout the season, including *Flowing Sleeves* [27 Sep], *Trace* [23 Nov], *Joy* [8 Dec], *The Palace of Nine Perfections* [21 Dec], Concerto for Orchestra [8 Jan], *Broken Ink* [28 Feb] and Violin Concerto [22 Mar].

BEETHOVEN 250

Beethoven's music takes a prominent place in the SSO's 2019/20 season, as the Orchestra marks the composer's 250th anniversary through seven main-season concerts. Andreas Haefliger, who has widely recorded Beethoven's works, joins the Orchestra to perform the composer's Piano Concerto No. 4 in G major conducted by Domingo Hindoyan [28 Feb]. Long Yu conducts Beethoven's 'Pastoral' Symphony No. 6 [29 Mar], Jacek Kasprzyk conducts 'Eroica' Symphony No. 3 [16 May] and Grammy-nominated pianist Stephen Hough performs Beethoven's Piano Concertos Nos. 3 and 4 conducted by Mihhail Gerts [6 Jun]. In the Orchestra's Chamber Hall, the Polaris String Quartet and friends perform Beethoven's Sextet for two horns and String Quartet in E-flat major [26 Oct]; Dai Le, Chan Ting-Yuen and Ye Qing present Trio for clarinet, cello and piano in B-flat [1 Nov], and the Impression Piano Trio perform Piano Trio No. 5 in D major [3 Apr].

CHINESE WORKS

In addition to the eight works by Zhou Tian, Shanghai Symphony Orchestra presents a number of Chinese or Chinese-inspired works throughout the season, performed by the SSO with both foreign and Chinese conductors and soloists.

Long Yu presents *Songs of the Earth* which sees the Orchestra perform Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* and Ye Xiaogang's *The Song of the Earth* [31 May]. Mahler's work, written for two voices and orchestra in 1908, uses poems by Chinese Tang Dynasty poets including Li Bai, Qiang Qi, Meng Haoran and Wang Wei. Ye Xiaogang's response, written in 2004, is a Chinese version with the original poems. The soloists for the concert include Zhang Liping, Jennifer Johnston and Shenyang.

The Butterfly Lovers, a violin concerto by He Zhanhao and Chen Gang, is performed by Joshua Bell which he pairs with Bruch's Violin Concerto. *The Butterfly Lovers* did not become popular in China until after the Cultural Revolution, although was written in 1959. It was premiered in 1959 in Shanghai to celebrate the 10th anniversary year of the founding of the People's Republic of China [10 Jun].

OPERA

Concert performances of operas have become a core part of the Orchestra's seasons, with many being Chinese premieres. Previous concert performances have included Richard Strauss's *Salome* (2017), *Elektra* (2014) and George Benjamin's *Written on Skin* (2018).

Charles Dutoit returns to Shanghai to conduct a concert performance of Berlioz's *La Damnation de Faust*, marking the 150th anniversary of the death of the composer, with a cast including Paul



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Groves, John Relyea, Ruxandra Donose and Yasuhiro Sato [19 Oct].

Long Yu presents Handel's *Semele* with director Julia Burbach, designer Cécile Trémolières and producer Zhang Huan. Long Yu brings together a continuo group from English Baroque Soloists and a cast lead by Jane Archibald (*Semele*) and Hugo Hymas (*Jupiter*) [8 & 9 Nov].

To close the 2019/20 season, Long Yu presents a concert performance of Bizet's *Carmen* with SSO and the Toyko Opera Singers. The soloists include John Osborne as Don Jose, Gaëlle Arquez as Carmen, Jean François as Lapointe/Escamillo and Nathalie Manfrin as Micaela [28 & 30 Jun].

In addition to the concert performances of full operas, some of the Orchestra's visiting soloists perform operatic repertoire this season. Slovakian soprano Edita Gruberová, who makes her debut in China, performs works from *Lucia di Lamermoor*, *Barber of Seville*, *Die Fledermaus* and more [5 Oct]. Renée Fleming performs works from Strauss's *Capriccio* and Verdi's *Otello* [25 Oct].

RISING STARS

In addition to its work with the world's leading soloists, the SSO also aims to build a stage for young musicians. Through the Shanghai Orchestra Academy and the Shanghai Isaac Stern International Violin Competition, the SSO's support for young artists is a crucial part of their work.

Tony Siqi Yun, 18-year-old Canadian pianist who recently won the inaugural China International Music Competition in Beijing, makes his debut with the Orchestra performing Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 1 in E-flat major, conducted by Ion Marin [23 Nov].

Olga Šroubková, runner-up in the 2018 Shanghai Isaac Stern International Violin Competition, performs Zhou Tian's Violin Concerto with David Stern and the SSO [22 Mar].

OTHER NOTABLE HIGHLIGHTS

The Orchestra's annual Shanghai New Year's Concert, inspired by the famous Vienna New Year's Concert with the Vienna Philharmonic, will this year be conducted by Daniel Harding. The Orchestra has been presenting New Year's Concerts since 2010 and this year's programme includes well known works by Tchaikovsky, Sibelius and Richard Strauss [31 Dec].

Following their energetic performance of Andy Akiho's Ping Pong Concerto in 2015, the Orchestra co-commissioned a new work with Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra, Akiho's Kong Fu Concerto. The work will be performed by Long Yu and the Orchestra following the world premiere in Guangzhou last year [8 Jan].

The Orchestra performs Shostakovich's Symphony No. 13 in B-flat minor, Op. 113 with bass Shenyang and the Estonian National Male Choir, conducted by Krzysztof Penderecki. The symphony is paired with a performance of Penderecki's powerful *Threnody to the Victims of Hiroshima*, a work with 52 string parts, and his Concertino for trumpet and orchestra, performed by Gábor Boldoczki for whom it was composed [24 Apr].

SSO PRESENTS

In addition to the main Shanghai Symphony Orchestra season, the SSO also has 31 performances by visiting orchestras and ensembles as part of its "SSO Presents" series which take place at its



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home, the Shanghai Symphony Hall.

Opening the “SSO Presents” series in the 2019/20 season is Sir Simon Rattle and the London Symphony Orchestra, who perform with Emanuel Ax [29 Sep]. Riccardo Chailly and the Lucerne Festival Orchestra return to Shanghai to present a series of three concerts with pianist Alexander Malofeev, winner of the 2014 International Tchaikovsky Competition for Young Musicians [15, 16, 17 Oct].

Other visiting ensembles include Les Violons du Roy with Jonathan Cohen [31 Oct], Cappella Andrea Barca with András Schiff [2 & 3 Nov], Collegium Vocale Gent and Philippe Herreweghe [6 Dec]. Visiting chamber ensembles include the Choir of Clare College, Cambridge [29 Sept], Scharoun Ensemble of Berlin Philharmonic [24 & 29 Nov], Shanghai Camerata [12 Dec], Gerhard Oppitz [19, 20, 22 & 23 Mar], Isabelle Faust and Alexander Melnikov [31 Mar, 1 & 2 Apr] and more. Thomas Bauer, the Orchestra’s 2018/19 Artist-in-Residence, returns for a recital with Donald Sulzen to end the “SSO Presents” season [13 Jun].

CHAMBER

In the Shanghai Symphony Hall Chamber Hall, SSO present 12 main-season chamber concerts throughout the year. The chamber series features a broad range of music and instruments, including a recital for marimba, harp and jazz trio [22 Nov]. The Crystal String Quartet perform works by Chinese composers such as Tan Dun, Huang Tzu, Xue Chengqian, Sha Hankun and more with soprano Ma Qian and marimba player Zhang Xinru [7 Dec]. The chamber series also includes performances by some of the SSO’s principal players including Guillaume Molko (Concertmaster), Peter Solomon (Principal Horn) and Dai Le (Associate Principal Clarinet).

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Notes to editors

About Shanghai Symphony Orchestra

The Shanghai Symphony Orchestra is China’s oldest symphony orchestra. Founded in 1879 as the Shanghai Public Band, it was developed into an orchestra in 1907 and renamed in 1956 as the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra. The SSO has built bridges in recent years between East and West, not least through international touring and its Shanghai Orchestra Academy, a joint initiative between the orchestra, the Shanghai Conservatory of Music and the New York Philharmonic Orchestra. Maestro Long Yu became Music Director of the SSO in 2009.



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With help from professional organizations, SSO has visited many countries and regions in Asia, Americas, and Europe, so that the orchestra was able to expand to international markets. SSO made its debut at Carnegie Hall of New York to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the hall in 1990. The orchestra also performed at the Berlin Philharmonic Hall to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the SSO in 2004. SSO visited 11 cities in the USA in 2003, made its Europe tour during Sino-French Culture Year in 2004, held a Spanish tour in 2005, and performed at the Musikverein (Golden Hall) in Vienna in 2007. In 2009, under the leadership of current Music Director Long Yu, the orchestra toured North America to perform 12 concerts. In its international tours, SSO successfully integrated Chinese traditional elements into Western symphonies, created new performance form and promoted Chinese culture, which was really enjoyed by both Eastern and Western audiences. In March 2010, Music Director Long Yu led the orchestra performing at the 14th Beethoven Festival in Warsaw and Łódź, Poland. In July 2010, Long Yu led the orchestra in a joint concert with the New York Philharmonic in Central Park, New York, promoting the 2010 Shanghai Expo. In July 2012, Long Yu led the orchestra in two concerts at the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival, respectively in Kiel and Hamburg. In January 2014, Long Yu led the SSO on a tour through Europe again, which received consistent praises from local audiences in Munich, Nuremberg, Cologne, Amsterdam and other cities. In the summer of 2015, Shanghai Symphony Orchestra expanded their influence in the Americas, including New York, Rio de Janeiro, and Buenos Aires.

About Long Yu

The pre-eminent Chinese conductor with an established international reputation, Long Yu is currently Artistic Director and Chief Conductor of the China Philharmonic Orchestra, Music Director of the Shanghai and Guangzhou Symphony Orchestras, the Artistic Director of MISA Shanghai Summer Festival, and the principal guest conductor of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra.

Long Yu conducts the leading orchestras and opera companies around the world including the New York Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Montreal Symphony Orchestra, Washington National Symphony, Orchestre de Paris, Hamburg State Opera, Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin, Rundfunk Sinfonie Orchester Leipzig, NDR Sinfonieorchester, Munich Philharmonic Orchestra, Sydney Symphony Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra and Singapore Symphony Orchestra.