

Let's embark on an exciting...

# Journey to the East!

## 东游记

NUS Chinese Dance  
NUS Chinese Orchestra



This booklet belongs to:

# NUS CHINESE DANCE



## Who are we?

Over the last 40 years, NUS Chinese Dance (NUSCD) has **earned a reputation for excellence** through the **development and performance** of a repertoire of highly challenging works – from technically demanding traditional Chinese dance to fresh and evocative contemporary Chinese pieces.



NUS Arts Festival 2023 - INTER/CHANGE  
Inspired by the Historic Silk Route

## Follow us on social media!



@nuscd



NUS Chinese Dance



nuschinese.dance

## Hear what our president, Yee Bin, has to say about learning Chinese dance!

"Learning Chinese dance can be a lot of fun! It is a creative way to express yourself through graceful movements, just like storytelling! It is also a good opportunity for you to learn more about Chinese culture."

As you embark on / continue this exciting journey of learning Chinese dance, remember that it takes time, discipline and dedication to get better. It might seem a little challenging at first, but don't give up! Embrace the challenge, enjoy the process, and who knows, you might just find a new passion that will stay with you for a lifetime! :D"

"SO, IF YOU WANT TO JOIN NUSCD, START YOUR JOURNEY IN CHINESE DANCE IN SECONDARY SCHOOL AND WE HOPE TO SEE YOU HERE IN THE FUTURE!"



# NUS CHINESE ORCHESTRA



NUSCO Family!

## Who are we?

From its establishment in 1973, the NUS Chinese Orchestra (NUSCO) has grown to become a prominent youth Chinese Orchestra in the local music scene.

NUSCO seeks to develop a **lifelong appreciation** of Chinese Orchestral music amongst members through a holistic curriculum that cultivates a growth mindset by increasing the relevance of Chinese Orchestral music. NUSCO hopes to **inspire other youth** in Singapore to contribute to the **sustainability of the art form**.

Under our **Conductor Moses Gay**, and our professional instructors, the orchestra aims to explore a myriad of creative performances to achieve its goals.

Hear what our president, Chao Hung has to say about who we are!

"NUS Chinese Orchestra is a place for people who like Chinese instruments and Chinese music to come together and play music together. In NUSCO, you will meet many **like-minded people** and **make lots of friends** here."

There are a lot of **learning opportunities** at NUSCO for you to improve your musical skills. Qualified tutors, guest musicians, masterclasses and orchestral rehearsals are here for you to explore and learn from."

**"SO, IF YOU WANT TO JOIN NUSCO, START YOUR JOURNEY IN CHINESE ORCHESTRA IN SECONDARY SCHOOL AND WE HOPE TO SEE YOU HERE IN THE FUTURE!"**



Conductor Moses Gay

## Follow us on social media!

-  @nuschineseorchestra
-  NUS Chinese Orchestra
-  [www.nuschineseorchestra.com](http://www.nuschineseorchestra.com)

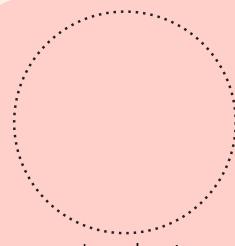
# TOUCH TOUR ADVENTURES!

Visit various instrument booths to find out more about the instruments. Collect stamps and fulfil your journey in becoming a master of the Chinese orchestra instruments!

"I only have 2 strings and I can imitate sounds from chirping birds to neighing horses. Who am I?"

I am the: \_\_\_\_\_

Stamp here!



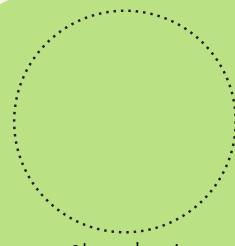
"I am the Yangqin. I'm played using a pair of bamboo sticks. My name can also mean \_\_\_\_\_!"

Stamp here!

"I am a double reed instrument with 4 different ranges: soprano, alto, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Who am I?"

I am the: \_\_\_\_\_

Stamp here!



"I am played with artificial nails. I'm also named after the sounds I make when strings are plucked. Who am I?"

Stamp here!

I am the: \_\_\_\_\_

"I am the Dizi. I am made of \_\_\_\_\_.  
There is a \_\_\_\_\_ over one of my sound holes to enhance vibration."

Stamp here!

Stamp here!

"I am the Zhonghu. I produce the \_\_\_\_\_ pitch in the Huqin family.  
I am the \_\_\_\_\_ voice in the orchestra."

"I am known as the \_\_\_\_\_ guitar because of my circular body.  
Who am I?"

Stamp here!

I am the: \_\_\_\_\_

Stamp here!

"I am the only Chinese wind instrument that can play multiple notes at the same time. Who am I?"

I am the: \_\_\_\_\_

"I have a willow-leaf-shaped body. My predecessor was used for accompaniment in traditional opera. Who am I?"

I am the: \_\_\_\_\_

Stamp here!

# Collaboration between NUS Chinese Dance (NUSCD) and NUS Chinese Orchestra (NUSCO)!

For the first time ever, NUSCD and NUSCO come together as one to bring you (yes **YOU!**) an experience you'll never forget!

Encounter familiar Chinese orchestral pieces whilst also appreciating the varied Chinese ethnic dances presented. Look out for the **uniqueness and versatility** of both groups!

## Programme Outline

《印象国乐: 大曲》 Impressions of Chinese Music  
**Chinese Orchestra & Chinese Dance**



《小刀会序曲》 Dagger Society Suite Overture  
**Chinese Orchestra**

维吾尔族舞 Uyghur Folk Dance  
**Chinese Dance**



敦煌舞 Dunhuang Dance  
**Chinese Dance**



《林中夜会》 Rendezvous in the Forest  
**Chinese Orchestra**

《骏马奔驰》 Galloping Horses  
**Chinese Orchestra**

《美丽的科尔沁草原》 Beautiful Horqin  
Grassland Movement 1  
**Chinese Orchestra & Chinese Dance**



# INTRODUCTION TO CHINESE DANCE



## History and Origin

Chinese dance can be **traced back over 5,000 years**, where early forms of dance were performed as part of **religious and ritual ceremonies**.

### Past

**Traditional dances** served **important ritual and ceremonial roles** which continued to be performed at the imperial court.

### Present

Incorporating **western dance techniques and styles**, they are generally imagination of traditional dances using modern choreography.



Activity for 《印象国乐: 大曲》 Impressions of Chinese Music!

How do the dance moves with water sleeves 水袖 look like?

Draw some movements/poses that you saw the dancers perform!



# INTRODUCTION TO CHINESE ORCHESTRA

## Origins

Traditionally, Chinese instruments were played in a small group for **entertainment in palaces**.

Today

The modern Chinese orchestra is **structured similarly** to the **Western symphony orchestra** in terms of the:

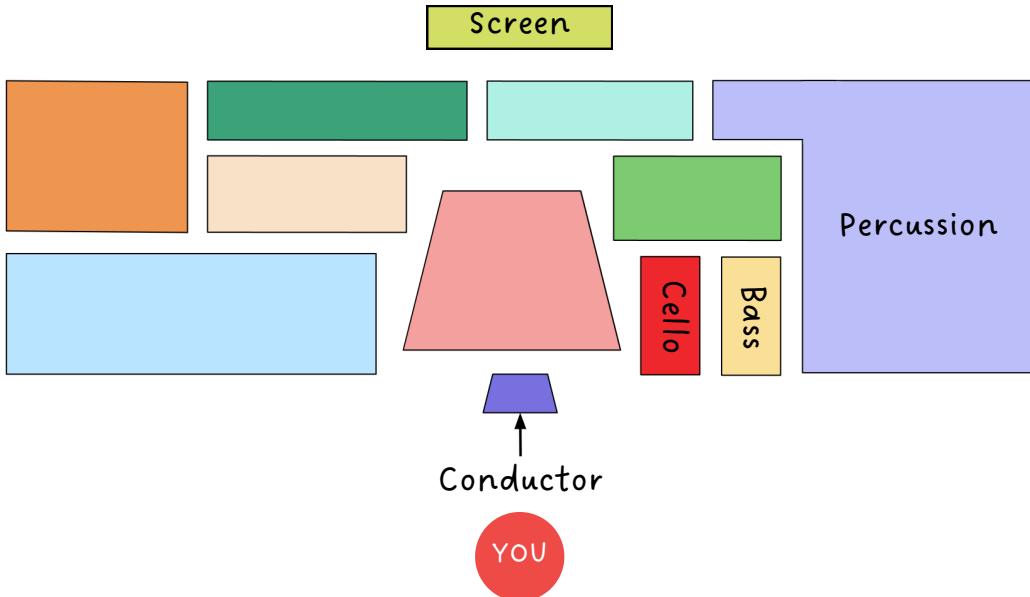
- Presence of a conductor
  - Use of Western instruments (e.g. cello and double bass)
  - Positioning of instruments

## Activity Time!

What instruments do you see playing at these sections in the orchestra?

Use the following words and fill them into the coloured areas!

Sheng / Suona / Yangqin / Ruan / Erhu / Pipa / Dizi



# LOOK OUT FOR THESE DURING THE PERFORMANCE!

Fill in the blanks!  
**SOLO INSTRUMENTS**

Did you manage  
to hear any of  
them?



管子 (*guǎn zi*)

A Chinese \_\_\_\_\_ reed wind instrument. Guan zi has a cylindrical bore, giving its distinctive mellow, yet piercing buzz-like timbre.

Listen out for the guan zi during  
《印象国乐: 大曲》 Impressions of Chinese Music!

琵琶 (*pí pá*)

The pipa has been played for almost two thousand years in China. The instrument has a pear-shaped wooden body with a varying number of frets from \_\_\_\_\_.

Listen out for the pipa during  
《小刀会序曲》 Dagger Society Suite Overture!



三弦 (*sān xián*)

The san xian is one of China's most traditional plucked-string instruments. Its \_\_\_\_\_ long neck allows for expressive glissando.

Listen out for the san xian during  
《美丽的科尔沁草原》 Beautiful Horqin Grassland!

# LOOK OUT FOR THESE DURING THE PERFORMANCE!

Fill in the blanks!

UYGHUR DANCE 维吾尔族

Spot these unique items from  
维吾尔族舞  
Uyghur Folk Dance

## A. COSTUME HIGHLIGHTS

Headpiece



头饰



Earrings  
耳环

Heels  
高跟鞋



## B. ICONIC MOVES

花朵式 (*huā duō shì*)

Right arm bent in front of \_\_\_\_\_,  
fingertips of left arm supporting the right elbow



托帽式 (*tuō mào shì*)

One arm is straight while the other is placed \_\_\_\_\_ the head



## C. HAND SHAPES (手型)



\_\_\_\_\_ -shaped hands  
花形手

# LOOK OUT FOR THESE DURING THE PERFORMANCE!

Fill in the blanks!

DUNHUANG DANCE 敦煌舞

Spot these unique items from  
敦煌舞  
Dunhuang Dance



## A. COSTUME HIGHLIGHTS

Headdress,  
long \_\_\_\_\_  
and silk pieces.

Headdress  
头饰



## B. ICONIC MOVES

反弹琵琶 (*fǎn tán pí pá*)

Imagine playing the \_\_\_\_\_ instrument over and behind your head.



佛手 (*fó shǒu*)

Touching two Buddha hands at the wrist.

## C. HAND SHAPES (手型)



Wheel finger  
轮指

Orchid palm  
兰花式



# DIFFERENT STYLES OF CHINESE DANCE

## Classical Chinese Dance (古典舞)

Classical Chinese dance was **first performed in the imperial court**. It is now **one of the most comprehensive and expressive** dance forms in the world.



Dunhuang dance (敦煌)



LOOK!

Shuixiu/Water sleeves (水袖)

## Ethnic Dance (民族舞)

China has **56 officially recognised ethnic groups**. Ethnic dances are **artistic traditions** that feature in daily life, seasonal celebrations, and worship rituals.



Uyghur Dance (维吾尔族舞蹈)



Mongolian Dance (蒙古舞)

AND MANY MORE!

# CHINESE ORCHESTRA INSTRUMENTS

There are 4 main families of instruments:

- Bowed Strings, Plucked Strings, Winds and Percussion

Pay attention to the sounds produced by the instruments and write down what you like about their sounds!

## Bowed Strings

Hint: Listen to the sustained long sounds



Double bass



Cello



Erhu

I like...

## Plucked Strings

Hint: Listen to the crisp, short sounds



Ruan



Pipa



Yangqin

I like...

# CHINESE ORCHESTRA INSTRUMENTS

Listen carefully during the pieces and answer these questions!

Q1. What is the solo instrument you hear at the start of 《林中夜会》 Rendezvous in the Forest?

- a. Sheng
- b. Dizi
- c. Suona



Q2. Do you know which percussion instrument was playing the fast rhythm in 《骏马奔驰》 Galloping Horses?

Draw it in the box below!

Percussion Group



Large gong



Xylophone

# MEMORABLE MOMENTS

Which dance moves, costumes, and instruments  
caught your eye today?

Draw them and write their names down in the space below!

Let's be creative! If you could design a performance using  
these dances and instruments, how would it be like?  
Write down your thoughts in the space below!

## REFLECT ON YOUR JOURNEY!

Q: What new things have you learnt from the Chinese Orchestra and the Chinese Dance?

Q: Which segment was your favourite and why?

Q: How did you feel before the performance and what changed after?

# CHINESE DANCE IN SINGAPORE SCHOOLS



[www.openhouseenygh.com/cca-showcase/chinese-dance/](http://www.openhouseenygh.com/cca-showcase/chinese-dance/)

## SECONDARY SCHOOLS WITH CHINESE DANCE

Anderson Secondary School  
Bedok South Secondary School  
Bukit Panjang Government High School  
CHIJ Secondary (Toa Payoh)  
CHIJ St. Nicholas Girls' School  
Chung Cheng High School (Yishun)  
Clementi Town Secondary School  
Commonwealth Secondary School  
Deyi Secondary School  
Dunman High School  
Evergreen Secondary School  
Fuchun Secondary School  
Fuhua Secondary School  
Geylang Methodist School (Secondary)

Hua Yi Secondary School  
Juying Secondary School  
Kranji Secondary School  
Manjusri Secondary School  
Mayflower Secondary School  
Nan Chiau Secondary School  
Nan Hua High School  
Nanyang Girls' High School  
National Junior College  
New Town Secondary School  
North Vista Secondary School  
Pei Hwa Secondary School  
Queenstown Secondary School  
Queensway Secondary School

River Valley High School  
Riverside Secondary School  
Sembawang Secondary School  
Singapore Chinese Girls' School  
St. Margaret's Secondary School  
Swiss Cottage Secondary School  
Tampines Secondary School  
Woodlands Ring Secondary School  
Woodlands Secondary School  
Xinmin Secondary School  
Yishun Town Secondary School  
Yuan Ching Secondary School  
Yuying Secondary School  
Zhonghua Secondary School



## TERTIARY EDUCATION - NUS

**NUSCD** aims to foster expertise and experience in Chinese dance, and an appreciation for Chinese culture, striving to bring this unique art form to the masses.

### WHY SHOULD I JOIN CHINESE DANCE IN SECONDARY SCHOOL?

Discover your interests

Experience Chinese culture

Be part of a community

Find like-minded friends

Performance opportunities

# CHINESE ORCHESTRAS IN SINGAPORE SCHOOLS



## SECONDARY SCHOOLS WITH CHINESE ORCHESTRA

Ahmad Ibrahim Secondary School

Anglican High School

Beatty Secondary School

Bedok South Secondary School

Bukit Batok Secondary School

Bukit Panjang Government High School

Catholic High School

CHIJ Katong Convent

CHIJ St. Nicholas Girls' School

Chung Cheng High School (Main)

Chung Cheng High School (Yishun)

Dunman High School

Evergreen Secondary School

Fuhua Secondary School

Greendale Secondary School

Holy Innocents' High School

Jurong Secondary School

Jurongville Secondary School

Kranji Secondary School

Manjusri Secondary School

Maris Stella Secondary School

Nan Chiau Secondary School

Nan Hua High School

Nanyang Girls' High School

National Junior College

Ngee Ann Secondary School

Pasir Ris Crest Secondary School

Pasir Ris Secondary School

Raffles Girls' School (Secondary)

Raffles Institution

River Valley High School

Swiss Cottage Secondary School

Victoria School

Woodgrove Secondary School

Yusof Ishak Secondary School

Zhonghua Secondary School

## WHY SHOULD I JOIN CHINESE ORCHESTRA IN SECONDARY SCHOOL?

**1** Free training!

- Learn from professional tutors and conductors!

**2** Instruments provided!

- Schools provide the instruments you need to get started!

**3** A fresh experience of learning something new!

# LASTLY...

From August 2023, NUS launched a new course, 'Performing Arts in Practice', which **provides academic credits for students** who participate in NUS Chinese Orchestra, NUS Chinese Dance, NUS Symphony Orchestra and NUS Wind Symphony.

Through a structured curriculum, students **hone their skills and deepen their practice** in their respective artistic disciplines.

The course features opportunities for students to collaborate in artistic programming, the operations of the arts group and engaging the community through outreach events like Journey to the East.

## UPCOMING PERFORMANCES!

### NUS CHINESE ORCHESTRA

Our concert will be on...

**23 MARCH 2024!**

stay tuned and look out  
for updates on our social  
media pages!

### JOIN US IN THE FUTURE!

Start your journey by joining  
Chinese orchestra or Chinese  
dance in Secondary school!

### NUS CHINESE DANCE

Our concert will be on...

**5 APRIL 2024!**

stay tuned and look  
out for updates on our  
social media pages!

# THANK YOU ALL FOR MAKING THIS POSSIBLE!





**NUSCO**  
National University of Singapore Chinese Orchestra  
新加坡国立大学华乐团