

## Clarinet and guzheng

The combination of the clarinet and guzheng creates a unique and enchanting musical experience, blending the timbres of Western and Eastern traditions. The clarinet, with its rich and versatile tone, can evoke a wide range of emotions, from soulful and melancholic to lively and jubilant. On the other hand, the guzheng, a traditional Chinese plucked string instrument, produces a resonant and ethereal sound that transports listeners to a serene and ancient world. When these two instruments come together, their contrasting yet complementary sounds weave a tapestry of melodies and harmonies that is both captivating and refreshing.

In this program this is expressed in six brand new compositions by Western and Chinese composers.

*Mao Zhu : Yokai Suite (listen [here](#))*

*Joël Bons: new work*

*Zhou Jing: Four Gentlemen among Flowers*

*Cecilia Arditto: new work*

*Ding Lanching: new work*

*Marang & Xia: Lost in Translation*

Jing Xia, guzheng

Michel Marang, clarinet





## Jing Xia

Jing Xia is an award-winning guzheng artist and ethnomusicologist based in Newfoundland, Canada. Born in Hunan, China, Xia began studying the guzheng at six and holds degrees in music performance, arts management, and ethnomusicology. Her recent accolades include the 2023 East Coast Music Award for "Roots/Traditional Recording of the Year" and the 2023 MusicNL Award for "Album of the Year" for her solo album "The Numinous Journey". She was also named the 2023 MusicNL "Solo Artist of the Year" and 2022 MusicNL "Rising Star of the Year".

Xia's musical journey spans Chinese traditional and folk music, intercultural ensembles, and improvisational music. Her 2022 album "The Numinous Journey" showcases her versatility across genres. Xia has collaborated with musicians such as guzheng virtuoso Mei Han, the Newfoundland trad-rock band Shanneyganock, and the Vancouver Intercultural Orchestra. She premiered "The Congruent Place" in 2018 with composer Clinton Ackerman and "Jubilant Entanglements" in 2023 with the Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra.

Active in North America's music scene, Xia has performed at events including DuneFest, SappyFest, the Newfoundland Folk Festival, the Nashville Chinese New Year Festival, and the Vancouver International Jazz Festival. She founded the Light Wind Ensemble, the first Chinese ensemble in Newfoundland, and XIA-3, a fusion band with a repertoire from Chinese classics to post-rock music.

<https://www.jing-xia.com/>



## Michel Marang

Dutch clarinetist Michel Marang studied with Walter Boeykens and finished conservatory cum laude in 1987, the same year in which he also got his degree in philosophy at Amsterdam University. Hereafter he studied with Hans Deinzer (Germany) and took masterclasses with Roger Heaton (England) and Susan Stephens (USA).

Apart from his interest and activities in classical music, theatre, and world-music, Marang specializes in contemporary music. He collaborated with many composers, including Olivier Messiaen, Morton Feldman, Edison Denisov and Karlheinz Stockhausen. With the latter he studied his monumental 'Harlequin', a 45 minute solo for a dancing and miming clarinetist. Over a hundred compositions were dedicated to him. In addition, Marang wrote music for several theatre productions, such as "Nicky Somewhere Else", which was very successful on Broadway.

Besides, Marang works as a photographer.

He was a member, guest and/or soloist with all the leading new music ensembles in Holland, as well as Musikfabrik in Cologne, Contrechamps in Geneva, Aleph in Paris and Studio New Music in Moscow.

As a soloist, Michel Marang performed throughout Europe, the USA, Mexico, Russia, China, Ukraine, Estonia, India, central Asia and the Middle-East. He gave seminars at many leading institutions, including the Paris, Shanghai, Amsterdam and Moscow Conservatories. [www.michelmarang.nl](http://www.michelmarang.nl)

...a talented, sensitive player... **(The New York Times)**

...lyric and grand manner in the Amsterdam concertgebouw... **(de Volkskrant)**

...in every respect phenomenal... **(Frankfurter Rundschau)**

...a magnificent performance... **(Moscow news)** ...a convincing actor... **(Trouw)**

...he doesn't *play* his instrument, he *is* his instrument...it isn't sheer music, but life itself... **(Brabants Dagblad)**

...superbe, extraordinaire... **(Pierre Boulez)**

...magnifique... **(Olivier Messiaen)**