



SPEAK
PERCUSSION

THE NINTH TONE

SPECULATIONS ON A CHINESE AUSTRALIAN SONIC HISTORY

Presented within the oldest continuous Chinese settlement outside of Asia, *The Ninth Tone* speculates on the legacy of Chinese Music outside of China since the 1800s. First conceived by Leung in 2022, this iterative project uses intonation, materiality, memory, and echo in a hauntological reimaging of Chinese Australian music.

This project problematises simplistic dominant cultural understandings of 'east meets west' that ignore significant historic lineages. Chinese culture and music has been present in Australia for almost 200 years, and cross-cultural collaboration is almost as old. Tracing archives, artefacts and familial histories from the Gold Rush to the present day, *The Ninth Tone* offers an alternative answer to the question of what Chinese Australian music is and can be.

Over the hour-long performance, fragments of musical histories fill the space; a chorus of musical echo are transmitted through a multiple radio systems; hidden frequencies of Chinese opera percussion are revealed through precise amplification; Chinese stringed instruments are retuned to be resonate with historic places of significance; and gramophone records from the late 1800's are coaxed back into resounding.

PROGRAM

The Ninth Tone

for erhu, yehu, radios, gramophone, guzheng, percussion + electronics

opening the stage 开台
playing across time
香港 memory

Jasmin Wing Yin Leung 梁詠然
Sally Ann McIntyre
Mindy Meng Wang 王萌
Kaylie Melville

Concept / Composer / Performer
Artistic Collaborator / Performer
Performer
Performer

CHINESE MUSEUM 澳華歷史博物館
MELBOURNE | NAARM | 墨尔本
SUNDAY 1, DECEMBER 2024



'Bendigo Easter Fair', 1 May 1895, State Library Victoria. Courtesy of State Library Victoria.



Image: Campbell Walker

CREATIVE TEAM



Concept / Composer / Performer

Jasmin Wing-Yin Leung 梁詠然 is a composer and musician who is interested in resonance, intonation and playing the Erhu (a two stringed spike fiddle). She uses mathematical and instinctive extractions to unveil sonic 'shadows' of physical spaces, and examines the potential of echo to speculate ideas of secondhand memory.



Artistic Collaborator / Performer

Sally Ann McIntyre (radio cegeste) is a sound and transmission artist who works with electromagnetic frequencies and pre-electrical audio technologies. Her works ask questions of mediated memory, and are concerned with environmental witnessing, more-than-human mimicry, transcription and the copy, and silenced or forgotten histories that permeate the culture of nature.



Performer

Mindy Meng Wang is a versatile Chinese-Australian composer and a world-leading contemporary guzheng performer. Classically trained in China and furthering her studies in composition in the UK, Mindy has redefined the role of the guzheng (an ancient Chinese harp) by integrating it into a wide array of Western genres, including experimental music, jazz, classical, electronic, pop, and improvisation.



Performer

Percussionist **Kaylie Melville** is the co-director of the luminary new music organisation Speak Percussion and the contemporary ensemble Rubiks Collective. Dedicated to new music performances, commissions and collaborations, she has been noted for her “extraordinary ability to impart a sense of musicality to even the smallest gestures”.

PRODUCTION TEAM



Producer

Chelsea Byrne is a dance artist and producer who supports Naarm-based emerging artists across dance, experimental theatre, comedy and music. She has a keen interest in interdisciplinary collaboration and creating immersive environments. Chelsea is Associate Producer at VISIONS and has worked on award winning performances at Melbourne Fringe, RISING and Now or Never Festivals.



Lighting Designer + Technician

Giovanna Yate Gonzalez is a Colombian-born dancer turned lighting designer based in Australia. A VCA graduate, she has worked on Siren Dance at Sydney Dance Company and the award-winning LUSH. In 2023, she joined the Besen Artistic Program at Malthouse Theatre and is part of the FUTURE CREATIVE program with MTC.



Sound Engineer

Rohan Goldsmith is a drummer, sound engineer & videographer making electroacoustic music for prepared drum-set, percussive instrumentation, synthesis and manipulated site-specific samples. These sonic materialities are initiated & guided by concepts of balance, contrast, elasticity & kinaesthetic flow - given form via an ongoing, subjective examination (and fortification) of the symbiosis between physicality, spirituality, creative mechanics and the poetics of memory.

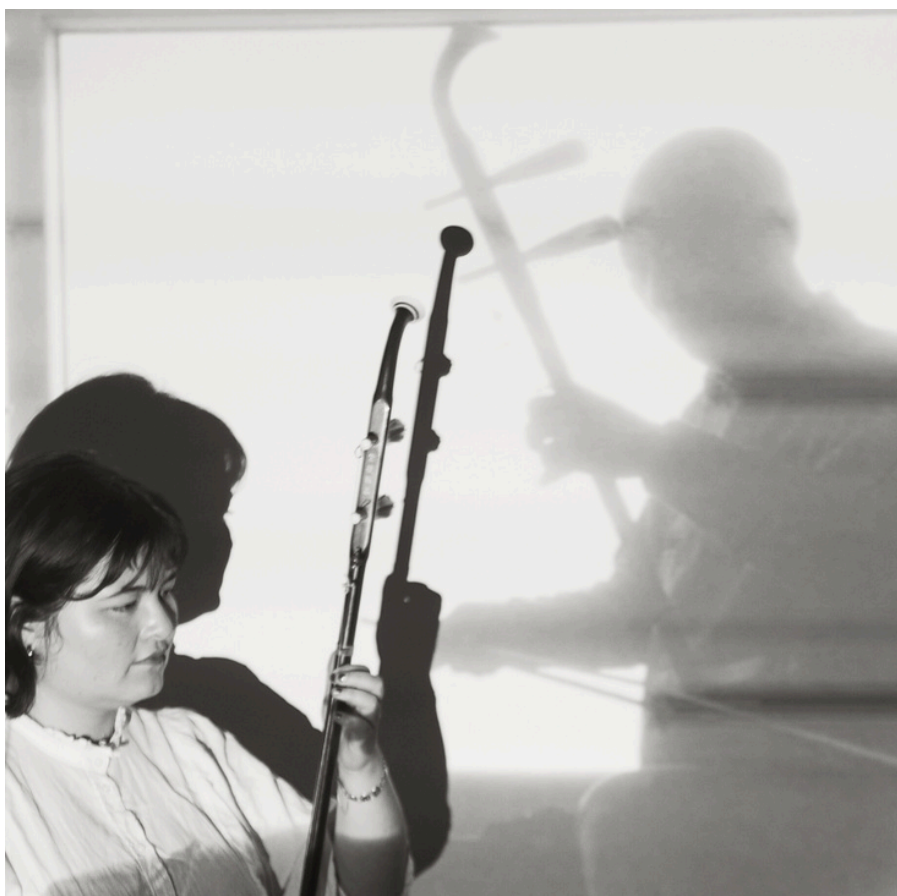


Image credits left to right (descending) 1, 2 - Jasmin Wing Yin Leung, 3 - Campbell Walker, 4, 5 - Jasmin Wing Yin Leung, 6 - 'Head of the Great Dragon, Bendigo Easter Fair', 1 May 1895, State Library Victoria. Courtesy of State Library Victoria



'Bendigo Easter Fair', 1 May 1895, State Library Victoria. Courtesy of State Library Victoria.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Produced by Speak Percussion
Presented at the Museum of Chinese Australian History
Hero Image by Campbell Walker
Artist Images supplied

Special thanks to Yat Wah Cheung, Ashley Dyer, Hugo Leschen, Rosemary Willink, Clementine Isaacson and the Golden Dragon Museum.

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body.
This project is supported by the APRA AMCOS Art Music Fund.
This project is supported by the City of Melbourne.

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Speak Percussion acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we work, live, perform and learn. We pay our respects to people of the Kulin nation, their Elders past and present and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.