



MADLANDS

Yang Bao

MADLANDS*Composed by Yang Bao*

1	The Riddle	3.44
2	Baby Beast	3.39
3	Hold Your Breath	2.57

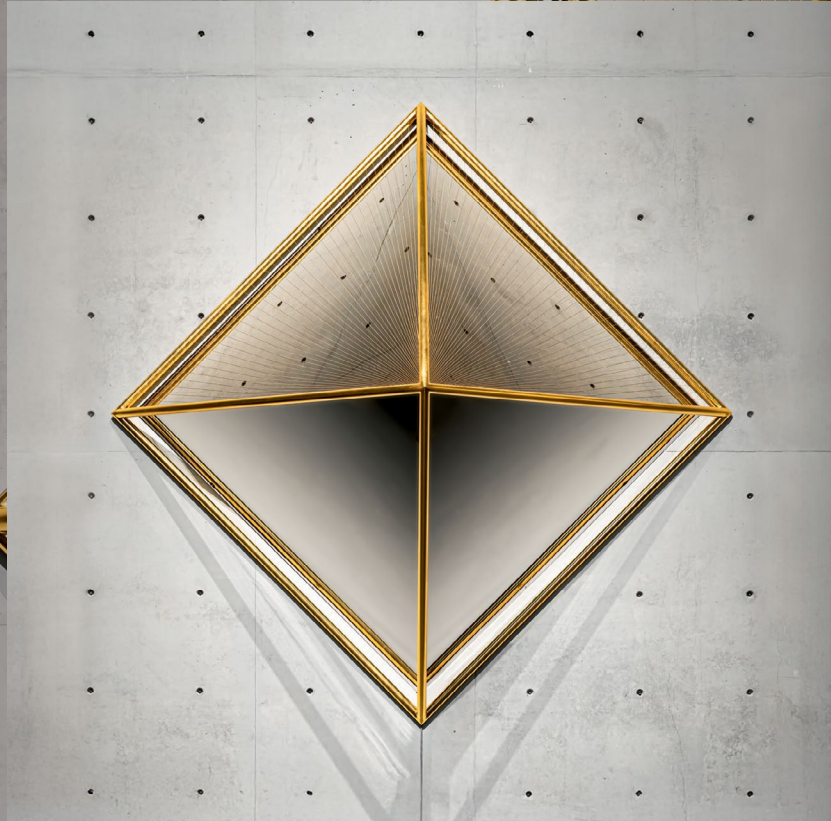
Jeeihn Kim & Licheng (Mark) Chen, violin**Lindan Burns**, viola**Seoyeon Koo & Griffin Seuter**, cello**Soren Davick**, double bass**Yang Bao**, piano & synthesizer

4	Madlands	2.53
5	Human and I	4.35
6	Cyborg	3.21
7	Red Crescendo	3.47
8	First Run	3.02
9	Leap	3.18
10	Infinity Tower	2.34
11	No One's Game	2.57

Yang Bao, piano & synthesizer

Total playing time: 36.51





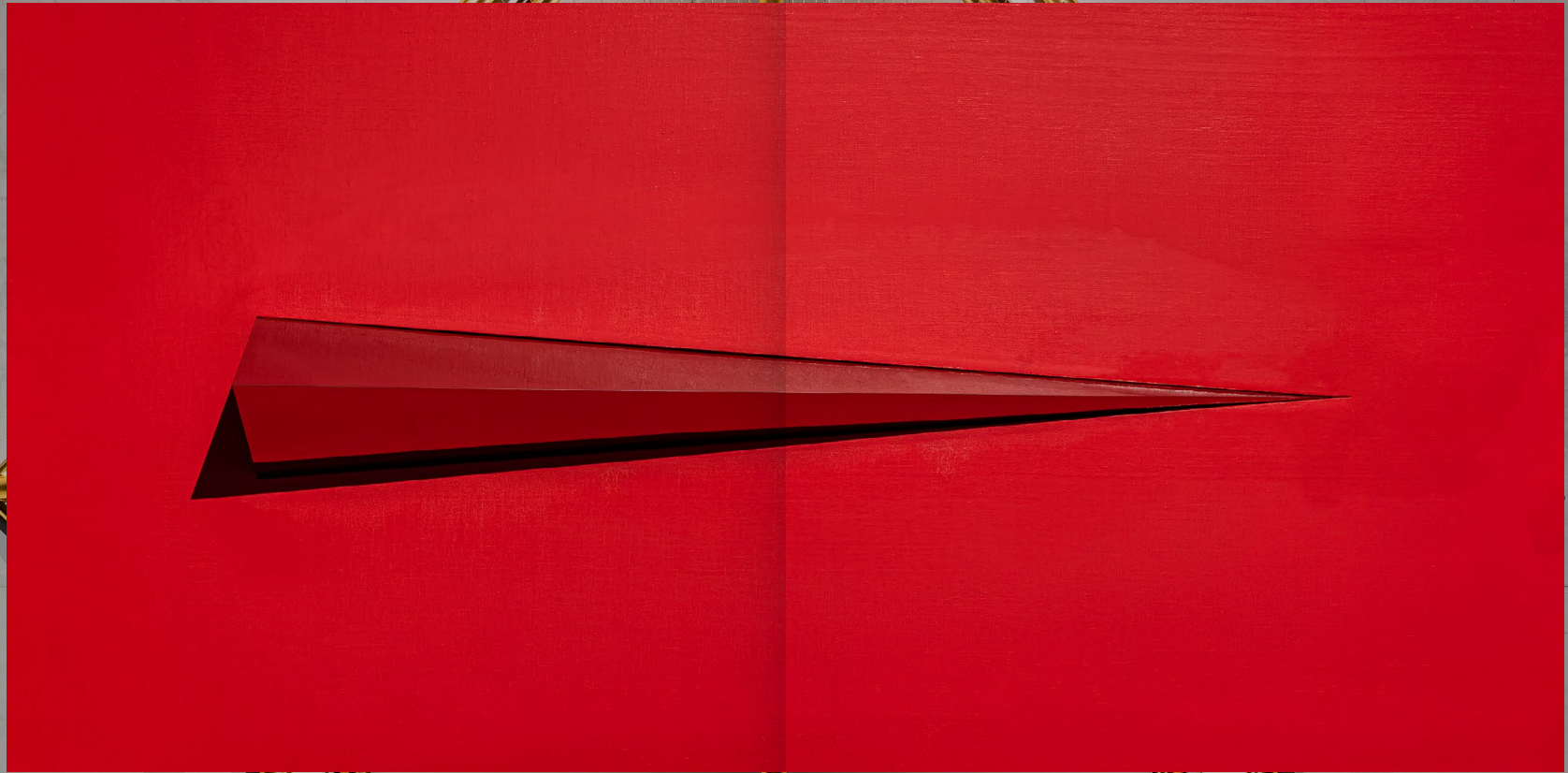
The title *MADLANDS* originates from my solo exhibition at the Long Museum in Shanghai in 2024, which explored the connection and tension between the human and nonhuman worlds through sound sculptures and mixed-media works. Within these sculptures—such as *Superstar*—a chance-based matrix of my compositions, *Infinity Music*, multiplied and echoed unpredictably through space, forming a living symphony: at times discordant, at times harmonious. To me, it felt like listening to the universe itself.

I've long been fascinated by how sound moves through time, reshaping our sense of space, memory, and emotion. With *MADLANDS*, I reimagine sound as something tangible and immersive, a force that traverses boundaries and alters perception.

Trained as a classical pianist, I often begin with a vision of sound and expand it into physical form—sculptures, videos, and paintings that invite introspection and echo the immediacy of live performance. Guided by instinct, I follow what I hear and give it shape.

This album grew from that same impulse. Each piece reflects a moment I wanted to hold onto. For me, *MADLANDS* is more than an album; it is a way of making sense of the world through sound.





MADLANDS is an album for the future—a bold musical expedition into what it means to be human amid the rising tides of artificial intelligence and ecological upheaval. Written for piano, six strings, and an array of analog synthesizers including the Korg PS-3300 and MiniMoog, my eleven compositions trace a suspenseful journey across past and future, where the search for identity, connection, and belonging becomes both a personal odyssey and a shared reckoning.

The album opens with a trilogy for piano, strings, and synthesizers—*The Riddle*, *Baby Beast*, and *Hold Your Breath*. By fusing classical form with electronic sound, *MADLANDS* creates a visceral, futuristic voyage into the more-than-human realm, where humans, cyborgs, nature, and space co-evolve in fragile yet powerful symbiosis. Works such as *Human and I* and *First Run* expand this vision, with piano and synthesizers morphing into

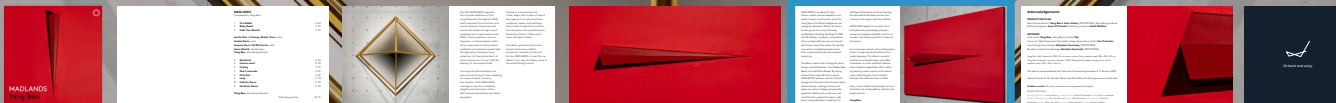
shifting architectures of sound, blurring the boundaries between human and machine, the organic and the artificial.

MADLANDS speaks to a world in flux—both planetary and deeply personal—where we navigate instability, hold on to wonder, and rediscover what it means to be human.

As a composer, pianist, and contemporary artist, I merge sound and visuals into a single language. This album connects directly to my mixed-media piece *Red Crescendo*—a mirror-polished stainless steel sculpture embedded within matte oil painting—which serves as the album cover, reflecting the music’s duality between the visible and the invisible.

Here, music unfolds as landscape: at once futuristic and contemplative, abstract yet deeply human.

Yang Bao



Acknowledgements

PRODUCTION TEAM

Executive producers **Yang Bao & Sean Hickey** (PENTATONE) | Recording producer & Mixing engineer **Jason O'Connell** | Mastering engineer **Mark Willissher**

ARTWORK

Liner notes **Yang Bao** | Yang Bao's portrait **Sky**
 Cover art (*Red Crescendo*) & booklet image (*Superstar*) photos **Sun Tianchen**
 Cover & digisleeve design **Marjolein Coenrady** (PENTATONE)
 Booklet coordination & design **Karolina Szymanik** (PENTATONE)

Yang Bao, *Red Crescendo*, 2024. Oil on canvas, mirror-finish stainless steel, 180 x 300 x 35 cm.

Yang Bao, *Superstar* (sound sculpture), 2024. 24K gold leaf, golden string, mirror-finish stainless steel, 340 x 340 x 160 cm.

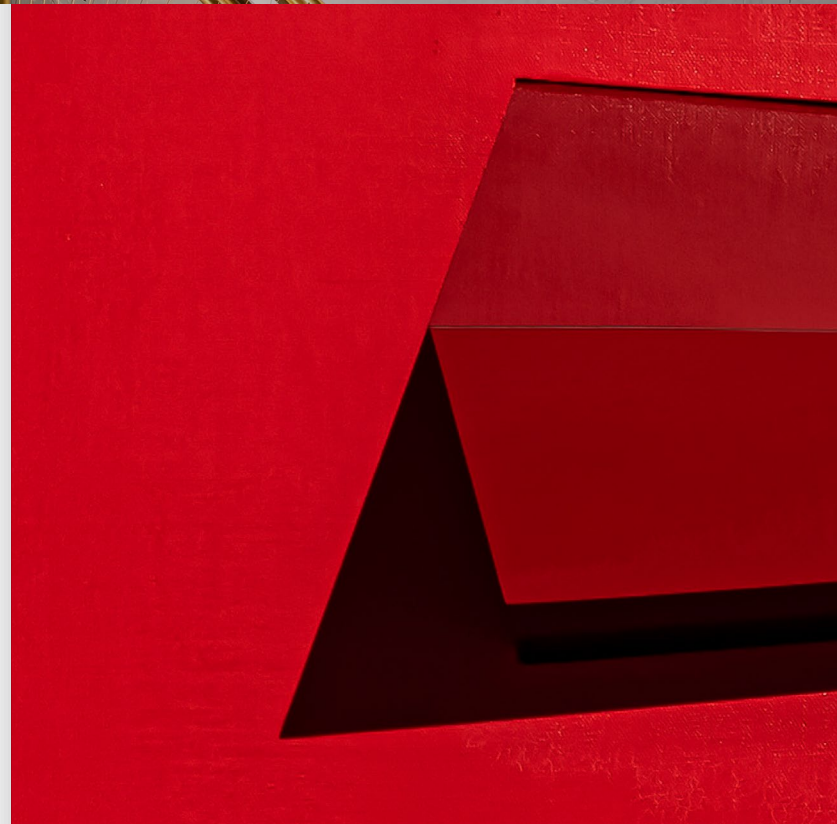
This album was recorded at San Francisco Conservatory between 8-11 January 2025.

Special thanks to Mr. Gordon Getty and Rork Music for their generous contribution.

Publisher credits: All works published and copyrighted by Yang Bao.

PENTATONE TEAM

Managing Director **Sean Hickey** | Label Director **Silvia Pietrosanti** | A&R **Alice Lombardo**
 Product Management **Ana Teodorović** | Press **Allie Summers** | Distribution **Camilla Vickerage** | Audio **Wirre de Vries** | Finance **Adrie Engels** | Admin **Lineke Steffers**





Sit back and enjoy

