

# Xiaogang YE

## Seven Episodes for Lin'an

Twilight in Tibet • Tianjin Suite

Yuanming Song, Soprano • Yijie Shi, Tenor  
Songhu Liu, Baritone • Cong Gu, Horn

Deutsche Staatsphilharmonie Rheinland-Pfalz  
Franck Ollu • Stefan Malzew



Xiaogang

**YE**

(b. 1955)

- ❶ **Twilight in Tibet** for tenor, horn and orchestra, Op. 41 (2002) **18:50**  
Text: Hang Zou (b. 1975)
- Seven Episodes for Lin'an**  
for soprano, tenor, baritone and orchestra, Op. 63 (2011) **34:17**  
Texts: Juyi Bai (772–846) ❷, Shi Su (1037–1101) ❸, Xiu Ouyang (1007–1072) ❹,  
You Lu (1125–1210) / Changling Wang (698–756) ❺, Haoran Meng (689–740) ❻,  
Wanli Yang (1127–1206) ❼, Zexu Lin (1785–1850) ❽
- ❷ **No. 1. Cherish the Memory of Jiangnan** **3:23**
- ❸ **No. 2. Drinking on the Lake after Rain, Yachting on West Lake in the Evening** **3:37**
- ❹ **No. 3. Picking Mulberries** **5:06**
- ❺ **No. 4. Lin'an Spring Just Cleared, Girls Washing Silk** **3:39**
- ❻ **No. 5. Stepping on Zhang Pavilion and Watching the Tide** **5:52**
- ❼ **No. 6. Leave the Jingci Temple in the Morning to See Zifang Lin Off** **4:39**
- ❽ **No. 7. Pagoda of Six Harmonies** **7:45**
- Tianjin Suite** for orchestra, Op. 75 (2015–16) **19:37**
- ❾ **I. The Sunlight in Mt Panshan** **4:48**
- ❿ **II. Green Willows** **3:42**
- ⓫ **III. The Twilight at Beitang** **6:53**
- ⓬ **IV. The Wind from Dagu** **4:15**

## Xiaogang Ye (b. 1955)

### Twilight in Tibet • Seven Episodes for Lin'an • Tianjin Suite

Born in Shanghai in 1955, Xiaogang Ye is regarded as one of China's leading contemporary composers. From 1978 until 1983, he studied at the composition department of the Central Conservatory of Music in China, and after graduation was appointed resident composer and lecturer at the Conservatory. From 1987, he studied at the Eastman School of Music, University of Rochester in New York. His former teachers include Mingxin Du, Samuel Adler, Joseph Schwantner, Louis Andriessen and Alexander Goehr. After he returned home from the US in 1994, Xiaogang Ye served as a professor in the composition department of the Central Conservatory of Music, a doctoral advisor, the deputy dean of the composition department and Educational Inspector of the Conservatory. From 2009 to 2018 he worked as one of four vice presidents of the Central Conservatory of Music.

Ye is entrusted with cultural tasks as a standing member of the 13th Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, and he is presently vice chairman of the China Federation of Literary and Art Circles, chairman of the China Musicians Association, head of the ISCM (International Society for Contemporary Music) Beijing Modern Music Festival Section, professor of composition at the Central Conservatory of Music, distinguished professor of the Xinghai Conservatory of Music and Shanghai Conservatory of Music, honorary professor of the Ukrainian National Tchaikovsky Academy of Music, international chair in composition at the Royal Northern College of Music, a consultant to The Tianjin Juilliard School, and an international honorary member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Ye is the founding dean of School of Music, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen since May 2021. And he is the founder and artistic director of the Beijing Modern Music Festival, Shenzhen Belt & Road International Music Festival, Tsingtao International Music Festival, Guangdong-Hongkong-Macau Dawan District Music Festival and the International Music Competition Harbin. Ye has been committed to promoting the development of China's modern music, and the exchange of Chinese and foreign music cultures.

Ye has composed a large number of works in a variety of genres, including symphonic, chamber, dance-drama and opera pieces, as well as film and TV music. His important works include *Horizon*, *The Last Paradise*, *The Song of the Earth*, *Twilight of the Himalayas*, *Scent of Green Mango*, *Mount E'mei*, *Lamura Cuo*, *Symphony No. 4 'Songs from the Steppe'*, *Symphony No. 5 'Lu Xun'*, *Symphony No. 7 'The Heroes'*, *The Backyard of the Village*, *Cantonese Suite*, *Springs in the Forest*, *Nine Horses*, *Yangzhuoyong Cuo*, *The Macau Bride* and *Song of Farewell*. As a successful composer of film music he has written for more than 30 important Chinese movies and TV series and has won the Golden Rooster Award three times as well as two other prestigious film score awards. Although Ye does not consider film music to be central to his output, it has given his work unprecedented exposure in China, leading to him being granted the honorary title of 'Man of China' in 2005. Since 1995, the world-renowned publisher Schott has published and served as an agent for Ye's works.

Ye's music can be heard throughout the world in leading opera houses and symphony halls, international festivals, and on radio and television. Since 1987, Ye's works have drawn attention both in East Asia and in the West, where they have been performed by major orchestras and ensembles including the New York Philharmonic, The Cleveland Orchestra, The Philadelphia Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Munich Philharmonic Orchestra, Bamberger Symphoniker, Hamburg Philharmonic State Orchestra, Orchestra del Teatro alla Scala, New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, Singapore Symphony Orchestra, Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, Macao Orchestra, China Philharmonic Orchestra, China National Symphony Orchestra, Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, Ensemble Modern, Ensemble Utopik, New European Ensemble, the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, and the NZTrio. In August 2008, his piano concerto *Starry Sky* was premiered during the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games in Beijing by Lang Lang. Accompanied by dance and light shows, the live broadcast was watched by three billion people worldwide.

Beginning in 2013, the *China Story* concert series featuring Ye's music has been presented at venues all over the world, including Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center in New York, and the National Center for the Performing Arts in Beijing. Other concerts have been held in Saarbrücken, Munich, Berlin, San José (Costa Rica), Kolkata, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Moscow, Nantes, Lima, Dublin and Bydgoszcz. Orchestras that have participated in the series include the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, China National Symphony Orchestra, China NCPA Orchestra, Deutsche Radio Philharmonie Saarbrücken Kaiserslautern, National Symphony Orchestra of Costa Rica, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, Russian National Orchestra, Ensemble Utopik, National Symphony Orchestra of Peru, and the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra. This concert series has introduced Ye's music to diverse international audiences.

Ye has been the recipient of many prestigious honours including a 2012 Guggenheim Fellowship, a 2013 China Arts Award, and a Distinguished Alumni citation from the Eastman School of Music in 2011. Recordings of Ye's music can be found on several international labels, including EMI Classics, Wergo, Hugo, Naxos, BIS, Delos and Deutsche Grammophon among others.

**Max Yin**

### **Twilight in Tibet**

*Twilight in Tibet* is a commission from the cultural department of the government of Tibet. It was first performed on 2 October 2002 at Shanghai Grand Theatre by the Shanghai Broadcasting Symphony Orchestra conducted by Yongyan Hu, with tenor Song Bo and horn player Xiaomin Han.

As a composer, Ye is especially interested in Tibet and Tibetan culture. Here he employs his signature melodious orchestral language to capture the spiritual beauty and simple folk customs of Tibet.

### **Seven Episodes for Lin'an**

Commissioned by the Hangzhou Philharmonic Orchestra, *Seven Episodes for Lin'an* is a large-scale work for soprano, tenor, baritone and orchestra written in 2011. The lyrics come from several famous ancient Chinese poets, including Juyi Bai, Shi Su, Xiu Ouyang, You Lu, Changling Wang, Wanli Yang and Zexu Lin. It is the first time the work of so many ancient Chinese poets have been combined with music in this way.

In writing *Seven Episodes for Lin'an*, Xiaogang Ye has sought to convey his deep love of ancient Chinese culture through the unique sounds of the orchestra and the voice. His aim is to introduce the riches of China's cultural heritage to the wider world. The folk songs and folk music of Hangzhou, Jiaxing and Huzhou of Zhejiang province are woven together as intricate melodies which can be traced back to the origins of China's ancient literature and to the culture of the Wu and Yue kingdoms.

### **Tianjin Suite**

*Tianjin Suite*, composed in 2015–16, was commissioned by the Tianjin Symphony Orchestra and first performed on 18 November 2016 at Tianjin Concert Hall. Tianjin is a city of many natural and cultural landscapes, providing a diverse range of musical subjects. *Tianjin Suite* consists of four movements representing four scenes: *I. The Sunlight in Mt Panshan*; *II. Green Willows*; *III. The Twilight at Beitang*; and *IV. The Wind from Dagu*.

The music reflects the vibrancy and modernity of Tianjin, a city with a rich historical and cultural heritage, as it moves towards the new era. Various Tianjin folk songs feature in the work, which combines modern and traditional musical styles.

**Xiaogang Ye**

*English translation: Max Yin*

Xiaogang Ye



## Yuanming Song



Soprano Yuanming Song studied at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna and is a professor at the Central Conservatory of Music, Beijing. She won first prizes at the Concours International de Chant de Toulouse and the Antonín Dvořák International Vocal Competition, Czech Republic. She has starred in operas including *Don Giovanni*, *Die Fledermaus*, *Turandot*, *L'italiana in Algeri* and *La traviata*, appeared at venues including Graz Opera, Beijing National Centre for the Performing Arts and Salzburg Festival, and worked with the Vienna Philharmonic and Philadelphia Orchestra and conductors including Riccardo Muti, Daniel Barenboim, Valery Gergiev and Yannick Nézet-Séguin.

## Yijie Shi



Born in Shanghai and a winner at several international vocal competitions, tenor Yijie Shi has appeared at renowned international venues including the Metropolitan Opera in New York, San Francisco Opera, Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia di Roma, Maggio Musicale Fiorentino di Firenze, Teatro San Carlo di Napoli, Deutsche Oper of Berlin, Staatstheater Stuttgart, Wiener Staatsoper, Graz Oper, Théâtre des Champs Élysées de Paris, Teatro Real Madrid, and Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow. He has collaborated with conductors including Zubin Mehta, Antonio Pappano, Kent Nagano, Daniel Oren, Eliahu Inbal, Jeffrey Tate, Louis Langrée, Roberto Abbado, Christophe Rousset, Paolo Carignani and Vasily Petrenko.

## Songhu Liu



World renowned baritone Dr Songhu Liu is soloist at the National Centre for the Performing Arts in Beijing; dean of the department of vocal music and opera at Harbin Conservatory of Music; and associate professor at Peking University Academy of Opera. For several decades he was a soloist at Nuremberg State Opera and guest lecturer at the Nuremberg National Conservatory of Music in Germany. He has played leading roles in more than 50 operas and appeared in more than 600 performances at theatres and opera houses across Europe. He has won prizes in ten international vocal music contests.

## Cong Gu



Cong Gu is associate professor of horn at Shanghai Conservatory of Music and a member of the Chinese Horn Ensemble. He graduated with a solo performance diploma from the Hochschule für Musik Karlsruhe in Germany and has won several awards at competitions across the world. Cong Gu was formerly principal horn at the Deutsche Radio Philharmonie and the Deutsche Staatsphilharmonie.

## Deutsche Staatsphilharmonie Rheinland-Pfalz

Photo: Felix Broede



The Staatsphilharmonie was founded in 1919. In its inaugural years the orchestra attracted transregional attention under the baton of Richard Strauss, and subsequently principal conductors such as Christoph Eschenbach and Leif Segerstam have helped the orchestra to achieve international recognition. Michael Francis, who has been chief conductor since the 2019–20 season, has furthered the orchestra's eminence. With over 100 concerts per season, the Staatsphilharmonie brings music to the people. Performances at home and abroad as well as collaborations with internationally renowned conductors and soloists bear witness to the excellent reputation that the orchestra enjoys.

[www.staatsphilharmonie.de](http://www.staatsphilharmonie.de)

## Stefan Malzew



For 13 years the German conductor and composer Stefan Malzew worked at the Mecklenburg State Theatre Schwerin and as general music director and chief conductor at the City Theatre, Giessen, also serving as chief conductor at the Neubrandenburg Philharmonic Orchestra from 2001 to 2015. His arrangements of songs for Ute Lemper resulted in a concert tour throughout the US, Canada and Europe, which also featured the Vogler Quartet. The subsequent album of the project was nominated for a GRAMMY Award. In 2015 Malzew founded his own company with the mission of developing the musical knowledge of children and adults of all ages.

[www.stefanmalzew.de](http://www.stefanmalzew.de)

## Franck Ollu

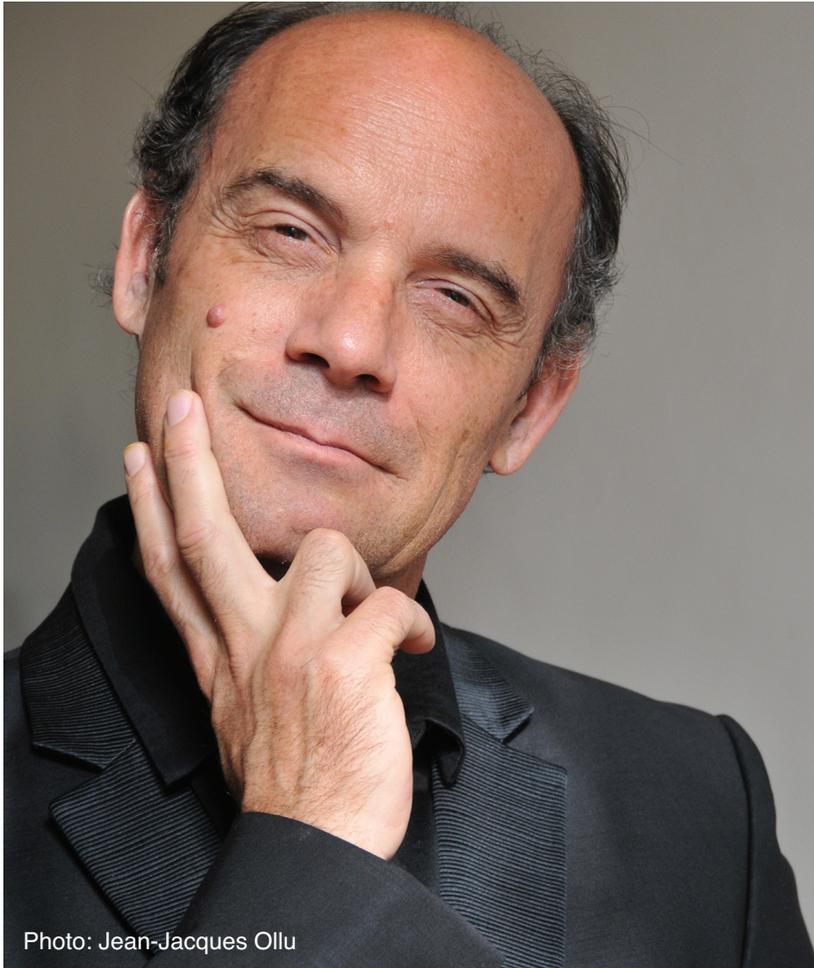


Photo: Jean-Jacques Ollu

French conductor Franck Ollu is a specialist in the fields of contemporary and French music. He has a particularly close relationship with Ensemble Modern, and has also recently worked with the Budapest Festival and Bavarian Radio Orchestras. As a conductor of opera, he has given the world premiere performances of contemporary works including Oscar Bianchi's *Thanks to my Eyes*, and Pascal Dusapin's *Penthésiléa* and *Passion*. He conducted the first performance of George Benjamin's first opera *Into the Little Hill* at Opéra Bastille and *Written On Skin* at the Bolshoi Theatre.

[www.askonasholt.com/artists/franck-ollu](http://www.askonasholt.com/artists/franck-ollu)

Xiaogang Ye is one of China's best-known contemporary composers whose work is acclaimed both in East Asia and the West for its colourful sonorities and lyrical expressiveness. Demonstrating Ye's deep love for ancient Chinese poetry, *Seven Episodes for Lin'an* is a large-scale symphonic canvas that sets famous texts for the first time in contemporary history, weaving their eloquent imagery with intricate and timeless melodies. *Twilight in Tibet* evokes the landscape of the Himalayas, while the *Tianjin Suite* reflects the diversity of Tianjin, a city with a profound historical and cultural heritage, expressed through Ye's signature combination of traditional and modern musical textures.

## XIAOGANG YE

(b. 1955)

DEUTSCHE  
STAATSPHILHARMONIE  
RHEINLAND-PFALZ



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|-------------|---|--------------|
| <b>1</b>    | <b>Twilight in Tibet</b><br>for tenor, horn and orchestra, Op. 41 (2002)                      | <b>18:50</b> |
| <b>2-8</b>  | <b>Seven Episodes for Lin'an</b> for soprano, tenor,<br>baritone and orchestra, Op. 63 (2011) | <b>34:17</b> |
| <b>9-12</b> | <b>Tianjin Suite</b> for orchestra, Op. 75 (2015-16)  | <b>19:37</b> |

### WORLD PREMIERE RECORDINGS

**Yuanming Song, Soprano** **4 5** • **Yijie Shi, Tenor** **1-3 7**

**Songhu Liu, Baritone** **6 8** • **Cong Gu, Horn** **1**

**Deutsche Staatsphilharmonie Rheinland-Pfalz**

**Stephan Malzew** **1 4 5 9-12** • **Franck Ollu** **2 3 6-8**

A detailed track list can be found inside the booklet.

The Chinese sung texts and English translations can be accessed at [www.naxos.com/libretti/579088.htm](http://www.naxos.com/libretti/579088.htm)

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