

## Law Wing-fai “Atmospheric Music Theatre” - Beyond the Senses

“Beyond the Senses” features the renowned Kunju artist Kong Aiping in her ground-breaking re-interpretation of classical Chinese poetry. Set against a serene garden, the main character Ru Yu wanders around and starts to recite and sing about the scenery around her. She eventually realizes that what she sees and hears are but illusory and unreal, and slowly comes to realize the enlightenment and transcendence of life. On the stage, amidst the light strums of the pipa and voice, all enter into a realm of meditation and contemplation.

Atmospheric Music Theatre is Law Wing-fai’s recent artistic direction which utilizes the contemporary theatre as a means of expression. Revolving around the natural timbres of Chinese musical instruments and coupled with poetry, songs, music, dance and various visual elements, it hopes to cultivate a mood for reflection as well as a taste of Oriental aesthetics. “When Petals Fall in Serenity”, the first of Law Wing-fai’s attempt at Atmospheric Music Theatre presented at the end of 2014, was inspired by the images of Dunhuang. “Beyond the Senses” strives to further explore the genre, turning to Chinese xiqu for aesthetic inspiration this time.

Artistic Director/Composer: Law Wing-fai

Music Director/Pipa: Wong Chi-ching

Set & Costume Design/Singing Bowls: Tsang Man-tung

Lighting Design: Leo Cheung

Sound Design: Chan Pui-ching

Kunju Performer: Kong Aiping

Xiao/Dizi: Zhang Fan

Soprano: Margaret Yim

Sheng/Japanese Shō: Loo Sze-wang

Yangqin: Alice Pan

Clarinet: Leung Chi-shing

Erhu: Zhao Guanjie/Shao Lin

Ruan: Lam Tsan-tong/So Pui-yi/Tong Ming-hok/Fong Yee-kwan

Ruan/Guzheng: Au Yuen-ying

Tickets : \$320 / \$260 / \$180

Tickets available from 1 April onwards at URBTIX outlets, on Internet, by mobile ticketing app MY URBTIX and credit card telephone booking. 50% discount for students, senior citizens and the disabled.

10% discount for single purchase of standard tickets for “Beyond the Senses” plus ONE additional Salon Concert (3 or 11 June); 15% discount for single

purchase of standard tickets for “Beyond the Senses” plus BOTH Salon Concerts (3 & 11 June).

Programme Enquiries: 2722-1650; [www.rhapsoarts.com](http://www.rhapsoarts.com)

Ticketing Enquiries: 3761-6661

Credit Card Telephone Booking: 2111-5999

Internet Booking: [www.urbtix.hk](http://www.urbtix.hk)

Programme around 90 minutes with no intermission.

Presented by: Wuji Ensemble

Venue and Ticketing Services Sponsored by: Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Sponsored by: Dunhuang Culture Promotion Foundation

Wuji Ensemble is financially supported by the Springboard Grant under the Arts Capacity Development Funding Scheme of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

## Programme

Prologue: Strolling in the Garden

Recitation

### **Section 1 Autumn Palette**

Autumn Leaves(Yanice Cheng)

Erhu Duo

The Shimmering Swirly Leaves(Yau May-kay)

Xiao/Sheng/Ruan

A Night of Oblivion(Law Wing-fai)

Singing&Dizi

### **Section 2 Water Zen**

A Pond of Scattered Duckweeds(Law Wing-fai)

Soprano&Clarinet

Diary of a Frog(Law Wing-fai)

Clarinet/Japanese Sho/Yangqin

Air Eleganza(Law Wing-fai) Xiao/JapaneseSho/Yangqin/Guzheng/Movements

### **Section 3 Listening to the Incense**

Tranquil as a Chrysanthemum(Law Wing-fai)

Pipa Solo

The Whispering Plum Blossoms(Law Wing-fai)

Singing&Dizi

An Empty Mountain(Improvisation)

Recitation/Pipa/Singing Bowls

### **Kong Aiping (*Kunju* Performer)**

A National Class One performer, Kong Aiping is currently the *Kunju* artistic advisor of Jiangsu Performing Arts Group. She graduated from Jiangsu Theatre Arts School in 1985, studying the role type of *guimendan* (young virtuous lady) with Zhang Xian, Zhang Xunpeng and Zhang Jiqing. She furthered her studies at the National Academy of Chinese Theatre Arts and graduated from the fourth class of the Advanced Professional Training Course in 2007. Her notable *Kunju* opera repertoire includes *The Palace of Eternal Youth*, *The Jade Hairpin*, *The Leifeng Pagoda*, *The Gift of a Sword from Baihua* and *The Secluded Boudoir*. She has also starred in the large-scale *Kunju* productions of *The Peony Pavilion* and *The Story of an Embroidered Jacket*.

### **Margaret Yim (Soprano)**

Margaret Yim graduated from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (APA), studying under Dr. Margreta Elkins. In her graduation year, she received the Hong Kong Jockey Club Music and Dance Fund Scholarship and furthered her study at Queensland Conservatorium of Music, Australia under Professor Jane Delpratt. During her studies in Australia, she won prizes from the Bach's Music Competition in Australia, Singing Contest for Asian Chinese in Taiwan as well as being the finalist of the San Francisco Opera Center Merola Program.

### **Wong Chi-ching (*Pipa*)**

Wong Chi-ching entered the China Broadcast Chinese Orchestra in 1976 and was the Section Leader of Plucked-strings and *Pipa* Principal of the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra (HKCO) from 1987-2013. Now an active soloist in the Greater China region, she founded Wuji Ensemble and Wuxin Ensemble in 2003. Besides busily engaged in ensemble training as Wuji's Music Director, Wong is also a keen supporter of contemporary music and has performed in international music festivals, as well as premiering new works in various dance programmes.