

# T'ang Quartet's fruitful partnerships



The T'ang Quartet played two works by Young Artist Award recipient Chen Zhangyi. PHOTO: CHANG TOU LIANG

Chang Tou Liang

Two works by Young Artist Award recipient Chen Zhangyi were on show, including the world premiere of Give And Take (Back And Forth), which comprised six short varied vignettes.

Chen's music blended aural lushness with gentle dissonances in a memorable way, apparent in the opening Towers And Fountains, a depiction of Singapore cityscapes; and Drunken Poets, where plucked pizzicatos and bowed strings merged seamlessly within a colourful canvas.

Ear-catching also were more rhythmic movements, such as the minimalist swagger of Gears And Cycles – Interlocked Or Night Grooves, where jazz, pop and rock rhythms provided a dynamic close.

The quartet's sensitive and perceptive insights made music come alive, replicated in Chen's Twin Cinema for string nonet (two string quartets and double bass), which saw a fruitful partnership with younger musicians.

Here, both quartets had separate narrative threads, representing different cultures (Venice and Singapore) with their respective interactions and reactions being the work's essence.

The concert closed with that favourite staple of the quartet repertoire, Maurice Ravel's String Quartet In F Major.

In a performance that luxuriated in lyricism and thematic cohesion, it was the pizzicato paradise of its Scherzo that piqued the ears, and the finale's irrepressible perpetual motion which brought on the loudest cheers.