

Trio  Oriens

&

**Phillip Sammons**

the storyteller and clarinetist

present

# Carnival of the Animals

a live interactive storytelling experience

Noon, November 28, 2023

Crain Garden, First Floor Dunn Tower

6565 Fannin St. Houston, TX 77030



Artwork by Gao Hang

# PROGRAM

Le Carnaval des animaux

Charles-Camille Saint-Saëns  
(1835-1921)

Introduction and Royal March of the Lion+  
Wild Asses (Swift Animals)  
Characters with Long Ears  
Rudolph, the Red-Nose Reindeer♪  
The Ox Song\*  
The Elephant  
Tortoises  
Kangaroos+  
Little Bees for clarinet and violin  
The Swan  
Aviary+  
The Cuckoo in the Depths of the Woods+  
Hens and Roosters+  
The woodpecker\*\*  
Aquarium+  
Pianists  
Fossils+  
Finale+

♪ Music of Seasonal Joy

\*Taiwanese Folksong/arr. ChingJu Shih

\*\*Hsu Ming-De

+Arranged by Olive Chen

♪ Seasonal music

Scripture writing: Phillip Sammons

~THANK YOU~

Much appreciation to Mr. Phillip Sammons  
for his creativity and musicality to make this project possible.

## OUR DISTINGUISH ARTIST

**Phillip Sammons** is proud to call himself a music educator. Passionate about young voices, he currently teaches 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade music at the St. John's School, where he also conducts the Lower School choir. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in music from the University of Houston and Louisiana State University, respectively. Previously, Phillip taught at Horn Elementary in Bellaire. During his time there, his choir performed alongside the Houston Boy Choir, earned recognition at local music competitions, and was invited to perform for the 2021 TMEA Convention. An avid clarinetist, Phillip teaches privately and continues to perform when given the opportunity. He is so thankful for the invitation to collaborate on such a joyful music project.



## ABOUT TRIO ORIENS



**Trio Oriens** (currently comprised of founder Dr. I-Ling Chen, founder Mrs. Olive Chen, and Dr. Shih-Ting Huang) draws together three outstanding musicians from Taiwan. After launching a successful inaugural season in the spring of 2010, the trio quickly became one of the most prolific chamber music ensembles in the Houston area. Recognized for their intellectual artistry, Trio Oriens brings to their audience innovative programs and a diverse repertoire including classical works, Taiwanese/Chinese music, Latin American, and contemporary compositions. Over the years, Trio Oriens has collaborated with virtuosic instrumentalists such as Richard

Nunemaker, Rodica Oancea-Gonzalez, and Wei Jiang as well as artist Hsiao-Nan Chen in a live Chinese watercolor painting. They are devoted to community outreach in local schools, nursing homes, and churches, gaining a wide and dedicated following, and have appeared as featured guests on Houston Public Radio's Front Row. Trio Oriens has premiered new compositions by Robert Nelson, Joe LoCascio, Stephen Yip and J. Todd Frazier and Joel Love. Their recording of Olivier Messiaen's Quartet for the End of Time is the soundtrack of documentary film Age of Iron and is collected by the Musical Instrument Museum in Phoenix, Arizona.

Trio Oriens is committed to education; their Junior Program has mentored many young musicians since being launched in 2015. Trio Junior members have enjoyed success in participating in the Houston Young Artist Concert and the 2020 Covid project "Carnival in Quarantine" was a triumphant collaboration of these young artists with international elements.

Annual Distinguished Young Artist of Taiwan in 1999, **Dr. I-Ling Chen** received her Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Maryland in December 2002, and the Master of Music degree in Piano Performance from the New England Conservatory of Music in 1998. As a former music faculty

member of Howard College in Columbia Maryland, Dr. I-Ling Chen has always dedicated herself to performance, education, and the community.

I-Ling was born and raised in Taiwan. She first started playing the piano when she was five years old. Through a national honors program, Dr. Chen was selected to attend the National University of the Arts, the most prestigious performing arts institution in Taiwan. After receiving the Special Prize in Best Collaborative Pianist in the Kuan-Tu New Voice Competition, she started expanding her repertoire in operas and chamber music. Subsequently, her first job as a rehearsal pianist at the National Taipei Opera Workshop began in her sophomore year in 1991 and she had numerous performances at the National Theatre in Taipei.

Dr. Chen settled in Houston Texas with her husband and two daughters in 2009. Trio Oriens, her beloved non-profit chamber music group was founded in the following spring. Besides being as music faculty and staff pianist at New England Conservatory's Predatory department, and Longy School of Music, Dr. Chen was also appointed as the staff pianist in the Moores School of Music, University of Houston, and as an organist/ pianist at Taylor Lake Christian Church in Seabrook Texas. She often serves as juries in contests and auditions including All-Region and All-State orchestra auditions of Texas Music Education Association, National Federation of Music Club's auditions, and as the chairperson of the Chamber Music division in the Texas Music Teachers Association in 2017-2020. Dr. Chen was newly appointed as the FASCA chamber orchestra's music conductor. Her students are constant winners at local music events and as regular visitors to local nursing homes to provide fun and quality music programs.

**Olive Chen** was born to a musical family and started studying music at age three. She won the National Youth Music Competitions in Taiwan in 1982 and 1983. As a result, she was admitted to Soo-Chow University through a program for the most elite aspiring performers. Mrs. Chen subsequently earned her master's degree from Rice University's Shepherd School of Music in 1993, where she studied under Shirley Trepel, the former principal cellist of the Houston Symphony. During the 1990 Aspen Festival she studied under David Finckel, a former member of Emerson String Quartet.

Olive Chen has performed as soloist and principal cellist in the Symphony of Southeast Texas, The Woodland Symphony, and Opera in The Heights, among other orchestras. Before coming to United States, Chen was a member of Taipei City Symphony Orchestra with which she toured Taiwan, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, the Philippines, and Hong Kong.

In 2010 she founded Trio Oriens. The piano trio has since become an outstanding chamber music group in Houston's musical landscape, giving seasonal concerts and premiering new pieces by composers such as Joe LoCasio and Stephen Yip.

Olive Chen is a well-known cello teacher in the greater Houston area. She has taught at Houston Community College and the Houston Youth Symphony. A number of her students have excelled in various contests and performances. She currently resides in Missouri City, Texas with her husband Mark Chen, a visual artist.

**Dr. Shih-Ting Huang** earned her Doctor of Musical Arts in Violin Performance and Pedagogy from the University of Houston with the Tomatz String Quartet Fellowship. Led by Andrzej Grabiec, she won the concerto competition of Moores School of Music in 2001 and was one the finalists of the concerto competition of Texas Music Festival in 2002. She received her Master of Music from the University of Cincinnati under the tutelage of Kurt Sassmannshaus. During the years in the US, she performed for numerous masterclasses given by James Tocco, Sylvia Rosenberg, Almita Vamos, Rugiero Riccil, Lynn Chang, James Buswell, and Tákacs String Quartet.

Dr. Huang has performed in the National Symphony Orchestra (Taiwan), National Taiwan Youth Orchestra (where she was the concertmistress), Aspen Festival Orchestra, Houston Grand Opera and Ballet, and numerous local orchestras. She is the concertmistress in the DVD "P.D.Q. Bach in Houston". In addition to performing, she maintains a large home studio. Dr. Huang was a faculty member (2002-2012) and later music director (2010 - 2012) of New Heart Christian School of Music, violin instructor and string ensemble director at Lonestar College Cy-Fair (2009 - 2011) and has been an instructor and concert coordinator for the Houston Taiwan Institute for Senior Citizens since 2003. To spread the love of classical music to more audiences, she hosted a radio program "Sky Theater" on Texas Chinese Radio station between 2008 and 2020. Recently she became a board member of the HTISC. Dr. Huang joined Trio Oriens in 2021.

#### **Trio Oriens Mission Statement:**

As a 501©3 nonprofit organization, Trio Oriens is committed to ensemble collaboration with outstanding musicians and is devoted in bringing innovative programs to include Asian music, especially Taiwanese, in all their performances. Trio Oriens has at least four regular concerts each calendar year, and they have also been active in various performing arts venues including community outreaches in local schools, nursing homes, hospitals, churches, radio shows and corporate events. In addition to their performance, Trio Oriens is also working on a special CD recording project and planning on concert tours outside of Houston. Their concert announcements reach more than 5000 people in Houston metropolitan and other areas.

More about [www.TrioOriens.org](http://www.TrioOriens.org)



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