



# Lenten Arts Series

5020 W Bellfort Ave, Houston, TX 77035

Trio  Oriens  
亞悅三重奏

## Journeys

Yi-Chih Lu Piano Trio No. 1 The Melody of Memory (world premier)  
Chin Tsai/arr. Olive Chen The Journey  
Camille Saint-Saëns Piano Trio No. 2, Op. 92



Yi-Chih Lu  
composer



Shih-Ting Huang  
violinist



I-Ling Chen  
pianist



Olive Chen  
cellist



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4pm, Sunday, February 18, 2024  
St. Johns Presbyterian Church  
5020 West Bellfort Avenue  
Houston, TX 77035

# Program

The Journey

Chin Tsai  
arr. Olive Chen

Piano Trio No. 1 “The Melody of Memory”  
(world premier)

Yi-Chih Lu

Piano Trio No. 2 in E minor, Op. 92

Charles-Camille Saint-Saëns  
(1835-1921)

- I. Allegro ma non-troppo
- II. Allegretto
- III. Andante con moto
- IV. Grazioso, poco allegro
- V. Allegro

## Thank you

## **Piano Trio “The Melody of Memory” Lu, Yi-Chih**

“The Melody of Memory” Piano Trio is a commissioned work by Trio Oriens in 2023 and marks my debut in piano trio composition. The inspiration for this piece comes from a classic folk song of the Hengchun region in Taiwan - “The Melody of Memory.” The genesis of this work lies in my deep affection for Taiwanese music and my profound love for the rich and diverse history of this land.

“The Melody of Memory” is a melodious folk tune, which has been passed down through generations in the Hengchun region. Its origins are shrouded in various interpretations, but the key theme is the sentiment of longing for one's hometown. Renowned for its free-form structure, the folk song allows for variations in melody and the freedom to create new lyrics, resulting in numerous versions. However, it generally maintains a structure of seven words per phrase and four phrases per verse, all beginning with the three characters "su-siang-ki."

While this piano trio adheres to the free-style approach in lyricism, the theme of longing for one's hometown serves as a base but is no longer the focal point. Through the familiar yet liberating melody, I intend for the audience to experience a spectrum of emotions and atmospheres beyond mere nostalgia for their homeland. I endeavor to weave scenarios between the musical notes, allowing listeners to reminisce while discovering novelty and exploration within the music.

“The Melody of Memory” Piano Trio is my declaration of emotions tied to Taiwan, and simultaneously, it represents a venture into musical exploration. I hope this composition guides the audience on an imaginative and emotionally stirring musical journey, resonating within the melody and uncovering their unique emotional stories.

## Our Distinguish Composer

Yi-Chih Lu, one of the most brilliant rising stars among the young generation of Taiwanese pianists, is the winner of Maria Canals, Sendai, Hummel and other ten piano competitions. His CD "My Chopin; My Brahms" has been awarded the Gold Melody Award for the "Best Interpreter of Classical Music". In the summer of 2016, while LU was touring the west coast of America, Washington State King County announced the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2016 as "Yi-Chih Lu Day", to recognize his achievement in piano performance.

Lu has been invited to give piano recitals in America, Europe and Asia, at such important venues as Musikverein in Vienna, Berlin Philharmonie, National Concert Hall in Taipei, and has appeared as soloist with important orchestras including Radio Symphony Orchestra Vienna, Buxtehude Jugend Orchester, BerlinClassicPlayers, Sendai Philharmonic, Sendai City Symphony Orchestra, Taipei Metropolitan Orchestra, Taiwan Philharmonic (NSO), Taipei Century Symphony Orchestra, Taipei Symphony Orchestra, Sun Symphony Orchestra, Taipei Philharmonic Youth Symphony Orchestra, and Arad Philharmonic, among others.

Born in Taiwan, Mr. Lu started the piano at the age of five and during his formative years he studied with Klaus Hellwig at the University of the Arts Berlin (Konzertexamen). In 2006, he received his Master Degree from the University for Music and Performing Arts Vienna, and the Vienna Cziffra Foundation awarded him the "Cziffra Prize", in recognition of his outstanding performance of G. Cziffra's Compositions.

He is now holding assistant professorships at the Taipei National University of the Arts.



## 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. 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 the 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, Ruggiero Ricci, 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 Lone Star 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(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Trio Oriens passionately explores the essence of chamber music through transcendent performances, mentorship, and innovative collaborations, embracing diverse themes. Guided by revered mentors, we shape intangible growth in esoteric realms, uniting audiences through extraordinary live experiences.

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



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