

Biography of Chen Yang

Chen Yang is a distinguished timpanist and percussionist born in Tainan, Taiwan. He obtained his Master of Music degree from New York University, specializing in percussion performance, and furthered his studies at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music in Singapore—where he received full scholarships throughout his six-year tenure in both Singapore and the United States. He currently serves as the Principal Percussionist and Timpanist of the Taiwan Artists Symphony Orchestra.

Chen Yang is highly versatile across various musical disciplines and is an exceptionally experienced orchestral percussionist and timpanist. With hundreds of performances in the orchestral field, he notably presented Beethoven's complete symphonies with the Taiwan Artists Symphony Orchestra in 2023. He has also served as the acting percussionist for the National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra and has repeatedly held the position of Principal Timpani for both the Tainan Municipal Symphony Orchestra and the Taiwan Soloist Symphony Orchestra. In addition, he is a frequent collaborator with numerous orchestras and chamber ensembles—including the Kaohsiung City Symphony Orchestra, Chiayi Philharmonic, Counterpoint Chamber Ensemble, Neoclassical Chamber Ensemble, Taipei Chamber Choir, Kaohsiung Municipal Wind Orchestra, and Chiayi United Wind Orchestra, among others.

As a solo timpanist and percussionist, Chen Yang has performed percussion concertos in several countries to critical acclaim. He also brings extensive experience in percussion ensemble and chamber music. While in New York, he studied chamber music for two years under Joshua Quillen, a founding member of the renowned percussion quartet So Percussion, thereby adopting the ensemble's distinctive stylistic approach. Additionally, he was a member of the FullStop Percussion Quartet, which was primarily active in New York.

Beyond his performance career, Chen Yang is passionately committed to advancing contemporary percussion music. In addition to continually presenting new works for percussion and chamber ensembles, he actively commissions compositions from contemporary composers—especially collaborating with emerging Taiwanese talents. In 2018, he co-founded the Cc Percussion

organization with fellow Taiwanese percussionist Tzu-En Cheng. This organization is dedicated not only to the performance and research of chamber music but also to enriching Taiwan's percussion scene by professionally representing leading international percussion instrument brands, thus revolutionizing the local market. Moreover, Chen Yang expands his musical versatility by performing as the drummer for the Unique Trio, exploring genres such as jazz and French chanson.

In the realm of music arts promotion, Chen Yang founded the Cc Music Center in 2020—the country's largest and sole music-sharing center dedicated to percussion. His innovative approach, which integrates sustainable business practices with artistic excellence, has established the center as a pivotal hub for musical arts in Southern Taiwan. The center regularly hosts concerts, lectures, and various events that nurture and promote local art.

Chen Yang currently teaches in music programs, percussion ensembles, orchestras, and wind bands at various schools across Tainan and Kaohsiung. He serves as an instructor for the Navy Band, Marine Corps Band, Nanzi Elementary School Arts Program, Anshun Junior High School Wind Ensemble, Jiali Junior High School Arts Program, Chang Jung University Wind Ensemble, and CTBC Financial Management College Orchestra. Additionally, he mentors the Youth Orchestra and Percussion Ensemble of the Taiwan Artists Symphony Orchestra, dedicating himself to nurturing young musicians.

Beyond his academic teaching, Chen Yang frequently conducts professional percussion masterclasses and music outreach programs at venues such as Weiwuying and across Taiwan. He also organizes percussion exchange programs and training camps, actively promoting percussion education and fostering artistic development.

Chen Yang received his timpanist training from the world-renowned solo timpanist Jonathan Haas. He has also studied under distinguished musicians including Jim Saporito—the drummer of the New York Philharmonic,

Philadelphia Orchestra, and assistant principal percussionist for the New York City Ballet Orchestra—Marimbaist and percussionist Simon Boyar, Singapore Symphony Orchestra's Principal Percussionist Jonathan Fox, and former Principal Timpani of the Kaohsiung Symphony Orchestra, Michael Ju.