



**REVOLUTION**  
A MUSIC ADVENTURE  
FROM THE BARRICADES OF TIME  
27 APRIL – 7 MAY 2017  
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## PRESS RELEASE

### A crossroads of international music making

#### For immediate release

The Canberra International Music Festival is a key event on the national calendar which connects the Australian musical scene to the rest of the world. Making and maintaining that connection continues to be a core value of the Festival, this year upheld with enthusiasm by a wealth of international stars on the running list. Highly-sought after musicians have engaged to join the Festival from all over the world – Europe, Asia and the Americas – making Canberra for ten days a hub of international music activity.

From Paris, the Festival brings to Australia the Van Kuijk Quartet. This ensemble represents a new generation of up-and-coming performers, already achieving international recognition for the stunning quality of their musicianship. With Israeli clarinetist Orit Orbach, the Quartet will bring to life two of classical music's pinnacle works in Concert 8 'Mozart Milestones,' and will perform alongside other artists in Concerts 11 and 13. From Belgium the Festival welcomes composer Frank Nuyts, whose 20<sup>th</sup> Piano Sonata will be heard for the first time ever in Concert 2 'The Velvet Revolution' – another world premiere on Australian soil. The Festival's Composer-in-Residence program takes up an international focus as well, welcoming to Australia the Chinese-American composer Chen Yi. Her work blends elements of Western classical music and traditional Chinese sound, and will be featured throughout the Festival.

Several of our international guests will be highlighted in dedicated concerts: 'Red Dragon' presents the China Orient Orchestra in Australia for the first time. This unique event brings together some of Beijing's most lauded Guzheng and Xinzheng performers (Chinese zither), who will present engaging music from many parts of their vast nation. In Concert 10, 'The Lion's Roar,' audiences will discover a chamber music ensemble with a subtle twist: the Ding Yi Music Company. This Singapore-based Chinese group has grown from student beginnings in 2007 to become an international champion of traditional and contemporary Chinese music. Their avowed mission is to establish a distinct identity for Singaporean-Chinese chamber music, and then to take it to the world. A new experience for many listeners will be the sound of the sheng, a Chinese mouth organ which will be played by virtuoso Loo Sze-wang in several concerts. Among other works, he will also perform the world premiere of a piece by Joyce Tang in Concert 12, 'Half the Sky.'

Another much-anticipated sound is that of the *Símon Bolívar* String Quartet, a Venezuelan group with strong roots in their nation's life-changing music education program *El Sistema*. The quartet comprises the principal string players of the celebrated *Símon Bolívar*

Symphony Orchestra, musicians who literally grew up performing together. The energy and drive of this ensemble has established them as international stars, and their 2012 disc release with Deutsche Grammophon secured their place in the musical firmament. Alexandre da Costa is another brilliant point in that sky, a Canadian-born violin virtuoso; with a slew of international prizes to his name, he is a highly sought-after soloist all over the world, but brings his skills and his Stradivarius to the Festival for our Opening Gala performance.

With so many international artists on the agenda, the Canberra International Music Festival continues to be an exhibition of how all lands and cultures can unite in the grand project of music-making.

**Tickets now available - book online @**

[www.cimf.org.au](http://www.cimf.org.au)

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#CIMF2017

For more information about the 2017 Canberra International Music Festival, please contact Marketing Coordinator Krista Vincent on 6182 0023 or [krista.vincent@cimf.org.au](mailto:krista.vincent@cimf.org.au)