

(+44) 7598489297

ZHENYAN LI

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PROFILE

A London-based Chinese composer, music educator and Chinese flute (dizi) player.

EDUCATION

- Royal Academy of Music (2021-2025) — Doctoral degree, under the supervision of professors Philip Cashian and David Sawer.
- Royal Academy of Music (2019-2021)— MMus degree (with distinction), under the supervision of Rubens Hernandez and Edmund Finnis.
- Royal Academy of Music (2015-2019)— Bachelor of Music degree on Composition, under the supervision of David Sawer.
- The high school attached to China conservatory (2009- 2015), under the supervision of Rui Xue.

EXPERIENCE

- In 09/2025, 'Orisons' for countertenor and ensemble was awarded First Prize and the Bach Excellent Creativity Special Award at the Bach International Competition.
- In 08/2025, has been commissioned to write a new opera as a part of the Rough for Opera 20, this work will be premiered in December in London.
- In 01/2025, has been selected to the 2025/2026 London Symphony Orchestra Panufnik Composers' Scheme.
- In 10/2024, Commissioned by the City of London Sinfonia to compose a large ensemble work for *The Exoplanets* theatre project; premiered at Norwich Theatre (2025) with a forthcoming London premiere at Hackney Empire (2026).

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- In 09/2024, has been partnered with the COMA Ensemble to develop a musical theatre piece featuring my performance on the Chinese flute (dizi).
- In 07/2024, Curated the concert programme 'Tracing the Butterfly...', at St Mary Le Strand, London. supported by the City Music Foundations.
- In 06/2024, '*Extrapolating*' for orchestra and dance was premiered by the London Philharmonic Orchestra at the Southbank Centre.
- - In 09/2023, '*Orisons*' for Countertenor and ensemble was premiered at Poly Theatre, Beijing, commissioned by Beijing International Music Festival and Mahler Foundation, and it was awarded First Prize and the Bach Excellent Creativity Special Award at the Bach International Competition in 2025.
- In 03/2023, 'Hide-and-Seek' for Oboe and Bassoon, written for London Symphony Orchestra, was premiered at LSO St Luke's lunch time concert.
- In 01/2023. 'Bamboo Echoes' for piano, percussion, flute/Chinese flute and cello. commissioned by Tangram Collective, was premiered on 27th of January at LSO St Luke's, UK.
- In 12/2022, 'Prism' for harpsichord, theorbo and bass viol, commissioned by Theorbo Today was premiered in Richmond.
- In 10/2022, '*The Mist*' for solo guitar, commissioned by the International Guitar Society, was premiered at King's Place, London.
- In 09/2022, Opera '*Cummings & Goerings*' was premiered as a part of the 'Tête-À-Tête' Festival at the Cockpit Theatre.
- In 09/2022, '*Hashigakari*' for IEMA ensemble was premiered at the Lucerne Festival, under the mentorship of Wolfgang Rihm and Dieter Ammann. The work was subsequently selected for Ensemble Modern's *Happy New Ears* concert series and performed at Oper Frankfurt in 12/2022.

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- In 09/2021, *Masks* for three violas commissioned by Trio Estatico was recorded at the Cité de la Musique in Paris, and received the premiere in Amsterdam.
- In 09/2022, *Joker* for piano solo received the online premier by the pianist Benjamin Powell, as a part of the Psappa 'Composing for...' scheme. It has been to selected to the Psappa 'De Profundis' live concert programme in January, 2023.
- 2019-now: has joined the SOAS University of London world music department as a Chinese flute teacher, and the London Chinese Opera Studio for regular traditional Chinese opera performances.