

Zichan Yang

Ms. Zichan Yang, a distinguished Chinese-Canadian Guzheng and Guqin performer, educator, and cultural ambassador, graduated from the Shenyang Conservatory of Music with a bachelor's degree in Music Education and Performance. She is renowned for her artistic depth, virtuosic stage presence, and outstanding contributions to music education.

Ms. Yang currently serves as a Performance Instructor in the Faculty of Music at Carleton University in Canada, and is recognized as one of the leading figures in promoting Chinese traditional music across North American universities.

Founder and Director of the Zichan International Arts School (ZIAS) in Ottawa, Ms. Yang also serves as a Cultural Representative of the Overseas Chinese Academy of Culture. As an official partner of the Central Conservatory of Music's Overseas Examination Program, she has made significant contributions to cultural exchange and music education between China and Canada.

Since 2003, Ms. Yang has been an active figure on the international stage, dedicated to the inheritance and innovation of Guzheng and Guqin art, as well as to fostering dialogue and fusion between Eastern and Western musical cultures. Her performances are celebrated for their elegance, vitality, and expressive depth, blending classical Eastern aesthetics with contemporary artistry. She has been praised as "the dancer of the fingertips" (Adrienne Clarkson), embodying both strength and grace in her music.

In 2004, Ms. Yang's ZIAS pioneered a systematic approach to Chinese music education in North America. She has published bilingual Guzheng teaching materials and trained numerous young musicians who have achieved success on international stages. In addition to her teaching role at Carleton University, she has been invited to lecture on Chinese classical music at Queen's University and other prestigious institutions, promoting the understanding and appreciation of Chinese traditional music within Western academia.

As an international music adjudicator and artistic director, Ms. Yang has served on the jury panels of major competitions including the Canadian International Music Competition, the New York Carnegie Hall International Music Competition, Youthful Expressions – BUC's Black History Month Competition, the Kiwanis Music Festival, and the Mozart International Music Festival. Her students have won numerous top prizes in national and international competitions. She herself has received multiple honors, including the CIMC-MOMA Best Teacher Gold Award, the Champion Mentor Award, the Ottawa Kiwanis Festival First Prize Teacher Award, and the Central Conservatory of Music Outstanding Overseas Educator Award. In 2025, her student once again achieved First Place at the Ontario OMFA World Music Competition, reaffirming her authority and influence in international music education.

Beyond performance and teaching, Ms. Yang is also a prominent promoter of intercultural exchange. In 2019, she successfully curated and directed the large-scale concert "A Hundred

Guzhengs in Harmony – Blossoms of Talent,” which received wide acclaim and became a milestone event showcasing the beauty of Chinese traditional music abroad. In 2023, she was awarded the Canada Medal for Cultural Harmony by the Governor General of Canada. Between 2023 and 2025, she served as an adjudicator for the Boao International Arts Festival in China, and as a guest judge for the Mozart International Music Festival at the Musikverein Wien of Vienna, bringing the ethereal sound of the Guzheng to world-class stages.

Currently serving as President of the Canadian International Cultural Heritage Integration Association, Ms. Yang continues to bridge cultures through art and music. Her artistic journey reflects both the profound heritage of Eastern traditions and the openness of contemporary global culture. Through her music, she connects hearts across borders, allowing the timeless resonance of the strings to compose a new symphony of cultural harmony.