



夜行者

NIGHT WALKER
THE ALBUM

AN ORIGINAL BY NEIL CHUA



Scan the QR Code
to download the
digital album

About the Album

An immersive journey awaits as you journey through the five stages of the night. Open your mind, cast away the norms, let your imagination run wild. Hear the ruan like you never heard before. Feel the music as it tickles through the night.

Open your mind, ears and heart and enjoy the different tunes of the ruan and find your own escape.

Tracklist

TRACK 1	First Night Watch: The Challenge of Creation	一更： 窘境、创作
TRACK 2	Second Night Watch: Little Sparks of inspirations	二更： 零星、灵感
TRACK 3	Third Night Watch: Connections, Corrections	三更： 修炼、修正
TRACK 4	Fourth Night Watch: Contemplation and Reflection	四更： 寻思、反思
TRACK 5	Fifth Night Watch: Wishes and Consolidation	五更： 期许、整合

Neil Chua 蔡为仲

Composer, Ruan

作曲, 阮

Neil is the first musician from the Shanghai Conservatory of Music to receive a Master's Degree in Music - ruan. His fluidity in melding different cultures led to an invitation to participate in the highly acclaimed international music exchange programme, OneBeat 2014, organised by the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs to educate and promote ruan to students and musicians from around the world. Through his passion and involvement in cultural music, he earned a place in cello maestro Mr. Yoyo Ma's Silkroad's Global Musicians Workshop where international musicians learnt from one another's traditions and incorporated them into their own artistic voices. His dedication to the traditional arts led him to be the first artist-in-residency for the inaugural National Arts Council Stamford Arts Centre Traditional Arts Residency Programme. Neil also founded RuanAtWorkz Musical Arts (R.A.W.), a charity that promotes traditional culture, music, art and other forms of traditional values.

蔡为仲以卓越的成绩毕业于上海音乐学院并授予文学（音乐）硕士学位，系该院首位阮演奏硕士。他带着鲜明的演奏风格，常与不同领域的艺术家们进行着实验与合作，擅将不同文化元素融合到自己的作品中，也为其作品树立了独特之处。他曾受邀参与美国国务院教育与文化事务局所发起的国际音乐交流计划“OneBeat 2014”和大提琴家马友友先生所号召的“丝绸之路全球音乐家工作坊”等国际交流，并把阮带到了国际舞台与外国民众、学生乃至来自世界各地的艺术家们分享了阮的艺术魅力。此外，他为新加坡艺术理事会遴选入驻史丹福艺术中心传统艺术驻馆计划的首位艺术工作者，也是黯乐房 (R.A.W.) 的创始人之一。



Night Walker is commissioned by Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre and is part of the Cultural Extravaganza 2021.
《夜行者》是由新加坡华族文化中心委约创作，“华彩 2021”文化节表演节目之一。

Origins of Ruan

The origin of the string instrument “Ruan” is believed to be related to the battle of the Great Wall in the early Qin Dynasty. There were speculations that the “Ruan” was evolved from the string instrument “Xian Tao” at that time. However, it is also said that “Ruan” was made by a musician appointed by Emperor Wu of the Han Dynasty with reference to other musical instruments, as part of the dowry in Princess Wusun’s royal marriage in a faraway kingdom. At that time, it was known as the “Qin Pipa”, “Han Pipa” or “Qin Han Zi”.

In the Han and Jin Dynasties, the performing art of “Qin Pipa” had developed to a mature level. Among the many musicians who play the “Qin Pipa”, Ruan Xian, one of the Seven Sages of the Bamboo Grove, was the most famous. Due to the rise of “Qu Xiang Pipa” in later years, the “Qin Pipa” started to be on decline and forgotten. In the Tang Dynasty, the instrument was discovered in Ruan Xian’s tomb and found to be made by him, and hence named “Ruan Xian” (also known as “Ruan” in short). During the Tang and Song dynasties, the popularity of the “Ruan” peaked as it was valued and well-loved by patrons of court music and the literati.

Following the decline of royal court music and society in the Yuan and Ming Dynasties, song and dance music was no longer exclusive to royalty in the palace and became mainstream amongst the masses. Folk artists started to modify the shape of the “Ruan” to adapt it into an instrument for musical accompaniment. In later years, the “Ruan” had basically lost its status of popularity, leading to a significant decline in its form and functions, which also reduced its use in artistic expression.

Fortunately, the “Ruan” was given a new lease of life in the 1920s, with scholars painstakingly conducting research to produce replicas and make further modifications to it. The acoustic potential of the “Ruan” was given due recognition as it became incorporated into large orchestras. Even till now, the reformation of the “Ruan” is still being fine-tuned. In the 1990s, a new series of “Ruans” was successfully developed, consisting of the Treble “Gao Yin Ruan”, Alto “Xiao Ruan”, Tenor “Zhong Ruan” Bass “Da Ruan” and Contrabass “Di Yin Ruan”, the different sizes of “Ruan”, creating new combinations suit for different performances.

《阮》

关于阮的起源或与初秦长城之役时有关，疑似它是当时弦鼗的遗制；但也有说阮是汉武帝命其乐匠参考其他乐器所制，以作为乌孙公主远嫁番国的陪嫁品。那时称为“秦琵琶”，“汉琵琶”或“秦汉子”。

汉、晋朝时“秦琵琶”演奏艺术已经发展到成熟的地步，在众多“秦琵琶”乐师中则以竹林七贤中的阮咸最为著名。之后，由于“曲项琵琶”的兴起，“秦琵琶”开始被淘汰和遗忘。唐朝时，人们却在阮咸墓里找到了这件乐器，经过考证后才确定“此阮咸所作器也”，因此也就称它为“阮咸”（也简称阮）。唐、宋朝时期是阮最鼎盛时期，从宫廷雅乐到文人墨客都非常受重视和喜爱这件乐器。

到了元、明朝时，宫廷雅乐的萎缩和社会开始转衰，歌舞乐的主流也从宫廷转向民间，阮也随之流入民间。民间艺人开始在阮的形制上进行改革，以做为曲艺里的伴奏乐器。后来，阮基本已经褪去了盛行的光环，形制与功能的大大衰退，也降低了其艺术表现力。

所幸在二十年代时，学者经过一番考查与研究，开始仿制和改革了阮并把它编入大乐队中认定了阮的潜在潜能。至今，阮的改革还在不断的完善中，九十年代时就成功的研发出了以高音阮、小阮、中阮、大阮和低音阮的系列阮，这也为华族器乐带来了新的生命力。

The Night Watch System

In ancient China, precise timekeeping instruments were not available in the homes of common people, and this led to the development of the “Night Watch” system for the keeping track of time at night. The watchman is responsible for hitting gongs (or wooden clappers) in different villages and towns, announcing the time with distinct gong sounds every two hours.

In addition to reporting the time, the watchman is also responsible for patrolling the streets and delivering warnings, but his main duty is still ensuring the public security of villages, towns and residents. However, with the popularization of clocks and watches, this custom and traditional occupation is currently facing elimination and gradually disappearing from the society of today.

《打更》

基于中国古时，平民百姓家里没有精准的计时仪器，为了掌握晚上时间便出现了打更制度。由更夫负责打着铜锣（或梆子）走遍村落、城镇；每隔两小时以不同的打更声来宣告时间。

更夫除了报时之外也负责巡逻，维持治安和警示通报等工作，主要确保村落、城镇和居民的安全。但随着钟表的普及，这种传统习俗和职业也逐渐的在现今社会中消失了。

The following are common gong sounds for different night watch periods:

以下是常见的打更声和对应的时间:

Time 打更时间	Sounds 打更声	Messages 打更警示语
19:00–21:00 First Night Watch 一更	One long gong sound followed by one short gong sound: Dong... Dong! 一慢一快：咚！——咚！	The weather is dry, beware of fire hazards. 天干物燥，小心火烛
21:00–23:00 Second Night Watch 二更	Consecutive short gong sounds: Dong! Dong! Dong! Dong! 连续一下又一下：咚! 咚!、咚! 咚!	Close all doors and windows to prevent theft. 关门关窗，防偷防盗
23:00–01:00 Third Night Watch 三更	One long gong sound followed by two short gong sounds: Dong...! Dong! Dong! 一慢两快：咚！——咚! 咚!	Be safe and well. 平安无事
01:00–03:00 Fourth Night Watch 四更	One long gong sound followed by three short gong sounds: Dong...! Dong! Dong! Dong! 一慢三快：咚——咚! 咚! 咚!	Protect yourself from the freezing weather. 天寒地冻
03:00–05:00 Fifth Night Watch 五更	One long gong sound followed by four short gong sounds: Dong...! Dong! Dong! Dong! Dong! 一慢四快：咚——咚! 咚! 咚! 咚!	Rest early, rise early. Take good care of your health. 早睡早起，保重身体

PRODUCED BY 制作

RAW
音樂坊

RUAN AT WORKZ

MUSICAL ARTS

Music Arrangement & Production Huang Peh Linde

Recording & Mixing Huang Peh Linde

Special Thanks to — Cultural Matching Fund,
Hong Leong Foundation, National Arts Council,
The Harmony Fund, Tote Board Arts Grant,
Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre