

MSM CONSULATE SERIES

Rhythm as Language: **A Dialogue**

Ju, Tzong-Ching, Ju Percussion Group

Hwang, Kuen-Yean, Ju Percussion Group

She-e Wu, MSM Percussion Faculty

Chris Hanning, Professor of Percussion and Dean
at West Chester University

*This discussion is part of the MSM Consulate Series and
conducted in partnership with
Taipei Cultural Center in New York (TCC).*

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2026 | 7 PM
ALAN M. AND JOAN TAUB ADES PERFORMANCE SPACE

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PROGRAM

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In 2026, The Taipei Cultural Center in New York (TCC) is celebrating their 35th anniversary, coinciding with the U.S. 250th anniversary. To mark this milestone, TCC presents this special program focused on Taiwan–U.S. cultural exchange.

For the first time in New York, a dialogue between two global artistic perspectives will explore how rhythm shapes cultural identity, connects Eastern and Western musical traditions, and fosters cross-cultural exchange in the performing arts. The conversation will highlight Ju Tzong-Ching (Founder of Ju Percussion Group)'s decades-long experience promoting Taiwanese percussion worldwide, alongside the U.S. perspective on contemporary performing arts and cultural dialogue.

Ju Percussion Group has performed across 35 countries and cultivated over 155,000 students through its education initiatives, serving as a powerful ambassador for Taiwan's contemporary arts. This program provides a unique platform for audiences to experience cross-cultural artistic exchange in action, gain insight into contemporary percussion, and appreciate how Taiwan and the U.S. can creatively engage through the arts.

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Ju, Tzong-Ching, Founder and Artistic Director of Ju Percussion Group

A visionary percussionist who has transformed Taiwan's musical landscape over the last four decades, Ju Tzong-Ching was inducted into the Percussive Arts Society (PAS) Hall of Fame in 2016, the first person from the Mandarin-speaking world to receive this honor.

In 1986, he founded Taiwan's first percussion ensemble, the Ju Percussion Group (JPG). Three years later, the Ju Percussion Group Foundation was formed to manage JPG's administrative affairs. In 1991, he established the Ju Percussion Music School, the first domestically developed percussion education system in Taiwan.

In 1993, he organized the Taiwan International Percussion Convention (TIPC),

successfully introducing the most avant-garde trend of percussion art in the world to Taiwan. In 1999, he founded the Taipei International Percussion Summer Camp (TIPSC), giving an opportunity for percussion students to expand their musical visions.

At present, he is the Artistic Director of Ju Percussion Group, Chair Professor at Taipei National University of the Arts (TNUA), and Emeritus Professor at National Taiwan University of Arts (NTUA).

Christopher Hanning, Dean & Professor of Percussion at the Wells School of Music at West Chester University

Dr. Chris Hanning is a Professor of Percussion and Dean of the Wells School of Music at West Chester University of Pennsylvania. As an active jazz and classical percussionist, he has performed throughout Europe, South America, and the United States with engagements at such prestigious venues as Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, and Royal Albert Hall in London. Chris has recorded several CD's with many artists over the years including numerous recordings for NFL Films that won several Emmy Awards. You can hear Chris every year when the Lombardi Trophy music is played during the Super Bowl or if you visit the NFL Experience 4D Theater in NYC. Chris' most recent recording is with the TurksHeadKnot Quintet "Would'a...Could'a...Should'a" available on select streaming services. Chris is an artist/clinician for Vic Firth, Pearl/Adams, Remo, and Zildjian and has presented clinics at universities, conferences, and percussion festivals across the United States and abroad. Chris served in leadership roles for over 20 years with the Percussive Arts Society and served as the President in 2019 and 2020.

Hwang, Kuen-Yean, Senior Member of Ju Percussion Group

Hwang, Kuen-Yean joined the group in 1992, graduated from the Taipei National University of the Arts (TNUA) and received his master's degree in percussion and jazz performance at the University of Southern California (USA) in 1998, and received his Ph.D in percussion from the TNUA in 2011. Hwang studied percussion with professor Ju, Tzong-Ching, Kuo, Kwang-Yuan, and Erik Forrester. Besides being a great performer, Hwang has outstanding ability as an arranger and composer. In June, 1995, he was commissioned by the Japan Percussion Society to compose "Formosa" which premiered at the Japan Percussion Festival in 1995. "Pacific Image", composed in 1998, was premiered by Seoul Percussion Group at the 1999 Taipei International Percussion Convention (TIPC). In 1999, Hwang hold recitals in Taipei, Taichung and Kaohsiung.

At present, Hwang is the senior member of Ju Percussion Group and master of

JPG Percussion Academy, the President of Taiwan Chapter of Percussive Arts Society (PAS), and an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Music at the TNUA.

She-e Wu, MSM Percussion Faculty

She-e Wu has appeared as a solo artist at the 25th, 27th, and 30th Percussive Arts Society International Convention; Journées de la Percussion, NancyPhony Festival, perKumania festival, and PercuPassion Festival in France; Bach Symposium/ Bach Variation Festival in Lincoln Center; Taiwan Connection concert at Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center; International Percussion Festival and InterAmerican Music and Arts Festival Orchestra in Puerto Rico; Festival Internacional de Percusion “Ritmo Vital 2001” and National Percussion Convention in Spain; Fukui Marimba Seminar in Japan; Giornate della Percussione in Italy; Percussion Festival in Greece; Taipei International Percussion Convention, and many other festivals. She has performed with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at Carnegie Hall and Symphony Center, Chicago Chamber Musicians, and the Philadelphia Orchestra Chamber Music Series in Pearlman Hall at the Kimmel Center. Ms. Wu has performed as guest recitalist and clinician at universities, colleges, and conservatories in France, Belgium, Italy, Sweden, Denmark, England, Scotland, Germany, Spain, Greece, Japan, and Korea, as well as American music institutions and numerous PAS Days of Percussion throughout the United States.

Ms. Wu’s composition *Blue Identity* was written for Frederic Macarez and the Paris Conservatory CNR percussion ensemble. *Blue Identity* was premiered in Paris at the Journées de la Percussion festival, and the American premiere took place at the 27th Percussive Arts Society International Convention. *K-PAX*, a piece for marimba duo, was commissioned by the Taipei International Percussion Convention in 2002 and was premiered in Taiwan and Japan. *UP!*, for solo percussion and seven percussionists, received its premiere at the Midwest Clinic in Chicago in December 2009. The world premiere of Ms. Wu’s latest composition, *What the Sun Would Say to the Sky*, for marimba quartet, was premiered at PASIC 2011 in Indianapolis.

Ms. Wu has recorded an extensive range of works for marimba. She is additionally a clinician and recitalist for the Majestic, Mapex, Innovative Percussion, and Evans and Zildjian companies. Her signature mallets with Innovative Percussion are available worldwide. She plays on a concert marimba of her design by Majestic. Ms. Wu is associate professor of music and the head of the percussion program at Northwestern University.