

Shanghai Symphony Orchestra

Shanghai Symphony Orchestra is the earliest and the most well known ensemble of its kind in Asia, through which the Chinese symphonic music develops. Originally known as the Shanghai Public Band, it developed into an orchestra in 1907, and was renamed the Shanghai Municipal Council Symphony Orchestra in 1922. Notably under the baton of the Italian conductor Mario Paci, the orchestra promoted Western music and trained Chinese young talents very early on in China, and introduced the first Chinese orchestral work to the audience. It is hence reputed as the “the best in the Far East.” The history of Shanghai Symphony Orchestra may be referred as the history of China’s symphonic music development.

Spanning three different centuries, the Shanghai Symphony has now embraced a new era; it has held over ten thousand concerts, including premiere performances of several thousand musical works, and has collaborated with many guest artists (conductors, soloists and vocalists) of world renown. The orchestra has gained a reputation as the most authoritative explainer of Chinese symphonic compositions while promoting them with every possible endeavor. The Shanghai Symphony has become increasingly influential both at home and abroad, after most recently completing the audio and video recordings of such excellent music as: Zhu Jian’er’s Symphonies, Tan Dun’s multimedia concerto *The Map*, and music for the prize-winning film (Oscar and Grammy Awards) *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*.

Since the 1970s, the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra has toured extensively abroad. In 1990, the orchestra made its debut at Carnegie Hall in New York; in 2003, it performed in 11 cities in the US; in 2004, it toured Europe to celebrate the Sino-French Cultural Year. The Orchestra’s 125th Anniversary Celebration Concert, given at the Berliner Philharmonie (the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra is the first Chinese symphony orchestra to play in this hall), was hailed as a great success. Maestro Long Yu is currently Music Director of the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra.

Shanghai Symphony Orchestra History

Year	Principal Conductor or		Name Used
1879	Jean Rémusat	Conductor	Shanghai Public Band
1881	M.Vela	Conductor	Shanghai Public Band
1900	Valenza	Conductor	Shanghai Public Band
1907	Rudolf Buck	Conductor	Shanghai Public Band
1919	Mario Paci	Conductor	Shanghai Public Band
1922	Mario Paci	Conductor	Shanghai Municipal Orchestra
1942	Arrigo Foa	Conductor	Shanghai Philharmonic Orchestra
1945	(guest conductors only)		Shanghai Municipal Symphony Orchestra
1946	Henry Margolinski	Conductor	Shanghai Municipal Symphony Orchestra
1947	Arrigo Foa	Conductor	Shanghai Municipal Symphony Orchestra
1949	Arrigo Foa	Conductor	Shanghai People's Municipal Symphony
1951	Huang Yijun	Conductor	Shanghai People's Symphony Orchestra
1953	Huang Yijun	Deputy President	Shanghai Symphony Orchestra
1956	Huang Yijun	President	Shanghai Symphony Orchestra
1967	Cao Peng	Conductor	Shanghai Symphony Orchestra
1977	Huang Yijun	President	Shanghai Symphony Orchestra
1984	Chen Xieyang	President	Shanghai Symphony Orchestra
1991	Chen Xieyang	Music Director	Shanghai Symphony Orchestra
2009	Yu Long	Music Director	Shanghai Symphony Orchestra