

Kevin Zhao (Artistic Director)

Pianist Dr. Kevin Zhao is both an active performer and music event organizer. During past years, he has served as the Head of Asian Culture Exchange Department at the Royal Academy of Music, Aarhus/Aalborg, the executive director of Dragon Culture Exchange NGO - a non-profit organization for arranging cultural events between Europe and Asia, during years 2015-2020 numerous concerts were organized Ireland, Denmark, Finland, Singapore, Estonia, Poland, China, etc. After receiving a Piano Performance BA degree from China, he also developed an interest in business and entered a Global Business Management MA course. A wide range of interests and passion for broadening activities then brought Kevin to Europe, where he obtained two MA degrees (piano and accompaniment) from the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre. Later, during his PhD studies, he further developed himself at the Royal Irish Academy of Music in Dublin with Dearbhla Collins. With a fondness for Irish music, he then released a CD “Beloved Irish Tunes.” Dr. Kevin Zhao has participated in the jury work of many piano competitions in Europe and Asia. He is the founder and artistic director of the Odin International Music Festival, which was established in 2013. Currently, he holds several grants from the Chinese government for music research on both Western and Asian topics. Dr. Kevin Zhao has been appointed visiting professor in China Shaunliu Arts Music College in 2018. Most recently, he has been invited to be the guest professor in China HN Education College. Some examples of Dr. Kevin Zhao’s activities include the following: a concert with Estonian pianist Peep Lassmann (former rector of the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre) in China, a concert tour in China-North Europe with Danish cellist Henrik Brendstrup, a concert in Tallinn with Japanese pianist Aya Tominaga, a concert in collaboration with the Embassy of Ireland, Estonia to celebrate Saint Patric’s Day with Irish soprano Sarah Brady, a concert with Estonian pianist Marko Martin in Shanghai, academic activities with Danish saxophonist Claus Olesen in Jiangsu China, master classes with Danish pianist Soren Rastogi in Shandong, an academic visit with Danish singer Robert Vinther in Chongqing China, master classes with Latvian pianist Andrejs Osokins in Zhengzhou China, a performance in a Chinese New Year Concert with Swedish dancer Liisa Veiderma in Sichuan China, a concert performance with Latvian flautist Veronika Gzirišvili in China, a performance in Vienna with Thai pianist Jutiseth Chinavicharana. Also being active in music management, he has arranged masterclasses and performance for Polish choreographer Karol Urbanski in Henan, China taking place during the upcoming year. Kevin has organized summer camps and educational visits to Poland, Denmark, Italy, UK, China,

Germany. He had academic visits in Academy of Music in Kraków; Academy of Music, University of Zagreb; Academy of Music in Pula, Croatia; and Conservatorio di Musica “Luigi Canepa” di Sassari; Jāzeps Vītols Latvian Academy of Music; Vilnius Academy of Arts, Academy of Music of University in Macedonia, Department of Musical of the University of Pristina; the Central Conservatory of Music, China; the Shanghai Conservatory of Music; the Sichuan Conservatory of Music. Dr. Kevin Zhao is a member of numerous associations such as the European Piano Teachers Association Ireland, the European Chamber Music Teachers’ Association, the European Association for Music in Schools, the China Music Education Association, the coordinator for “Sino Culture Exchange Program,” and the artistic director of the China-Europe Music Center in Shanghai.