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Although Dr. Yu Long is one of the pre-eminent conductors of our time, he did not embark on a traditional musical career at an early age, unlike most of his contemporaries worldwide. His generation was unique. They grew up during the years of social transformation in China but later had the opportunity to rediscover and rebuild their humanistic education in music and the arts.

Born in Shanghai, Maestro Yu grew up surrounded by a family of musical virtuosos. Having been steeped in a rich musical culture since childhood, he was influenced by what he saw and heard.

It was against this backdrop that his first exposure to Western classical music — Mozart's Symphony No. 40 — was a profoundly transformative experience, inspiring him to pursue a life in music at the highest level.

Maestro Yu began his studies at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music before continuing his musical training at the Berlin University of the Arts. By the age of 26, he had already conducted his first concert and soon became the first resident conductor of the Thüringen Philharmonie Gotha-Suhl in Germany, both remarkable accomplishments given his relatively late start.

After honing his craft in Europe, Maestro Yu returned home with a bold vision. At the age of just 33, he established the Beijing Music Festival, widely recognized as China's first professional music festival. Today, he continues to play multiple leadership roles, including artistic director and chief conductor of the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra (SSO), China's oldest orchestra, established in 1879. He is also the co-founder and artistic director of the China Philharmonic Orchestra and maintains an active international presence as a chief conductor and artistic director.

As its conductor, Maestro Yu has shaped the SSO into what he describes as more than an orchestra; it is a cultural institution. Under his leadership, the SSO has expanded its global collaborations, educational initiatives, and commissioning of new works, becoming a major force in Asia's classical music landscape. Moreover, he has become the first Chinese conductor to be signed by the prestigious Deutsche Grammophon label, making him a deeply influential figure in introducing Chinese musical traditions and orchestras to a global audience.

At the heart of the maestro's artistic vision lies a commitment to encouraging in-depth dialogue between Chinese and international musical cultures is central to the maestro's artistic vision. In his programming for the SSO, he often bridges Eastern and Western traditions, reflecting his belief that music offers many ways of understanding the same ideas. Maestro Yu believes exchanges like these are like seeing the same picture in oil painting and Chinese ink

余隆博士乃當代知名的傑出指揮大師，然而與許多自幼浸潤樂壇的國際名家不同，他並非從小走在一條傳統的音樂教育之路。余指揮形容，他們那一代人極為獨特，成長於中國社會變革的時代，後來才有機會重新探索音樂與藝術的人文教育。

余指揮生於上海，出身著名音樂世家。自幼深受濃厚音樂文化薰陶，耳濡目染。

他與西方古典音樂的相遇，是初次聽到莫扎特《第四十交響曲》。那場心靈震撼彷彿春雷破曉，改寫了他的人生軌跡，同時點燃了他將一生奉獻予音樂藝術的至高理想。

余指揮先就讀於上海音樂學院，後負笈柏林藝術大學深造。他於二十六歲便執棒指揮了人生首場音樂會；隨即出任德國圖林根州交響樂團的第一常任指揮。對一位起步較晚的音樂家而言，此番成就尤顯卓著，充分可見其天賦與毅力。

在歐洲歷練數載後，余指揮懷抱宏願回到祖國。三十三歲那年，他創辦北京國際音樂節，這被世界公認為中國首個專業級音樂節，為中國古典音樂發展開啟了新篇章。多年來，他持續身兼多項要職，包括擔任上海交響樂團的音樂總監兼首席指揮。該團創立於1879年，乃中國歷史最悠久的交響樂團。此外，他亦是中國愛樂樂團的共同創辦人兼藝術總監，並以藝術總監及首席指揮之姿縱橫國際舞台，與世界一流藝術家合作無間。

在余指揮的領導下，上海交響樂團不斷蛻變昇華。誠如其所言，這不僅是一支樂團，更是一所文化機構。他積極拓展國際合作，推動音樂教育，以及委約新作創演，使樂團成為亞洲古典樂壇舉足輕重的力量。同時，他獲全球殿堂級古典音樂唱片品牌德意志留聲機唱片公司青睞，簽約成為旗下首位中國指揮家，成功讓更廣泛的全球聽眾認識中國的音樂傳統與優秀樂團，彰顯其深遠影響力。

余指揮的藝術願景高瞻遠矚。他一直致力推動中外音樂文化的深度對話，為上海交響樂團編排曲目時，往往融匯東西方的傳統，以呼應他對音樂的核心信念：相同的思想，可以用不同方式來詮釋。

painting—different perspectives, different feelings. Through this approach, he has contributed to a better appreciation of Chinese composers among international audiences while exposing Chinese audiences to new works by global composers.

This same vision drives his enthusiasm for nurturing the next generation of musicians. He has collaborated extensively with young artists across China, particularly in the Greater Bay Area, including initiatives co-founded with world-renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma. For Maestro Yu, mentorship is both a responsibility and a necessity: If young musicians don't receive support, they may never be discovered.

While widely regarded as a cultural ambassador, Maestro Yu approaches his work with a sense of purpose. He doesn't think about labels; he does what he believes to be necessary. This belief extends to his broader view of music as a medium that transcends performance. He holds that music is not only culture but also about civilization and enlightenment.

This outlook is vividly reflected in his connection with Hong Kong, which demonstrates both his international perspective and dedication to cultural exchange and arts education. As the Principal Guest Conductor of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, Maestro Yu believes the city enjoys a unique position at the crossroads of East and West. He hopes that Hong Kong's cultural life will continue to grow alongside the city's economic strengths and that the younger generation will engage more with the arts. His work in the city has earned him widespread admiration and reinforced his role as a bridge between traditions.

Maestro Yu's global reputation is attested to by the accolades he has received from around the world—the China Arts Award (2013; 中華藝文獎) as well as national honors from the United States, including Foreign Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences (2016), and various European countries.

Looking ahead, Maestro Yu would like to see closer integration among disciplines, particularly between the arts and sciences. He believes creativity and imagination, which are critical to innovation, are cultivated through artistic experience. In this spirit, he would like to contribute to The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) through lectures, dialogue, and collaborative initiatives that bring music and culture closer to science and technology.

In conferring an Honorary Fellowship on Maestro Yu Long, HKUST is recognizing not only a conductor of international distinction but also a visionary who has played a pivotal role in shaping the development of Western classical music in the Chinese Mainland. His work continues to bridge cultures, inspire young musicians, and extend the reach of music as a universal language. We look forward to building a lasting, harmonious, and highly fruitful relationship, one in which science and music, like East and West, continue to enrich each other through his far-sighted vision.

這樣的文化交融，猶如以西洋油彩和中國水墨描繪同一景致，視角雖異，各具情韻。透過這種方式，他既讓中國作曲家有機會登上國際音樂舞台，也持續為中國聽眾引進世界各地的新作，促進不同文化之間的理解與共鳴。

指揮之外，他亦悉心培育新生代音樂家。他長期與中國，尤其是大灣區的年輕音樂家攜手，也曾與世界知名大提琴家馬友友等合作。於他而言，提携後進不只是責任，更是一份必然的使命：「若我們不支持年輕音樂家，他們的才華也許永遠不會被看見。」

即使外界以「文化大使」稱呼他，余指揮卻從不在意標籤，始終以信念行事。在他眼中，音樂的價值遠超舞台演出，不僅承載文化，更關乎文明與啟蒙。

這份理念在余指揮與香港的深厚淵源中展現無遺，既反映他的國際視野，亦展現他對文化交流、藝術教育的熱誠。作為香港管弦樂團的首席客席指揮，他視香港為東西方文化薈萃交融的樞紐，並期望這座城市的文化生命力能與經濟實力並駕齊驅，鼓勵年輕一代培養更深厚的藝術底蘊。他在香港的工作廣獲讚譽，也進一步鞏固了他作為文化橋樑的角色。

余指揮享譽國際，獲獎無數。他是2013年中華藝文獎得主，並榮獲美國及歐洲多項國家級榮譽，包括2016年獲選為美國藝術與科學院外籍榮譽院士。

展望未來，余指揮期盼能進一步推動藝術與科學深度融合。他相信創新所需的想像力與創意，必須透過藝術體驗來灌溉與培養。秉持這個理念，他希望能在香港科技大學(科大)透過講學、對談和合作計劃，拉近音樂文化與科技創新的距離，為科大的人文發展注入新的啟發。

科大向余隆指揮頒授榮譽大學院士銜，不僅表揚他作為指揮家的非凡成就，也表彰他推動西方古典樂在中國發展的關鍵貢獻。余指揮以音樂為橋樑，溝通中外文化；以教育為薪火，扶植年輕音樂家，並將音樂這門世界語言推向更廣闊的遠方。科大期望未來雙方建立長久融洽的夥伴關係，讓科學與音樂如東西文化般，在他的啟迪下繼續相互滋養，共譜和鳴新章。