Zeyi Guo: biography

Zeyi Guo is a Chinese percussionist and composer whose artistic practice spans contemporary music, experimental performance, and interdisciplinary creation. His work explores the expressive possibilities of percussion through the integration of diverse musical traditions, innovative performance techniques, and elements of Chinese cultural heritage. He is a member of Washington International Young Artists and has served as principal percussionist of several ensembles in Ningbo, China.

An active performer of contemporary music, Guo has participated in numerous premieres and performances of new works. In 2024, he performed with the Oberlin Contemporary Music Ensemble at the Long Play Festival in New York City. That same year, he was invited to return to Interlochen Arts Academy to perform Gérard Grisey's Le Noir de l'Étoile with the academy's percussion ensemble. His performance with the Oberlin Percussion Group in WAH was also featured in a national broadcast by New York classical radio station WQXR.

Guo's artistic activities extend beyond conventional percussion performance. In December 2024, he presented the Chinese premiere of the third movement of Recycling Concerto, featuring recycled plastic bottles as unconventional percussion instruments. Inspired by the work, he subsequently created a piano accompaniment arrangement with the composer's permission. In 2025, he premiered his original composition Bamen: Shang, the first known musical composition that integrates Wing Chun and percussion music. The second work in the series, Bamen: Jing, premiered in April 2026. These projects reflect his ongoing interest in exploring connections between traditional Chinese culture, physical movement, and contemporary musical expression.

In May 2026, Guo was selected as a member of Washington International Young Artists and was invited to perform in Washington, D.C. His performance activities also include orchestral, chamber, and solo repertoire, alongside collaborations in contemporary and experimental music.

Guo graduated from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music with a degree in Percussion Performance and is currently pursuing his Master of Music in Percussion Performance at the University of Toronto. He previously studied at Interlochen Arts Academy. His principal teachers have included Weiyi Xu, Keith Aleo, Ross Karre, Charles Settle, and Aiyun Huang.

Contact: hello@zeyiguo.com