

Shanghai Odyssey – The Story of the Bund

Shanghai Odyssey – The Story of the Bund by Christian Jost is a new orchestral work performed by the Shanghai Chinese Orchestra (SHCO). Inspired by the interaction and mergence of the Chinese and Western cultures in Shanghai as well as the history of the city, Christian Jost intends to present the inclusive atmosphere and cultural diversity of the city from a foreigner's perspective by this harmonic mixing orchestral work. Shanghai Odyssey expresses two scenes of the city in the mind of the composer: while the giant highrises and endless bustling streets contrast with the nearby tranquil roads lined with rows of London plane trees in the former French Concession, the city is also constantly switching between bustle and peace as well as between new development and memories in the past.

The five movements of the work are also constructed under such symmetric structure, and the harmonic mixing with strong tempo manifests the juxtaposition between external power and internal change – which contains a driving force within that makes this music work a city's journey of seeking for harmony through reincarnation.

Christian Jost has been commissioned by leading orchestras, festivals and opera houses around the world, including the Berlin Philharmonic, the Jerusalem Chamber Music Festival, the Zurich Opera. He has conducted orchestras such as the Hamburg Philharmonic Orchestra, the Essen Philharmonic, the Taiwan Symphony Orchestra and the orchestra of the Komische Oper Berlin. His operas have been included in the repertoire of European opera houses, and his orchestral compositions have been regularly performed worldwide. In 2003, he received the Ernst von Siemens Foundation Encouragement Prize. In 2009, his opera *Hamlet* was praised as the “World Premiere of the Year”.

Founded in 1952, **Shanghai Chinese Orchestra (SHCO)** is the first large-scale modern Chinese orchestra in China. The Orchestra plays an important role in the development of Chinese music. SHCO has performed all over China and toured to dozens of countries and regions in the world. SHCO is also actively engaged in composing and commissioning new works – which are widely acclaimed both at home and abroad.