



Representatives from the Hangzhou Asian Games Organizing Committee and songwriters attend the launch ceremony of the Global Call for Musical Works for the 19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

# Call out to composers made for Games

Organizers in the hunt for talented, inspiring sports songwriters

By YUAN SHENGGAO

The 19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022 will be held from Sept 10 to 25, 2022 in Hangzhou, capital of East China's Zhejiang province. China Daily is teaming up with the organizing committee of the Games to spotlight the preparation for and facts about the Hangzhou Asian Games.

Music plays an irreplaceable part in gathering momentum in all mass events, according to Xu Jianqiang, a professor at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music.

A good song can have a longtime impact. "The song, even if played decades after, can still bring back memories of an event, the year and the city where it took place," the renowned composer told China Daily over the phone.

The 19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022, the preparations for which are now in full swing, is not just about the continent's top athletes and world-

class competition. The musical soundtrack to the Games is expected to be world-class too.

On June 23, International Olympic Day, a global celebration of the founding of the modern Olympic Movement in Paris on June 23, 1894, the Hangzhou Asian Games Organizing Committee initiated a campaign to solicit musical works, calling on people from around the world to compose music for the sports event.

The call, set to last two years, will be open to both ordinary people who love and support the Games, and professional musicians, according to the organizing committee.

According to the committee's expectations, the musical works for the Games should be artistic and creative, and should be heard and shared by a worldwide audience.

"Sports represent the pursuit of breakthroughs in physical strength while music stands for the outburst of passion from inside the heart," said Chen Weiqiang, deputy secretary-general of the Games' organizing committee and vice-mayor of Hangzhou, noting that the combination of sports and music makes the most beautiful language. Chen said the call for musical works is an important part of the preparations for the Games and after rounds of considerations and discus-

sions, they finally approved the plan of solicitation, which is divided into three phases, and hope the campaign will help collect great musical pieces over the next two years.

"Musical works are indispensable for almost all occasions in sporting events, such as the torch relay and the opening and closing ceremonies, and will be unique heritage left by the Games," the official said.

"We hope the music for the Hangzhou Asian Games, from across the globe and with different styles, to be classic and able to be spread through the ages," Chen noted.

Besides being a stage for sports competitions, the Games offers a feast of Asian cultures.

The theme song, the promotional song and the background music for the opening and closing ceremonies, embodied with distinctive cultures and values of the host country and the host city, along with the Asian Games spirit, are imprinted in the Games' history. Music is a most powerful weapon in creating a great ambience for the grand opening and closing ceremonies of sports events, according to professor Xu.

"Music is universal and shared by all human beings. It can break down the barrier of culture, nationality or language, and speak with rich emotion,

such is the magic of music."

Meng Ke, a famous producer who has been part of the composition teams for several major sports events in China, including the opening and closing ceremonies of the Beijing Olympic Games and the *Hangzhou Time* show at the closing ceremony of the 18th Asian Games in Jakarta, Indonesia, said the music for Olympic events should reflect the Olympic spirit, as well as the perseverance and toughness of athletes.

"Moreover, the music should help present a nation's pride, self-confidence and unity," he noted.

For the eight-minute *Hangzhou Time* show in September 2019 in Jakarta, the musician largely applied the cultural features of Jiangnan, a region south of the Yangtze River Delta, in the music production.

Meng said he believes that music is alive and full of vitality, and is rooted in the cultural essence of China. Through music, Chinese stories can be heard by the world, he said.

HAGOC also announced it is joining hands with Zhejiang Television, the Zhejiang Conservatory of Music, NetEase Cloud Music and the video platform Douyin in its call for musical works via different channels, both online and offline.

Submissions can be either com-

plete songs with lyrics and music, or can be pure music or just lines of words, according to the official notice.

Four famous Chinese singers and composers, Wang Leehom, Li Ronghao, Hu Yanbin and Li Quan, have been invited to promote the campaign.

The first phase of submissions, open to all people, will last until Nov 30. A second phase of the campaign, targeting professional composers, lyricists and musicians, will follow. A panel commission will be set up to choose the best songs, lyrics and pure musical works from all submissions and decide on a theme song in the final round.

Professor Xu from Shanghai, who is also a national award-winning composer, said of his expectations, the lyrics for the Games' songs have to be short and the melody simple and straightforward, so that people can easily pick it up and sing along.

"I myself very much want to participate. I believe we will need musical elements from the Yangtze River Delta, maybe a touch of folk opera *Yueju*, and the music has to be modern and international too," said the musician, adding "I'd like my compositions to be sung and heard after my demise if I'm given the chance."

## What they say

We expect music for the Games to demonstrate the Olympic spirit and the cultures and values of Chinese people. The enthusiasm and hospitality of the host city Hangzhou should be embodied in the musical works with an international stance. Music and sports are intertwined. Both of them can generate power and warm hearts.

**Wang Leehom**, global champion of the Call for Musical Works for the 19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022



I hope people who love music will actively echo the call.

Sometimes we write songs to express our own feelings, and other times we compose to help others express their feelings. If people can get a better understanding of Hangzhou Asian Games through our music and lyrics, that would be quite exciting.

**Li Ronghao**, initiator of NetEase Cloud Music Division and referrer of the Call for Musical Works for the 19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022



There are many talented young people on

Douyin. Music is a kind of language that can help express the emotions that pure words can't. I hope people can fully utilize their imaginations and seize the opportunity to create musical works with different styles. Let's do it together!

**Hu Yanbin**, initiator of Douyin Division, Call for Musical Works for the 19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022



"College students are experiencing the prime of their lives in music creation. There are so many arts institutions in China and I really look forward to some excellent musical works produced by young people.

**Li Quan**, initiator of Collegiate Division, Call for Musical Works for the 19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022



## Music brings back memories of iconic sporting events

By YUAN SHENGGAO

Music and sports are natural complements to one another, just as a piece of cheese is to a glass of good wine. For an international sports event, its organizers always strive to mix music and sports to get the best out of the two sides, inspiring both music and sports fans from around the world.

Everyone knows the classic foot-stomping and hand-clapping Queen chant *We Will Rock You* at NBA games, the World Cup anthem *La Copa De La Vida* from 1998, and the soothing theme song *You and Me* from the Bird's Nest in Beijing 12 years ago.

Almost all sports events around the world have their own music, inspiring or comforting, to rev up the crowd and inspire the athletes.

Seemingly belonging to two different worlds, sports and music can actually meet in unexpected ways, according to Xu Jianqiang, a professor at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music.

"Music is played around the globe at all large gatherings of people, especially sports events," Xu noted. "There is an inherent connection between music and sport. Music is able to present without spoken words, the strength, inspiration and impetus of the athletes, and share that with everyone."

*La Copa de la Vida*, or *The Cup of Life* in English, the official song of the 1998 FIFA World Cup in



A musical performance is on stage during the Hangzhou Asian Games Organizing Committee's campaign to solicit musical works for the sports event. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

France, is one of the most popular World Cup anthems of all time.

Ricky Martin, a Puerto Rican singer who won great fame due to the song, hailed it as "a unique opportunity to introduce the charms of Latin music to the rest of the world", when deciding to accept the invitation from FIFA to create the theme song of the soccer tournament.

"I have to admit that the challenge made me a bit nervous, but the massive growth potential for my career was such that I decided to accept," Martin wrote about the call in his official biography *Me*.

The song became an instant hit worldwide, topping music charts in more than 60 countries at that time and has been closely intertwined with soccer ever since.

Today, the lyrics and music in the

song are still reminiscent of the soccer players' unyielding pursuit of victory and the excitement and surprise of fierce competition.

*Asian Mighty Winds*, a promotional song for the 11th Asian Games in Beijing which showcased the hardworking and unyielding spirit of the Asian people as well as their friendship in catchy lyrics and vigorous rhythms, is another good example of music's inspiring role.

Performed by Chinese pop singers Liu Huan and Wei Wei, the song is still appealing today with a far-reaching influence on people living on the continent.

"Every event needs its own theme song," Xu said. "Today when we look back we will find some folk music flavor from Northwestern China in the song *Asian*



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**Xu Jianqiang**, a professor at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music

*Mighty Winds*." Chen Weiya, a famous Chinese director who was in charge of the opening and closing ceremonies of Guangzhou Asian Games in 2010, said though *Asian Mighty Winds* was not the theme song of Beijing Asian Games, it is the most unforgettable musical work related to the quadrennial continental sports event for Chinese people, even after so many years.

## Ways to submit musical works

### 1. Offline channels

\*Headquarters Division (open to all submissions)

**Recipient:** Headquarters Division of the Call for Musical Works for Hangzhou Asian Games

**Address:** No 111, Moganshan Road, Hangzhou, Zhejiang province

\*Collegiate Division (open to submissions from arts institutions)

**Recipient:** Collegiate Division of the Call for Musical Works for Hangzhou Asian Games

**Address:** Room 601, Administration Building of Zhejiang Conservatory of Music, No 1 Zheyin Road, Xihu district, Hangzhou, Zhejiang province

**Please write on the envelope:**

"Call for Musical Works for Hangzhou Asian Games"

### 2. Online channels

Find more information on Douyin and NetEase Cloud Music

**Deadline for submissions:**

Nov 30, 2020



Scan the code to learn more about the Games!