

PuSh International Performing Arts Festival

January 21 – February 6, 2022 | pushfestival.ca

Introduction for patrons who are blind or have low vision

Created by Music Picnic

I SWALLOWED A MOON MADE OF IRON

A Music Picnic / Creative Links production in association with Point View Art (from Canada & Macau)

February 4th and 5th at 8pm, February 6th at 2pm

At the Waterfront Theatre | \$34

This show is performed by Njo Kong Kie, who also composed the music and created the concept of the show. The text is taken from a collection of poetry by Chinese poet and factory worker Xu Lizhi. The poetry, whether recited or sung, is performed in the Mandarin language for the entire show. The beginnings and endings of each song are clearly marked by the silence that precedes and follows each song.

The set consists of a 3.2 x 3.2 square metres of grey flooring material in the centre of the stage. It is mirrored on the back wall by a projection screen of the same size where translations in English are projected during the songs or recited poems. There is a black baby grand piano with a bench

in the upper left side of the square, a small metallic box is on the floor outside of the square at the downstage left side. The performer, Kong Kie, a medium sized Asian man with dark silver-streaked hair in a ponytail, is dressed in a grey loosely fitted linen shirt and black trousers with black kung fu slippers on his feet.

Throughout the show there are projections of images, along with the English translation of the poetry on the rear screen. The lights will also change to highlight different parts of the stage. The performer gets up and moves around the stage frequently during the show. At one point he picks up the box from the floor, moving it first to the piano, and then holding it while staring out at the audience for a few minutes, before hanging it from a line suspended from the ceiling so that it appears to be floating in the air.

The projections on the rear screen vary. They include the images of birds flying in the sky, the interior and exterior of a house in China. There are images of people, of close up of rusted metal and brick wall, of water and waves and of a buddha statue in front of a colourful painting. These projections are coordinated with the music in various ways. While the projections generally appear at the back wall, in one

instance, the images of waves and fluorescent light tubes are also projected onto the floor.

The show starts with a video of the performer Njo Kong Kie, and as that ends the opening scene begins in silence. The performer enters from upstage right. He walks in and up to the piano where he stands in front of it and then the lights dim quickly into a total blackout for the entire stage.

The lights come up again in silence and a projection begins to emerge on a screen on the rear wall. The performer walks around the stage, with some choreographed movement, eventually making his way underneath the piano and then sits at the piano to begin to play and sing.

The show ends in silence and in a blackout. Once the show ends, the performer re-enters the stage to take a bow when the audience claps. He re-exits after that. When the audience gets up to leave, one last poem is projected on the rear screen accompanied by the sound of a screw falling to the ground.

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For full details and to discuss accessibility needs please contact:

[Accessible PuSh Coordinator, Anika Vervecken](#)

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