

he alarm rings. Violinist Ray Chen opens his eves and gets up from his bed. After getting dressed, he says: "Today is a special day!" This is how a video which Chen directed

The video was made in Barcelona a week before his new album, The Golden Age, came out on June 8.

For the 29-year-old from Taiwan, interacting with his fans through videos is fun. So far, he has released over 100 self-produced videos, combining comedy with music via social

Speaking about the videos, he says: "I want to show fans, especially the young generation, that classical music can be fun."

It's been four years since Chen released a new album. Before this new album, he released three albums through Sony.

GROSSETESTE UNIVERSITY

In  $\it The \, Golden \, Age$ , his first recording with Decca Classics since signing with the label last year, Chen features a selection of works, which celebrate the "golden age" of the violin — not only in terms of repertoire, but also in terms of performance style and ingenuity.

Instead of making a recording, which is "simply sticking a microphone in a room or hall and trying to produce the best version of the piece", Chen seeks to create something new in the studio.

"What else can I add to these celebrated pieces, which have been performed by many other great violinists? I won't go into the techniques, but I think you'll find that the sound you hear in the recording is slightly different from what I did

The centerpiece of the new album is German composer Max Bruch's

Scholarships available

www.bishopg.ac.uk/great

violin concerto, performed with the London Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of conductor Robert Trevino and recorded last August.

The album also features compositions and arrangements by Austrian violinist Fritz Kreisler and US violinist Jascha Heifetz, which Chen performs with French pianist Julien Quentin.

"The pieces go along with the title The Golden Age — a reference to my love for the great violinists of the past, and also as a reference to my own coming of age, and entering what I believe is the next chapter of my life as a musician," says Chen.

The new album opens with a piece called A New Satiesfaction for a string quartet, which has already garnered over 50,000 hits on Chen's YouTube channel.

It features Gymnopedie No 1 by

French composer Erik Satie, with an allusion to Italian composer Gioachino Rossini's William Tell The piece, performed by Chen and his Made in Berlin quartet, is

arranged by the group's cellist Stephan Koncz. The other violinist in the quartet is Noah Bendix-Balgley, while Ami-

hai Grosz plays the viola. All of Chen's collaborators in the group are members of the Berlin

Philharmonic and they recorded together in Berlin last November. Koncz has also arranged French composer Claude Debussy's Clair de

Waltzing Matilda for the album. Chen, who was born in Taiwan and raised in Australia, selected Waltzing Matilda for the album as a tribute to his second hometown.

Lune and an Australian folk song,

Speaking about what drives his

(Semester begins in March)



background and my life in Australia both work on me as a violinist, so there is self-discipline and a laid-back mindset."

Ray Chen, 29, violinist

ST. PETERSBURG



Online: To see the video scan the code.

music, Chen, who was taken to Australia by his parents when he was 4 months old, says: "My Chinese background and my life in Australia both work on me as a violinist, so there is self-discipline and a laidback mindset."

Chen started learning the violin at the age of 4 and was accepted into the prestigious Curtis Institute of Music at 15, where he studied with American violinist Aaron Rosand.

Speaking about Rosand, now 91, who he visited while making this new album, Chen says: "When I told him that I wanted to bring a kind of intimacy to this new album, he understood me at once. We are still student and teacher."

Despite Chen's talent, his progress as a musician was rocky. Chen, who was regarded as a child

prodigy with "perfect pitch", got his first exposure at 8 years old when he was invited to perform at the opening of the 1998 Nagano Winter Olympics in Japan, his first overseas tour. Then, at 13, he won the National Youth Concerto Competition in Australia, which bolstered his confi-

But he failed to clear the entrance test when he first applied to join the Curtis Institute of Music.

And his biggest break did not come until he was 19 when he won the 2008 International Yehudi Menuhin Violin Competition and the 2009 Queen Elisabeth Music Competition.

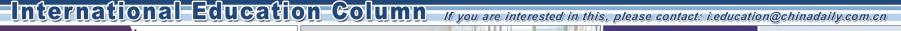
Speaking about that change in his fortunes, Chen says: "Some of the competitors were about 14 or 15, much younger than me, so I had to work hard to catch up. But the success enabled me to look at my career differently."

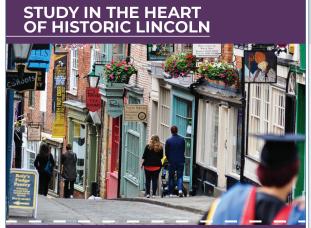
In 2012, Chen became the youngest soloist to perform at the televised Nobel Prize Concert for the Nobel laureates and the Swedish royal family. And, in 2015, Chen moved to Ber-

Now, as one of the busiest young violinists in the world, Chen has just wrapped up his tour of China from June 8 to 15, visiting Zhuhai, in Guangdong province, Xi'an, in Shaanxi province, and Suzhou, in Jiangsu province.

As for the future, he is booked up for performances until 2020.

Contact the writer at chennan@chinadaily.com.cn





Bishop Grosseteste University is located in the heart of historic Lincoln in the UK. We have some of the happiest and most employable students in the UK. Find out more about studying at BGU by visiting www.bishopg.ac.uk

**EARN YOUR UW MASTER** 

**OF ACCOUNTING** 

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON | TACOMA



**Global Education Without Borders** 

APPLICATION DEADLINE

(Semester begins in September)

• May 1 (Priority Deadline) · July 31 (Regular Deadline)

 January 7 (Priority Deadline) · January 31 (Regular Deadline) ※ For scholarship consideration, students should apply by the priority

DEGREE OFFERINGS

Undergraduate • Business Administration (Accounting / Finance / Management / Marketing / Operations Management / Information Systems)

• Computer Game Design • Global Affairs ESOL (M.Ed.) / IB (M.Ed.) / Systems Engineering (M.S.)

Same degree & curriculum as George Mason University in the U.S

CONTACT OFFICE AND ENROLLMENT

gmukorea

askmk@gmu.edu

119 Songdomunhwa-ro, Yeonsu-gu, Incheon 21985 T.+82-32-626-5021

MASON Korea



STUDY! EXPLORE!

you a unique opportunity to immerse yourself in the real Pacific. Backed by 50 years of educational excellence with 14 campuses and 10 centers across the heart of the World's largest ocean, our Internationally recognised University offers a variety of quality Bachelors, Masters and PhD Degrees to choose from as well the Intensive English Programme (IEP). Come take advantage of the numerous accredited programmes we have to offer

**USP International** The University of the South Pacific CONTACT Laucala Campus Suva, Fiji

Email: international@usp.ac.fj Tel: +679 32 32916 Skype: usp.international.office www.international.usp.ac.fj



The University of South Florida St. Petersburg







- Evening classes for working professionals
- Qualify to sit for the CPA exam
  - tacoma.uw.edu/MAcc