



**Joanna Lee**

Presenter

▶ PROGRAMME INFO & ARCHIVE  
節目資料及重溫

逢星期日

SUNDAYS 11AM

# FIVE ELEMENTS

Five Elements is a series in which we explore the musical world stemming from the perspective of the five traditional Chinese elements (metal, wood, water, fire, earth). One of the initial reasons for creating this series is the eponymous work by Chinese composer Chen Qigang. His work *Wu Xing* (in English, Five Elements) is a suite for orchestra written in 1999, commissioned by Radio France.

1. Metal – brass music comes to the fore in this first episode but Holst's *Venus* (金星) also makes an appearance
2. Wood – we explore the element through percussion pieces and visit Respighi's *Pines*, Strauss's *Woods* and Sibelius's forests
3. Water – an element depicted through so many musical masterpieces anywhere from *The Blue Danube* to the *Vltava*, to the *Yellow River*, Chopin's 'Raindrop' Prelude and Debussy's *La mer*
4. Fire – the element associated with Hell and the underworld that makes for some of the most gripping passages in music, one of them being the *Dies irae*
5. Earth – we discover this element in the opening to Haydn's *Creation* and embrace it through Mahler's songs

Metal, wood, water, fire and earth beget, complement and oppose each other. Hear how.