

Choose a very good Chinese Name for Professor Michael Mainelli

Dear Michael,

Since we talked about your Chinese name, I had the following thoughts and consideration would like to share with you:

Full English Names: Michael Raymond Mainelli

Format and constituents:

First name: Michael

Middle name: Raymond

Surname: Mainelli

Conventional standard Chinese translation for the names according to translated literature and social contexts:

First name 名[Ming]¹:

Michael 迈克尔[Mai Ke Er] / 麦克尔[Mai Ke Er] / 麦考[Mai Kao]

Middle name:

Raymond 雷蒙德[Lei Meng De] / 雷蒙[Lei Meng] / 瑞曼[Rui Man]

Surname 姓[xing]:

Mainelli 梅纳里[Mei Na Li] / 美纳里[Mei Na Li]

General Chinese names format and constituents:

First,姓(Xing)-Surname/Family name: (adopted from father's surname, even Chinese laws make taking mother's surname is fine too, but rarely followed by the society largely because of Chinese cultural convention; Chinese wives do not change her maiden name to her husband's in modern society, nor in the past), usually one Chinese character, very few two characters but those dual surnames are equally well taken;

Second,名(Ming)-Given name: Generally given by parents or senior members of the big family, for instance grandparents, occasionally by important people to the family, a popular way is to pick randomly from the Xinhua Dictionary in fairly recent decades, but nowadays more complicated cultural and social factors are taken into consideration. Traditionally one or two characters, preferring one, nowadays two characters are more popular and could be even three.

Culturally Chinese don't have middle names, demonstrated and proved on our passports, even with two or more characters after surname, they are still given names, not middles names.

¹ Square brackets are the 'Pinyin' marks, to denote the pronunciation of Chinese characters in a spelling fashion.

General presentation of translated full Chinese names in the first contacts after translation:

迈克尔·雷蒙德·梅纳里

[Mai Ke Er]·[Lei Meng De]·[Mei Na Li]
(First name·Middle name·Surname)

If in Chinese presentation format, it would be:

梅纳里·雷蒙德·迈克尔

(Surname·Middle name·First name)

Social Application

As the full name is too long for Chinese social usage, we usually just take out the first name, therefore, we call you 迈克尔 (Michael) as friends and acquaintance, but due to cultural and social circumstances, we like to address people with titles and positions as suffix to their surname to show respect, therefore, you would be addressed as 梅纳里 教授[Jiao Shou] (professor) .

Analysis and Evaluation

That still stand out as a foreign name, because, one, it is a rare combination; two, more than one characters used before the title suffix. Well, the good side is, if you want to be easily identifiable as a foreigner, it works straight away and that would be your name accepted by the society, whether you like it or not, just like 特朗普 总统 [Te Lang Pu] [Zong Tong] (Trump president).

According to my many years work experience between UK and China, crossing Sino-English cultures, I noticed there are a few extremely lovely Chinese names were given to non-Chinese international friends, their names are native sounding, terrifically meaningful, and cross-culturally impressive, based on their own original cultural background interlinked with Chinese, as well as the excellent historical and cultural knowledge and innovative skills demonstrated through the considerate and thoughtful selection of Chinese characters.

Although, there is a new trend to have a native Chinese name rather than a simple and standard translation appeared within the cross-cultural domain, just like a few decades ago, every Chinese business person and student wanted a good English name, nowadays, a Chinese name and a very exquisite one for westerners is getting more popular.

Through working with city of London, I learnt the previous Lord Mayor Charles Bowman's Chinese name is a really good one-鲍满诚 (Bao Man Cheng), impressive! Good choice of characters, surname carefully selected from the conventional table and cause no cultural deviation, perfect match acoustically with English names, nearly 100% match with the English pronunciation; creative, as the middle character group with the first represent the English surname, while group with the last follow the Chinese cultural rule, meaning full sincerity, credibility and integrity, which is smoothly

comprehensible and appreciated by any Chinese. What a good work! Your name should be of this quality.

Rethink and change of your Chinese name

For your surname: we have three character options: 梅[mei], 莫[mo] or 墨[mo]; (Choose characters according to the first syllable of your surname, Chinese characters-conventional surnames are mono-syllabic and limited to 500 and modern extended to 4,000)

I personally like 梅[mei], because it is both pronunciation matching and meaningful, it means a Chinese plum tree symbolize important qualities and characters of scholars, but culturally I prefer 墨[mo], which a very important scholar Mozi in ancient China had the surname;

For your middle name: 雷[Lei], 锐[Rui] or 睿[Rui]; (for historical reasons, consonants 'r' was translated into 'l' characters in Chinese in the past, but we do have 'r' characters in mandarin², not some dialects)

I personally like 睿[Rui], means wisdom, and it is a 'r' character.

For your first name: 迈[Mai] 麦[Mai] or 孟[Meng] (same 'm' consonant, with different vowels, slight vowel adjustment does not affect the overall pronunciation)

Generally, I would prefer 迈, as its perfect pronunciation transfer, but considering meaning, I love 孟 way more, as it carries more complexity of cultural elements, for instance Mencius, equally important to the Confucius if not better, who's name shares this character .

Therefore, combine all the choices of the characters, you have:

梅 [Mei]	雷 [Lei]	锐 [Rui]	睿 [Rui]
迈 [Mai]	梅迈雷 / 梅雷迈	梅迈锐 / 梅锐迈	梅迈睿 / 梅睿迈
麦 [Mai]	梅麦雷 / 梅雷麦	梅麦锐 / 梅锐麦	梅麦睿 / 梅睿麦
孟[Meng]	梅孟雷 / 梅雷孟	梅孟锐 / 梅锐孟	梅孟睿 / 梅睿孟

墨 [Mo]	雷 [Lei]	锐 [Rui]	睿 [Rui]
迈 [Mai]	墨迈雷 / 墨雷迈	墨迈锐 / 墨锐迈	墨迈睿 / 墨睿迈
麦 [Mai]	墨麦雷 / 墨雷麦	墨麦锐 / 墨锐麦	墨麦睿 / 墨睿麦
孟[Meng]	墨孟雷 / 墨雷孟	墨孟锐 / 墨锐孟	墨孟睿 / 墨睿孟

To select from a Chinese perspective, we have some good ones to compare:

- 1.梅孟雷 [Mei Meng Lei] the first thunder of Mei
- 2.梅雷孟 [Mei Lei Meng] the Mei thunder is first
- 3.梅睿迈 [Mei Rui Mai] the wise stride of Mei
- 4.梅孟睿 [Mei Meng Rui] the biggest wisdom of Mei

² Mandarin is the common tone of all Chinese (Han ethnicity) since 20th century, common writing was way earlier since Emperor Qin over 2,000 years ago, with some changes made in the following Han dynasty but more standardized then.

- 5.梅睿孟 [Mei Rui Meng] the wisdom of Mei is priory
- 6.墨孟睿 [Mo Meng Rui] the big wisdom of Mo
- 7.墨睿孟 [Mo Rui Meng] the wisdom of Mo is priory

I am not going to tell you my favorite and final suggestion now; rather, I like to hear your opinion, and it would be very interesting to exchange our ideas and thoughts.

Best!

Tim