

JOSEPHINE KOH PIANO ACADEMY

PRESENTS



30 JUNE 2019 | 7.30PM
YONG SIEW TOH CONSERVATORY CONCERT HALL

PIANO CONCERTOS IN PERSPECTIVE II



***YAMAHA**

Director and Founder's Foreword

PIANO CONCERTOS IN PERSPECTIVE II is the sequel to the well-received Piano Concertos in Perspective I in 2017. As Singapore develops economically, it presents many possibilities for us to engage actively in the arts scene. This evening, it is my pleasure in presenting to you piano concertos with a different perspective – an unconventional approach that provides an artistic avenue for young people to grow and develop their talents.

Undoubtedly, concertos form a major genre for all advanced music students. It would deem ineffective simply to work and perform with a second pianist. The opportunity to be trained with a full-sized orchestra is often limited, due to factors such as time, rehearsal venues, logistics and finances. The solution is to create a new kind of orchestra. Not confined to the piano timbre, high level students can now perform, even obscure works, with professional musicians in a rightful setting. With the founding of Joyeux Sinfonietta, I envision that this concept would open up a realm of possibilities; a revival of the Baroque concerto grosso concept in modern times!

I am indeed fortunate to have the wonderful support of parents, a team of dedicated staff and assistants, valued musicians and certainly our corporate sponsors, friends and God sent magical moments to carry forth such expressive ideas. Looking ahead, we would not limit these performance opportunities to merely our own students. With years of experiences in Singapore and abroad, it has incidentally become an artistic responsibility to provide a unique form of learning opportunity for solo instrumentalists, including string players and many others. Meanwhile, our orchestral pianists are trained with equal formidable prowess to support and enhance the chamber orchestral textures.

More interestingly, this concert brings together a new generation of professional musicians and entrepreneurs. Guest conductor Lien Boon Hua and principal violinist Albert Shagimardanov have recently returned to Singapore, having studied and lived for many years in Europe. I would congratulate Jeremiah Chong who set up *The Music Platform*, Nicholas Chiu who is now Business Director of *Chiu Piano*, and my son, co-pianist Dr Jipson Quah who started his own practice - Mayfair Medical. Certainly, the dynamic team at Yamaha-Bösendorfer has been most enthusiastic in supporting us in this exciting venture.

While you sit back and enjoy tonight's concert, perhaps you could think about our future projects. We look forward to have more people join us in this form of music-making. Potential performers, musicians and teachers alike with talented students would perhaps be interested. We would be delighted to listen to your ideas, feedback and discuss with financial supporters who would wish to contribute to our work in a most meaningful way.

PROGRAMME

COLETTE TAN • CHUA SIEW JOO

Mozart: Piano Concerto No. 20 in D minor, K. 466 (19')

II. Romanze III. Allegro

EVELYN GOH • TYNDALE CHOO

Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 1 in C major, Op. 15 (15')

I. Allegro

QIU BIXIN Ravel: Sonatine (5') III. Animé

ALYSA CHENG • SIEW YU CHUAN
Shostakovich: Piano Concerto No. 2 in F major, Op. 102 (6')

III. Allegro

——— INTERMISSION ———— (15 MINS)

BRIAN TAN
Schubert: Sonata in C minor, D. 958 (8')
I. Allegro

TRINA TAN • LOUISE CHUA
Chopin: Piano Concerto No. 1 in E minor, Op. 11 (10')

II. Romance - Larghetto

JOSEPHINE KOH • JIPSON QUAH Ravel: Piano Concerto for the Left Hand in D major (20') **Mozart: Piano Concerto No. 2 in D minor, K. 466** (2nd & 3rd movt) Soloist: Colette Tan Orchestral Pianist: Chua Siew Joo



COLETTE TAN recently completed her third-year Law studies at the Singapore Management University (SMU). She started playing the piano at the age of 4 and joined Josephine Koh Piano Academy (JKPA) under Jipson Quah in 2010. Having obtained her Grade 8 with distinction, she continued diploma studies under the tutelage of Ms Josephine Koh and soon graduated with DipABRSM and LRSM in piano performance.

An alumnus of Raffles Girls' School and Raffles Institution, Colette was in the Raffles Institution Piano Ensemble and later served as President of Ivory Keys at SMU - organising and performing in numerous concerts. Under the baton of Ms Josephine Koh, she has also performed with the NUS Harmonica Orchestra in 2017 and 2018. Since 2016, Colette joined JKPA as a part-time teaching assistant.

CHUA SIEW JOO obtained her Licentiate (LRSM) diploma under the tutelage of Miss Lim Tshui Fang, with whom she still maintains her studies. A former teacher with MOE, Miss Chua holds a postgraduate diploma in education from NIE. She has been a teaching staff with Josephine Koh Piano Academy since 2004, where she garnered her teaching experiences.



An alumnus of Dunman High School and Temasek Junior College, Miss Chua was in the Music Elective programme (MEP) and participated actively in concerts and masterclasses. An avid chamber musician since her school days, she also excelled as a finalist at various solo piano competitions.

Notably, Miss Chua is a proficient pianist for school choirs at Singapore Youth Festivals and previously with NTU CAC String Orchestra (2008-2013). Professionally, apart from nurturing piano students, she accompanies vocalists, and other instrumentalists in concerts and examinations.

Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 1 in C major, Op. 15 (1st movt) Soloist: Evelyn Goh Orchestral Pianist: Tyndale Choo



EVELYN GOH is currently studying piano performance and theoretical studies full-time at Josephine Koh Piano Academy. Since joining JKPA in 2015, she has obtained her DipABRSM and AMusTCL diplomas. Currently pursuing her Licentiate diplomas, Evelyn has performed in several concerts – as an orchestral pianist in Piano Concertos in Perspective I and as a pianist for the NUS Harmonica Orchestra. She participated in the

Alion Baltic International Music Festival in Tallinn, Estonia in 2018 and took masterclasses under Michael Okser-Bulychev and Andreas Fröhlich. This is her first solo concerto appearance. Evelyn hopes to expand her repertoire and develop her career in the classical music scene.

TYNDALE CHOO started learning the piano at the age of four. He studied with Victor Khor and he grew up to perform in the Singapore Performer's Festival and attended masterclasses by American pianist Tedd Joselson, conductors Adrian Tan and Darrell Ang. An alumnus of Anglo-Chinese School (Independent), Tyndale was in the Music Elective Programme and learnt the cello under Ms Zhao Yu Er in the ACSI Philharmonic Orchestra.



In 2014, while serving National Service, Tyndale came to study under the tutelage of Ms Josephine Koh. He soon obtained his Licentiate (LRSM) piano diploma, with active performances as a soloist at JKPA's concerts and as an orchestral pianist with the NUS Harmonica Orchestra. He has been a part-time teaching staff at JKPA since 2016.

Tyndale recently graduated with Bachelor of Laws degree at the National University of Singapore and will soon commence his legal training in the field of commercial and civil litigation - with a special interest in shipping.

Shostakovich: Piano Concerto No. 2 in F major, Op. 102 ((1st movt) Soloist: Alysa Cheng Orchestral Pianist: Siauw Yu Chuan



ALYSA CHENG joined Josephine Koh Piano Academy at the age of 5 and was selected into the Gifted Music Programme having excelled with distinction scores at her graded exams. In 2018, she attained her DipABRSM performance diploma under Ms Josephine Koh. During her studies at JKPA, Alysa has performed impressively at many student recitals, masterclasses, concerts and

participated in competitions. In 2017, at the age of 12, Alysa was the youngest soloist to perform in Piano Concertos in Perspective I, with her rendition of Mozart's Kammerkonzert in C major, KV415. A brilliant student at Raffles Girls' School (Secondary), Alysa also excels in her school's Music Elective Programme. An active junior black belt holder in karate, Alysa certainly enjoys piano and looks forward to perform in future artistic events and competitions.

SIAUW YU CHUAN is a current first year science student at Hwa Chong Institution (Junior College). He started learning piano at the age of 8 and in 2015 joined Josephine Koh Piano Academy to complete his graded studies. Motivated by excellent results and the thrill of performing at JKPA's various concerts, he is now in his second year of piano diploma studies under Ms Josephine Koh.



Yu Chuan is a highly disciplined leader and member of the Singapore Venture Scouts unit who is aiming to achieve this year's President Scouts Award. His other talents and interests include competitive archery and Wushu. With his passion in music, Yu Chuan hopes to improve and expand his piano repertoire with more performance opportunities. Tonight, together with Alysa, he looks forward to excite the audience with the 3rd movement of Shostakovich's impressive and youthful second concerto.

Chopin: Piano Concerto No. 1 in E minor, Op. 11 (2nd movt)

Soloist: Trina Tan Orchestral Pianist: Louise Chua



TRINA TAN is a Year 6 student in the International Baccalaureate Programme at Anglo-Chinese School (Independent). She began graded piano lessons at the age of 6 with Ms Jesslyn Tan at Josephine Koh Piano Academy. Through her growing years, she has progressed beautifully in music, performing frequently in student recitals, Christmas concerts and masterclasses. In 2017, Trina was a soloist in Piano Concertos in

Perspective I, with her rendition of Gershwin's 'I Got Rhythm' and 'The Man I Love'. In the same year, Trina attained a Distinction for her DipABRSM in piano performance. As she pursues her Licientiate diploma under Ms Josephine Koh, Trina hopes to perform more Romantic repertoire and continue to improve musically. A percussionist for the Wind Ensemble in ACSI, Trina also learns taekwondo and achieved her black belt in 2017.

LOUISE CHUA is a Year 3 student the Integrated Programme at Methodist Girls' School (Secondary). Since the age of nine, she has been learning piano at Josephine Koh Piano Academy. Having completed ABRSM Graded exams in 2017, Louise is currently preparing to take her ATCL diploma this year. An active member of the MGS Handbell Ensemble, Louise also enjoys mixing digital music, cycling avid and is an reader. Her performances various students' at recitals have built her confidence and tonight will be her debut as an orchestral pianist.



Solo Pianists:



BRIAN TAN started learning the piano at the age of three and joined Josephine Koh Piano Academy when he was eight years old. With over 10 years of musical education in JKPA, Brian has consistently performed brilliantly in student recitals and in music examinations. In 2016, Brian attained Distinction for his Licentiate (LTCL) diploma and in the following year, performed the Beethoven's Concerto No. 2,

in Piano Concertos in Perspective I. He is currently serving full-time National Serivce - as a Sergeant in the Singapore Armed Forces. Looking to further his studies in computer science at university in the near future, Brian is preparing for his Fellowship diploma (FTCL) under Ms Josephine Koh. With a colourful record of co-curricular activities, Brian plays the guitar and was involved in the Raffles Institution Guitar Ensemble. He is also known to have attained stellar results in scrabble and chess competitions.

QIU BIXIN is the youngest performer in tonight's concert. Currently a Primary 6 student at Fuhua Primary School, Bixin began taking piano lessons at the age of 6 and was accepted into the Gifted Music Programme at Josephine Koh Piano Academy when she was 8. She took lessons under Mr Liscoln Quah and thereafter Miss Chua Siew Joo. Under their guidance, she achieved distinctions in her ABRSM examinations.



Bixin's performing experience has been mainly in the JKPA's annual Young Students' Recital – playing solo pieces and duets. Since the beginning of this year, she started piano diploma studies under Ms Josephine Koh. Besides playing the piano, Bixin sings and is the student president of her school's choir. She hopes to attain good results for her PSLE and to be in the Music Elective Programme. On a lighter side, Bixin has interests in Korean pop music and dance.

Artist's Biography:



JOSEPHINE KOH is a Bösendorfer concert artist, the Director and Principal of Josephine Koh Piano Academy, Director and Resident Author of Wells Music Publishers and most recently, the founder of Joyeux Sinfonietta - which presents its debut tonight.

A graduate in English and Management from the UK Open University, Ms Koh's early musical training includes voice, piano performance and composition. Her professional performance studies took off under Vincenzo Balzani in Italy. Josephine soon developed to perform

extensively in Europe and Asia, both as a soloist and in ensemble settings. In 2009, she was appointed Singapore's first ambassador for Bösendorfer Pianos.

As a 21st century pianist, Josephine Koh was conferred 'Most Distinguished Musician' by the IBLA Foundation at the 24th International Music International Music Competition (2015); Laureate Diploma Winner at the International "Bartolomeo Cristofori" 2015 and Laureate Third Prize Winner at the "Gloria and Polyphonica" 2016 in St. Petersburg, Russia. Her mentors over the past years include Tatyanna Lupikina (St Petersburg), Yuri Didenko (Moscow) and the great Russian masters - Vladimir Ovchinnikov and Dimitry Baskirov.

In the field of Orchestral Conducting, Josephine Koh studied under Denise Ham and George Hurst in the UK and later, with Ovidiu Balan in Romania. She served as Artistic Director and Conductor at the Centre for the Arts, National University of Singapore, staging multimedia productions and theatrical works for the NUS Harmonica Orchestra from 2006 till 2018. Her term ended abruptly when she suffered a serious fracture to her right wrist last December. With the encouragement of American conductor Charles Gambetta, Josephine resonated with and began to work on Ravel's Left Hand Concerto - a work composed for a pianist who lost his right arm in World War I.

Performances aside, most music teachers and students would know Josephine Koh as the author of the 'Practice in Music Theory' series, 'Teachers' Choice, Selected Piano Repertory' and various educational reference books for ABRSM examinations, published and sold internationally by Wells Music Publishers.

Artist's Biography:



DR JIPSON QUAH is the medical director of Mayfair Medical – a General Practitioner in private practice with subspecialty interest in Pathology. He graduated from National University of Singapore with Bachelors of Medicine and Surgery and also holds a postgraduate diploma in Anatomic Pathology.

Jipson started learning the piano from his mother at the age of 3 and has since cultivated a deep love for

music. His giftedness, both in music and academic studies, was prevalent from a young age. He grew up as a musician, a pianist and percussionist at heart. As a percussionist and timpanist, Jipson played with the Singapore National Youth Orchestra for over 10 years and achieved an impressive high Distinction in his DipABRSM examination. A competent composer and music arranger, Jipson taught for over a decade during his youth at Josephine Koh Piano Academy, and served as Head of the Gifted Music Programme.

Having attained his first Fellowship Diploma (FTCL) while studying at Raffles Institution, he continued to challenge himself over the years, developing his repertoire and scope of musical depth to achieve FLCM and recently his FRSM (2018) - a trio of professional fellowship diplomas. He has since performed in numerous masterclasses with Clemens Leske, Warren Thompson, Deniz Aman Gelenbe and Michael Okser-Bulychev.

While pursuing his medical studies at NUS, Jipson produced and co-wrote with his brother Dr Pipetius Quah, a full-length charity musical "Operation Theatre 3: The Elusiv Promise". The work originally scored for and presented in theatre, was subsequently reproduced and performed by several medical groups with chamber ensembles. Presently, Jipson engages and continues to produce music performances for various medical fundraising initiatives. Dr Jipson Quah also currently writes medical articles and serves actively on the Editorial Board of the Singapore Medical Association News.

Conductor's Biography:



LIEN BOON HUA Singaporean prize-winning conductor who has participated in international competitions including the Antal Dorati International 2nd Conducting Competition, 10th Grzegorz Fitelbera International Conductina Competition and 12th Khachaturian International Conducting Competition. He is currently featured as one of two conductors on the Peter Eötvös Foundation Mentoring Program 2019 and also leads OpusNovus, the new music ensemble at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music.

Lien was the Assistant Conductor of the Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra in Katowice (NOSPR) from 2016 to 2018, and also served as Musikalische Assistenz to the Richard-Strauss-Festival in Garmisch-Partenkirchen. Highlights of his 2018/19 season include debuts with NFM Wrocław Philharmonic, Kraków Philharmonic, Polish Baltic Philharmonic, Danubia Orchestra Óbuda, MAV Symphony Orchestra and UMZE Ensemble; concerts with NOSPR at the International Mozartiana Festival in Gdańsk and Katowice; and invitations to participate at international conducting competitions in Mexico City and Budapest.

Lien is the Music Director of the award-winning Orchestra Collective, one of Singapore's finest wind ensembles, and served as the Eastman Conducting Fellow of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra (2014 - 2016). His artistic achievements have earned him the Walter Hagen Conducting Prize, Bruno Walter Conducting Scholarship and was named winner of the Princess Galyani Vadhana Institute of Music Call for Conductor as well as The American Prize in Orchestral Conducting.

Currently based in Singapore, Lien received his Doctorate in orchestral conducting from the Eastman School of Music where his mentors include Neil Varon, Brad Lubman and Mark Scatterday. He holds conducting and performance degrees from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, with additional studies at the Peabody Conservatory of Music.

The Orchestra – Joyeux Sinfonietta

JOYEUX SINFONIETTA is chamber orchestra, consisting of professional musicians and advanced conservatory students. The group's concept is founded by Josephine Koh, who ensures that high quality musicians work together to form a rich orchestral texture with minimal logistic issues. In tonight's debut of the orchestra, the traditional scores are transcribed and rearranged - each work, to include a specially trained orchestral pianist. Led by its first guest conductor Lien Boon Hua and The Libitum Quartet, the resulting sound is a modern, efficient orchestra, with an enriched and wholesome timbre reminiscent of European settings in the early 17th and 18th centuries. With its flexibilities for optional instruments, Ms Koh foresees future collaborations with instrumentalists and musicians, from Singapore and overseas, for the focused purpose of presenting concertos and operatic vocal repertoire.

THE LIBITUM QUARTET is a professional quartet which seeks to perform a range of classical and popular genres to a wide audience. Founded and led by the Shagimardanov family, who originally hail from Uzbekistan and trained in the Russian music tradition, the Libitum Quartet specialises in producing themed chamber recitals whereby they present music of the great composers -their works, stories and anecdotes. Leading the Joyeux Sinfonietta:

ALBERT SHAGIMARDANOV began his musical education in Tashkent, Uzbekistan at the Uspensky Music School for gifted children. After moving to Singapore, he continued his violin education under Yoong-Han Chan, a violinist of the Singapore Symphony Orchestra . Soon after, he studied in the Netherlands under Prof. Robert Szreder and graduated with BA degree in violin performance from the Maastricht Conservatorium. As first violinist of the Libitum quartet, he is the cofounder and currently teaches at Libitum Music and Art Studio.

ELENA SHAGIMARDANOVA is an Honours Degree graduate from the Tashkent State Conservatory. She played viola with the National Symphony Orchestra in Tashkent and the Chamber Orchestra of the Uzbek National TV and Radio. After moving to Singapore, she played with the Singapore Lyric Opera and developed a unique approach toward music education. She co-founded and teaches at the Libitum Music and Art Studio.

VIVIENNE EIO began her career as a lawyer by profession, but has moved on to pursue her passion on the violin. She studied violin performance and pedagogy under Professor Weijian Zhao, at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing. Besides performing with fellow musicians and staging her own concerts, she now enjoys teaching and prepares students for violin competitions.

ERKIN SULTANOV is the youngest member of the group. A winner of international and republican competitions and having participated in master-classes of Buzlov and M. Istomin, Erkin is from Uzbekistan and now studies cello performance at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music.

Orchestral Musicians:

ALBERT SHAGIMARDANOV Violin I - Principal

KRISTAL YANG ZHENTING Violin I JACKIE SIM JIA LIN Violin I

VIVIENNE EIO Violin II - Leader

DELIA PAK Violin II
CHI YU CHEN Violin II

ELENA SHAGIMARDANOVA Viola - Leader

ANNTHEA LEE Viola

ERKIN SULTANOV Cello - Leader

CLARA TAN XIAO EN Cello

SANCHE JAGATHEESAN Double Bass

ANDY KOH Flute

GRACE TAN Oboe

SAMUEL CHAN Clarinet

LEE HUI Bassoon

TAN HAN YONG Trumpet

CHRISTOPHER SHEN Horn

LIM XING HONG Percussion

The pianos featured are the BÖSENDORFER Imperial Grand 290 and YAMAHA CFX

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