



2025 SEASON

AD CLASSICA CONCENTUS BACK TO CLASSICS

A CELEBRATION
WITH
SINGAPOREAN ARTISTS



Performance by Madeline Goh (violin),
Theophilus Tan (cello), Shaun Choo (piano),
Resound Collective (orchestra), Sarah Wong (harp)

31 March 2025 (Mon.) 7:30PM
Esplanade Concert Hall (Singapore)

Exclusive Sponsor



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Co-Producer

re:SOUND
Collective



GOOD EVENING, AND WELCOME

Tonight, we present Ad Classica Concentus—Back to Classics. As a special treat, we have the Global Premiere of "An Irish Blessing", a new arrangement commissioned by the Chenter Foundation in 2024.

Live concerts are not privileges and for anyone to enjoy; hence, all our concerts are inclusive. This concert is attended by audiences of different ages and conditions, many of whom may have disabilities or require additional help. As such, we ask for your patience and understanding if some audiences laugh or make noise. It is how they enjoy the performance and express their excitement. (Parents and caretakers, please be mindful of other audiences.) Thank you for promoting Empathy and Compassion with us. We also encourage youths to participate in our concerts with adult family members to promote healthy family activities and immerse themselves in classical music. We are delighted to see so many youths in the audience tonight.

We hope you enjoy tonight's performance. Please join our LSP Membership via our website for information on future concerts (www.LichaStelaus.com).

Michelle and Richard Chen
Executive Producers
Founders
Chenter Foundation
Licha Stelaus Productions



PROGRAMME

PRE-CONCERT TALK

Concert Hall Foyer, 6:10 PM, 30 minutes

Mervin Beng

FIRST HALF

Door opens at 7:00 PM

Concerti Grossi in G Major, 1739

Op. 6 No. 1 HWV 319

George Frederic Handel

(1685 - 1759)

George Frederic Handel's (1685-1759) Concerti Grossi, Op. 6 (also Twelve Grand Concertos, HWV 319-330), are a collection of twelve concerti grossi for two violins and cello with an accompanying four-part string orchestra and harpsichord continuo, and they are among the best examples of the Baroque concerto grosso. Modeled more on Arcangelo Corelli's concerto da chiesa and concerto da camera than on Antonio Vivaldi's three-movement form adopted by J.S. Bach, these 1739 works were composed to be performed during the intermissions of Handel's oratorios. Among the twelve Concerto Grosso can be found a mixture of original music and music borrowed from other works by the composer. No. 1 in G Major, HWV 319, borrows from the overture of Handel's Italian opera Imeneo, reworking it completely for the first movement. (Notes from Alfred Music, originally published by Kalmus Orchestra Library)

Serenade for Strings in C Major, 1880

Op. 48

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

(1840 - 1893)

In 1880, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky struggled with fatigue and sought a break from composing at his sister's estate in Kam'ianka, Ukraine, but soon felt inspired to work again. Initially planning a symphony or string quintet, Tchaikovsky eventually created one of his most beloved works. The piece features four movements, each with a distinct mood: a Mozartian first movement in sonata form, a graceful waltz, a melancholic Elegy, and an energetic finale. The work has become a staple in the string orchestra repertoire, with this new source critical edition offering insights from both the autograph and early printed versions. (Notes from original score published by G. Henle Verlag)

INTERMISSION

20 minutes

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02





PROGRAMME

SECOND HALF

Triple Concerto in C Major, 1803

Op. 56

Ludwig van Beethoven

(1770 – 1827)

In the spring of 1804, Beethoven's Third Symphony, Op. 55, and Triple Concerto, Op. 56, were privately performed for Prince Lobkowitz, offering the patron a chance to experience these new works before their public debut. This gave Beethoven the opportunity to refine the pieces based on Lobkowitz's feedback. The Triple Concerto had its first public performance in February 1808 at Leipzig's Gewandhaus.

Beethoven's Triple Concerto is a groundbreaking work in which a piano trio serves as the ensemble of soloists, a novel approach at the time. Instead of following the typical format of contrasting the piano trio against the orchestra, Beethoven creates varied interactions between the solo instruments and the orchestra. Each instrument – the piano, violin, and particularly the cello – is given moments to play independently with the orchestra, while the instruments also engage in dynamic combinations. The concerto showcases Beethoven's skilful orchestration and intricate interplay of voices, resulting in a masterpiece that has remained a standard repertoire of every symphony orchestra. (Notes from original score published by Bärenreiter)



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PROGRAMME

ENCORES

Primavera Porteña in G Minor, 1969

Astor P. Piazzolla

(1921 – 1992)

The "spring" installment of Astor Piazzolla's cycle devoted to the four seasons in the port area of Buenos Aires, Primavera porteña is a rather spiky way to begin the year, and it was one of the last works in the series to be written. As with its companion pieces, several arrangements exist. The tango launches boldly, without introduction, with an angular melody in the lead instrument (often bandoneón or piano), leaping sideways up and down the staff. Meanwhile, over the tango counterpart to a walking bass, whatever bowed instrument is at hand produces Piazzolla's trademark "chicharra" effect, a raspy, cricket-like sound generated when the bow is scraped over the wrapping of the third string. This accounts for the first 15 seconds of the six-minute piece. From here, the main theme passes among the instruments with tiny variations, the texture thickening, the intensity growing. A contrasting motif makes a brief appearance; it's really just an inversion of the main tune. At last, a true second section emerges after a pause. This is a slow melody, either bittersweet or mournful depending on the instrument that plays it; on bandoneón or violin it has a sad nostalgia reminiscent of Poulenc, whereas on cello it takes on even deeper, darker expression. Variants of the opening motif then regain control of the piece. Just as it seems to be reaching a rough, forceful climax, everything stops short for a quiet, tentative solo (often on piano), which builds with the rest of the ensemble into an assertive and curt coda. (Notes by James Reel)

An Irish Blessing, 2001, Global Premiere

James E. Moore Jr.

New arrangement

(1951 – 2022)

Commissioned in 2024 by Chenter Foundation

Gordon Thornett

Arranger (1942 -)

The Irish people have a long history of oral tradition, passing down stories, poems, and blessings through generations. This particular blessing is believed to be part of that rich oral heritage. The blessing wishes for an easy path, free from obstacles and hardships. It's a hope that life will be kind and that challenges will be manageable. The full blessing often includes references to sun, wind, and rain, which can be seen as elements of nature or as metaphors for God's presence in various aspects of life. This blend of nature-based imagery and spiritual meaning is characteristic of many Irish blessings, reflecting the country's unique cultural and religious history. (Notes from www.irishhistory.com)

GOOD NIGHT

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ARTIST DETAILS



Madeline Goh

violin



Theophilus Tan

cello



Shaun Choo

piano



Resound Collective

orchestra



Sarah Wong

harp

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BACK TO CLASSICS



MADELINE GOH | violin

Madeline is currently in the Mozarteum University Salzburg pre-college program studying with Professor Paul Roczek. She had previously studied with Min Lee (Wolfgang Violin Studio) since she was 5 years old. Over the years she has had masterclasses with pedagogues such as Milan Vitek, Ani Kavafian, Aaron Rosand, Boris Kuschnir and Shmuel Ashkenasi among others. Additionally, she has played in orchestras such as the Mozarteum Salzburg Pre-college orchestra, the Philharmonie Salzburg Elisabeth Fuchs, the Female Symphonic Orchestra Austria and the MGS (Methodist Girls School) Strings Ensemble. She was a Strings fellow in the Heifetz Music Institute 2023 and has also attended the Sounding Point Academy and Keshet Eilon Summer Course 2024.

In 2024, she won second prize as well as the Best Virtuoso Piece prize in the International Kloster Schontal Competition. In 2023, she won third prize as well as the young jury prize in the Zhuhai Mozart International Competition, playing with the Salzburg Chamber Soloists under the baton of Lavard Skou Larsen. In 2022, she won the prestigious Goh Soon Tioe Centenary Award as its youngest ever winner.

From ages 8 to 12, she was consistently among the top three places in the Junior, Intermediate and Senior Categories of the Singapore National Piano and Violin Competition, winning the Intermediate category as the youngest violinist at 10 years old.

Her very first international solo performance was at the age of 6 when she played at the closing concert of the Cambridge International String Academy 2013 in the United Kingdom.

In addition to playing the violin, Madeline is also a rhythmic gymnast and won team and individual gold and silver medals for both school and club at national competitions in her younger days, appearing on the nationally televised programme, On the Red Dot.

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BACK TO CLASSICS

06





THEOPHILUS TAN | cello

Theophilus started learning the cello at the age of 15 under Mrs Herminia A Ilano. He then studied at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music from 2011-2015 under Ng Pei Sian. He won the Goh Soon Tioe Award in 2015 and went on to pursue a Masters of Music in Cello Performance at the Conservatorio della Svizzera Italiana in Lugano, Switzerland supported by Trailblazer Foundation and individual donorship.

He has participated in masterclasses with cellists such as Frans Helmerson, Gustav Rivinius, Arto Noras and etc. He was featured in the local Dutch Newspaper article, "The stars of tomorrow" in Bergen during the International Holland Music Sessions in 2014. He also performed with the Michelangelo String Quartet.

Theophilus has been featured with various groups, performing Haydn's Cello Concerto in D Major with the Braddell Heights Symphony Orchestra in 2014 as well as Vivaldi's Concerto in D minor RV565 with Resound Collective and Enrico d'Onofrio in 2019, the Dvorak cello concerto in 2023 and Tchaikovsky's Rococo Variations with Musicians Initiative in 2024. He was the founding cellist of the Concordia Quartet from 2020-2021 and continues to devote his time to teaching and performing with various groups such as Resound Collective, Metropolitan Festival Orchestra, Musicians Initiative, Asian Cultural Symphony, Orchestra of the Music Makers, as well as The Philharmonic Orchestra.

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BACK TO CLASSICS





SHAUN CHOO | piano

Born in Singapore, Shaun Choo began piano studies at seven. At fourteen, he achieved his Diploma in Music Performance under Ms. Lena Ching before studying at the University Mozarteum Salzburg, Austria, graduating with a Bachelor and Master of Arts under professors Karl-Heinz Kämmerling, Andreas Weber, and Jacques Rouvier, both with highest distinction. Currently, he is a candidate in the prestigious “Konzertexamen” program at Berlin University of the Arts under Professor Björn Lehmann. Further mentors include Dmitri Alexeev, Bernd Goetzke, Matti Raekallio and Dang Thai Son.

Shaun’s performances span Europe and Asia, gracing venues like the National Concert Hall Beijing, Leipziger Gewandhaus, and Esplanade Concert Hall. Festival appearances include Duszynski Chopin Piano Festival and Singapore International Piano Festival. He has performed with orchestras such as the Südwestdeutsche Philharmonie Konstanz and Mozarteum Symphony Orchestra, cementing his reputation as a versatile soloist.

Shaun has won over ten international competitions, including nine first prizes. Notable wins include the Istanbul Orchestra’ Sion Competition and five prizes at international Chopin competitions across Hungary, France, China, South Korea, and Australia. He has also won the Artur Schnabel Piano Competition Berlin and ZF Musikpreis Friedrichshafen.

An in-demand educator, Shaun’s students frequently win international prizes. He conducts masterclasses globally and serves as an Adjunct Lecturer at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore. As a composer, his works, like the four-hand piece “Fiestravaganza,” have gained millions of views and won several accolades.

In 2022, Shaun founded Camerata Fiestravaganza, a chamber orchestra of young, diverse talents. In 2023, he established the Fiestravaganza International Music Academy (FIMA) in Berlin, the first major piano summer academy in the German capital. It offers young pianists unique opportunities, including piano concerto performances with Camerata Fiestravaganza and masterclasses with renowned instructors on both modern and historical instruments.

AD CLASSICA CONCENTUS
BACK TO CLASSICS

08





RESOUND COLLECTIVE | orchestra

Resound Collective Limited is a Singapore-based musicians' collective and registered charity that promotes music for small orchestra and chamber ensembles. The company's performing groups include re:Sound, the first professional chamber orchestra in the country, and the Concordia Quartet, a string quartet which debuted in February 2020.

Members of the collective are among Singapore's most talented and highly trained classical musicians, who share the vision of enriching the music landscape by performing at the highest level.

re:Sound was formed in 2016 and has presented concerts with music ranging from the early baroque to the 21st century. The many artists who have performed with the company include violinists Kam Ning, Chloe Chua and Keila Wakao, cellists Qin Li-Wei and Ng Pei-Sian, pianists Sir Stephen Hough, Melvyn Tan, Dennis Lee, Lim Yan, Koh Jia Hwei, Shaun Choo, toy pianist Margaret Leng Tan, the Icelandic rock group Sigur Ros, jazz legend Jeremy Monteiro as well as the Nidaros Cathedral Male Choir, and conductors Jason Lai, Lim Soon Lee and Adrian Chiang.

The collective also encourages and promotes new Singapore works, commissioning and premiering the performance of music compositions by local composers. Among composers whose works have been premiered are Stephen Montague, Jonathan Dove, Jonathan Shin, Tan Chan Boon and Eric Watson.

Currently in their fifth year, Concordia Quartet has participated in music festivals in Canada and the USA. In June 2024, they embarked on their own concert tour of Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur and Malacca).

In January 2024, Resound Collective relaunched the biennial Singapore Chamber Music Festival to Connect, Share, and Celebrate the joy of chamber music. The next edition will take place in March 2026.

Resound Collective Limited is a registered charity under the Charities Act, Singapore and has been accorded IPC (Institution of a Public Character) status from 16 August 2024 to 15 February 2027.

Resound Collective Limited is supported by the National Arts Council, Singapore under the Major Company Scheme from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2025.

AD CLASSICA CONCENTUS
BACK TO CLASSICS





RESOUND COLLECTIVE | orchestra

Violins

Yang Shuxiang* (Concertmaster)
Edward Tan* (Concertmaster)
Wilford Goh*
Neville Ang*
Lim Hao Wei
Gloria Parn
Loh Wei Ken
Kim Kyu Ri
Gabriel Lee
Jesse Yap
Siew Yi Li
Ng Wei Ping
Chen Shu-Yu#

Viola

Martin Peh*
Jonathan Lee
Jeremy Chiew
Judy Tay
Liu Wei-Jia#

Cello

Lin Juan*
Olivia Chuang
Brandon Voo
Guo Mingai#

Bass

Julian Li*
Yeo Zeng Yin
Kuek Jia Xin

Flute

Cheryl Lim

Oboe

Tay Kai Tze
Hu Qiuzi

Clarinet

Ralph Lim
Desmond Chow

Bassoon

Lim Tee Heong
Kee Rui Han

Horn

Alan Kartik
Xavier Tan

Trumpet

Ray Chionh
Yong Lin

Percussion

Michael Tan

Harpsichord

Mervyn Lee

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BACK TO CLASSICS





SARAH WONG | harp

Singaporean harpist Sarah Wong began her musical journey as a pianist at a young age before discovering her passion for the harp during her teenage years. An active orchestral and chamber musician, Sarah freelances regularly with various ensembles, including Singapore Chinese Orchestra, The Philharmonic Orchestra, Resound Collective, Metropolitan Festival Orchestra, Singapore Armed Forces Band, Ding Yi Music Company, and many more. As a soloist, she has performed Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez* with Audiolmage Wind Ensemble, and Mozart's *Flute and Harp Concerto* alongside the late renowned British flautist William Bennett, and the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts Orchestra.

A highly versatile harpist, Sarah has been involved in numerous projects that blend genres and art forms. She curated a programme of French Impressionist works for the *Colours of Impressionism* exhibition at the National Gallery Singapore, and performed with Wild Rice and Victorian Opera in *The Butterfly Lovers*.

Sarah has also appeared on television as a harpist, with notable appearances on the local variety show *Chef on Wheels*, *Star Awards 2016*, and *The Sheng Siong Show* in 2023, all broadcast on Mediacorp Channel 8. Her talents have graced high-profile events such as the official opening ceremony of Jewel Changi Airport in 2019, the launch party for the new Netflix series *Super Rich in Korea* and Hacken Lee's *World Tour 2024 Concert* at the Singapore Indoor Stadium.

As a dedicated performer-educator, Sarah has organised solo and ensemble recitals for her students at the National Gallery Singapore and the Festive Arts Theatre at Our Tampines Hub. She has also led a harp composition workshop for local composers as part of the 'Have You Experienced?' Composition Laboratory, organised by ADDO Arts Company.

Sarah holds a Bachelor of Music with Honours from Royal College of Music (London), in collaboration with Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (Singapore), where she had the privilege of studying under esteemed mentors Gulnara Mashurova, Huang Yu-Hsin, and Daphne Boden.

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BACK TO CLASSICS



FOR OUR US CITIZENS AND RESIDENT FANS

CHENTER FOUNDATION AND LICHA STELAUS PRODUCTIONS

Chenter Foundation, founded by Michelle and Richard in the USA, is a global charitable foundation dedicated to the improvement of children's lives through:

Advancement and Health Care in paediatric medical science
Education and Opportunities for underprivileged children
Empathy and Compassion through music and performing arts

In order to more effectively execute the aim of improving lives by spreading Empathy and Compassion through music and performing arts, Licha Stelaus Productions (LSP) was established in 2017 in Singapore, and expanded to Taiwan in 2019.

Licha Stelaus Productions has an enthusiastic team of passionate individuals supported by external talents, made up of extraordinary singers, musicians, promoters, and business people who share the love of music and performing arts. Till this day, the founders and LSP have presented choirs, orchestras and musicians around Asia and Europe in more than 32 performances. All our concerts are inclusive events, encouraging our audiences to welcome friends who require additional help and with special needs. And in every city where LSP hosts a performance, we try our best to have at least one charity concert. With funding from Chenter Foundation, a very large portion of seats in all our concerts are distributed free of charge to charities that meet our criteria.

Under the umbrella of the Chenter Foundation, we endeavour to create the most unique experience for our fans and nurture future generations of talented performing artists for the world.

It's all about our Future. Chenter Foundation needs your donation to continue improve the world of children around the world because we have to count on our future generations. We sincerely hope you like what we do around the world and continue to support us by donating directly to us. We are a 501(c)(3) charitable organisation (Federal Tax ID: 47-3114342). Tax residents from the United States may enjoy tax breaks and relief even if grants and support are made throughout the world. We use stringent test methods and utmost care in due diligence to certify all our grants to ensure they are not used for political purposes, promotion of religious causes, or of any illegal means. In all instances, the Chenter Foundation's board of directors has final discretion in determining which organizations, whether US-based or foreign, will receive grants and support. We ask that no contributions be earmarked for a specific organization.



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BACK TO CLASSICS



THANK YOU

We want to say a special Thank You to:

Our wonderful managers and full-time/part-time staff.

Tonight's artists:

Madeline Goh

Theophilus Tan

Shaun Choo

Resound Collective

Sarah Wong

Co-Artistic Directors

Mervin Beng

Yang Shuxiang

Mervin Beng (Resound Collective)

Adrian Chiang (Resound Collective)

Esplanade Concert Hall

Chenter Foundation (www.ChenterFoundation.org) for the generous support and sponsorship that made complimentary charity tickets and free youth tickets possible.

Sound Consulting by Nicholas Chen Sound, LLC (Boston)

Videography and audio by MSM Productions

Photography by Larry Lim

Graphics and Programme Book design by Wanda

Our global LSP Members

Michelle and Richard Chen

Executive Producers

Founders

Chenter Foundation

Licha Stelaus Productions

**All texts, photos, descriptions, and profiles were provided by producers, respective performers, or the original score, and partially edited by producers for clarity.*



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