

**SPIRIT of the
TIMES**

**20-29
MARCH**

**NUS ARTS
FESTIVAL
2015**

INTEMPO 2015: SINGAPORE PANORAMA

NUS Wind Symphony with The NUSChoir
Conducted by A/P Ho Hwee Long, Francis Tan and Dr Zechariah Goh



PROGRAMME

MUSIC FOR A FESTIVAL

Philip Sparke

MUNNAERU VAALIBAA

Arr. Zaidi Sabtu-Ramil

SANG NILA FOR WIND ENSEMBLE AND CHOIR

Dr Zechariah Goh

Featuring The NUSChoir

Intermission

EXULTATÉ

Samuel R. Hazo

THREE PORTRAITS FOR SYMPHONIC BAND

Dr Kelly Tang

DAYONG SAMPAN OVERTURE

Leong Yoon Pin, Arr. Ernest Thio, Dr Zechariah Goh

LIBERTY GUIDING THE PEOPLE

Masanori Taruya

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Welcome to the 10th NUS Arts Festival: *Spirit of the Times*.

As our flagship performance platform, the Festival embodies our vision of becoming a vibrant centre for the appreciation of the arts and nurturing of the creative and inquiring spirit of the NUS students. The annual Festival celebrates the best of our 22 Student Arts groups. Through the Festival's innovative programming and partnerships, we aim to grow an active arts community where students, artists, scholars and audience can converge and create.

NUS Centre For the Arts encompasses NUS Museum, NUS Baba House and a Talent & Development arm that oversees the Student Arts groups. Through our programmes, practices, exhibitions, workshops and outreach, we augment the university experience and contribute to the building of knowledge and transformation of the students. We strongly believe that students who engage deeply with the arts enhance their creativity, broaden their perspective and enrich their lives.

On behalf of the Centre, I thank the Festival's professional artists and NUS alums who are inspiring role models for the next generation of arts audiences and talents in NUS. We are grateful to our donors and supporters who share our goal to enrich the intellectual and cultural life of the campus.

Enjoy the Festival!

SHARON TAN

Director

NUS Centre For the Arts

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



In 2015, we celebrate Singapore's 50 years of nation building and National University of Singapore's 110th anniversary. At our 10th NUS Arts Festival (NAF) from 20 – 29 March, we recall the achievements of our pioneers who have transformed society today.

NAF 2015 opens with *Words And Music*, a jazz concert helmed by Singapore's best jazz talent Jeremy Monteiro with text from Wang Liansheng. Enjoy the youthful energy of NUS's talented young musicians as they present classical works as well as contemporary compositions by Singaporean composers, the late Cultural Medallion recipient Leong Yoon Pin, Zechariah Goh and Kelly Tang. We are proud to present a new commissioned work by Young Artist Award winner Chen Zhangyi and the Asian Contemporary Ensemble led by Wong Kah Chun.

Look forward to *Overdrive II* by NUS dance talents with two established Asian choreographers Ricky Hu and Chen Wu-Kang. Fringed by live gigs and screenings of films from Israel and Japan, NAF 2015 climaxes with *Dance Reflections* featuring all 6 dance companies under NUS Centre For the Arts.

This year, we welcome an unprecedented level of participation from NUS' arts talents, including outstanding alums who return to share their creativity in the arts. We thank them for their dedication and support.

Through the theme "Spirit of the Times", NAF 2015 looks back at the past as fuel to push forward to the future. The insights into the lives, achievement and spirit of those who have gone before serve to encourage us to also make a difference in the world.

Come explore the spirit of the times with us!

CHRISTINE KHOR

Festival Director

NUS Centre For the Arts

NUS WIND SYMPHONY



Since its inception in 1968, the NUS Wind Symphony has managed to establish itself as one of the premier wind orchestras in Singapore's music scene. Boasting an illustrious history of 47 years, the wind orchestra counts itself as one of the pioneering bands in Singapore. Originally conceived as a military band, it has since grown from strength to strength, playing works of increasing depth and sophistication.

Under the tutelage of its Musical Director/Resident Conductor, the esteemed Associate Professor Ho Hwee Long, as well as Assistant Conductor Mr Francis Tan, members hone their skills in terms of technicality and musicality. The Wind Symphony places emphasis on creating quality music and exposure to a wide range of quality repertoire of varying difficulty – from orchestral transcriptions, chorales, marches, standard band works, to modern band music. It also aims to produce world class musicians who will lead the arts scene both locally and internationally.

The Wind Symphony performs two formal concerts every academic year – *Da Capo* in semester one and *InTempo* in semester two. The *InTempo* concert series, started in 1974, is especially noted for being the longest running band concert series in Singapore. The Wind Symphony also performs regularly in local engagements, within and outside of NUS.

An active participant in music festivals and competitions overseas, the most significant achievement of the Wind Symphony was its participation in the 14th World Music Contest in Kerkrade, The Netherlands (2001), where the group was awarded a First Prize (Gold Award) in the 2nd Division, Harmony Section. Other examples from the past decade include the 13th International Band Festival held in Besana, Italy (2007) and the Mid Europe 2011 held in Schladming, Austria.

With the support of the NUS Centre For the Arts as well as the hard work and dedication of its members, the NUS Wind Symphony will continue to strive towards excellence.



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR HO HWEЕ LONG

Music Director / Resident Conductor

A/P Ho Hwee Long is a widely recognised and respected figure in music circles. He possesses a Master's Degree in Music Education from Northwestern University, Illinois, USA, and has studied band conducting under the tutelage of the late Professor John Paynter. In 1967, he assumed the conductor's baton and has since been extensively involved in the evolution of Singapore's band movement. He was a French Horn player with the National Symphony Orchestra (1967-1967), and was the founder and conductor of the Singapore Polytechnic Band and the National Theatre Symphonic Band.

He was the Music Director of the Singapore Teachers' Band from 1986 to 1991. In United States, A/P Ho conducted the Northwestern Wind Symphony and the Palestine High School Band in Chicago (1983-1985). In 2008, Prof. Ho was appointed Music Director and Resident Conductor of the NUS Wind Symphony. He is also the conductor of the National Junior College Symphonic Band and was the conductor for the National Institute of Education (NIE) Symphonic Band from 1974 to 2014. His love for music and belief in exacting standard has seen his bands make their mark in the local band scene.

He is presently the Vice Chairman of the Art and Cultural Committee, Northwest Community Development (CDC) responsible for cultural performances for the residents in the heartland. He serves as a Vice President in the Wind Band Association of Singapore which hosted the WASBE International Band Conference in 2005.

In January 2004, A/P Ho was conferred the Meritorious Award by the Composers and Authors Society of Singapore (COMPASS) for his outstanding and commendable achievements and contributions to the development of local music in Singapore and in 2007, he was conferred The Public Service Medal (Pingat Bakti Masyarakat - PBM) from the then-President of Singapore, His Excellency SR Nathan. In 2004 he was awarded the Excellence in Teaching Commendation by NIE in recognition of teaching excellence achieved through the years.



FRANCIS TAN

Assistant Conductor

Francis Tan received his music education from Indiana University and Australian National University where he studied with several notable instrumentalists and pedagogues including Steven Pratt and Douglas Stotter – Professors of Conducting at Indiana University, Daniel Perantoni – Professor of Tuba at Indiana University, Max McBride – Lecturer in Conducting and Steve Rosse – Lecturer in Tuba at Australian National University.

He is currently Band Director of Anglo-Chinese School (Independent) and Assistant Conductor of the National University of Singapore Wind Symphony. In his tenure with the former, he has been instrumental in conceptualising and constantly developing the school's band programme for both the Secondary and International-Baccalaureate sections. He manages a team of like-minded music instructors in the execution of its distinctive band-class curriculum. As the Assistant Conductor of the NUSWS, having opportunities to design and develop a varsity band programme that enables students to maximise creativity in music performance, concert programming and concert management.

His diverse contribution to the music field includes involvement in the coaching, performance and community arenas. Invited as conductor for Wind Bands Association of Singapore (WBAS) Junior College and Polytechnic Band Festival in 2011 and 2012; Assistant Conductor (2009-present) of *Westwinds*, Band of the Bukit Batok Community Club. He was also Part-time lecturer for Tuba Performance, National Institute of Education, Singapore (2008-2012). He has been a freelance musician for the Singapore Lyric Opera Orchestra and Singapore Symphony Orchestra since 2005.

His ongoing professional interests has seen him participating in Maestro Douglas Bostock International Conducting Workshop, 2014 in Porto, Portugal; 2015 in Tokyo, Japan; as well as in various Band Director's Workshops conducted by WBAS, Ministry of Education and Band Director's Association Band.



DR ZECHARIAH GOH TOH CHAI

Guest Conductor

Head of Composition at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, a composer of music ranging from choir, symphonic band, wind ensemble, chamber music to large scale orchestral works, Zechariah Goh Toh Chai has carefully fused South East Asian Chinese with Western traditions.

He began his music piano lessons under Ong Lip Tat, harmony from Phoon Yew Tien and counterpoint from Leong Yoon Pin while working on his Diploma of Music from the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts. In 1999, he received the David and Gunda Hiebert Scholarship award to work on his Master of Piano from University of Kansas, during which he was appointed as a graduate assistant by the university to teach undergraduate music theory.

Subsequently, he worked on his Doctorate degree majoring in Composition under the guidance of Dr. Charles Hoag. At the same time, he studied Orchestration and Arrangement for Band under James Barnes. Zechariah was also awarded the prestigious Anthony Cius Prize for outstanding student composer from the University of Kansas for the Academic year of 2001 and 2002.

Before embarking on his studies in the United States, he was a familiar face in the local music scene, teaching bands and choirs in Singapore.

As a composer, he is frequently commissioned locally and internationally to write music for symphonic bands and choirs. His works have been premiered in Singapore and won many awards worldwide.

Zechariah Goh is also an active speaker at international music conferences. For his artistic excellence in the field of music, he was conferred the Young Artist Award (Music) in September 2003 by the National Arts Council, Singapore.

THE NUSCHOIR

Under the baton of Professor Nelson Kwei, Singapore's premier choral director, The NUSChoir is committed to promoting excellence in choral music within the NUS community, Singapore and beyond. The group was formed in 1980 and comprises over 70 students and alumni from various NUS faculties who share a common passion for singing and choral music.

Every March, The NUSChoir stages its major concert, *Varsity Voices*, performing an extensive repertoire that features choral music, from traditional and classic to contemporary and new music. Audiences are also treated to pieces which have been prepared for overseas competitions. Aside from its annual concert, the choir also performs for local audiences outside NUS. In addition, the choir performs Christmas carols every December at numerous hotels, high society clubs and shopping centres.

The NUSChoir has gained a strong reputation as a youth choir overseas. It takes part in international competitions and has garnered awards, such as the Gold Award with Perfect Scores in Open Mixed and Jazz categories – Fiesta Choralis, Slovakia, 2010, Overall Champion with Perfect Scores – Grand Prix, Russia, 2008, among many others. Most recently, the choir emerged champions in three categories (Youth, Folk Song and Mixed Choirs) at the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod 2012 and were finalists in the Pavarotti Cup, competing for the title of 'Choir of the World'.



PROGRAMME NOTES

MUSIC FOR A FESTIVAL

Philip Sparke

Music for a Festival was originally composed for brass band and used as a test-piece in the National Brass Band Championships.

The piece is divided into three sections: it begins with a bright fanfare from the trumpet and this theme is passed across the various sections which leads to a sensitive quartet writing for the woodwinds in the slow movement and features a thoughtful bassoon solo. The last section opens with a rhythmic burst from the percussion which introduces a rhythmic tune leading to the climax, before galloping to an exciting close.

MUNNAERU VAALIBA

Arranged by Zaidi Sabtu-Ramli

This Indian community song exhorts the youths to improve the world that they live in. Singaporean composer, Zaidi has managed to zest up the traditional tune with a refreshing twist, with influences from Middle Eastern sounds and contemporary wind band. The piece starts from a delicate and sensual soloistic writing before progressing to full-blown ensemble passages featuring odd metered rhythms of 15/16, rapid fiery tutti to frenzied percussion rhythms.



SANG NILA FOR WIND ENSEMBLE AND CHOIR

Dr Zechariah Goh

“For me this work was the highlight of the conference. This was a haunting and magical work for chorus and band, featuring chanting and beguiling bell sounds. Here the influence of Gamelan music was triumphantly integrated into the musical language; the static harmonic field in this context was totally appropriate. The composer who conducted this premiere has clearly absorbed many musical directions of the last fifty years, and the final choral passage with vowel sounds paying homage to Stockhausen’s *Stimmung* was most memorable. Here is a composer whose original voice deserves to be heard worldwide.” – Review by renowned composer Adam Gorb

Sang Nila is a song that showcases both the band and the choir. Elements of Indonesian sounds were included through the inclusion of an Indonesian Gamelan Orchestra. Enjoy the unique blend of sounds as the piece journeys with *Sang Nila*, the early ruler of Singapore who gave Singapore her name.

EXULTATÉ

Samuel R. Hazo

Exultaté was written to be music for a celebration. The piece introduces nine melodic themes throughout the piece. Eight of those nine recur in either different chordal structures or as part of a layered thematic montage. These themes gain excitement each time they recur until a slow and powerful chorale offers a break from the fast pace music. The piece then picks up pace and dynamics to its climatic ending.

PROGRAMME NOTES

THREE PORTRAITS FOR SYMPHONIC BAND

Dr Kelly Tang

Three Portraits for Symphonic Band was commissioned in 2008 by the Singapore Armed Forces Central Band to commemorate “50 Years of Military Music Services in Singapore”. The first movement is a fanfare which opens with portentous drum beats, leading to a grand statement of the main theme by the French horns. The second portrait, “Chorale”, is based on the traditional local tune, *Singapura*. The final portrait is a lively March which features a regal-sounding trio section. The rhythmic momentum gradually builds to its highest point, unleashing a coda recalls the fanfare theme from the first portrait.

DAYONG SAMPAN OVERTURE

Composed by Leong Yoon Pin

Transcribed by Ernest Thio, Dr Zechariah Goh

Singaporean composer Leong Yoon Pin developed the familiar traditional Malay folk theme into a full-length orchestral work. *Dayong Sampan* reflects the story of the brave immigrants that fled from China through violent storms in order to reach Singapore’s beautiful shores, spurred on by the promise of a better life. Leong Yoon Pin hopes to evoke a sense of nostalgia, of joy and happiness, through his composition to remind us of the human spirit’s ability to overcome trials and tribulations. The original piece has been arranged by Ernest Thio and Zechariah Goh for a wind ensemble.



LIBERTY GUIDING THE PEOPLE

Masanori Taruya

Liberty Guiding the People is based on a painting by famous French painter Eugene Delacroix titled “Liberty Leading the People”. The painting portrays the 19th century July Revolution of France and the piece shadows the development of the revolution. The theme of Liberty, the goddess of freedom, appears throughout the piece.

The first part is a quiet 16-note clarinet and saxophone piece which express the uprising of the people in the wake of the revolution; this is represented by people with brass musical instruments in hand which represents the weapons. A trumpet theme vividly portrays the goddess who guides the people. Theme of the clarinet resounds like the hustle and bustle of the city. In the middle of that theme the rising flute and piccolo intensify the revolution. In between that hustle and bustle, a brass chorale delineates the people who continue the fight with weapons in hand. The revolution then ends and for the second time the theme of the goddess appears with a solo euphonium which illuminates the piece like a warm ray of light. Before long the solo is taken over by high-pitch toned oboe, horn, trumpet and tuba and the goddess theme is repeated. The piece ends magnificently with the freedom seeking revolution ending and with the goddess as a symbol of a bright future that the people walk towards.



MUSICIANS

FLUTE

Aloysius Leow
Charles Lee
Gabriel Liew
Katie Tan
Lee Hoe^{SL}
Natalie Lee
Sim Jin Lin
Teo Sin Hua
Xu Cuixuan

OBOE

Claudia Teh^{SL}
Shao Chong Chong^{Sang Nila}
Yu Xiaodong

ENGLISH HORN

Chong Kyou Un

BASSOON

Khystelle Yeo
Lim Tee Heong
Lin Yang Jun^{Sang Nila}

E♭ CLARINET

Wang Guoli^{SL EXCO}

B♭ CLARINET

Phuong Tung^{EXCO}
Chang Ya Yin
Charissa Seah
Ching Shi Chie
Lee Jia Jie
Paul Ng
Sebastian Lim
Siow Yun Jie
Sun Lixin^{EXCO}
Tashfia Raquib
Yvonne Toh^{EXCO}
Wang Jiawen
Yeoh Li Ting
Yu Yen Cheng
Yvonne Fong
Zhang Jun Yao

BASS CLARINET

Amanda Lee Chew
Yeo Wee Chong

CONTRABASS CLARINET

Darren Lim

ALTO SAXOPHONE

Mitchell Tan^{EXCO}
Muhammad Farhan
Neo Wen Shee

TENOR SAXOPHONE

Nian Wee Wu^{SL}

BARITONE SAXOPHONE

Aaron Theseira
Nur Haseena

TRUMPET

Christopher Yong^{Sang Nila}
Darrel Koh
Dexter Cheng
Germaine Ng
Joyce Tan
Lam Bo Jun
Lim Si Ying
Tan Jyh Harng
Tan Wen Quan^{SL}
Tricia Teng^{Sang Nila}

FRENCH HORN

Cheryl Ng
Grace Guan
Muhammad Hafiz
Wang Po En^{SL}

TROMBONE

Aldwyn Tan^{Sang Nila}
Amelia Jane Lim
Jeremy Lee^{Sang Nila}
Lee Heng Sheng
Low Liang Yuh
Tan Jun Jie
Tan Yi Mei
William Yee^{Sang Nila}

EUPHONIUM

Khoo Kai Qin^{SL EXCO}
Ng Huan Ran
Tan Hui Ning

TUBA

Ami Yousoff
Nicholas Wu
Scotts Lin

STRING BASS

Yao Dun^{Sang Nila}
Yeoh Li Shan^{SL EXCO}

PERCUSSION

Charlie Fong^{EXCO}
Conrad Chung
Elanor Yu
Jason Phang
Lin Siyao
Lu Qianni^{SL}
Mohammed Fhairit^{Sang Nila}
Ng Zhenning
Sophia Ung

HARP

Loh Li Ann

InTempo 2015: Singapore Panorama 22 March 2015

The NUS Wind Symphony would like to thank the following for their gracious guidance, support and presence:

Music Director/Resident Conductor Associate Professor Ho Hwee Long
Assistant Conductor Mr Francis Tan
Guest Conductor Dr Zechariah Goh

All tutors of NUS Wind Symphony

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The NUSChoir
NUS Symphony Orchestra
NUS Jazz Band
NUS Chinese Orchestra
NUS Department of South East Asian Studies
National Junior College
Tanjong Katong Secondary School

All Stage Managers and Front-of-House helpers

Last but not least, all friends, supporters and well-wishers of NUS Wind Symphony

Special Thanks

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