

PRESENTED BY



NUS  
CENTRE  
FOR THE  
ARTS



# NUS Arts Festival 2016

## 11 - 26 March



## Music For Curious Minds

By NUS Symphony Orchestra  
Conducted by Lim Soon Lee

Sat 26 Mar | 8pm | UCC Hall

MUSIC



# PROGRAMME

Academic Festival Overture, Op. 80 by Johannes Brahms

Double Concerto for Violin, Viola and Orchestra, Op. 88 by Max Bruch

I. Andante con moto

II. Allegro Moderato

III. Allegro Molto

Selections from Symphonie Fantastique, Op. 14 by Hector Berlioz

II. Un Bal

IV. Marche au Supplice

V. Songs d'une nuit de sabbat

## ABOUT NUS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The NUS Symphony Orchestra (NUSSO), one of the pioneer university music groups in Singapore, is now home to over 100 musicians. Over the years, NUSSO has built itself an impressive repertoire and reputation, aiming to provide NUS undergraduates an opportunity to pursue their interest in music and promote orchestral music to the public. Formally established in 1979 as the NUS Concert Orchestra under the directorship of Paul Abisheganaden, the Orchestra's beginnings can be traced back to the 1920s. In 1995, the Orchestra was inaugurated as the NUS Symphony Orchestra under the helm of Music Director and Resident Conductor Maestro Lim Soon Lee.

NUSSO was the first student group in Singapore selected to participate in the Aberdeen International Youth Festival in 1998, and again in 2005. In 2013, NUSSO participated in the Summa Cum Laude International Music Festival in Vienna, and clinched the first runner-up in the Symphony Orchestra category after an adjudicated performance at the Golden Hall.

Offering its members artistic instruction by professional tutors and numerous opportunities to travel and perform, the Orchestra, with its dedicated alumni, continues to hone its skills and raise its standard, while promoting appreciation for the arts in Singapore.

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Visit our official website: [nussymphonyorchestra.wordpress.com](http://nussymphonyorchestra.wordpress.com)



# PROGRAMME NOTES

## **Academic Festival Overture, Op. 80** by Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

*Academic Festival Overture* was completed in the year 1880 in celebration of Johannes Brahms receiving his honorary doctorate of music from the University of Breslau. The work is an expression of joy and gratitude in a musical form, balancing the bittersweet nature of the pursuit of education. The quiet beginning soon develops to become one of the most extravagant orchestral passages Brahms himself had ever composed. Brahms plays with one's sense of rhythm with off-beat rhythmic sections, and tugs at your heart strings with his lyrical melodies before rousing one's senses with a spectacular conclusion showcasing the full force of the orchestra.

## **Double Concerto for Violin, Viola and Orchestra, Op. 88** by Max Bruch (1838-1920)

I. Andante con moto      II. Allegro Moderato      III. Allegro Molto

Max Bruch composed the double concerto initially for the viola and clarinet in 1911, with the concerto dedicated to his son, Max Felix Bruch, who was a clarinet player himself. Filled with lyrical, melancholic themes, the work showcases a variety of emotions, further enhanced by a vast range of dynamics. A fanfare is heard in the final movement in the joyous key of E major (as it had ended in the first movement), bringing in the atmosphere of celebration, in contrast to the previous movements. Each movement faster than the last, builds up the momentum into a splendid and thrilling conclusion.

## **Selections from Symphonie Fantastique, Op. 14** by Hector Berlioz (1803-1869)

II. Un Bal      IV. Marche au Supplice      V. Songs d'une nuit de sabbat

First performed in 1830, the five-movement work showcases scenes that the composer, Hector Berlioz, dreamed of whilst in love with an actress by the name of Harriet Smithson. Berlioz introduces a motif, which will be first heard in the second movement, *Un Ball* (A Ball), in the flute and oboe and later the clarinet which would be the unifying idea presented in all the movements. It represents his beloved, who reappears in all his dreams. In *Marche au Supplice* (March to the Scaffold), his dreams turn to nightmares and hallucinations that haunt him, in which he kills the woman and is sentenced to death (which he witnessed himself - see if you can hear the dropping of the blade!). The last movement, *Songs d'une nuit de sabbat* (Witch's Sabbath Night Song) is the gathering of all the witches, spirits and creatures that appeared in his dreams, with an exciting collection of chants, strange noises, and bursts of laughter.





### MAESTRO LIM SOON LEE

Under a Public Service Commission/Singapore Symphony Orchestra (SSO) Scholarship, Soon Lee graduated in 1983 with a Bachelor of Music (Distinction) from the Eastman School of Music University of Rochester, New

York, where he studied the viola under Atar Arad and Francis Tursi and completed a two-year conducting course with David Efron and Donald Hunsberger. In the summers of 1984 and 1986, Soon Lee was Principal Violist at Germany's Heidelberg Music Festival and was awarded a scholarship to study the viola under Kim Kashkashian at the Lausanne Academy of Music in Switzerland. From 1987 to 1997, he was Sub-Principal Violist of the SSO, and in 1988, was Singapore's sole representative in the World Philharmonic Orchestra in Montreal, Canada.

In 1995, Soon Lee was awarded the Jean Frederic Perrenoud Prize with a Certificate of Distinction in Orchestral Conducting at the 4th Vienna International Music Competition and was the finalist for the Outstanding Young Persons of Singapore Award conferred by the Orchid Jayceettes of Singapore for his contributions to social development in Singapore. From 2006 to 2013, Soon Lee was the Associate Principal of String Performance at the School of the Arts.



### LIM CHUN

Lim Chun was born in Singapore, learning the violin when he was 8 and picked up the viola at 14. He was awarded a full scholarship from the

Peabody Conservatory when he was 17, studying under Joseph De Pasquale, and received both his bachelor and master degrees there. He had performed chamber music at the United Nations and the White House. In 1997, he toured China and Korea as viola soloist with Yo Yo Ma, who was full of praise for his performances and wrote him a glowing letter of recommendation, calling him "an extremely gifted violist who plays with spirit, ease, seems fearless and communicative... a rare talent that will make wonderful contribution to music and society."

In 2006, he was handpicked by Lorin Maazel to be a founding member of the orchestra of the opera theater Palau de les Arts Reina Sofia in Valencia, Spain. Zubin Mehta, who was director of the theater's summer festival, described him as "very accomplished and very musical".

Chun returned to Singapore in 2014, and has since been very active as both violist and violinist in the local music scene, across various genres. In 2015, he played the world premiere of Chen Zhangyi's *Viola Concerto* with the NUSSO under Lim Soon Lee. His violin playing can be heard on many local productions, including the theme songs of the drama series *Crescendo* and the Xinyao documentary *The Songs We Sang*.



### KIMBERLY LO

Kimberly, 15, started learning the violin at the tender age of three and showcased her first solo performance at the age of 4. The talented violinist has since gone on to perform locally and internationally, in countries such as Beijing and Switzerland. Kimberly was a

dedicated musician in her Nanyang Primary School and presently, in the Nanyang Girls High String Ensemble.

Kimberly's achievements include having won 3rd Prize at the inaugural FJ Benjamin-NAFA SYT Music Competition 2012 at the age of eleven. The following year, she went on to win the 1st Prize in the Junior Category of the 2013 Singapore National Piano and Violin Competition. In 2014, the young violinist received the Gold Award at the Raffles Arts Solo String Competition Youth Division. And most recently, she was selected as the 2015 President's Young Performer, making her debut as a soloist with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of Associate Conductor Joshua Tan Kang Ming.

Kimberly has also channelled her passion for music through other avenues such as community service, performing at various hospitals and homes, to bring joy and happiness to the patients and residents. She hopes that music will inspire, encourage and enrich the lives of all that it touches.



# MUSICIAN LIST

## First Violin

Samantha Lee<sup>CM</sup>  
Yang Liuyi<sup>SL</sup>  
Angus Bain  
Cindy Chau  
Dong Shaocong  
Fan Yueyi  
Han Runfeng  
Joan Khng  
Li Pengju  
Lim Yi Fan  
Lim Zhan Feng  
Liu Shuangyang  
Elizabeth Low  
Vanessa Tan<sup>^</sup>  
Tan Yue Qian  
Yang Wenjing<sup>^</sup>  
Yeow Shi Min  
Yin Hanyue

## Second Violin

Peng Shenghui<sup>PP</sup>  
Dean Asalie<sup>SL</sup>  
Alvita Ardisara  
Chen Yunqi  
Nicole Lin  
Liu Dongdong  
Cassandra Low  
Sia Song Yu  
Ruth Tai  
Christabel Tan  
Tsai Chne Wuen  
Xie Jiawei  
Christel Yeo  
Zhou Sijia

## Viola

Toh Xue Qian<sup>PP</sup>  
Lieu Yi Xuan<sup>SL</sup>  
Thaddeus Chung<sup>^</sup>  
Hew Kai Ling  
Kim Mi Jin  
Tan Zher Min

## Cello

Tan Xiao Rong<sup>PP</sup>  
Chua Boon Yang  
Herbert Fan<sup>^</sup>  
Lau Xuan Kai  
Gareth Lee<sup>^</sup>  
Kenneth Lee<sup>^</sup>  
Lee Ying  
Ruth Poh  
Michelle Tan  
Chloe Yap

## Double Bass

Edmund Song<sup>PP</sup>  
Tan Hui Xian<sup>SL</sup>  
Samuel Ang  
Cheng Pei Yun<sup>^</sup>  
Maya Wyse<sup>^</sup>  
Yong Wenyi

## Flute

Duan Duoni<sup>SL</sup>  
Tham Jiang Jun  
Wang Tong<sup>^</sup>  
Wong Kee Zhang

## Oboe

Kiyo Tan<sup>SL</sup>  
Vincent Pak  
Say Xian Xun

## Clarinet

Cheah Hee<sup>SL</sup>  
Syafiq Ong

## Bassoon

Leong Yi Tung<sup>SL</sup>  
Leong Jing Yi  
Lim Tee Heong<sup>^</sup>  
Lim Sze Ai<sup>^</sup>

## Horn

James Ng<sup>PP/SL</sup>  
Chai Jia En  
Lim Hoe King  
Caleb Low<sup>^</sup>  
Cleon Tan<sup>^</sup>

## Trumpet

Ou Tiankun<sup>PP/SL</sup>  
Pratheesh Dhanabal<sup>^</sup>  
Darrel Koh  
Rhyhan Astha<sup>^</sup>

## Trombone

Bryce Lee<sup>PP</sup>  
Chua Hui Min<sup>SL</sup>  
Li Yaoshen  
Gordon Tan

## Tuba

Aloysious How  
Dylan Leong

## Harp

Tang Shuning<sup>SL</sup>  
Zhang Danran

## Percussion

Poh Zi Yang<sup>PP</sup>  
Shen Xichen<sup>SL</sup>  
Joshua Koh  
Li Xiaoxi

<sup>CM</sup> Concert Mistress  
<sup>SL</sup> Sectional Leader

<sup>PP</sup> Principal Player  
<sup>^</sup> Guest/Alumni Musician

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The NUS Symphony Orchestra wishes to convey its appreciation to the following for their gracious guidance and support:

Music Director and Resident Conductor  
**Maestro Lim Soon Lee**

Assistant Conductor  
**Mr Foo Say Ming**

All tutors of the NUS Symphony Orchestra

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## NUS Symphony Orchestra Executive Committee AY2015/2016

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Logistics Officers	Bryce Lee and Cheah Hee
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# ABOUT NUS CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

Established in 1993, NUS Centre For the Arts (CFA) is a vibrant space for the appreciation of the arts and nurturing of the creative and inquiring spirit. It supports student engagement with the arts and the integration of the arts into the life of the University.

NUS CFA encompasses the NUS Museum, NUS Baba House and a Talent and Development arm that oversees 22 student arts excellence groups. Through its myriad of programmes, practices, exhibitions, workshops and outreach, such as NUS Arts Festival and the ExxonMobil Campus Concerts, the Centre enhances and augments the university experience and contributes to the building of knowledge and transformation of students.

CFA also manages facilities such as the University Cultural Centre, with its 1600-seat Hall and 450-seat Theatre, and rehearsal spaces in Runme Shaw CFA Studios and University Town. For more information, visit [www.cfa.nus.edu.sg](http://www.cfa.nus.edu.sg).

## ABOUT NUS ARTS FESTIVAL

As the flagship arts platform of NUS, NUS Arts Festival brings together students and alumni in collaboration with international and local professional artists, inspiring fresh insights and compelling artistic works with unique Asian influences.

This 2016, the Festival theme of WONDER encourages us to consider how our capacity for wonder and imagination is affected as our interactions increasingly take place via mobile screens and computers. We ask "Can fresh discoveries of the world through emerging sciences like quantum physics reawaken our delight in the world and re-ignite wonder?"

 [nusartsfestival.com](http://nusartsfestival.com)  [nusartsfestival](https://www.facebook.com/nusartsfestival)  [#naf16](https://www.instagram.com/naf16)

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