

Esplanade Presents

FREE PROGRAMMES: JAZZ IN JULY ONLINE

8 – 31 Jul 2020

www.esplanade.com/jazzinjuly



For the past 12 years, *Jazz in July* has been an annual occasion that brings together both artists and audiences to gather in Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay to celebrate jazz and its diverse subgenres and outfits. Every July, *Jazz in July* continues to be a platform for Singapore jazz artists to present meaningful projects and showcase their musical artistry. The month-long programme series also aims to grow our audience’s interest and appreciation for the genre through a variety of exciting and accessible offerings including free performances, talks, jazz jams and listening parties.

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted our daily lives and impacted many industries all over the world. In these rather bleak and uncertain times, we often seek comfort in things that are familiar and consistent, beautiful and inspiring to us, which can be found in music. We are gratified and proud to continue presenting the 13th edition of *Jazz in July* this year, as we hope to offer some optimism and respite through the arts while our society cautiously recovers from this crisis and gradually inches towards normalcy.

As we are unable to welcome audiences back at our performance venues in line with the current government advisory on COVID-19, we have planned something different for our audiences this year. Everyone is invited to join us in the digital realm as we celebrate the artistry of jazz and diversity of Singapore jazz cats through performances filmed live and streamed from the Esplanade Concourse!

This is the first time we are presenting live performances—albeit without audiences at the venue—since Esplanade was closed in April. While we used to feature ensembles of varying sizes from trios to big bands, this year’s *Jazz in July* explores a warm and cosy programme of intimate jazz duets that bring forth the sensitivity, openness and trust in a musical friendship.

The performances will be livestreamed on [Esplanade Offstage](#) and [Esplanade’s Facebook page](#) daily from 8 – 31 July 2020 at 8pm. Audiences can look forward to 24 unique pairings by 43 jazz artists based in Singapore including Cultural Medallion recipient Louis Soliano, veteran jazz vocalists Rani Singam and Alemay Fernandez as well as pianists Aya Sekine

and Chok Kerong. Check out our young and promising alumni of the *Mosaic Jazz Fellows* mentorship such as vocal-piano duo Siti Nur Iman and Lee Ann Gie. Fret not if you have missed the live stream as the video of each performance will be available for viewing on the same platforms till 8pm the following day.

With vocal performances scheduled from Saturdays to Mondays and instrumental duos from Tuesdays to Fridays (except 8 & 31 Jul), there is something for everyone so do join us online as we reach deep into the roots of jazz and explore new horizons.

Meanwhile, stay safe and hope to see all of you online then!

Ernest Tay

Programmer, The Esplanade Co Ltd

About Jazz in July

Dynamics of the duet are laid bare at this year's *Jazz in July*, exploring the sensitivities, openness and trust of musical friendships. Look forward to 24 unique pairings of 43 jazz artists that call Singapore home, ranging from fresh *Mosaic Jazz Fellows* alumni to esteemed jazz stalwarts.

All performances will be livestreamed daily at 8pm from the Esplanade Concourse on Esplanade Facebook ([@EsplanadeSG](#)) and [Esplanade Offstage](#), with vocal performances from Saturdays to Mondays and instrumental duos the rest of the week.

PROGRAMMES

Sarah Chew & Teng Siheng

8 Jul 2020, Wed, 8pm

The vocal-bass duo Sarah Chew and Teng Siheng returns to Esplanade for an evening of midweek jazz. Traversing through smoky bars and musical stages, join them and partake in an adventure across time.

Ramu Thiruyanam & Euntaek Kim

9 Jul 2020, Thu, 8pm

Part of the Latin jazz band Project RA, malletKAT-piano duo Ramu Thiruyanam and Euntaek Kim present a collection of Latin jazz tunes composed by percussionists such as Dave Samuels (marimba/vibraphone) and Tito Puente (timbale), all rearranged to be performed as a duo in this intimate setting.

About Ramu Thiruyanam

Known for his dedication to music education, Ramu Thiruyanam is a percussion specialist based in Singapore. He is a sought-after performer/clinician throughout Southeast Asia. A scholarship recipient of both National Arts Council and Berklee College of Music, Thiruyanam has won numerous awards both in Singapore and abroad. He has staged successful concerts both as a soloist and as a supporting percussionist in countries such as Indonesia, Taiwan, Australia, Europe and USA, working with many international artists and orchestras. A full-time music faculty member at the School of the Arts and a Vic Firth Education artiste, Thiruyanam currently engages himself in creative musical projects and conducts clinics for teachers and students alike.

About Euntaek Kim

Euntaek Kim (more commonly known as E.T.) is a multi-instrumentalist based in Singapore. Having devoted much time and effort into becoming a musical chameleon—one that can comfortably blend into any musical situation presented—he has taken part in a wide variety of musical ensembles as a sideman, performing in world-renowned music festivals such as *Singapore Jazz Festival*, *Mosaic Music Festival* and *Jarasum Jazz Festival*. Kim has taken the stage alongside international artists such as Robert Glasper, Snarky Puppy, and Hiatus Kaiyote. As part of critically acclaimed Singapore artist Charlie Lim's band, the Mothership, he actively handles guitar and keyboard duties. Kim is also a mainstay in the group Tribal Tide, a world fusion band led by one of the region's top percussionists in Mohamed Noor.

Ben Poh & Chok Kerong

10 Jul 2020, Fri, 8pm

Wash your lockdown blues away with bassist Ben Poh and pianist Chok Kerong in a set of uplifting jazz standards from the bebop and post-bop eras.

About Ben Poh

An articulate, solid and melodic bass player, Ben Poh is an up-and-coming performer and sessionist in the Singapore music circuit. Apart from the electric bass, he also took the opportunity to hone his craft by taking up the double bass under the tutelage of Christy Smith.

His versatility and ability to play across genres has seen him taking up session work at performing venues and events with various sought-after musicians. Most recently, he performed at the Jazz Education Network (JEN) conference in Reno, USA and the *EFG London Jazz Festival* with the Jazz Association Singapore Orchestra (JASSO). Prior to that, Poh was in charge of bass duties for the *Sing.Lang Concert 2019* held at the National Stadium, which featured prominent Singapore artists such as Kit Chan and A-Do. He also played a vital role in supporting Joanna Dong's sold out concert held at the Esplanade Concert Hall in 2018. Poh was part of the Jeremy Monteiro Trio, which played alongside Grammy Award-winning artist Ernie Watts, while also being part of the rhythm section for the *Lion City Youth Jazz Festival*.

About Chok Kerong

Chok Kerong has established himself as one of Singapore's most versatile musical talents. Traversing the numerous genres under the umbrella of popular music with equal aplomb, he has distinguished himself as a swinging, harmonically inventive pianist and organist, while also emerging as a composer of extraordinary clarity and depth.

Chok's compositions and arrangements have been performed by luminaries like Jeremy Monteiro, Rani Singam, T'ang Quartet, Singapore Wind Symphony and his own chamber ensembles. In 2017, he wrote *Disquiet*, commissioned by the Singapore Symphony Group for the Victoria Concert Hall Organ Series. In 2018, his compositions for an 11-piece chamber ensemble were featured in Hong Kong. That same year, he wrote *Sketches of Miles*, commissioned by Jazz Association (Singapore), an episodic work for big band that showcases his fresh approach to orchestration and complex harmony. In 2019, Chok presented *PITCH*, his second chamber ensemble project, featuring new compositions that meld 20th century chromaticism, soul, swing and Brazilian music.

Chok Kerong is an Esplanade Mosaic Associate Artist.

Alemay Fernandez & Jordan Wei

11 Jul 2020, Sat, 8pm

This special showcase will take you on an intimate journey through all of Alemay Fernandez's original material to date. From her 2016 album *Hard To Imagine* to more recent collaborations with talented artist friends all around the world, get to know Alemay in just one set.

About Alemay Fernandez

Hailed by *MusicTalks Sydney* as "one of the best jazz singers in the world", Singapore vocalist Alemay Fernandez is a veteran performer in the Asian jazz scene. In her illustrious 20-year career, she has performed with the likes of David Foster, Gregory Porter, Incognito, Ray Parker Jr., Nat Adderley Jr., Ernie Watts, Randy Brecker, Antonio Hart, Jay Anderson, Lewis Nash and The Platters' Bobby Soul, while also opening for Laura Fygi and Benny Golson. She has performed with three of the top jazz orchestras in the world in Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, Count Basie Orchestra and Duke Ellington Orchestra.

Fernandez has performed with all manner of Singapore orchestras and bands including the Singapore Symphony Orchestra and the Jazz Association of Singapore Orchestras. As an educator, she has worked with vocal students of all ages, conducting vocal and performance

workshops. She is a vocal coach for National University of Singapore's Jazz Band and Lecturer at LASALLE College Of The Arts.

About Jordan Wei

Jordan Wei is a pianist, composer, arranger, author and educator who is no stranger to the music scene in Singapore. His musical lineage includes renowned violinist Goh Soon Tioe as his grandfather; composer Tonni Wei and music reviewer Patricia Goh as his parents; and Cultural Medallion recipient Vivien Goh as his aunt. Wei has established himself as one of the regions most sought-after and versatile pianists. He has worked with many musicians internationally, including the likes of Dami Im, Dasha Logan, David Tao, Elva Hsiao, Femi Temowo, Grady Guan, Jam Hsiao, JJ Lin, Joanna Dong, Liu Jia Chang, Louis Cheng, Nicholas Tse, Pets Tseng, Sezairi Sezali, Sharon Kwan, Sulene Fleming, Syarif, Taufik Batisah and Wang Lee Hom. In addition to being a multi-instrumentalist, Wei has also composed and arranged for entities such as Jazz Association Singapore (JASSO), Nanyang Junior College, National Technological University, Singapore Armed Forces Central Band, Summertime Big Band, The Pipa Quartet and The TENG Ensemble. He has also produced scores for regional productions and concerts such as *Sing! China*, *SPOP*, Angela Chang, Karen Mok, Li Rong Hao and many more. In 2018, Wei authored jazz piano book *Finger Tips*, and launched it together with Jazz Ninja, an online learning music resource centre. He is currently based in Singapore while both performing and teaching internationally.

Louis Soliano and Jonathan Saiman

12 Jul 2020, Sun, 8pm

Jazz veterans Louis Soliano and Jonathan Saiman come together to bring you their favourite tunes. Don't miss their performances of *I Get A Kick Out Of You*, *Laughter In Rain*, *When Sunny Gets Blue* and many more.

About Louis Soliano

Louis Soliano takes you on an exhilarating musical ride, spanning the repertoire from his career as a jazz musician in the Singapore music scene. Coming from a famed family of musicians, he embarked on a musical career in the 1960s that saw him tour the Far East and Europe, working with jazz luminaires such as Billy Daniels, Matt Monroe, Max Bygraves, Kathy Kirby, Dakota Staton and many others. At the height of the Vietnam War he found himself backing artistes like Jane Russell and Bette Davis as they entertained soldiers in the frontline.

Returning to Singapore in 1973, Louis Soliano made waves with Louis Soliano Trio, playing commercial jazz in Singapore clubs and around Southeast Asia. He then played drums and percussion with the Singapore Broadcasting Corporation Orchestra for a decade and was a regular feature at the Singapore International Jazz Festival in the 1980s.

In 1997, Louis Soliano was a recipient of the Compass Artistic Excellence Award for his outstanding musicianship. He received the Cultural Medallion in 2018 from The National Arts Council and the Compass Meritorius Award in 2019.

About Jonathan Saiman

Jonathan Ciputra Pesa Saiman is a Singapore-based musician with 15 years of experience as an educator, pianist, bassist and producer. As part of the Singapore Armed Forces' Music & Drama Company, he has regularly performed for state events at the Istana and abroad.

Maya Nova & Alina Ramirez

13 Jul 2020, Mon, 8pm

Maya Nova shares about her program *Rethinking Standards*: As a jazz singer, I get to delve and explore music, which was primarily written during the first half of the last century. *The Great American Songbook* is a repertoire of popular songs that are associated with many Broadway musicals and movies produced in the United States during the 30's, 40's, and 50's. The jazz greats of the day took these beautiful songs and made them their own. Each one of them carved their own rendition and retold them as their own personal story. This *Jazz in July*, I have chosen to do the same. To rethink and rearrange some of the tunes I have been singing and swinging to throughout my 25 years professional career as a jazz vocalist.

About Maya Nova

Bulgarian-born Maya Nova is a jazz vocalist, songwriter and educator, whose 25-year career has taken her around Europe, Asia and North America.

She has established herself as one of the most sought-after jazz vocalists, performing at concerts, festivals and events in Asia and Europe. Nova has released two albums *Open*, which features jazz standards, and *Days*, which features her original music.

About Alina Ramirez

A classical-trained Latin pianist who loves jazz, Alina Ramirez has been performing for more than 28 years.

As a composer she is influenced by both the Latin music tradition and the contemporary. Ramirez writes music for her band Ireson, as well as music for theatre and dance companies. In 2013, she was awarded the highest honour given by the Mexican Government, the Ohtli Medal, in recognition for her passion for disseminating Mexican culture and the arts worldwide.

Sean Hong Wei & Christy Smith

14 Jul 2020, Tue, 8pm

Sean Hong Wei and one of his mentors, Christy Smith, present an intimate evening of some of their favourite jazz tunes.

About Sean Hong Wei

Sean Hong Wei is a young and upcoming saxophonist from Singapore. His playing is deeply influenced by the soulful blues of Ray Charles and the great tenors of the 1950s and 1960s including Dexter Gordon, Sonny Rollins, John Coltrane and David "Fathead" Newman.

At age 13, Hong fell in love with Charlie Parker when he first heard Bird's *Yarbird Suite*. Since then, his love for the music has grown exponentially after discovering more records and studying the rich tradition of African American music.

Hong performs regularly with both the Jazz Association Singapore Orchestra and its youth wing, which are led by Jeremy Monteiro. In his work with the orchestras, he has performed alongside notable jazz luminaries such as Benny Golson, Randy Brecker, Antonio Hart, Tony Lakatos and Louis Nash.

About Christy Smith

Christy Smith is a professional musician, bassist, bandleader, arranger, composer and teacher. He has had several years of orchestral and big band experience, having performed under the baton of Aaron Copland, Keith Clark, Carmen Dragon, Pat Williams and Mercer Ellington. Smith has also worked and performed with artists such as Stevie Wonder, Sarah Vaughn, Fela Kuti, Billy Higgins, Ernie Watts, Don Cherry, Ed Blackwell, Harold Land and many others.

Based in Singapore since 1993, Smith has performed with many of the region's artists such as Jeremy Monteiro, Michael Veerapen, Lewis Pragasam, Sheila Majid and many more. He has become an important role model for aspiring musicians in the region through his teachings. Next to performing in the region, he is teaching Double Bass and Bass Guitar at United World College of South East Asia and LASALLE College of the Arts, Singapore.

Lester Ang & Chok Kerong

15 Jul 2020, Wed, 8pm

Wash your lockdown blues away with Lester Ang and Chok Kerong in a set of uplifting jazz standards from the bebop and post-bop eras. The pair will perform their uplifting, rhythmic interpretations of a hodgepodge of compositions by Sonny Stitt, John Coltrane, Dinah Washington and Charles Mingus.

About Lester Ang

Fascinated with the jazz vernacular from a young age, Lester Ang further shaped his musical voice as a woodwind instrumentalist and soloist in the American music scene, honing his craft in the musical pits of New England and the after-hours sessions of South Side Chicago.

Familiar with both contemporary and classical idioms, he served as a touring musician in the Americas, Europe and Australia. Ang has also collaborated on numerous occasions with a highly eclectic mix of artists, from tenor saxophone legend Ari Brown and brass virtuoso James Morrison to vocal percussionist Darni Ng in modern improvisatory contexts. A consummate jazz musician, he has been featured as both a section leader and a soloist in several big bands including the St. James Powerstation Jazz Orchestra, Singapore Jazz Orchestra, Summertimes Big Band and Chicago X-Tet.

About Chok Kerong

Chok Kerong has established himself as one of Singapore's most versatile musical talents. Traversing the numerous genres under the umbrella of popular music with equal aplomb, he has distinguished himself as a swinging, harmonically inventive pianist and organist, while also emerging as a composer of extraordinary clarity and depth.

Chok's compositions and arrangements have been performed by luminaries like Jeremy Monteiro, Rani Singam, T'ang Quartet, Singapore Wind Symphony and his own chamber ensembles. In 2017, he wrote *Disquiet*, commissioned by the Singapore Symphony Group for the Victoria Concert Hall Organ Series. In 2018, his compositions for an 11-piece chamber ensemble were featured in Hong Kong. That same year, he wrote *Sketches of Miles*, commissioned by Jazz Association (Singapore), an episodic work for big band that showcases his fresh approach to orchestration and complex harmony. In 2019, Chok presented *PITCH*, his second chamber ensemble project, featuring new compositions that meld 20th century chromaticism, soul, swing and Brazilian music.

Chok Kerong is an Esplanade Mosaic Associate Artist.

Aya Sekine & Aaron James Lee

16 Jul 2020, Thu, 8pm

Japanese pianist Aya Sekine and Singapore drummer Aaron James Lee come together to present an exciting performance of jazz standards and original material.

About Aya Sekine

Boasting a cross-continental career that spans over three decades and multifarious roles, Aya Sekine commands a reputation for being one of Asia's most illustrious jazz pianists. Known

for her distinctive style of expression that's at once soulful, dynamic and relentlessly diverse, she has firmly established herself as a fervent advocate of jazz in the region, lending herself fully and championing the genre in everything she does—be it through unforgettable performances in Singapore, Japan and the rest of the world; or tireless grassroots movements to foster a vibrant community.

About Aaron James Lee

Aaron James Lee is an aspiring musician and artist who has had the opportunity to grow up among artists he considers national treasures here in the Singapore scene. He has had the chance to work with the likes of Don Gomes, Christy Smith, Joshua Wan, Andrew Lim, Tan Wei Xiang, Wen Ming Soh, Chok Kerong and Jeremy Monteiro. Lee has also worked with international acts who have come through Singapore like James Moody, Alex Sipiagin and Tony Lakatos. He has also toured internationally as a former band member of The Steve McQueens.

Mario Lopez & Duncan McKee

17 Jul 2020, Fri, 8pm

Mario Lopez and Duncan McKee have been playing together since 2000. They not only share the love for jazz but also a particular taste in choosing their repertoire, musical style and sound. For this performance, they will be performing jazz standards and some original compositions.

About Mario Lopez

Born in Acapulco, Mexico, Mario Lopez moved to Mexico City when he was 18 and studied classical guitar at the National Conservatory, eventually graduating as a bass player, music arranger and composer.

Lopez has performed in major jazz festivals like *Mosaic Music Festival*, *Borneo Jazz Festival*, *Real de Catorce Jazz Festival*, *Sing Jazz*, *Heineken Jazz Festival*, *Singapore Arts Festival*, among others. He has released two albums, *Vendo Rumba* and *Hands Up*.

About Duncan McKee

Born in Scotland and raised in England, Duncan McKee first became obsessed with jazz after listening to the great pianist (and now friend), Jason Rebello. He strongly believes in the freedom that jazz affords, providing a continuous journey of ever-evolving music.

Beverly Morata & Mario Serio

18 Jul 2020, Sat, 8pm

Lay back and put your feet up while you float along the rivers of romance with powerhouse vocalist Beverly Morata and the inimitable jazz maestro Mario Serio. Fall in and out of love again as they take you through the highs and lows of love with jazz favorites from composers like Cole Porter, Duke Ellington and the Gershwin brothers.

About Beverly Morata

Nothing quite compares to a Beverly Morata experience. From her technical abilities as a songstress to the full range of emotions she is capable of expressing at the drop of a hat, this all-rounder is not your everyday triple threat.

Although most popularly known for being a finalist in the first installment of *Singapore Idol*, there's more to Morata than just that. Apart from being the voice of *The Teenage Textbook's* theme song *No More Tears* when she was just 19, she's also performed on stages all over the region, while lending her voice to award winning jingles for both Cartoon Network and Warner TV. The ever ambitious Beverly even made onto Chinese TV as one of four representatives

from Singapore to be featured in *Sing China! 2018*. Most recently, Beverly collaborated with 3am Music Collective and Clement Chow on songs that bring awareness to depression and autism.

About Mario Serio

A pianist and keyboardist classically schooled in his hometown of New York City, Mario Serio plays all genres of music with skill and grace. Performing professionally since 1978, he has served as an accompanist, arranger and musical director for Latin, jazz, pop, cabaret, Broadway and revue performers from the USA, South America, Canada, Australia and Asia. Having relocated to Singapore in 1994, he has performed at various venues including Somerset's Bar, Jazz@Southbridge and Sultan Jazz Club.

Richard Jackson & Tan Weixiang

19 Jul 2020, Sun, 8pm

Jazz veterans Richard Jackson (vocals) and Tan Weixiang (piano, keys) come together for an evening of classics this *Jazz in July*.

Expect an intimate acoustic set as they weave a spontaneous tapestry celebrating the best-loved jazz tunes.

About Richard Jackson

Born in Cincinnati, USA to a gospel singer father, Richard Jackson grew up surrounded by music. His voice quickly became synonymous with vocal legends such as Luther Vandross, Barry White, Marvin Gaye and Ronald Isley. Jackson has opened for legendary acts such as The Stylistics, Regina Belle, Tuck & Patti, Peabo Bryson, Will Downing, Jennifer Holiday, George Clinton, Incognito and Bob James. He has also performed with jazz legends Ernie Watts, Randy Brecker, Kenny Drew Jr., Al Di Meola and Ricky Lawson. Currently based in Singapore, Jackson has performed internationally at jazz festivals in France, Russia, Australia as well as throughout Asia. He combines incredible tone with intelligent phrasing and heartfelt intensity.

About Tan Weixiang

Tan Weixiang is one of the lions of the Singapore jazz scene. He has performed in major cities around the world, alongside some of the biggest names in the world of jazz. Tan's playing has been lauded by piano virtuoso Jean-Michel Pilc as "ruthlessly inventive". He lectures at LASALLE College of the Arts and is also the Associate Music Director for Jazz Association of Singapore.

Siti Nur Iman & Lee Ann Gie

20 Jul 2020, Mon, 8pm

Torch song (noun): a sad or sentimental song, typically about unrequited love.

Lee Ann Gie and Siti Nur Iman explore what it means to love and yearn in this stunningly poignant celebration of the most beloved torch songs from *The Great American Songbook*. After all, what is more human than to love?

About Lee Ann Gie

Lee Ann Gie fell in love with jazz after she was introduced to the music during her junior college years. She was selected to be a part of *Mosaic Jazz Fellows 2017* where she studied under Chok Kerong, Andrew Lim, Joshua Wan and Dr. Tony Makarome. Lee is currently a pianist in National University of Singapore Jazz Band and Jazz Association of Singapore Youth Orchestra.

About Siti Nur Iman

Siti Nur Iman is an up-and-coming jazz vocalist born and raised in Singapore. A recent alumnus of *Mosaic Jazz Fellows 2019*, she performs regularly with her quartet MOONSOCKS, as well as her close-harmony trio The Sugar Bees.

Nicole Duffell & Christy Smith

21 Jul 2020, Tue, 8pm

Saxophonist Nicole Duffell and veteran jazz bassist Christy Smith present a selection of their favourite jazz standards.

About Nicole Duffell

Nicole Duffell was classically trained from an early age in the clarinet, along with the alto and tenor saxophones. She started her professional career in blues and R&B bands, developing her sound and dexterity on the tenor saxophone. Touring internationally with R&B bands, Duffell started to call Singapore home in 2002, eventually focusing more on jazz.

Almost ten years ago, she started a long jazz residency at a well-known whisky venue B28, eventually taking over and running the venue as a jazz club until 2017. Duffell is known for her rich tenor sound, emotional depth and inventive use of melodies. She is now a stalwart of the Singapore jazz scene and continues her journey to dig deeper into the jazz tradition.

About Christy Smith

Christy Smith is a professional musician, bassist, bandleader, arranger, composer and teacher.

He has had several years of orchestral and big band experience, having performed under the baton of Aaron Copland, Keith Clark, Carmen Dragon, Pat Williams and Mercer Ellington. Smith has also worked and performed with artists such as Stevie Wonder, Sarah Vaughn, Fela Kuti, Billy Higgins, Ernie Watts, Don Cherry, Ed Blackwell, Harold Land and many others.

Based in Singapore since 1993, Smith has performed with many of the region's artists such as Jeremy Monteiro, Michael Veerapen, Lewis Pragasam, Sheila Majid and many more. He has become an important role model for aspiring musicians in the region through his teachings. Next to performing in the region, he is teaching Double Bass and Bass Guitar at United World College of South East Asia and LASALLE College of the Arts, Singapore.

Jeffrey Tan & Kailin Yong

22 Jul 2020, Wed, 8pm

Jeffrey Tan and Kailin Yong present a set of jazz standards in an unorthodox violin/fiddle duo setup.

About Jeffrey Tan

Jeffrey Tan is a contemporary violinist and aspiring composer/arranger based in Singapore. He has played for notable musicians such as Syed Ahmad, Addy Cradle, Shabir and Flame of the Forest.

Tan is also part of The Y String Quartet, as well as Celtic rock band Gan Anim. He has also played internationally for award-winning Australian artist Courtney Conway and YouTube artiste Jun Sung Ahn. In Dec 2015, Tan held his original jazz ensemble showcase at The Substation, before graduating from the *Mosaic Jazz Fellows* mentorship programme in 2016. He is also the music director and violinist of Flame of the Forest, an eclectic world fusion

music group, and produced their first album *Tree Of Life*. Jeffrey has also toured with the group in places such as Japan, India and across Southeast Asia.

About Kailin Yong

Kailin Yong is a musician, teacher, actor and most of all, a global citizen and a tireless advocate for using the arts to promote peace. Known to many as the “fiddler for peace”, he was the recipient of the Daniel Pearl Memorial Violin in 2004 for his efforts in building cultural bridges through music. Yong often shares his gifts as a composer, music director and performer through his work with David Glass Ensemble, Flamenco Sin Fronteras, Maya Dance Theatre, Diverse Abilities Dance Collective and many other independent choreographers, dancers and musicians around the world. He also works closely with Very Special Arts Singapore to create and provide access and opportunities to artists with special needs and disabilities, producing and directing *Welcome To My World* in 2019 and 2020.

Yong is the founding member of the following musical ensembles: Kailin Yong Peace Project, NuMundo, Y String Quartet, PLUS Trio, Qilin Group, WEBE, DoReFaSoLah and Straits Ensemble. He currently teaches at LASALLE College of the Arts.

Anson Fung & Daryl Chen

23 Jul 2020, Thu, 8pm

Let Anson Fung entertain you in the safety and comfort of your very own home, with some of the best and most beautiful melodies from yesteryear. Joining him on double bass is Daryl Chen and together they will play a choice selection of standards from composers who have crossed over to the other side.

About Anson Fung

Anson Fung is an experienced cross-genre guitarist. Self-taught since age 15, he decided to pursue a career in music and enrolled in LASALLE College of the Arts, Singapore. Fung regularly sessions for events and functions and has also played with several notable Singapore and international artists such as Benny Golson, Alemay Fernandez and Jeremy Monteiro. He currently leads, manages and performs with his R&B acts, Grind Effect and Anson Road; his blues band The Blues Initiative; and his jazz acts, the Anson Fung Organ Trio, Guitar Trio and Quarter.

About Daryl Chen

A truly versatile acoustic/electric bass player, Daryl Chen has been a fixture in the New York jazz scene since moving there in 2015, having been mentored by the late Jeff Andrews and Matthew Garrison. He has worked with some of the great players in the NYC scene like Al Foster, Sean Wayland, Mark Ferber, Ronnie Burrage, Kenny Grohowski and many others.

Shmil Berniker & Rick Smith

24 Jul 2020, Fri, 8pm

Shmil Berniker and Rick Smith perform some of the best-loved classics from celebrated composer Hoagy Carmichael such as *The Nearness of You*, *Skylark*, and *Georgia On My Mind*.

About Shmil Berniker

Shmil Berniker is a Canadian saxophonist and educator with over 30 years of professional experience. His signature soulful tone and melodic improvisations, inspired by the great tenors of the 1950s and 1960s, have delighted audiences in festivals and clubs around the globe. Berniker has been based in Singapore since 2017.

About Rick Smith

Rick Smith is an accomplished jazz guitarist with over 30 years of professional experience. He has performed with many well-known international artists such as Ernie Watts, Bob James and Richie Cole. He was the resident guitarist/bandleader at Harry's Quayside Bar at Boat Quay from 1992 up to 2010.

Anne Weerapass & Audrey Tengkey

25 Jul 2020, Sat, 8pm

Fun, inspiration and relaxation are what vocalist Anne Weerapass and pianist Audrey Tengkey hope to bring to the audience through this performance, through the celebration of the music of jazz legends and composers—with messages of hope, courage and love.

About Anne Weerapass

Anne Weerapass has been singing professionally since she was 19, as both a solo artist and lead vocalist for various bands. She has worked with top international stars such as Ronan Keating and Regine Velasquez and performed in Japan with Singapore artist, Dick Lee, during the promotional tour of his *Mad Chinaman* album. Weerapass released her jazz album *Out Of Nowhere* in 2004. She had the pleasure of sharing the stage with jazz legend James Moody at his 80th birthday concert held at the Esplanade Concert Hall.

About Audrey Tengkey

Originally from Indonesia, Audrey Stefanie Tengkey has been active in the Singapore jazz music scene for the past 13 years.

She has performed at several international and local events and has served as a sessionist with a wide variety of musicians. Tengkey has appeared at *Coburg Samba Festival* and *Mosaic Music Festival* with Novo Bloco, *MIDEM Music Festival* with John Klass and opened for Yuna in her show in Singapore with The Stoned Revivals. She currently teaches music and piano as part of The Music Lab, while actively cultivating her craft.

Ernesto Valerio & Greg Anderson

26 Jul 2020, Sun, 8pm

Crooner extraordinaire Ernesto Valerio and bassist Greg Anderson bring to you beloved jazz tunes made famous by Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra and other songsters of the 1950s and 1960s.

Rani Singam & Chok Kerong

27 Jul 2020, Mon, 8pm

Jazz vocalist Rani Singam and pianist Chok Kerong come together to present a selection of originals and favourite jazz standards.

About Rani Singam

Dubbed as “Singapore’s first lady of jazz”, Rani Singam is one of the most sought-after and accomplished contemporary vocalists today. Her albums *With A Song In My Heart* and *Contentment* have earned her critical acclaim and recognition. In Apr 2020, Singam released her first live album *My Muse*, which is a recording of her concert at the Victoria Concert Hall. The album marked Singam’s first crossover with a string quartet and jazz quartet.

Singam has performed all over the world at state events, festivals and concerts. Her notable performances include her rendition of Singapore’s national anthem at the Formula One Singapore Grand Prix 2017 and National Day Parade 2013.

About Chok Kerong

Chok Kerong has established himself as one of Singapore's most versatile musical talents. Traversing the numerous genres under the umbrella of popular music with equal aplomb, he has distinguished himself as a swinging, harmonically inventive pianist and organist, while also emerging as a composer of extraordinary clarity and depth.

Chok's compositions and arrangements have been performed by luminaries like Jeremy Monteiro, Rani Singam, T'ang Quartet, Singapore Wind Symphony and his own chamber ensembles. In 2017, he wrote *Disquiet*, commissioned by the Singapore Symphony Group for the Victoria Concert Hall Organ Series. In 2018, his compositions for an 11-piece chamber ensemble were featured in Hong Kong. That same year, he wrote *Sketches of Miles*, commissioned by Jazz Association (Singapore), an episodic work for big band that showcases his fresh approach to orchestration and complex harmony. In 2019, Chok presented *PITCH*, his second chamber ensemble project, featuring new compositions that meld 20th century chromaticism, soul, swing and Brazilian music.

Chok Kerong is an Esplanade Mosaic Associate Artist.

Euntaek Kim & Sam Cheah

28 Jul 2020, Tue, 8pm

Multi-instrumentalist Euntaek Kim and saxophonist Samuel Cheah present a selection of their favourite jazz standards.

About Euntaek Kim

Euntaek Kim (more commonly known as E.T.) is a multi-instrumentalist based in Singapore. Having devoted much time and effort into becoming a musical chameleon—one that can comfortably blend into any musical situation presented—he has taken part in a wide variety of musical ensembles as a sideman, performing in world-renowned music festivals such as Singapore Jazz Festival, *Mosaic Music Festival* and Jarasum Jazz Festival. Kim has taken the stage alongside international artists such as Robert Glasper, Snarky Puppy, and Hiatus Kaiyote. As part of critically acclaimed Singapore artist Charlie Lim's band, the Mothership, he actively handles guitar and keyboard duties. Kim is also a mainstay in the group Tribal Tide, a world fusion band led by one of the region's top percussionists in Mohamed Noor.

About Samuel Cheah

Samuel Cheah is a jazz saxophonist. Originally coming from a classical wind band background, he served four years in the Singapore Armed Forces Central Band. Cheah was also part of various Singapore wind ensembles such as Windstars and Orchestra Collective. He has performed at *Mosaic Music Festival* and *Singapore Night Festival* with groups like WhatIsHip, Thomson Jazz Club, Tim De Cotta and his own quartet, playing everything from neo-soul to funk to straight-ahead jazz. Cheah was recently part of a tribute project that played the Canadian premiere of the music of New York composer Baird Hersey in two sold-out shows.

Edmund Wu & Rachma Lim

29 Jul 2020, Wed, 8pm

Intimate, lyrical and melodic, jazz instrumental ballads are like songs without words that tell a musical story. Formerly songs with lyrics that speak of the stars, a lover's embrace and the nostalgia of past loves, join Edmund Wu and Rachma Lim on a journey to discover new narratives with a programme of jazz ballads such as Charlie Parker's *Quasimodo*, a re-imagination of Gershwin's *Embraceable You* and Tony Bennett's *The Shadow of Your Smile*.

Mei Sheum & Sebastian Ho

30 Jul 2020, Thu, 8pm

Join guitarist Sebastian Ho and pianist Mei Sheum as they perform an evening of their favourite jazz standards.

About Mei Sheum

With an impressive performance resume and several music festivals under her belt, Mei Sheum has emerged as a keyboardist of choice for many well-known international artists. She has performed with a long list of artists, including the likes of Sarah Brightman, Laura Fygi, Dave Samuels, Stephen Bishop, Terumasa Hino, Keiko Lee, A*Mei, David Tao, Wang Lee Hom, JJ Lin, Sally Yeh, Francis Yip, Anita Sarawak and Corinne May. Sheum's work has taken her around the globe, performing in stadiums and concert halls in New York City, Las Vegas, Chicago, Boston, Paris, Edinburgh, Sydney, Melbourne, Taipei, Hong Kong, Beijing, Shanghai, Tokyo, Osaka, Bangkok and Jakarta, among many more.

In the theatrical scene, Sheum has served as a musical director in *I Do! I Do!* and performed in musicals such as *Chang and Eng*, *The Haunted* and *Judah Benhur*. She has also performed in major festivals including the *Edinburgh Festival Fringe*, *JakJazz Festival*, *Thailand Jazz Festival*, *Singapore Jazz Festival*, *Kuala Lumpur Jazz Festival*, *Mosaic Music Festival*, *Chijazz*, *Jazz By The Beach* and *Heineken Green Room Sessions*. Sheum has released three albums *I Remember You*, *Come With Me* and *Morning*.

About Sebastian Ho

Sebastian Ho has been playing guitar for 26 years. He has performed in concerts, club gigs, corporate functions, festivals, weddings, recordings and musical theatre, as well as for television and radio, backing up stars such as Jimmy Ye, Stefanie Sun, Vivian Hsu, Sammuel Toi, Laura Fygi, Kenny Bee, Shirley Kwan, Qi Yu, Pan Yue Yun, Chen Ming Zhen, Wan Fang, Eric Moo, Mavis Hee, Kit Chan, Li Fei Hui, Liang Wern Fook, Donne Ray, Trevor Ashley, The New Minstrels, Finnish National Ballet, Siti Nurhaliza, Soo Wincii, Ramli Sarip, Benny Albaz, Hady Mirza and Taufik Batisah. Ho has also gone on the road with Kit Chan on her *Spellbound* tour in 2016 and with Joanna Dong on her Asian tour in 2018.

Lily Hargrove & Mario Serio

31 Jul 2020, Fri, 8pm

Join Lily Hargrove and Mario Serio for an evening of vocal jazz as they bring you their favourite jazz standards on this public holiday.

About Lily Hargrove

Lily Hargrove entered the Singapore music industry with a pure passion that has brought her a long way from humble beginnings. She has performed at many festivals such as Esplanade's *Mosaic Music Festival* and *Jazz By The Beach*. Hargrove has also sung for musicals by Singapore Repertory Theatre and Toy Factory. Her wide repertoire has helped establish her as one of the best pop and contemporary singers in Singapore.

About Mario Serio

A pianist and keyboardist classically schooled in his hometown of New York City, Mario Serio plays all genres of music with skill and grace. Performing professionally since 1978, he has served as an accompanist, arranger and musical director for Latin, jazz, pop, cabaret, Broadway and revue performers from the USA, South America, Canada, Australia and Asia. Having relocated to Singapore in 1994, he has performed at various venues including Somerset's Bar, Jazz@Southbridge and Sultan Jazz Club.

About Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay

Esplanade is Singapore's national performing arts centre. It has a year-round line-up of about 3,500 performances presented by Esplanade, its partners and hirers. As an arts centre for everyone, Esplanade also creates opportunities for seniors, youth, children and underserved communities to experience the arts. More than 70% of the shows that take place each year at the centre are non-ticketed. The centre works in close partnership with local, regional and international artists to develop artistic capabilities and content, push artistic boundaries and engage audiences. Esplanade supports the creation of artistic content by commissioning and producing new Singapore and Asian work for the international stage. It also develops technical capabilities for the industry nationally.

To bring even more of the arts to a wider audience and provide more platforms to support Singapore's next generation of artists, Esplanade is building a new theatre along its busy waterfront. Named Singtel Waterfront Theatre, the 550-seat venue will open in 2021.

Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay is operated by The Esplanade Co Ltd (TECL), which is a not-for-profit organisation, a registered Charity and an Institution of a Public Character. The Charity Council awarded TECL the Charity Governance Award – Special Commendation for Clarity of Strategy in 2016, and the Charity Transparency Award for four consecutive years since 2016.

TECL is funded by Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth and its Community Programmes are supported by Tote Board Family, comprising Tote Board, Singapore Pools and Singapore Turf Club.

Visit Esplanade.com for more information and Esplanade.com/Offstage for an all-access backstage pass and insider's guide to Singapore and Asian arts and culture.

~ End ~

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For more information, please contact:

See Ling Ling
Head, Communications
The Esplanade Co Ltd
Email: slingling@esplanade.com

Tan Wen Rui
Manager, Marketing
The Esplanade Co Ltd
Email: twenrui@esplanade.com