



**Esplanade
Presents**



A lunchtime
concert series

Three, Four, Five!
by Musicians from Resound Collective

27 Jun 2022, Mon, 12.30pm
Esplanade Concert Hall

Programme



A Smorgasbord of Delights for Small String Groups

From the time Joseph Haydn wrote his ground-breaking quartets, in which four players performed as equals, almost every great composer from Mozart to Shostakovich has written music in this form. But there are also many wonderful works for smaller and larger string groups, each with its own charm and attraction. In this concert, musicians from Resound Collective, Singapore's leading chamber music assembly, bring you a sumptuous selection of this music by Haydn, Mozart, Mendelssohn and Borodin.

Joseph Haydn

String Trio in G major, Op. 53 No. 1
i. Allegretto e innocente

Felix Mendelssohn

String Quartet No. 2 in A minor, Op.13
iii. Intermezzo

Alexander Borodin

String Quartet No. 2 in D major
i. Allegro moderato

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

String Quintet in C major, K. 515
iv. Allegro

(30mins, no intermission)

Programme Notes

by Lee Shi Mei

JOSEPH HAYDN (1732-1809)

String Trio 1, Op. 53 No. 1

i. Allegretto e innocente

Austrian composer Joseph Haydn had the cushiest job that any musician or composer could dream of. Haydn was hired at a young age by the noble Esterhazy family. From then on and for the next three decades after, Haydn lived on palace grounds while having the luxury of focusing solely on writing music for the court. As his job was to create new music for the entertainment of the royal household, Haydn's creative skills increased tremendously and led to him earning the title of the undisputed 'father' of the string quartet. He is also widely considered to have created the modern string trio, made up of violin, viola and cello.

This set of three string trios were his arrangements of his piano sonatas (Hob. XVI:40-42) written in 1784. The trio that is performed today is dedicated to Princess Maria Esterházy. The first movement seems to describe the traits of the princess. The inscription at the start of the movement states that it should be performed in a "lively and innocent" manner. Haydn's music speaks for itself and can be heard from the facile and elegant melodies that he wrote.

FELIX MENDELSSOHN (1809-1847)

String Quartet No. 2 in A minor, Op.13

iii. Intermezzo

Mendelssohn's genius has been compared to that of Mozart's—both were extremely talented musicians and prolific composers from a young age, and both have left a great legacy following their unfortunate young deaths. Mendelssohn's *String Quartet No. 2* in A minor was actually the first string quartet that he had written in 1827, when he was just 18, but published at a later date.

It was said that the coincidence of Beethoven's passing that year and Mendelssohn's falling in love were the results of this string quartet. There is also a thematic quote from Mendelssohn's own song *Frage (Question)* that cycles through the string quartet's movements. The third movement *Intermezzo* which is performed today begins with a pensive melody on the violin, with plucked strings accompanying in the backdrop, setting the scene of someone deep in thought. This then gives way to an exciting *scherzo* (joke) where all the heaviness dissipates. The movement closes with the return of the opening sentimental tune.

ALEXANDER BORODIN (1833-1887)

String Quartet No. 2 in D major

i. Allegro moderato

A chemist by day, Alexander Borodin wrote music only when he had the spare time. As such, his compositions naturally tended to take years to complete. Despite not being a full-time musician and music composition being more like a serious hobby, Borodin became one of "The Mighty Handful" or "The Five", a prominent group of Russian composers who drove a new style of Russian music in mid-19th century Russia.

The *String Quartet No. 2* is special in that it was completed much quicker than his usual works (within months during a summer vacation) and dedicated to his wife Ekaterina for their 20th wedding anniversary. Borodin was extremely gifted with writing lyrical melodies. The first movement is thought to describe himself and his wife. The cello, symbolising Borodin, sings a beautiful melody that is passed over to and responded to by the violin, representing Ekaterina. The sweet conversations of melodies, and perhaps a domestic squabble, can be heard throughout the entire first movement.

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART (1756-1791)

String Quintet In C major, K. 515

iv. Allegro

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was greatly influenced by Haydn's string quartet model and composed the *String Quintet* in C in 1787, a few years after he met Haydn. By this time, Mozart had already entered his "mature period" of composition, with his talent and abilities further unlocked after forging a friendship with Haydn. Towards the end of his short but prolific life as a composer, Mozart remained a "most sincere admirer of the great and incomparable Joseph Haydn..." – H. C. Robbin Landon, New York Times, 1988.

String quartets were typically almost always written for two violins, a viola and a cello. String quintets comprised of the instruments in the quartet, with the addition of either a viola, a cello or occasionally a double bass. Mozart must have loved the texture of two violas, as all six of his string quintet works featured a pair of violas.

The finale which is performed today is highly charged, brimming with energy and optimism. At one point, the movement goes into a warmer, darker key area that changes the mood of the music completely. This compositional technique went on to inspire Beethoven, Schubert and later composers, who applied this strategy in their compositions, bringing wonderful mood and colour changes to their works.

About Lim Hao Wei – Violin



Lim Hao Wei began learning the violin at the age of four. He studied under the Suzuki Method until the age of 13, when he came under the tutelage of Chan Yoong-Han. He has attained distinctions for both the Associate and Licentiate Diploma exams, both awarded by Trinity College London.

An avid orchestral musician, Lim was a member of the Singapore National Youth Orchestra from 2004-2009, serving as its Principal for the Second Violin section. He actively performs with the Metropolitan Festival Orchestra, Resound Collective, Asian Cultural Symphony Orchestra and The Young Musicians Foundation Orchestra (TYMFO). Recent performances include Singapore Trilogy, a production by L'arietta Production where works by local composer Chen Zhangyi were showcased.

Lim is a graduate from the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory, where he was awarded a full scholarship to study with its Head of Violin Studies, Zuo Jun. Lim is no stranger to pop music, having performed alongside singers such as A-Lin and Jam Hsiao. In his free time, He teaches the violin. With teaching experiences spanning almost 10 years, he enjoys teaching students of different calibre, ranging from beginners to conservatory students.

About Tang Tee Tong – Violin



Tang Tee Tong is a passionate violin pedagogue and chamber musician, who balances running a music education collective with her love for performance.

The artistic director and co-founder of The Music Circle has been a devoted educator for over 15 years and serves on the faculty at Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA), working with students pursuing a Bachelor in Instrumental Teaching. Tang frequently performs with Resound Collective as well as other chamber music groups.

Graduating with a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Violin Performance at Arizona State University, she was named Outstanding Graduate of Herberger Institute of Design and the Arts.

About Lee Shi Mei - Violin & Viola



2nd Prize winner of the National Piano and Violin Competition 2007 (Violin Artist Category), Lee Shi Mei performs regularly with pianist Lim Yan. She has appeared as soloist with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra, and as guest concertmaster of Metropolitan Festival Orchestra and Resound Collective. Lee holds a Master of Music with Distinction (Longy School of Music, USA) and Bachelor of Music in Violin and Piano Performance (Oberlin Conservatory of Music, USA). She is recipient of the National Arts Council Arts Bursary (2007, 2009-2011). Lee teaches violin at School of the Arts Singapore and Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts.

An avid chamber musician, Lee has appeared as violinist and violist at music festivals in the United States of America, such as Bowdoin International Music Festival, LyricaFest, and Belvoir Terrace Fine Arts Camp where she was part of the faculty resident quartet. She will perform on the viola at this concert.

About Yeo Jan Wea – Viola



Violist Yeo Jan Wea received a scholarship from the Loke Cheng Kim Foundation to study viola performance at the Eastman School of Music in 1990. He graduated in 1994 and subsequently earned Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees from the Michigan State University School of Music. While at Eastman, Yeo was invited to participate in the Heidelberg Castle Festival in Heidelberg, Germany as principal violist for two summers. He is the first person from Singapore to be selected as orchestral fellow at the prestigious Pacific Music Festival in Sapporo, Japan in 1990 and was invited to return for another two summers in 1991 and 1992. He was also selected to participate in the inaugural season of the Asian Youth Orchestra in the same summer. In 1999, Yeo was invited to be part of the Pacific Music Festival International Orchestra. The orchestra was formed to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the festival and performed throughout Japan. He has worked with conductors such as Leonard Bernstein, Yehudi Menuhin, Neeme Jarvi, Michael Tilson Thomas and Tan Dun.

Since his return to Singapore, Yeo has been a much sought after teacher and performer. He was invited to be the founding principal violist of both the Singapore Festival Orchestra in 2008, and the Metropolitan Festival Orchestra in 2012. He freelances regularly with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra and the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra. He is currently the viola instructor at Anglo Chinese School (Independent), Hwa Chong Institution, CHIJ St Nicholas Girls School, and the conductor of the string ensemble at Republic Polytechnic. Yeo is also the Leader-Mentor to the viola section of the Orchestra of Music Makers.

About Olivia Chuang – Cello



Olivia Chuang obtained a Bachelor of Music (BMus) as a scholarship holder from the Royal College of Music in London under the tutelage of Amanda Truelove. She started learning the cello when she was 11, beginning her studies with Gevorg Sargsyan and later on with Pei-Sian Ng.

She performed Vivaldi's *Double Cello Concerto* with cellist Chan Wei Shing in 2015 and recorded Bang Wen Fu's *Loving* in 2020. Recently, she has performed alongside JJ Lin and Kit Chan at the Marina Bay Sands Theatre.

She has played with orchestras such as the Orion Orchestra in the 19th annual *Night Under The Stars* charity concert at the Royal Festival Hall, and the Scherzo Ensemble in performances of *The Barber of Seville*. Other orchestras she has played with include the Royal College of Music Symphony Orchestra, Firebird Orchestra, Orchestra Collective Singapore, Resound Collective, Wayfarer Sinfonietta and Metropolitan Festival Orchestra under the baton of notable conductors such as Antonio Pappano, Rafael Payare, John Wilson, Tony Purser, Martyn Brabbins and Peter Stark.

Coming up next



Histories of Love and Life by Alina Ramirez

Performing on solo piano, Alina Ramirez premieres luscious harmonies and catchy Latin rhythms of her original jazz suite, written at the height of the pandemic.

25 Jul, Mon, 12.30pm
Esplanade Concert Hall

(30mins, no intermission)



Kartik Alan Jairamin



Beatrice Lin

Not Just Another Hunt! - Music for Horn and Piano by Kartik Alan Jairamin and Beatrice Lin

Join Kartik and Beatrice in discovering a platter of varied sounds from the music of Mozart to Messiaen.

29 Aug, Mon, 12.30pm
Esplanade Concert Hall

(30mins, no intermission)



Radostin Kirchev



Vera Boyadzhieva

Music for Violin and Piano From Bulgaria by Radostin Kirchev and Vera Boyadzhieva

Reflective of the unique folklore music and dances, the repertoire features works by Bentsion Eliezer, Parashkev Hadzhiev, Georgi Zlatev-Cherkin and Pancho Vladigerov.

26 Sep, Mon, 12.30pm
Esplanade Concert Hall

(30mins, no intermission)

\$12^

Receive a \$10 Esplanade Mall Voucher
with every ticket purchased.

Terms and conditions apply.



^Esplanade&Me Specials

Members: \$10

Sign up now at www.esplanade.com/membership

BOOK NOW!

WWW.ESPLANADE.COM/MUNCH



Esplanade is a charity and not-for-profit organisation.
Help us bring the joy and inspiration of the arts to
different communities, including the underserved.



www.esplanade.com



[EsplanadeSG](https://www.facebook.com/EsplanadeSG)



[EsplanadeSingapore](https://www.instagram.com/EsplanadeSingapore)
[#esplanadesg](https://www.instagram.com/esplanadesg) [#mydurian](https://www.instagram.com/mydurian)