E-CONCERT PROGRAMME

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Malaysian

Orchestra

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#### 2025 SEASON

PERFORMANCE AT DEWAN FILHARMONIK PETRONAS

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#### MALAYSIAN PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

The Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra (MPO) gave its inaugural performance at Dewan Filharmonik PETRONAS (DFP) on 17 August 1998. With the initial search for outstanding musicians involving a worldwide audition tour, the MPO today is made up of many talented Malaysian musicians and musicians from other nations, a beautiful example of harmony among different cultures and nationalities.

With each new season, the MPO continues to present an exciting programme of orchestral music drawn from over three centuries, as well as the crowd-pleasing concert series. Its versatility transcends genres, from classical masterpieces to film music, pop, jazz, traditional, contemporary and commissioned works.

Among renowned Malaysian artists who have mesmerized audiences with the MPO include SM Salim, Sheila Majid, M.Nasir, Siti Nurhaliza, Jamal Abdillah, Ella, Dayang Nurfaizah, Aishah, Jaclyn Victor and Aubrey Suwito. A host of internationally acclaimed musicians have performed with the MPO including Lorin Maazel, Sir Neville Marriner, Yehudi Menuhin, Joshua Bell, Harry Connick Jr., José Carreras, Andrea Bocelli, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Chris Botti, Branford Marsalis and Judika, many of whom have praised the MPO for its fine musical qualities and vitality.

The MPO regularly performs in major cities of Malaysia such as in Alor Setar, George Town, Ipoh, Johor Bahru, Kuantan, Kota Kinabalu, Kuching and many more. Internationally, it has toured Singapore (1999, 2001, 2003, 2005 and 2018), Japan (2001, 2009 and 2017), Korea (2001), Australia (2004), China (2006 and 2019), Taiwan (2007) and Vietnam (2013). The MPO has also released 21 CDs.

The MPO remains steadfast in its mission to be the premier Malaysian orchestra, providing the ultimate music experience through the power of live music that educates, entertains and inspires. Its main benefactor is PETRONAS, and its patron is YABhg. Tun Dr. Siti Hasmah Haji Mohd Ali.

## Family Fun Day: Fables and Fugues

Sat 15 Mar 2025, 2:30 pm

- 03 Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra
- 05 Jebat Arjuna Kee, conductor
- 07 Really Inventive Stuff, presenter

#### PROGRAMME

#### Negaraku

HAYDN Toy Symphony (arr. Mozart)

RAVEL Mother Goose Suite: III. Empress of the Pagodas

DORFF Three Fun Fables

BRITTEN Simple Symphony: II. Playful Pizzicato

#### BRITTEN

The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra

The concert will last approximately 60 minutes without an intermission.

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conductor Jebat

# Arjuna Kee

Jebat Arjuna Kee is a musician whose activities have brought him across the globe, and is adept both as a violist and conductor. He has performed extensively across four continents, in some of the world's most renowned concert halls with many orchestras. Jebat currently serves as Principal Viola with the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra, with which he made his conducting debut in 2023. Recent conducting engagements include the Disney In Concert series live at the Arena of Stars, Genting Highlands.

He was formerly under the mentorship of Marin Alsop at the Peabody Conservatory, where he served as Assistant Conductor and Chorus Master of the Peabody Opera Theatre, and Assistant Conductor of the Peabody Symphony Orchestra. He was a semi-finalist at the European Union and Makris Conducting Competitions. Orchestras he has conducted in masterclasses and competitions include the National Symphony Orchestra (Washington DC), String Orchestra of Brooklyn, and the Pazardzhik, Charleston and Makris Symphony Orchestras.

A graduate teaching assistant at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Jebat served as Music Director and Conductor of the University of Illinois Philharmonia Orchestra. Ensembles conducted include the University of Illinois Symphony and Chamber Orchestras, and Illinois Modern Ensemble. He has served as Assistant Conductor of the Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra, Illinois Lyric Theater, Millikin Opera Theatre and Campanile Orchestra at Rice University. He has conducted the Ossia New Music Ensemble and the Empire Film Music Ensemble, of which he was Co-Artistic Director.

On home soil, Jebat's previous positions include Director of the Bentley Music Academy Training Orchestra and Co-Conductor and String Coach of the Selangor Symphony Youth Orchestra. He has collaborated with soloists such as Dmitry Kouzov, Jonathan Keeble and Ann Yeung, and composers such as Carlos Carrillo and David Kirkland Garner.

Jebat has been Principal Viola of the Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra, Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival Orchester, Pacific Music Festival Orchestra, and the Shepherd School Symphony Orchestra during its 2016 tour to Carnegie Hall. Other summer festival appearances include the Spoleto Festival USA, Aspen Music Festival and School, and Lake George Music Festival. He was a winner of the YouTube Symphony Orchestra 2011.

Active in chamber music, Jebat has collaborated with Jon Kimura Parker and Mikhail Kopelman. He was formerly Principal Viola of KINETIC, a conductorless chamber ensemble in Houston, and was a recipient of the Celentano Award for Excellence in Chamber Music in 2014. As a strong advocate for new music, Jebat has performed with ensembles such as Musiqa, Da Camera of Houston and Loop38.

Jebat holds a Master's in Orchestral Conducting from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign where he was under the tutelage of Donald Schleicher. His previous conducting teachers include Larry Rachleff and Brad Lubman, and he participated in masterclasses with Gianandrea Noseda, Osmo Vanska, Nicolas Pasquet, Mark Gibson and Tito Munoz. He completed a Master's in Viola Performance at the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University, where he studied with James Dunham, in addition to serving as his teaching assistant. He received a Bachelor of Music in Viola Performance from the Eastman School of Music, under the tutelage of Carol Rodland.

# Really Inventive Stuff

In 2005, the creative team of actors Sara Valentine and Michael Boudewyns co-founded Really Inventive Stuff, a production company creating playful, theatrical programs for orchestra concerts for young audiences; it has since become one of the most popular presenters of its kind. Their debut with the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra (MPO) is part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Really Inventive Stuff World Tour with three

of their favourite pieces.

They premiered their performance of The Toy Symphony in 2011 with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra; narrated Three Fun they first Fables in 2004 with Symphony in C, and they premiered their narration of The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra in 2009 with The Philadelphia Orchestra. Internationally, along with the MPO, their 2025 anniversary tour includes a second season with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra (Peter and the Wolf, The Toy Symphony) and their European debut in Sweden with Peter and the Wolf as part of the Göteburg International Organ Festival. In North America, their 2025 anniversary tour includes their twelfth season with The Philadelphia Orchestra (Peter and the Wolf). They also make their debut with the Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra (Peter and the Wolf); Dubuque Symphony Orchestra (Peter and the Wolf, The Toy Symphony); Omaha Symphony (Tubby the Tuba, The Toy Symphony); Winston-Salem Symphony (Peter and the Wolf, The Toy Symphony) and the Colorado College Music Festival (Green Eggs and Ham, The Toy Symphony).

Sara and Michael are based in the USA in the state of Maine, and have two cats named Pippy and Prudence.

#### PROGRAMME NOTES

Over the years, the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra (MPO) has committedly played its role as a community music educator - an organisation that educate kids about music, expose them to a variety of compositions, nurture their connection with the science of sounds and interact through an engaging concert experience.

Its Family Fun Day concert series, designed for families with young children, is an event awaited by parents and guardians whose kids are musically-inclined. From the previously successful *Beethoven Lives Upstairs* to *Mission Earth* and *Peter And The Wolf*, each concert delivered an amazing musical exposure to children.



This afternoon's conductor, Jebat Arjuna Kee Jia Liang, is a testament that early musical exposure can shape one's life trajectory. Jebat, who joined the Malaysian Philharmonic Youth Orchestra (MPYO) as a teenager, went on to become an accomplished violist before taking to the podium to conduct the MPO in family-themed concerts. He is a testament of MPO's untiring efforts in unearthing and nurturing local talents with world class calibre.

In this concert, the MPO will collaborate with Really Inventive Stuff, animateurs and vaudeville-inspired storytellers for orchestras with presenters Michael Boudewyns and Sara Valentine.

**HAYDN**'s (1732-1809) *Toy Symphony* (arr. Mozart), known as *Sinfonia Pastorale* or *Toy Symphony in C Major* is a delightful and charming work often performed for younger audiences, although adults who appreciate light-hearted music will also find it enjoyable.

Composed in the 1760s, this song includes parts for toy instruments including trumpet, ratchet, bird calls (cuckoo, nightingale and quail), mark tree, triangle, drums and glockenspiel, making this a whimsical piece. It is the playful sounds of these toy instruments that make it an engaging piece for children, sparking their curiosity about music and sound.

*Toy Symphony* is shorter than many of Haydn's other symphonic works, and is approachable for young ears. Its light character and the inclusion of toys help maintain attention and make it easy for kids to enjoy. Its joyful tone and the element of surprise through quirky instrument sounds, has also been praised by educators as a great introduction to classical music.

Reviews have highlighted how *Toy Symphony* has captivated audiences by blending simplicity with ingenuity. The music's greatest appeal is in its sense of humour and yet, it never loses its elegance. It is also admired for showcasing the composer's ability to engage listeners of all ages through music that is both clever and full of personality.

**RAVEL** (1875-1937) wrote *Mother Goose Suite: III. Empress of the Pagodas* in 1908, dedicated to Mimi and Jean Godebski, two children whose parents he was friends with. A four-hand suite for solo piano, the song, also known as *Ma Mere l'Oye* is a charmingly delicate and imaginative little suite of fairytale works. The suite is based on classic fairytales such as *Sleeping Beauty, Tom Thumb* and *Beauty And the Beast*.

*Empress of the Pagodas* is one of the most enchanting movements in the suite, portraying a scene from an imaginary oriental palace, where an empress resides in opulence, surrounded by pagodas. Ravel's orchestration is rich in texture and vividly paint pictures of the characters and scenes from the stories.

Based on three Aesop fables, **DORFF**'s (b.1956) *Three Fun Fables* piques an interest in the young as they learn about music. Each of the tales are delivered through distinctive music instruments, so the audience listens to the tales of *The Fox and the Crow* (with trumpet and contrabass), *The Dog and his Reflection* (with trombone and violin, harp and percussion) and *The Tortoise and the Hare* (with contrabassoon and clarinet).

The composer explains on his website danieldorff.com that Aesop's stories and the music are suitable for children and adults, a presentation of contrasts where each character in each tale possesses clear theme and instrument. This difference in instrumentation brings out the unique sound of each instrument and matches it with the fable. A fun, engaging musical composition, it was designed to entertain and educate, a popular, educational work due to its playful nature and creative use of musical ideas.



**BRITTEN**'s (1913-1976) *Simple Symphony: II. Playful Pizzicato* is part of *Simple Symphony*, based on smaller works that he wrote when he was between the ages of nine and 12. Dedicated to his viola teacher Audrey Alston, Simple Symphony was written for a small string orchestra, as the composer attempted at getting into the amateur and school markets. It premiered in 1934 with Britten conducting an amateur orchestra in Norwich.

The most striking feature of *Playful Pizzicato* is the plucking of strings of the instrument, instead of using the bow. This technique creates a more percussive sound and gives the movement its bouncy, playful quality.

The concert closes with **BRITTEN**'s *The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra* written in 1946 at the request of the British Ministry of Education, to be used in a short educational film titled *Instruments of the Orchestra*. It premiered in Liverpool in October of the same year.

For this song, Britten drew on English Baroque composer Henry Purcell's rondeau from *Abdelazer*. The theme is initially stated by the full orchestra, then reinforced by different sections of the orchestra before being played again by the full orchestra. He starts off with the highest-pitched instruments (like flutes and piccolo in the woodwinds) to the lowest (bassoon), making the most of the varied instrumental timbres. Timpani and xylophone (in percussions) are given prominence, without overshadowing other instruments. This method allows every instrument to play a new melody as overlapping layers of music appears, allowing listeners to discern the contrasting voices of the instruments.

The use of a narrator (in many performances) helps guide the audience through the piece, explaining each section in an easy-to-understand way. This interactive method creates a dynamic listening experience: children can hear the contrasts between instruments like the flute and clarinet, or the violin and cello, making it easy for them to identify different sounds.

Widely regarded as one of the best compositions for introducing children to the world of classical music, it reveals the variety of orchestral instruments and presents them in a fun and educational manner. Described by *The Guardian* as a "masterpiece of both musical craftsmanship and pedagogy," and praised by *The New York Times* as a "model of orchestral clarity," Britten's clever orchestration has allowed listeners to appreciate the individual instruments in an orchestra.

It's no wonder then, that this piece is often performed as part of school programmes and family concerts, elevating its position as one of the most listened-to classical compositions for children.





#### MALAYSIAN PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

MUSIC DIRECTOR Junichi Hirokami

RESIDENT CONDUCTOR Gerard Salonga

#### **FIRST VIOLIN**

Concertmaster Peter Daniš Co-Concertmaster Ming Goh Principal Zhenzhen Liang

Tan Ka Ming Wong Lu Ee Sherwin Thia

#### SECOND VIOLIN

Yunzhi Ling Stefan Kocsis Ionut Mazareanu

\*Miroslav Daniš \*Lisa Chia Xiaoli \*Keng Xin Tian \*Leong Siong Quen \*Chan Mei Teng

\*Izzywan Musib

\*Joanna Ho May Sum \*Philip Jeremy Law

#### VIOLA

Section Principal Jebat Arjuna Kee Jia Liang \*Giovanni Pasini

Ong Lin Kern Thian Ai Wen Lau Yew Hann \*Fan Ran \*Ling Li Yen \*Loo Pei Zheng **CELLO** Section Principal

Csaba Kőrös Co-Principal Dylan Lee Mihn Tang Assistant Principal Elizabeth Tan Suyin

Goh Wen Chih Wong Jun Yuan \*Gerald Davis \*Stephen Tseu Tze Jie

**DOUBLE BASS** Section Principal Wolfgang Steike

Jun-Hee Chae Lin Yi Rou Lee Kar Yan

FLUTE Section Principal Yukako Emes

Sub-Principal \*Rachel Jenkyns

#### **PICCOLO** *Principal*

\*Foo Chie Haur

#### OBOE

Section Principal Niels Dittmann Sub-Principal Lee Chun Howe

#### CLARINET

Section Principal Matthew Larsen Sub-Principal \*Emily Tiow Yu Xian

#### **BASS CLARINET**

*Principal* Chris Bosco

#### BASSOON

Section Principal Alexandar Lenkov Sub-Principal Stephen Mak Wai Soon

#### CONTRABASSOON

Principal Vladimir Stoyanov

#### HORN

Section Principal Grzegorz Curyła Assistant Principal Sim Chee Ghee Sub-Principal Eric Tiow Xian Liang \*Zsolt Peter

#### TRUMPET

Section Principal Jeffrey Missal Assistant Principal Matthew Dempsey Sub-Principal \*Choo Vin Hong

#### TROMBONE

Section Principal Marques Young Sub-Principal \*Wee Wei Peng

#### BASS TROMBONE

Principal \*Chee Chow Ming

#### TUBA

Section Principal Tan Shun Zhong

#### TIMPANI

Section Principal \*Owain Williams

#### PERCUSSION

Section Principal Antti Olavi Ohenoja Sub-Principal Yap Siu Yan Ng Lip Sheng \*Gregory Sully \*Tee Ching Hong \*Yon Nian Shee

#### HARP

*Principal* Tan Keng Hong

#### PIANO

*Principal* Akiko Daniš



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Hassina Begam Abdul Gani

CEO'S OFFICE Syafiqah Nabila Mohd

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MANAGEMENT

Effendy Khalid

#### MALAYSIAN PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

#### CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER Hassina Begam Abdul Gani

CEO'S OFFICE Farah Diyana Ishak

#### ARTISTIC MANAGEMENT

Khor Chin Yang **Oaleeda** Talib Wynn Ch'ng Way Sean Ong Li-Huey Muhammad Fikrizaki Zakaria

ORCHESTRA MANAGEMENT Fadilah Kamal Francis Khairol Anuar Mohd Sabri

#### MUSIC TALENT DEVELOPMENT

Ahmad Muriz Che Rose Shireen Jasin Mokhtar Nur Syafiqah Shuib Amin Mikhail Ahmad Zabidi

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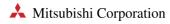
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# THE MUSIC OF PROK FLOX

#### 12 APR 2025 SAT 8:00PM

PERFORMANCE AT DEWAN FILHARMONIK PETRONAS PETRONAS TWIN TOWERS Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra Brent Havens, conductor Randy Jackson, vocals

After performing the music of renowned groups such as ABBA and The Beatles, the MPO continues its classical pop music exploration with a concert to relive the sounds of renowned British rock group Pink Floyd. Amplified by a full rock band and accompanied by Randy Jackson's fabulous vocals, creator Brent Havens guest conducts the MPO as they capture Pink Floyd's ethereal flow of music and effects while churning out new musical colours. Prepare to be transported back to the psychedelic era as we celebrate the iconic music including *Money, Learning to Fly, Comfortably Numb* and selections from *The Wall album*.

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Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra

# A SYMPHONY OF CELEBRATION

17 MAY 2025 SAT 8:00PM

PERFORMANCE AT DEWAN FILHARMONIK PETRONAS PETRONAS TWIN TOWERS Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra Rossen Gergov, conductor Sandy Cheng, soprano Sian Sharp, mezzo-soprano Diego Torre, tenor Shawn Liew, bass-baritone

DE FALLA El Amor Brujo: Ritual Fire Dance DE FALLA Three-Cornered Hat Suite No. 1 BIZET L'Arlesienne Suite No. 2 BIZET Carmen; Selections Normal: RM229 RM279 RM329 RM379

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