

# Familiar Favourites

DATE: 15 APRIL 2023

TIME: 5PM

VENUE: FESTIVE ARTS  
THEATRE AT  
OUR TAMPINES  
HUB



**Braddell  
Heights  
Symphony  
Orchestra**

15 April 2023 (Sat), 5:00pm  
Our Tampines Hub, Festive Arts Theatre

## Familiar Favourites

Taro Hakase  
**Jonetsu Tairiku**

Kayoko Kusano  
**Gurenge from "Demon Slayer"**

Radwimps  
**Zenzenzense from "Your Name"**

Felix Mendelssohn  
**String Quartet No. 2 in A minor, Op. 13, 4th movement**

Nobuo Uematsu  
**"Those Who Fight" from Final Fantasy VII (arr. Andrew Fung)**

Oskar Böhm  
**Sextet for Brass in Eb minor, Op 30, 1st and 4th movement.**

Franz Doppler  
**Andante et Rondo for two Flutes with Strings Orchestra**

Edvard Grieg  
**Peer Gynt Suite No. 1**

**Apo Hsu** *conductor*

*The duration of the performance is approximately 60 mins*

# Braddell Heights Symphony Orchestra



The Braddell Heights Symphony Orchestra (BHSO) is one of Singapore's most prominent community orchestras. Founded in 1986 under the auspices of the Braddell Heights Community Club, the BHSO has been home to countless local and expatriate amateur musicians living in Singapore who come from all walks of life, bonded by their love of classical music and performing in an orchestra.

From humble beginnings with only a handful of members, the BHSO grew steadily into a full-sized symphony orchestra under the leadership of Maestro Yan Yin Wing during his 25-year tenure as Music Director. In 2012, the baton was passed on to the late Singaporean conductor Adrian Tan who brought with him innovative ideas that revitalised the orchestra and its role in the community. The formation of The Joy Chorale (TJC) in 2015, under the direction of Khor Ai Ming, was significant in providing opportunities for aspiring singers with little or no training to perform in concerts alongside experienced choristers. This new BHSO-TJC partnership made its debut with a performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony which was received with enthusiastic cheers and a standing ovation from a sold-out audience at the Esplanade Concert Hall.

As a community orchestra with the vision of expanding its outreach to a wide audience with diverse tastes, the BHSO's repertoire not only includes symphonic, choral and chamber music from the baroque to modern era, but also covers a variety of genres from film music to jazz. As a strong advocate of local music, the orchestra regularly features Singaporean composers in its concert programs. It actively commissions new works and had given world premiere performances of compositions by Americ Goh, Bernard Tan, Low Shao Ying & Low Shao Suan and John Sharpley.

An orchestra of the community and for the community, with its vision "music for everyone" is reflective of its aspiration for inclusiveness and its commitment to making good music accessible for the enjoyment of all, regardless of background or circumstances.



# Apo Hsu

Conductor



*"She generates electricity from the podium in two directions: into the orchestra and into the audience."*

— The Oregonian

*"A strikingly charismatic stage presence."* — SF Chronicle

(Apo) Ching-Hsin Hsu, conductor, has served as the Artistic Director and Conductor to The Women's Philharmonic in San Francisco, Music Director and Conductor of the Springfield Symphony in Missouri, Music Director with the Oregon Mozart Players and Affiliate Artist/National Endowment for the Arts Assistant Conductor with the Oregon Symphony. Guest appearances have taken Ms. Hsu to the Americas, Asia and Russia.

In her role as Artistic Director and Conductor of The Women's Philharmonic from 1997-2001, they toured Brazil in 2001; for recordings, they released a compact disc that features the symphonic music of African American composer Florence Price.

Ms. Hsu received her Bachelor of Arts in Piano from the National Taiwan Normal University while also studying the Doublebass. Her graduate study was at the Hartt School of Music in CT, with the renowned double bassist Maestro Gary Karr for Masters of Music, and an Artist Diploma in Conducting with Maestro Charles Bruck. Ms. Hsu has worked closely with Maestri James DePreist, Murry Sidlin and Harold Farberman, and attended the Pierre Monteaux Domaine School for Advanced Conductors, the Conductor's Institute and the Aspen Music Festival.

Ms. Hsu has served on the faculty for both the American Symphony Orchestra League Conducting Workshops and National Youth Orchestra Festival, and as a guest conductor at various US state's annual music educators' All State Conferences. She has served as a Music Review Panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts (US), the National National Chiang Kai-Shek Cultural Center (Taiwan) and the SYF Arts Presentation (Singapore). Ms. Hsu has served on the faculty at The Conductor's Institute at Bard College (NY), the Miami Music Festival (FL) and at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music (OH). Ms. Hsu is on the faculty at the National Taiwan Normal University in Taipei and enjoys seeing many of her conducting pupils succeed in the professional and educational fields.

# MUSICIANS LIST

## Horn Trio:

- 1) Jonetsu tairiku - *Taro Hakase*
- 2) Gurenge from "Demon slayer" - *Kayoko Kusano*
- 3) Zenzenzense from "Your name" - *Radwimps*

### HORN

Kosuke Nakajima

Megumi Murase

Akira Uchida

## String Quartet:

- 1) String Quartet No. 2 in A minor, Op. 13, 4th movement - *F. Mendelssohn*
- 2) "Those Who Fight" from Final Fantasy VII (arr. Andrew Fung) - *Nobuo Uematsu*

### VIOLIN 1

Minhye Kim

### VIOLIN 2

Pearl Yim

### VIOLA

Andrew Fung

### CELLO

Peh Xiang Hong

## Brass Sextet:

- 1) Sextet for brass in Eb minor, Op 30, 1st and 4th movement - *O. Böhm*

### TRUMPET

Justin Chia

Chan Yong Tat

Jordan Chua Wei Teck

### TROMBONE

Yuki Tony Tani

### TUBA

Gabriel Song

### HORN

Kosuke Nakajima

## Two Flutes with String Ensemble:

- 1) Andante et Rondo for two flutes with strings orchestra - *F. Doppler*

### FLUTE 1

Tan Mei Wah

### FLUTE 2

Mohd. Rasull Bin Khelid

### CELLO

Min Ng

Kenneth Goh

Adele Kwan

New K Yong

### VIOLIN 1

Eric Tan

Leo Yun Fen

Shaun Hoang

Jessica Ng

Zheng Wanying

### VIOLIN 2

Chiang Yaw Yeang

Foo Her Yun

Beatrice Lam

Hoon Tien Hun

Lee Mei Rong

### BASS

Hyoseok Lee

### VIOLA

Karis Ong

Andrew Fung

Ham Shim Ying

Clement Yan

# Braddell Heights Symphony Orchestra:

1) Peer Gynt Suite No. 1- *E. Grieg*

## Guest Conductor

Apo Hsu

### VIOLIN 1

Minhye Kim,  
*Concertmaster*  
Eric Tan  
Chiang Yaw Yeang  
Leo Yun Fen  
Zheng Wanying  
Ng Si Jing

### VIOLIN 2

Pearl Yim  
Jessica Ng  
Beatrice Lam  
Teo Xin Zhi  
Hoon Tien Hun

### VIOLA

Andrew Fung  
Natasha Lee  
Ham Shim Ying

### CELLO

Lee Ying  
Min Ng  
Toshio Shinohara  
Adele Kwan  
New K Yong  
Kenneth Goh

### BASS

Hyoseok Lee  
Sayhao Lim

### FLUTE

Mohd. Rasull Bin Khelid,  
*Principal*  
Tan Mei Wah,  
*Assistant Principal*

### OBOE

Ng Wei Xiang  
Huang Xingyang

### CLARINET

Ang Teck Yen  
Jessica Wong

### BASSOON

Yap Keng Peng  
Syed Ridwan Ahmad

### TRUMPET

Justin Chia  
Jordan Chua Wei Teck

### HORN

Akira Uchida,  
*Co-Principal*  
Megumi Murase  
Kosuke Nakajima  
Gabriel Foong

### TROMBONE

Yuki Tony Tani,  
*Principal*  
Yeo Wee Aik

### BASS TROMBONE

Koe Meng Kiang, Keith

### TUBA

Gabriel Song,  
*Principal*

### PERCUSSION

Victor Wong  
Jake Lim  
Ang Ching Hong

## Programme Notes

Taro Hakase

### **Jonetsu Tairiku**

Japanese contemporary composer and violinist Taro Hakase (1968-) began his career as a band member of KRYZLER&KOMPANY, a violin, bass and keyboard trio. The group disbanded in 1996, and Hakase launched his solo career, shooting to fame after a collaboration soundtrack and a concert tour with Celine Dion in the same year.

**Jonetsu Tairiku** ("Passionate Continent"), was composed for a popular Japanese documentary of the same name. Originally composed for violin and rock band, this arrangement for Horn Trio captures the eclectic style of Japanese pop music at the turn of the 20th Century.

Kayoko Kusano

### **Gurenge from "Demon slayer"**

Risa Oribe (1987-), better known by her stage name LiSA, is a Japanese singer, songwriter and lyricist signed to Sacra Music under Sony Music Artists. Her songs have been featured in various anime, e.g. *Fate/Zero*, *Sword Art Online* and *Demon Slayer*.

**Gurenge** ("Red Lotus") is a song from her fifth studio album *Leo-Nine*. With music by Kayoko Kusano and lyrics by LiSA, the single peaked at number two on Billboard Japan Hot 100 and is best associated as the first opening theme song for the hit anime series *Demon Slayer*.

The lyrics convey the will of the Red Lotus to overcome hardship, as seen here in the chorus:

*Overwhelmed by violence, a thorny path  
It only appears when I'm serious  
I'll prove that I can overcome it  
The dream that I couldn't protect was easily cast aside  
Grow your roots in my crimson heart, and possess this land*

Radwimps

### **Zenzenzense from "Your name"**

Japanese rock band Radwimps achieved commercial success in 2006 with their album *Radwimps 4: Okazu no Gohan*. In the animated film industry, they are best known for their work on *Your Name* (2016), *Weathering with You* (2019), and *Suzume* (2022).

*Kimi no Na wa* ("Your Name") depicts a high school boy in Tokyo and a high school girl in the Japanese countryside who suddenly and inexplicably begin to swap bodies. The film was critically acclaimed, with praise for its animation, music, visuals, and emotional weight. The film grossed over ¥41.44 billion (SGD \$420 million) worldwide, becoming the third highest-grossing anime film of all time. *Zenzenzense* ("Past Past Past Life") reached number one on the Billboard Japan Hot 100 and continues to be an icon in the field of Japanese animated films to this day.

*Back in the zen-zen-zense till this day  
Been looking everywhere for you (For you)  
I followed the sound of your innocent laughter  
And it guided me in the right way  
Even if every piece of you disappeared  
And if it scattered everywhere (Everywhere)  
No, I won't waver, I'll start back at one  
Look for you all over again  
Or maybe instead I'll take the whole universe  
Right back to zero again*

Felix Mendelssohn

### **String Quartet No. 2 in A minor, Op. 13, 4th movement**

1827 was an eventual year in Western Classical music. Beethoven, already an established musical giant, passed away in Vienna, just as his last 5 string quartets were published (Op. 130, 131, 133, and 135). The then 18-year-old German prodigy Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847), already an experienced composer of chamber music (having written his Octet 2 years ago), devoured these new publications with fervour, and Beethoven's influence is obvious throughout **Mendelssohn's 2nd String Quartet in A Minor**. The piece's most telling takeaway is its cyclic formal organisation, where a theme is seen (in plain sight or disguise) throughout its movements.

As a unifying motif, Mendelssohn included a quotation from his song "*Ist es wahr?*" ("Is it true?", Op. 9, no. 1), composed a few months earlier. Mendelssohn includes the title of the song in the score of the quartet, much like Beethoven's own writing in his Op. 135 - "*Muss es sein?*" ("Must it be?"). However, Mendelssohn's unique writing style separates his work from that of his great predecessor. Rather, the quartet is passionate and richly romantic, music that can only come from the pen of a young man at the cusp of adulthood.

The Presto begins with a tempestuous recitative by the first violin over tremolos. Its main body recalls material from the first movement, along with a variation of the second movement's fugue. As themes from the various movements melt into one another, the music subsides into a comfortable recline, as though young Mendelssohn is telling us, "To be continued!"



Nobuo Uematsu

## **“Those Who Fight” from Final Fantasy VII (arr. Andrew Fung)**

Nobuo Uematsu (1959-) is a Japanese composer and keyboardist best known for his contributions to the *Final Fantasy* video game series by Square Enix. The first game in the role-playing anthology franchise was released in 1987, and the series boasts 15 numbered entries, available on most mobile and computer platforms.

The plot of *Final Fantasy VII* follows a mercenary named Cloud Strife who joins an eco-terrorist organisation in order to stop a megacorporation from draining the planet's life essence as an energy source. During the journey, Cloud forges close friendships with his party members, including Aerith Gainsborough, who holds the secret to saving their world.

***Those Who Fight*** is true battle theme music - an intense, pounding rhythm provides the backdrop to the heroic melodies that rise and fall with the tide of the fight.

Oskar Böhme

## **Sextet for brass in Eb minor, Op 30, 1st and 4th movement.**

Oskar Böhme (1870-1938) was one of the foremost trumpeters of his time. His compositional output is scarce; virtually all feature brass instruments to some degree. However, his Trumpet Concerto stands out as a watershed work in Romantic literature - many deem it worthy of standing among the trumpet concerti of Haydn and Hummel.

A graduate of the Leipzig Conservatory, Böhme spent his early career performing in orchestras scattered across his homeland, Germany. At the turn of the 20th Century, he moved to St. Petersburg, Russia, and held the Principal Trumpet position at the Mariinsky Theatre from 1902 to 1921. During the “Great Purge” of Stalinist Russia (1936-1938), Böhme was exiled to Orenburg because of his German heritage and suspected disloyalty. He was subsequently executed by shooting, turning into one of more than 750 thousand victims.

The sextet originally calls for one cornet, two trumpets, bass trumpet or alto horn, trombone or tenor horn, and tuba or baritone horn; however, modern editions indicate an orchestration for 3 trumpets (with an alternate horn part substitute for 3rd trumpet), trombone or baritone (alternate for horn), trombone or baritone, and tuba, which is what you will enjoy today.

The piece starts off with a slow, solemn introduction (Adagio ma non tanto - Allegro molto) before launching into thematic material strongly reminiscent of Böhme's contemporary Victor Ewald, both in distinction and attention to detail. An abundance of typically Russian melodic nostalgia can be seen in the Finale, wrapping the work in the heroic qualities of its major key.

Franz Doppler

## **Andante et Rondo for two flutes with strings orchestra**

Born in Lemberg, Poland (modern-day Ukraine), (Albert) Franz Doppler (1821-1883) was both a composer and a virtuoso flautist. Franz and his brother Karl toured Europe as a flute duo as well as established the Hungarian Philharmonic Orchestra in 1853.

The brothers were apparently known for their novel performances - the left-handed Karl would hold his flute “backwards”, creating a mirror image of the right-handed Franz! These days, Franz Doppler is best remembered for his flute compositions, though he was also a fervent composer of 7 operas and 15 ballets.

**Andante and Rondo**, composed in 1874, is written for two flutes and piano. The work has tangible traces of Hungary, no doubt from the time Dopple spent in the country. The Andante is traditionally romantic, with a lively middle interlude in A Minor. The Rondo in contrast is jaunty and light-hearted - one might even hear a faint glimpse of Mendelssohn.

Edvard Grieg

## **Peer Gynt Suite No. 1**

Many countries have a favourite, celebrated composer. The Czechs have their Bedřich Smetana, The Finns have their Jean Sibelius, and Norwegians have their Edvard Grieg (1843-1907). A composer of many piano and chamber pieces, his works for orchestra have been extremely well-received in popular culture for their imaginative charm and ease of listening.

**Peer Gynt** started life as incidental music for Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen’s play of the same name. Oddly enough, Grieg had trouble completing his work, writing to a friend that the music “progresses slowly”, and that it was “a terribly unmanageable subject”. However, as he laboured, he “saw that he was the right man for a work of such witchery and so permeated with the Norwegian spirit”, as recounted by his wife, Nina. The premiere was a triumphant success, and over a decade later, Grieg extracted 8 movements from the play’s music to make 2 suites. Suite No. 1 consists of some of Grieg’s most well-known music, featured in television commercials, video games, and films all around the world.

The first suite begins with *Morning Mood*, depicting the rising of the sun in the Moroccan desert where **Peer Gynt** wakes, abandoned by his companions. It continues with *The Death of Åse*, **Peer Gynt**’s mother, who perishes in the third act of the play. The music then takes on a lighter mood with *Anitra’s Dance*, where Anitra, the daughter of a Bedouin Chief, dances and steals Peer Gynt’s money after his attempts to seduce her. The suite closes with the famous *In the Hall of the Mountain King*, building up to a “tremendous uproar in the hall” of the troll Mountain King.

**Notes by Amanda Kye-Ning Tan**

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