



BRADDELL HEIGHTS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
proudly presents



Christmas Classics

Leonard Tan | conductor

Otto Nicolai | Christmas Overture

John Rutter | Suite for Strings

Johann Strauss Jr. | Voices of Spring

Johann Strauss Jr. | Tritsch Tratsch Polka

Leroy Anderson | Sleigh Ride

Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez | Medley from "Frozen"

Kelly Tang | Yuletide Rhapsody

16 December 2023 | Saturday

7.30 pm

School of the Arts (SOTA) Concert Hall



**Braddell
Heights
Symphony
Orchestra**

Organised by Braddell Heights CCMC.



People's Association

16 December 2023 (Sat), 7:30pm
SOTA Concert Hall

Christmas Classics

Otto Nicolai

Christmas Overture (11:30)

John Rutter

Suite for Strings (12:40)

Johann Strauss Jr.

Voices of Spring (6:41)

Johann Strauss Jr.

Tritsch Tratsch Polka (3:30)

Leroy Anderson

Sleigh Ride (3:00)

Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez (arr. Bob Krogstad)

Medley from “Frozen” (7:21)

Kelly Tang

Yuletide Rhapsody (8:30)

Braddell Heights Symphony Orchestra

Leonard Tan *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 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 music by living composers, 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 has 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.

Leonard Tan

Conductor



Singaporean musician Leonard Tan is a prolific conductor with a strong presence in the Singapore arts scene. He has conducted numerous ensembles, including the Singapore Symphony Orchestra, Singapore National Youth Orchestra (Principal Conductor), Ensemble de la Belle Musique (Principal Conductor), Philharmonic Wind Orchestra (Music Director), and Indiana University Orchestras.

He earned his doctoral degree from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, where he studied orchestral conducting with David Efron, Arthur Fagen, and Murray Sidlin. Additional

conducting studies were with Leif Segerstam and Alexander Polischuk in Russia, where he worked with the St. Petersburg Chamber Philharmonic, and with Johannes Schlaefli, where he worked with Academic Orchestra Zurich.

In demand internationally, he has conducted, adjudicated and taught throughout the United States and Asia. Performances under his direction have been lauded by local and international critics. Singapore's The Straits Times described his performance of Corigliano's Symphony No. 3 as "masterfully helmed," while the American press lauded his "artful conducting." He is an Associate Professor of Music at the National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

Musicians

CONDUCTOR

Dr. Leonard Tan

VIOLIN 1

Lim Shue Churn
Concertmaster
Kelvin Chung
Zach Cubillas #
Daniel Ho
Denzel Lim Ye Han #
Elaine Mai #
Hiroko Nakae
Albert Phang
Tan Bao Jun
Eric Tan
Wong Yew Fatt #
Xu Zhong Hao #

VIOLIN 2

Pearl Yim
Acting Principal
Foo Her Yun
Go Ling Hong
Hoon Tien Hun
Michiko Kadono
Eta Lauw
Beatrice Lam
Leo Yun Fen
Jessica Ng
Phua Teng Soong
Moon Zou

VIOLA

Michiko Akao
Acting Principal
Samantha Marie Chan #
Joe Foley
Ham Shim Ying
Daniel Heng #
Tan Yan Qi Reegan #
Sherman Soo Thoo #
Clement Yan

CELLO

Lee Ying
Acting Principal
Adele Kwan
Lee Yi Xuan Kenneth
Gareth Lee #
New K Yong
Min Ng
Xu Wen Xin Clare

BASS

Sanche Jagatheesan #
Marissa Lim Li Shuen #
Arthur Loh #
Darren Sim

FLUTE

Tan Mei Wah
Assistant Principal
Chan Tung Hoe #
Quah Zheng Jie #

OBOE

Nathalie Fu
Huang Xingyang

CLARINET

Tim Raes
Principal
Ang Teck Yen #
Jessica Wong

BASS CLARINET

Ang Teck Yen #

BASSOON

Syed Ridwan Ahmad
Yap Keng Peng

TRUMPET

Justin Chia
Acting Principal
Tobias Tan #
Amanda Yong #

HORN

Akira Uchida
Co-Principal
Chua Gim Phu #
Megumi Murase
Colin Ng #
Daren Tan #

TROMBONE

Yuki Tony Tani
Principal
Yeo Wee Aik

BASS TROMBONE

Koe Meng Kiang Keith

TUBA

Gabriel Song
Principal

HARP

Chloe Lam #

PIANO

Chong Chian Chin #

PERCUSSION/ TIMPANI

Victor Wong
Principal
Conrad Chung #
Jake Lim
Jared Robertson
Kenny Zhang #

Guest musicians

Musicians listed alphabetically by family names

Programme Notes

Otto Nicolai

Christmas Overture

Otto Nicolai may not be a household name these days, but he was an important composer and conductor of the 19th Century, enjoying popularity and status similar to Giuseppe Verdi. He was also one of the founders of the world-famous Vienna Philharmonic. Nicolai composed works in many genres, including operas, lieder, works for chorus, orchestra, and solo instruments. He is most well known for his operatic adaptation of Shakespeare's *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

The Christmas Overture is based on the Chorale "Vom Himmel hoch, da komm' ich her" (From Heaven above I come). This hymn, one of many written by German Protestant reformer Martin Luther, was written for the Christmas Eve observance held annually at home with his children. The work begins in an agitated fashion and has an unusually intense Schumannesque orchestration for a festive holiday like Christmas. However, the chorale, introduced in its entirety by the winds and brasses in the middle of the work, ultimately triumphs after a substantial development section, and the work ends in a joyous seasonal celebration.

John Rutter

Suite for Strings

London-born composer and conductor John Rutter has had his music featured in many British royal occasions, including the two most recent royal weddings. His compositions, such as the Requiem, Magnificat, Mass of the Children, The Gift of Life, and Visions are regularly performed around the world. Rutter formed The Cambridge Singers, an English mixed voice chamber choir, in 1983, and has made numerous recordings with them.

The Suite for Strings is a rare instrumental gem in the largely choral repertoire of Rutter. British folk songs form the foundation of the Suite. The first movement, "A-roving," opens with dramatic chords and a lush, sweeping theme. The middle section, pastoral and gentle, is based on the folk song "I sowed the seeds of love". The second movement, titled "I have a bonnet trimmed with blue", is a lilting dance, stippled with trills and small minor modulations. The third movement, "O waly waly," derives its melody from the Scottish folk song of the same name. The song lyrics, describing the challenges of love, match the sentimentality of the music - "But love grows old and waxes cold/And fades away like the morning dew". The finale, "Dashing away with the smoothing iron," brings to life an English folk song about a

man admiring the girl he loves as she goes through the daily chores of washing and ironing clothes. Rutter showcases his prowess by taking the original melody and spinning contrasting variations, bringing the Suite to a whirlwind close.

Johann Strauss Jr.

Voices of Spring

Johann Strauss II (1825-1899), also known as Johann Strauss Jr, was known throughout Europe as “The Waltz King”. He was a key factor in the rise of popularity of the waltz in 19-Century Vienna. Having composed over 500 waltzes, polkas, and other dance genres as well as several operettas and one ballet, he is best remembered today by “The Blue Danube”, “Emperor Waltz,” and his operetta *Die Fledermaus* (“The Bat”).

Voices of Spring (Frühlingsstimmen) was originally conceived as a solo soprano piece for Bianca Bianchi, a soprano of the Vienna Court Opera, who premiered it at a charity performance in Vienna in 1883. The poem describes the singing of a lark and a nightingale as “spring breaks forth in all its splendour.” It was extremely well-received and Strauss revised it for symphony orchestra immediately, allowing for its premiere just seventeen days after the premiere of the first version. Voices of Spring is classic Johann Strauss, with its tuneful melodies and lively rhythms, capturing the essence of the Viennese waltz tradition.

Johann Strauss Jr.

Tritsch Tratsch Polka

The German word “Tratsch” means gossip, while the word “Tritsch” actually has no meaning. The title is an example of Johann Strauss II’s habit of creating puns. In this case, he wanted to create an onomatopoeia or phonetic equivalent of the English expression “chit-chat”, while also referring to the Viennese love of gossip. . Originating in nineteenth-century Bohemia (now part of the Czech Republic), the polka is characterised by three quick steps and a hop. Strauss wrote in his diary that the audience asked for this polka 38 times during a series of concerts in London! It is not difficult to see why the Tritsch-Tratsch Polka was so popular - the carnival-like tunes and the celebratory brass and percussion (particularly the snare drum) lines give this polka an addictive kick!

Programme notes by Amanda Kye Tan

Leroy Anderson

Sleigh Ride

Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride" is a timeless musical masterpiece that captures the festive spirit of the holiday season. Composed in 1948, this enchanting orchestral piece has become a beloved classic, evoking images of a winter wonderland and the joy of a sleigh ride through snowy landscapes. Its lively melody, playful rhythms, and vivid orchestrations beautifully depict the excitement and merriment of a journey through the snow-covered countryside.

With its iconic use of horse clip-clops, whip cracks, and the unmistakable sound of sleigh bells, "Sleigh Ride" conjures a vivid imagery of a whimsical, snowy adventure. Anderson's brilliant composition has transcended generations, becoming a cherished part of holiday traditions worldwide. Its cheerful and infectious tune has a magical ability to transport listeners into a world filled with the warmth of the holiday spirit, making it a perennial favourite among audiences of all ages.

Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez (arr. Bob Krogstad)

Medley from "Frozen"

Bob Krogstad's arrangement of the song "Frozen" is a mesmerizing interpretation that breathes new life into this iconic medley. Infused with intricate orchestration and a captivating musical arrangement, Krogstad's version of "Frozen" amplifies the emotional depth of the original composition through the orchestral richness and nuanced phrasing.

The orchestral rendition of Frozen elevates the hauntingly beautiful qualities of the original piece, drawing listeners into a world of evocative melodies and intricate harmonies. The arrangement masterfully weaves together various instrumental elements, creating a symphonic landscape that resonates with the listener's emotions. Krogstad's rendition stands as a testament to his skillful craftsmanship, offering a stirring interpretation that captures the essence and depth of the songs in a compelling orchestral setting.

Kelly Tang

Yuletide Rhapsody

Kelly Tang's "Yuletide Rhapsody" is a vibrant and dynamic musical composition that intertwines the essence of the holiday season with a rich tapestry of melodies and rhythms. This rhapsody, composed with intricate layers of festive tunes, captures the joy, warmth, and excitement of Christmastime. Tang's skillful fusion of traditional carols and original motifs creates a captivating piece that resonates with both nostalgia and contemporary flair, offering a delightful listening experience for audiences.

With its playful yet sophisticated arrangements, "Yuletide Rhapsody" showcases Tang's prowess in orchestrating a medley that seamlessly transitions between familiar holiday melodies, infusing them with new energy and charm. The piece takes listeners on a musical journey, interweaving familiar tunes in a fresh and innovative manner, evoking a sense of wonder and celebration.

Programme notes by Min Ng

Jingle Bell Rock

Jingle bell, jingle bell, jingle bell rock
Jingle bells swing and jingle bells ring
Snowin' and blowin' up bushels of fun
Now the jingle hop has begun

Jingle bell, jingle bell, jingle bell rock
Jingle bells chime in jingle bell time
Dancin' and prancin' in Jingle Bell Square
In the frosty air

*What a bright time, it's the right time
To rock the night away
Jingle bell time is a swell time
To go glidin' in a one-horse sleigh

Giddy-up jingle horse, pick up your feet
Jingle around the clock
Mix and a-mingle in the jinglin' feet
That's the jingle bell
That's the jingle bell
That's the jingle bell rock

* Repeat

Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas

Have yourself a merry little Christmas
Let your heart be light
From now on, our troubles will be out of sight

Have yourself a merry little Christmas
Make the Yuletide gay
From now on, our troubles will be miles away

* Here we are as in olden days
Happy golden days of yore
Faithful friends who are dear to us
Gather near to us once more

Through the years, we all will be together
If the fates allow
Hang a shining star upon the highest bough
And have yourself a merry little Christmas now

* Repeat

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing:
"Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled"
Joyful, all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With angelic hosts proclaim:
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"
Hark! The herald angels sing:
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ by highest Heav'n adored
Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come
Offspring of a Virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail the incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with man to dwell
Jesus, our Emmanuel
Hark! The herald angels sing:
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the Heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings
Ris'n with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth
Hark! The herald angels sing:
"Glory to the newborn King!"



Music For Everyone - Be a Sponsor!

Encompassing music of different genres and varied repertoires, BHSO and the Joy Chorale wish to provide the community opportunities to enjoy music along our vision of “ Music For Everyone”. To this end, our **“sponsor-a-ticket” programme**, active since its launch in July 2018, aims to connect sponsors with beneficiaries of charities and welfare organisations.

Below are the list of organisations that have benefitted from this concert:

- Art:Dis
- The Purple Symphony (Community Development Council Central SG)
- Beautiful Mind
- Touch Community

We would like to acknowledge our kind sponsors for raising tickets for this concert:

- Tim Raes
- Jared Robertson
- New K Yong
- Peh Xiang Hong
- Other individuals who have requested to remain anonymous
- Jessica Wong
- Hoon Tien Hun
- Ham Shim Ying
- Tan Mei Wah

Besides our sponsorship program, BHSO is also looking to broaden our outreach by partnering with schools, community organisations and corporations to realise BHSO’s vision at every performance. If you resonate with our vision and would like to inspire the community, please do:

- Be a ticket sponsor for our concerts.
- Bulk purchase (10 or more tickets) at a special price.
- Make a donation (individual or corporate).

Contact us to share your ideas at info@bhs.org

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