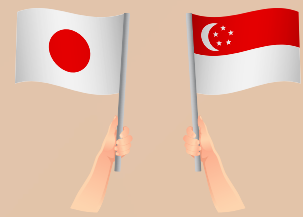


Mus'Art Wind Orchestra &  
Wind Ensemble Nippon Singapore (Singapore)  
Omiya-Kazo Symphonic Festival Band (Japan)

# OmiyaArt Soiree!



Sunday  
**19 Feb**  
**3pm**

DOORS OPEN 2.30PM



**Concert Hall**  
@ Yong Siew Toh  
Conservatory of Music  
National University  
of Singapore

Free seating



ORGANISED BY:  
**JURONG GREEN CCMC**



**Jurong**  
Central



**PASSIONARTS C**

# Repertoire

## Omiya-Kazo

Journey  
Yu Kawabata

Sweet Breeze in May  
Toshio Mashima

Festal Scenes  
Yasuhide Ito

Spirited Away  
Joe Hisaishi & Yumi Kimura  
arr. Kazuhiro Morita

Tao Ngoi  
Jintara Poonlarp  
arr. Yuki Ueda

## INTERMISSION

## Mus'Art-WENS

City of Dreams  
Benjamin Yeo

Autumnal Fireworks  
Lee Jinjun

Three Portraits for Symphonic Band  
Kelly Tang

## Combined Band

Sweet Garden City  
Keiichi Kurokawa

Hitomi o Tojite  
Ken Hirai  
arr. Yukio Endo



## Mus'Art Wind Orchestra

The Mus'Art Wind Orchestra (MWO) is a musical group under the wing of the Jurong Green Community Club. Formed in 1998, the MWO has illustrious experience in bringing quality music to music lovers and the community. Each year the band has a few performances, bringing music to the people of all ages not only at the various concert halls, but also to the heartlands of Singapore during the festive periods. In the pursuit of reaching higher standards of wind music-making and to raise public awareness of wind music as a performing art in Singapore, Mus'Art Wind Orchestra will continue its efforts to create a place of excellence in wind band music.



## Wind Ensemble Nippon Singapore

Wind Ensemble Nippon Singapore (WENS) is an amateur concert band which performs a wide range of wind orchestra repertoire. It was first established in Jul 2014 by its Japanese members living in Singapore who share a love for band music and has since welcomed musicians across any nationality. Most recently, WENS participated in the reputable 8th Singapore Band Festival (SIBF) 2022.

## Omiya-Kazo Symphonic Festival Band

This festival band was specially formed for this Singapore tour comprising Omiya Wind Symphony, Kazo City Flyingcarp Wind Orchestra, Saitama Luminous Wind Orchestra, and some independent musicians. Members in this festival band range from high-school students to experienced amateur musicians. Heading the band is Kaneko Kazuaki, former chairperson of Omiya Wind Symphony and current conductor of Kazo City Flyingcarp Wind Orchestra, and assisted by Keiichi Kurokawa, the conductor of the Saitama Luminous Wind Orchestra.



# About Us



## Flutes

Jermain Cho  
Nick Yew  
Tan Li Hong  
Ikushima Saeko\*  
Lin Jun Long\*  
Nishimoto Satoko\*  
Saijo Yuko\*  
Kaori Yamazaki^  
Kaoru Kidachi^  
Mika Gorai^  
Satoko Hamada^  
Satomi Endo^  
Yurina Kano^

## Oboes

Hatasaki Emika\*  
Kyoka Nakamura^  
Noritaka Kobayashi^

## Clarinets

Cheng Yee Ki  
Desmond Lim  
Jacus Pek  
Jeffrey Ang  
Rani Hairyan  
Shahrizan Isnain  
Sollahien  
Tiffany Lee  
Wendy Lee  
Dante Tan\*  
Nakajima Miho\*  
Yamanishi Kota\*  
Yamaoka Asuka\*  
Keiichi Kurokawa^  
Rie Nakamura^

## Bassoons

Iwabuchi Akira\*  
Sawada Yoichiro\*

## Saxophones

Chan Yao Ying  
Chong Kai-Yan  
Masagca Merwyn  
Loh Sing Keong  
Sim Kok Chen  
Asano Megumi\*  
Imai Takaya\*  
Moriya Akihito\*  
Chie Sakuma^  
Hana Karasudani^  
Moe Nishimura^  
Yuki Ueda^

## Trumpets

Angelin Tan  
Chan Yong Tat  
Tim Chua  
Zachariah Tnay  
Uejima Yu\*  
Aki Murano^  
Kyoko Yamaguchi^  
Sakura Motegi^  
Shino Takei^  
Tomonori Morita^  
Yu Kawabata^

## Horns

Danial Matin  
Daren Tan  
Joe Goh  
Muhammad Yatiem  
Taanya Tay  
Nakajima Kosuke\*  
Murase Megumi\*  
Haruki Takano^  
Keiko Shibasaki^  
Miku Noguchi^  
Saki Katano^

## Trombones

Chen Hong  
Huang Wei Han  
Sherlynn Ong  
Teo Mu En  
Takahama Tasuku\*  
Miho Bisko Iida^  
Saori Sonda^  
Yoshihiro Iwami^

## Euphoniums

Chin Sze Khen  
Ng Jun Wei  
Po Qi Lin  
Kanakan Shiraishi^

## Tubas

Ho Law Wei  
Ong Kai Wen  
Meyer-Ohle Hendrik\*

## String Bass

Shohei Yoshihara

## Percussion

Charmaine Goh  
Kathlyn Phey  
Lou Jia Qi  
Ow Leong San  
Tan Zhen He  
Ahane Hiroi^  
Kaho Isono^  
Maho Kanda^  
Reira Kinoshita^  
Yuuichi Yamazaki^  
Yuuma Yamagishi^

\* Wind Ensemble Nippon Singapore members  
^ Omiya-Kazo Symphonic Festival Band members

# Programme Notes

## **Journey** Yu Kawabata

The concert's opening piece is written by rising young composer Yu Kawabata (b.2002), a trumpeter of the Saitama Luminous Wind Orchestra in this concert's festival band. He majors in music composition at the SHOBI College of Music and was awarded the top prize in the inaugural Self-Produced Arrangement Competition by ASKS Winds. The rising motif of this brilliant fanfare conjures the image of an airplane taking off. Another characteristic feature of this piece is the frequent key modulation, like the changing scenic views in the windows. 'Journey' was premiered by Saitama Luminous Wind Orchestra under the baton of Keiichi Kurokawa on 31st October 2021 at Saitama City Music Festival held at Saitama City Cultural Centre.



## **Sweet Breeze in May** Toshio Mashima

Toshio Mashima (1949-2016) is recognizably one of the most important Japanese band composers in the past few decades, known for innovations such as applying jazz harmony theory in his original pieces for the wind band, including his Japanese-leaning works like Les Trois Notes du Japon. 'Sweet Breeze in May' was one of the set pieces for the All Japan Band Competition back in 1997. Mashima himself has said this piece is a "typical Sousa-style march". Nevertheless, his characteristic jazz harmonies echo throughout the piece.

Many Japanese people consider the month of May to be the most comfortable season of the year. The fresh verdure of spring is everywhere; temperatures are just right, and the breeze indeed so sweet. Let yourself be swept by the lush sound matching the perfect atmosphere of May in Japan.

## Festal Scenes

Yasuhide Ito

This piece was commissioned by the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Band, Ominato in 1986. Their naval base is located in Aomori Prefecture in the north-east part of Japan. The various musical motifs in the piece are derived from local folk songs such as Tsugaru Hōhai Bushi and Tsugaru Aiya Bushi, as well as the rhythms of traditional instruments such as the shamisen and Nebuta flute. Ito was inspired by a letter from a friend who had wandered South East Asia. In the letter, the friend wrote, "On any grounds after voyages, everything seems like paradise blooming altogether. Life is a festival, indeed." And Ito says, "This work is a cluster of the liveliness of folk tunes. I was sensing the heightened fervour of 'festivals', and amidst the chaos of the sacred and the profane, this 'festival' pursues the lyricism between."

## Spirited Away

Joe Hisaishi & Yumi Kimura (arr. Kazuhiro Morita)

This iconic animated movie by Studio Ghibli was directed by Hayao Miyazaki and topped the box office in Japan's entire film history to date. The soundtrack was composed by Joe Hisaishi (b. 1950) and the main theme, 'Always With Me' by Yumi Kimura, made a big hit as well. This band version was arranged by Kazuhiro Morita (1952-2021) based on a structural idea by Tomoki Ubata (b.1968), a teacher-in-charge and conductor of the Saitama Prefectural Inagakuen High School Wind Band. Morita's unique arrangement has transcended the score into more than just a regular concert piece. The creative overlap of two different themes which was not included in the original is the most attractive and engaging section in this arrangement, delighting both fans of the music and the film alike.

## Tao Ngoi

Jintara Poonlarp (arr. Yuki Ueda)

Jintara Poonlarp (b.1969) is one of Thailand's most prolific pop singers, having released 50 original albums and 47 singles. She made her debut in her teenage years and introduces a lot of 'mor lam' and 'luk thung', or Thai rural country music. Tao Ngoi (เต๋าหงอ) is one of Jintara's hit singles, released on 11 August 2017. The title means "turtle" in Thai. This band arrangement was put together by Yuki Ueda, a tenor saxophonist of the Saitama Luminous Wind Orchestra and a member of this festival band. Ueda is currently a music composition major at Nihon University College of Art. His arrangement deftly captures the upbeat rhythms of the original; even as a band piece, Tao Ngoi is sure to make you groove along.

# City of Dreams

Benjamin Yeo

Commissioned by the Band Director's Association (Singapore) for its 20th Anniversary celebration concert. This three-movement work aims to symbolise and celebrate our on-going vibrant band scene while remembering our past and our history.

## I. Fanfare 'Awakening of Dawn'

The fanfare begins with the motivic idea from the opening of the late Mr Leong Yoon Pin's 'Daybreak and Sunrise', Singapore's first commissioned SYF Indoor Band Central Judging 1992 set piece that is no doubt an important milestone work in Singapore's band history. Its motif is used as the main melodic material for this opening movement and signifies the start of our Singaporean dreams.

## II. Intermezzo 'Remembrance'

The Intermezzo is written in remembrance of Singapore's founding Prime Minister, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, who initiated the 'Band Project' in 1966 for both Primary and Secondary Schools. It opens with percussive sounds that recall the rain when Singapore had its first National Day Parade in 1966. The familiar opening phrase of our National Anthem 'Majulah Singapura' is then heard in chorale-style before a solo trumpet introduces the main theme of the movement using the first four notes of the anthem.

An off-stage bugler (trumpeter) plays a fragment of the 'Last Post', paying tribute to the life of the late Mr Lee. The composition then develops further with a lyrical ballad by a solo euphonium, an instrument played by our Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong when he was in the Catholic High School band. This musical gesture symbolises our recognition of Mr Lee's role in leading our nation forward.

The sounds of the rain return, this time reminding us of the day the nation sent the late Mr Lee off on his final journey.

## III. March 'Riding That Rainbow'

From the closure of the previous movement emerges a distant drumbeat - it is the onward march of our nation. Snippets of familiar motives are heard throughout the march and highlight parts of our Singapore band story. This march aims to show our thriving and energetic band scene as we look towards a promising future!

## Autumnal Fireworks

Lee Jinjun

Award-winning Singaporean composer Lee Jinjun has been actively involved in the music scene as both a composer and performer for the past 10 years.

The autumn of 2016 was the first time Jinjun experienced the transition of autumn from the start to the end. Coming from a tropical country, he was naturally extremely excited and thrilled at the sight of red, orange, yellow trees whizzing past him during road trips in that season in England.

It was a sensory overload, and looked like a spectacular natural firework display. Autumnal Fireworks spells out the excitement and the sparkling sensations that he felt seeing autumnal scenery.

## Three Portraits for Symphonic Band

Kelly Tang

Kelly Tang (b. 1961) is a name known to many, especially to those who have played his set pieces for the Singapore Youth Festival in their school days. Known internationally for his wind band, choir, and orchestral works, he was conferred the Cultural Medallion in 2011 for his contributions to the local band scene.

"Three Portraits for Symphonic Band" is the first Singaporean composition ever to be performed by the Royal Band. It was commissioned in 2008 for an Esplanade premiere by SAF Central Band & "The President's Own" United States Marine Band, in commemoration of "50 Years of Military Music Services" in Singapore.

The piece covers three movements:

1. Fanfare
2. Chorale (Singapura)
3. March



## Sweet Garden City

Keiichi Kurokawa

Today's concert marks the world premier of 'Sweet Garden City'. Composer Keiichi Kurokawa (b .1980) is widely known in Singapore as the arranger of American Riverside Medley, the set piece of the Singapore Youth Festival in 2014. He is also the conductor of the Saitama Luminous Wind Orchestra. This piece is a suite in three movements:

1. Grandioso - tempo di marcia
2. Lento tranquillo
3. Allegro Ritmico

This piece is based on a few of Singapore's local folk songs; no introduction needed as they are instantly recognisable. Try to name them all! The folk song's melodies form not only the main theme of each movement, but they also manifest as fragments or musical phrases in other movements as well, creating little surprises and easter eggs for the discerning audience to listen out for throughout the piece.

## Hitomi o Tojite

Ken Hirai (arr. Yukio Endo)

A song released in 2004 by Japanese singer Ken Hirai, Hitomi o Tojite ("Close My Eyes") was the most successful song of 2004, topping the year-end Oricon Singles Chart with over 800,000 units sold. The song was one of the eleven recipients of the Japan Gold Disc Award for Song of the Year.

It remains popular to this day, with cover versions recorded in English, Mandarin and Korean, and many prolific Japanese singers such as Ayumi Nakamura, Akira Fuse, Anri, Mirei Touyama, Minami Kizuki and Sumire Haruno.



# Acknowledgements

Mus'Art Wind Orchestra would like to express our deepest and sincerest appreciation to:

- Jurong Green CCMC and our esteemed guests for their continuous support
- Our friends from the Omiya-Kazo Festival Band and their conductor, Mr Kazuaki Kaneko
- Composer-conductor, Mr Keiichi Kurokawa
- All our volunteers who have been such gracious hosts to our friends from Japan
- Wind Ensemble Nippon Singapore for joining us
- And all of you, our beloved audience, for spending your afternoon with us. Thank you.