

MUS'ART WIND ORCHESTRA
AND THE FESTIVAL BAND
PRESENT



PLAYTIME FANTASIA 2023

13 August 2023
ACSI Centre for
Performing Arts 1

5:00pm - 7:00pm



Guest Conductor:
Dr. Hardy Mertens



Soloist
Shawn Yap



Conductor
Wilson Ong



PROGRAMME



Mus'Art Wind Orchestra

Turkey In The Straw

Michael Markowski

Rushmore

Alfred Reed

Sakura Song

Yosuke Fukuda

Frau Luna

Paul Lincke, arr. Makoto Onodera

Festival Band

Tanah di Bawah Angin

Kahchun Wong

Inspire!

Satoshi Yagisawa

Banshee

Hardy Mertens

Chinicuilto

Hardy Mertens

Combined Band

The Singapore Experience

Hardy Mertens

Music for a Festival

Philip Sparke





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 people of all ages, not only at the various concert halls, but also to the heartlands of Singapore during 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, MWO will continue its efforts to create a place of excellence in wind band music.



Mr **Wilson Ong** is the Music Director of the Mus'Art Wind Orchestra. He is part of the pioneering batch of students who graduated from the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory in 2007. He also won the first prize in the Douglas Bostock conducting competition in Bangkok, Thailand. He is an active musician in the classical, jazz and pop scenes, having performed with artistes such as, Iskandar Ismail and Stefanie Sun. He has worked in productions such as Les Miserables, West Side Story and Tosca.

An ardent believer in the transformative abilities of music, Wilson has brought music education to the Changi Prisons, helping inmates in their rehabilitation process. He hopes to introduce more people to the world of classical and instrumental music.

ABOUT US

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Dr Hardy Mertens (Nieuwenhagen/Netherlands) studied Musicology at Utrecht University and Composition and Band Conducting at the Utrecht Music Conservatory.

Presently, he is a professor at the Fontys University of the Arts Tilburg and resident conductor of the Royal Symphonic Winds Orpheus Tilburg.

He is also an associate teacher/adjudicator at the Hitmaker Global Academy Singapore and an associate conductor with the Netherlands Police Orchestra. Hardy has also been a clinician, lecturer and adjudicator in Singapore, Italy, USA, Canada, Israel, Hong Kong and many European countries. In 2020, Hardy was appointed the Knight of the Order of the Netherlands by the mayor of Kerkrade, Petra Dassen.

Hardy's compositions have been performed and recorded by top bands worldwide, in addition to being selected as a test piece for the World Music Contest, Flicorno d'Oro Wind Band Competition and various other prestigious international contests. His music is rooted in the European orchestral tradition and influenced by world folk music, with extended melody lines and percussive patterns combined with humorous surprises and unusual sound, often resulting in complex pieces of high difficulty.

Shawn Yap graduated from the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts in 2013, where he was mentored by the esteemed Hidehiro Fujita and Brett Stemple, Principal Tubists of the Singapore Symphony Orchestra and Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra respectively. He was the first brass player to win the top prize at the NAFA Music Essentials Concerto Competition.



Shawn graduated from the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts in 2013, where he was mentored by the esteemed Hidehiro Fujita and Brett Stemple. He was the first brass player to win the top prize at the NAFA Music Essentials Concerto Competition. Shawn has performed with many award-winning ensembles locally and internationally, including the ASEAN-Russia Symphony Orchestra, Asian Youth Orchestra, Musikkollegium Winterthur and City Light Symphony Orchestra in Switzerland. Shawn furthered his music education at the Zurich University of the Arts, where he graduated in 2018 with a Bachelor's Degree in Tuba Performance. Currently, he holds the position of Associate Principal Tuba with the Singapore Armed Forces Central Band.

MUSICIANS

Flutes

Lee Hoe*
Jeong Sunah
Chua Song Wei
Tan Li Hong
Nick Yew
Zelia Tay^
Ow Yong Wai Yen^
Alby Foo^

Oboe

Zi Qian

Bassoons

Samuel Yap*#
Chew Li En^

Clarinets

Desmond Lim*
Rani Hairyawan
Wendy Lee
Sollahien
Tie Wenjun
Tiffany Lee
Samuel Chan
Shahrizan
Kota Yamanishi
Davin Lee^
Tok Jun Quan^
Abdul Rauf bin
Mohamad Adil^
Loh Jie Ru^
Nicholas^
Shahrul Nizam Bin
Rashid^

Saxophones

Sim Kok Chen*
Chong Kai Yan
Loh Sing Keong
Song Yang Ting
Lachica Ezequiel
Guia^
Chong Yiwei^
Naomi Tnay^
Keeyun^
Bright Chan^
Jarveis Lam^

French Horns

Fathiah Razak*
Danial Matin#
Muhammad Yatiem
Emilia Lee
Joe Goh
Daren Tan
Lala Gwen Thomas
Keshaav Srinivasan^
Siti Rabi'atul
Adawiyah^

Trumpets

Chan Yong Tat*#
Angelin Tan
Zachariah Tnay
Tim Chua
Lu Ziyue
Janelle Tan
Tay Xin Yi
Lim Yue Sheng^
Chan Zet Sin^

Trombones

Sherlynn Ong*#
Teo Mu En
Toh Han Wei
Andrei Yeo^
Muhammad Aqil
Faizan bin
Mohamed Fazulie^
Aqil Anaqi bin
Mohamad Azhari^
Tan Zhe Xing^
Lin Ziqi^

Euphoniums

Ng Jun Wei#
Chin Sze Khen
Xavier Hui^
Nigiel Chew^
Muhammad Afzal
bin Abdul Hadi^

Tubas

Ong Kaiwen*
Ho Law Wei
Ng Hua Yu
Emmeline Chan^
Edarius^

Percussion

Charmaine Goh*#
Yee Mei Hui#
Muhammad Irfan
bin Selamat#
Tan Zhen He
Lou Jia Qi
Ow Leong San
Zachary Quek^
Hu Xiwen^
Gwee Yu Chen^
Sean^
Aden Tan^

String Bass

Lew Quo Jean^

**Section Leader
Committee
^Festival Band*

PROGRAMME NOTES

Turkey in the Straw

Michael Markowski

"Turkey in the Straw" is a recognizable American tune which beckons to a nostalgic childhood of watching old-time cartoons on the VHS, which started out in vaudeville and made its way to the silver-screen with Disney's Steamboat Willie (1928), though historically it has been used in 19th-century minstrel shows with associations to racism and slavery. In his arrangement, Markowski hopes to emulate classic cartoon scoring, with each successive treatment of the melody increasing in orchestration and contrapuntal complexity, modulating, twisting and turning, losing itself in musical vignettes, and many a custard pie in the face.

Rushmore

Alfred Reed

A brooding, mystical opening introduces a broad melodic line symbolizing the inner strength and calm majesty represented by the four great American presidents as guardians of tradition and faith in the freedom of man. As this theme develops, rising higher in the band's registers, echoes of the opening fanfares enter, leading to a combination of this theme together with America, The Beautiful, and bringing the work to a close with majesty and color. Note: Before the granite formation was made into Rushmore, it was sacred land to the native Lakota tribe, who gave it a spiritual name, Tunkasila Sakpe Paha, or Six Grandfathers Mountain. The desecration of native land remains controversial to this day.

Sakura Song

Yosuke Fukuda

"Sakura (cherry blossoms) are very dear to Japanese culture. I never met anyone who did not enjoy the sakura. I am excited when cherry trees bloom since my birthday is in April, the height of the season. I am awe-struck by the dramatic scenery of full-blown cherry blossoms. Conversely, when the blossoms wither, I feel nostalgic... Each person reflects different images and feelings when looking at cherry blossoms. Music is the same. I would like for players to reveal their own emotions and create their own "sakura song" just like beautiful full-blown cherry blossoms." - Yosuke Fukuda

PROGRAMME NOTES

Frau Luna

Paul Lincke, arr. Makoto Onodera

Paul Lincke (1866-1946) is a German composer considered to be the father of Berlin operetta. Also, "Berliner Luft" from "Frau Luna" is the unofficial city song of Berlin. Lincke's masterpiece "Frau Luna" was composed in 1899 and premiered at the Apollo Theater in Berlin. As balloons were the only means of flight at that time, this is a love story which begins with the adventurers of Berlin going to the Moon World and being warmly welcomed by Mrs. Luna, the matron. In this arrangement, some of the original tunes are held close to the original, while others have been reimagined.



Tanah di Bawah Angin

Kahchun Wong

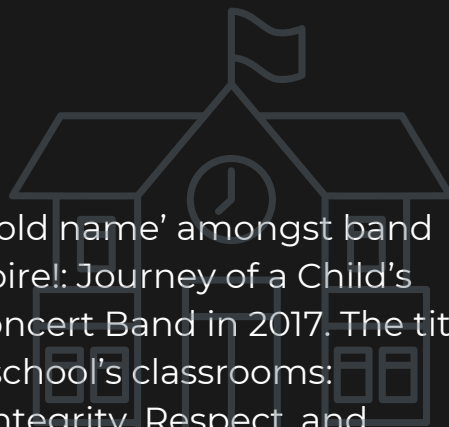


Tanah di Bawah Angin, which translates from Malay to "Land Beneath the Wind", is the set piece for the 2023 Singapore Youth Festival (SYF) for Concert Band (Secondary), and Wong's second SYF commission. In the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, Wong came across a poetic phrase and was inspired by how it reflects the shifting tides around us, both literally and figuratively: "We can't change the tides, but we can adapt." The phrase became the title of the piece, which takes on the form of a quick march and features the familiar folk tunes, "Di Tanjong Katong" and "Chan Mali Chan".

Inspire!

Satoshi Yagisawa

The composer, Satoshi Yagisawa, has become a 'household name' amongst band musicians in Singapore. This piece, whose full title is Inspire!: Journey of a Child's Dream, was commissioned by Yishun Primary School Concert Band in 2017. The title is inspired by the combined initials of the names of the school's classrooms: Independence, Nation-Loving, Sincerity, Perseverance, Integrity, Respect, and Excellence. The piece is imbued with great possibility and an unwavering belief in the future for younger generations to come.



PROGRAMME NOTES

Banshee

Hardy Mertens

A Banshee is a shrieking, wailing female spirit in Celtic mythology believed to be a harbinger of death. Nevertheless, this piece for solo tuba and wind band is far from mournful. Deadly, perhaps – especially if you’ve never heard a tuba scream. Tension is sustained and builds throughout the piece, which pushes the tubist’s range to the extreme and presents multiple technical challenges including multiphonics and beat-boxing.

Chinicuilto

Hardy Mertens

Chinicuilto (“The Itsy-Bitsy Mezcal Worm”) is a happy “guacamole tune” about the titular little worm who resides in a bottle of Mezcal. This Mariachi-style waltz was published as a short piece for flexible instrumentation during the global pandemic. And paired with this piece is a proud drawing of a companion worm, Zouzy, by Henry Ong. The work was first premiered by the Koninklijke Harmonie Orpheus digitally in 2020.



PROGRAMME NOTES

The Singapore Experience

Hardy Mertens

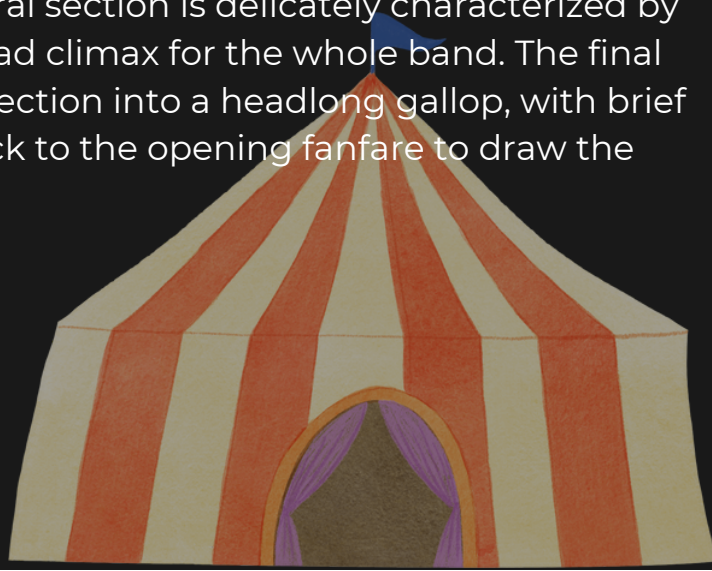


In the summer of 1990, Hardy Mertens spent several weeks in Singapore as a guest-conductor for the National Theatre Symphonic Band (NTSB) and was inspired to compose a five-part symphonic poem dedicated to them. The opening introduces the lush, green orderliness of Singapore's natural surroundings, before segueing into a dialogue between modernity and tradition emblemized by a Lion Dance; the harmonic atmosphere represents how a multiracial society survives and thrives through unity. Finally, we enter our global metropolis of hawker centers, filled with raucousness and revelry. Listen out for the recognizable tunes of 'Stand up for Singapore', 'Count on me Singapore' and 'We are Singapore'.

Music for a Festival

Philip Sparke

This frenetic, ambitious piece contains three movements which are played without break. The outer two movements are full of energy, starting with an extended fanfare with a syncopated jazzy theme. A slower central section is delicately characterized by intimate woodwind quartet writing and a broad climax for the whole band. The final "Vivo" percussively explodes out of the quiet section into a headlong gallop, with brief interruptions of tranquility, before leading back to the opening fanfare to draw the festive piece to a close.





COMMITTEE

President Samuel Ong

Vice President Chan Yong Tat

Vice President Danial Matin

Treasurer Yee Mei Hui


Logistics Nur Fathiah

Quartermaster Ng Jun Wei

Quartermaster Charmaine Goh

Recruitment Muhd Irfan


Publicity Sherlynn Ong





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

- Jurong Green CCMC, Jurong Central, and SouthWest Community Development Council (CDC)
 - PassionARTS and the People's Association
 - Our guest conductor, Dr Hardy Mertens
 - Our soloist, Shawn Yap
 - Our esteemed patrons for their continuous support
 - Participants and supporters of the Festival Band for being part of this programme – we hope you found this experience fun!
 - And all of you, our beloved audience, for spending your beautiful Sunday evening with us.
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