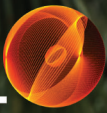


YST

Yong Siew Toh
Conservatory
of Music



Luke Chong

Horn Junior Recital

Nicholas Loh, Pianist

L. CHERUBINI

Horn Sonata no.2

F. STRAUSS

*Horn Concerto in C
minor Op.8*

R. BISSILL

Fat Belly Blues

24 November 2020

5pm



24 November | Tuesday

Luke Chong Khi Sian

Horn Recital

Nicholas Loh, *piano*

PROGRAMME

FRANZ STRAUSS
Horn Concerto in C Minor, Op. 8
I. Allegro Moderato
II. Andante
III. Allegro Moderato

LUIGI CHERUBINI
Horn Sonata No. 2 in F Major
I. Largo
II. Allegro moderato

RICHARD BISSILL
Fat Belly Blues

About The Performer

Family, Friends, Music, and Food. 4 words that sum up **Luke Chong**. Luke had his first encounter with music at the age of 7, when he followed his elder brother to band practice. Ever since then, music has played an immensely influential role in Luke's life. Participating in the Symphonic Band as his Co-Curricular Activity in both primary and secondary school, Luke began to develop his appreciation and love for music. This eventually led him to join the Singapore National Youth Orchestra(SNYO) in 2014, and be enrolled in the Young Artist' Programme at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music that same year. Since then, Luke served as Principal Horn of the SNYO from 2015 to 2018, and has participated in the Verbier Festival as a part of its Junior Orchestra in 2017. He has also performed with groups such as the Orchestra of the Music Makers, Shanghai Philharmonic Orchestra, and Orchestra Collective. This year, Luke was 1 of 5 young Asian horn players chosen to go on a tour across Asia and Europe with the Asian Youth Orchestra. However, due to the outbreak of covid-19, the tour has been postponed. Since his enrolment into YST, Luke has had a keen interest not only in honing his craft as a horn player, but also developing holistically as an artist through informed interpretations and performances, as well as further studies into music history and its influences and impacts on other art forms and on society. In his free time, Luke enjoys spending time with his family and friends. He particularly enjoys an enervating game of badminton, and as a true-blue foodie, he loves trying out new foods and going on food adventures. He also loves playing with his girlfriend's dog, a toy poodle named Timon. (Yes, just like Timon and Pumbaa from the Lion King)

Programme Notes

Franz Strauss, Horn Concerto in C Minor, Op. 8

Known in his time as one of the most gifted horn players around, Franz Strauss was the first horn at the Munich Court Orchestra. Today, he is more famously known as the father of Richard Strauss. As a composer, Franz Strauss admired fellow composers such as Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven, and Mendelssohn. This was probably the reason for his conservative compositional style, and his criticism towards Wagner.

In this Horn Concerto, F. Strauss' greatest challenge for the performer would be in his/her musicality. For Luke, he would not only like to showcase the challenges in this piece, but also display the timbres and stylistic expressions of a high romantic composition for the horn.

Luigi Cherubini, Horn Sonata No. 2 in F Major

Luigi Cherubini, an Italian composer who lived in the 18th century, was mostly known for his operatic and sacred religious musical compositions. Considered by Beethoven as one of his greatest contemporaries, Cherubini's operas were also praised by Rossini.

Written for horn player Frédéric Duvernoy, Cherubini did not employ typical musical structures that we find common in horn literature today in this Sonata. Instead, his frame of writing this sonata was very much influenced by the Cabaletta, a two-part form commonly used for arias. In this piece, Luke not only hopes to display the virtuosity needed of the performer, but also draw parallels between Italian Operatic styles and what is written by Cherubini. He hopes to blur the lines between a singer and horn player in his rendition of Cherubini's 2nd horn sonata. Franz Strauss: Horn Concerto in C minor.

Richard Bissill, *Fat Belly Blues*

Currently a professor at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, Richard Bissill has also performed as a soloist and horn player with groups such as the London Symphony Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House. He is also a composer and arranger. *Fat Belly Blues* is a piece originally written for solo low horn, 5 horns, piano, and rhythm section. However, Luke will be presenting an arrangement for just horn and piano. In *Fat Belly Blues*, Luke wishes to bring to light the unpopular but beautiful low tessitura that can be achieved on the horn, and show how versatile the horn can be through playing this blues piece.

Programme notes by Luke Chong Khi Sian.