

# Man Gege

Yong Siew Toh  
Conservatory  
of Music



## Double Bass Senior Recital

Mon 3 May 2021 | 3:00pm

**Pianist: Kerim Vergazov**

- Johann Baptist Vanhal
- Giovanni Bottesini
- Frank Proto



# Man Gege's Senior Recital Programme Notes

When the concept of traveling gets challenged in today's world, music can stand out and invite its audience to travel through the world of sounds and the everlasting time. In this recital, I will be presenting three pieces from contrasting genres and styles. I would like to take my audience on a journey of exploring the diversity and expressiveness that I find in these pieces.

The first item of my programme is *Double Bass Concerto in D major* by Bohemian composer Johann Baptist Vanhal. This concerto is sought to be one of the most well-known and frequently performed classical pieces in Double Bass literature. The concerto starts off with the majestic first movement, which demands a great deal of confidence in sound and appropriate understanding of the style. The second movement is lyrical and expressive, with beautifully polished phrasing. The piece finishes off with a joyous and almost dance-like finale.

The second piece I will be presenting is *Capriccio di Bravura*, a show piece of Romantic era, written by Italian composer Giovanni Bottesini. This piece challenges the performer's grasp on both opera and instrumental music, for it displays aria-like phrases inspired by Italian operas as well as virtuosic instrumental music passages.

The second half of my senior recital and the third item on my programme is dedicated to American composer Frank Proto's *A Carmen Fantasy*. This contemporary piece is inspired by Bizet's opera *Carmen* and it is written in composer's own reimagined way. There are traces of jazz throughout the piece and it explores some of the modern extended techniques on the Double Bass. Consisting of five segments, each part focuses on depicting and celebrating specific motives or characters from the opera, such as *Aragonaise* in the second part and *Michaela's Aria* in the third part.