

Yong Siew Toh
Conservatory
of Music

YST



CAO HUIYING

Junior Recital

Works by F. Mendelssohn
Pianist: Liu Jia

1 DECEMBER 2023 | 3:20PM | YST CONCERT HALL

A portrait of a young woman with long dark hair, smiling and resting her chin on her hand. She is wearing a black sleeveless top. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey. The text is overlaid on the lower half of the image.

Cao Huiying

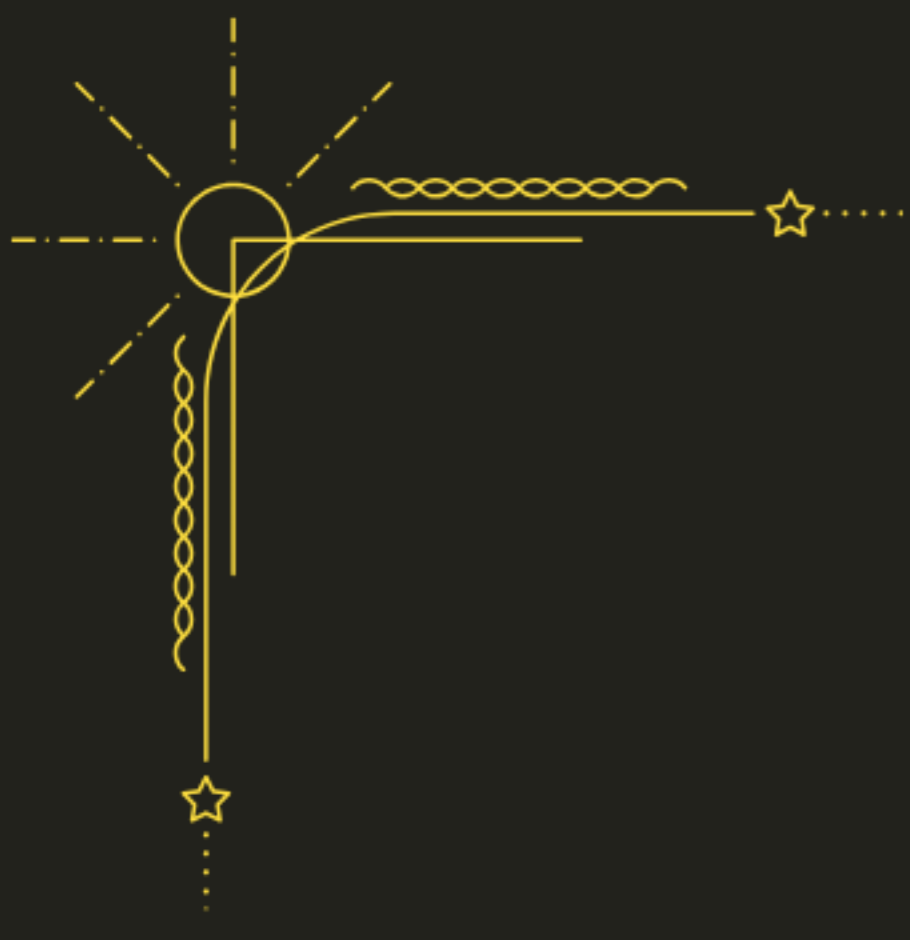
Born in 2003, Huiying studied cello with her father at the age of 7 in Qingdao, China. In 2017, she was admitted to the Affiliated Middle School of the Central Conservatory of Music, studying with Prof. Yu Mingqing and Yu Jia. Huiying is currently pursuing her Bachelor Degree at Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, under a full scholarship (class of Prof. Qin Li-Wei).

Huiying has won the first prizes of many competitions including Chinese National Competitions; St. Petersburg International Competition; London Youth International Competition; Salzburg Artists' Prix and Beethoven House-Bonn International Competition in Germany.

2017, She performed as a soloist with “Xiao Bei Ke” Philharmonic Orchestra in Qingdao. While studying in Beijing, she performed with Chinese Youth Orchestra as the principal cellist in Europe. Also, she has performed frequently as a soloist on music festivals in Korea (Busan), China (Beijing, Hangzhou, Zhuhai and Qingdao). During her time in Singapore, she was invited to perform with Asian Cultural Symphony Orchestra, Ding Yi Music Company, Nanyang Collective, Red Dot Baroque, Music Initiative, Sieong Long, Singapore Lyric Opera on Esplanades and Victoria Concert Hall. She was the principal cellist of YST orchestra on the conservatory’s 20th Anniversary Concert. She participated in “Lead” Project, working with conductor Jukka-Pekka Seraste and cellist Alban Gehardt for concerts in Finland. She was also admitted to Cello Rutesheim Akademie in Germany. In 2023, she got Cello Freelance with Singapore Symphony Orchestra of full range programs.

Liu Jia

A full-time Lecturer of Collaborative Piano and Chamber Music faculty at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music NUS, Liu Jia works closely with Piano, Violin, Viola, Cello (Prof. Qin Liwei studio), Flute, Clarinet, Bassoon and Horn studios. Liu is also the official pianist for the Singapore International Violin Festival, Qingdao International Cello Festival, Shenzhen Orchestra International Clarinet Week, and the 1st Singapore International Violin Competition. She collaborates extensively with both local and international renowned musicians in concerts and classes, including James Galway, Barry Tuckwell, Kim Walker, Pierre Amoyal, Vilmos Szabadi, Cho-Liang Lin, Nobuko Imai, Midori Koto, Renaud Capucon, Gautier Capucon, among others. Liu Jia has performed as a soloist with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra and major orchestras in China, including the China Film Symphony and Beijing Symphony Orchestra. She has also worked as a collaborative pianist with institutions and art organizations such as the Singapore Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts and Singapore Lyric Opera. Active in the chamber music scene, Liu regularly performs in the Singapore Symphony Orchestra Chamber Series. A graduate of China's Central Conservatory of Music, she was born into a family of professional musicians in Beijing.

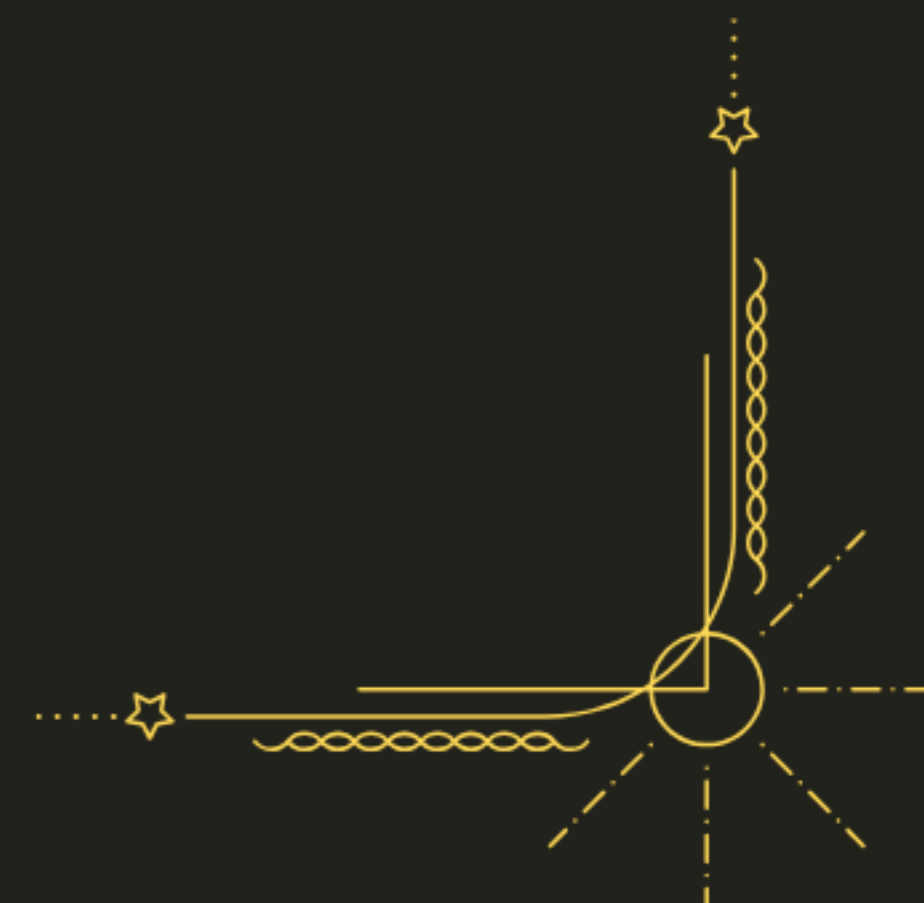


Program

Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)

- **Lied ohne Worte (Song without words)**
for Cello and Piano, Op.109

- **Cello Sonata No.2 in D Major, Op. 58**
 - I. Allegro assai vivace**
 - II. Allegretto scherzando**
 - III. Adagio**
 - IV. Molto Allegro e vivace**





Program Notes

1. Lied ohne Worte (Song without words) for Cello and Piano, Op.109

Felix Mendelssohn's Song Without Words, Op. 109 for cello and piano, exemplifies his mastery in crafting lyrical, melodic compositions. The title originates from Mendelssohn's series of brief, piano pieces labeled Songs without Words. The piece showcases a tranquil D major melody gracefully navigating various tonal shifts. Its middle section introduces a contrasting, agitated theme, leading to a serene return to the initial D major key. The composition concludes with a calm coda, reminiscent of previous struggles but culminating in the tonic major key. For me, it resembles Mendelssohn's life; even if experiencing difficulties, he will return to joy in the course of time.

2. Cello Sonata No.2 in D Major, Op. 58

Mendelssohn's Cello Sonata No. 2 in D Major embodies his mastery of blending classical and romantic composition styles. Composed in 1843, he faced an unsatisfactory life and career in Berlin following the death of his mother in 1842. This sonata reflects Mendelssohn's resilience and creativity despite adversity.

The four movements showcase diverse emotions: The first exudes jubilant energy, the second captivates with serene passages, the third resonates with a reflective, Bach-inspired chorale and the final movement concludes with grandeur.

Mendelssohn's mastery in this piece lies in the fusion of joyful melodies and technical intricacies. The sonata stands as a testament to his compositional maturity, merging the best of both classical and romantic styles.

