

A JUNIOR RECITAL BY KIRA LIM



Gaia

SONGS OF THE EARTH & SKY

27 NOV | 8:20 PM | YST CONCERT HALL

WORKS BY COPLAND, CLARA SCHUMANN,
MILHAUD & HANDEL



WITH
BEATRICE LIN PIANO
JULIEN QUEK TRAVERSO
GERALD LIM HARPSICHORD
BRENDA KOH VIOLIN
REINA TEO VIOLIN
PLACIDA HO VIOLA
LIN JUAN CELLO

PROGRAMME

Twelve Poems of Emily Dickinson

Aaron Copland

Nature, the Gentlest Mother

Sechs Lieder aus Jucunde, Op. 23

Clara Schumann

An Einem Lichten Morgen

Geheimes Flüstern Hier und Dort

Catalogue de fleurs, Op. 60

Darius Milhaud

La Violette

Le Bégonia

Les Fritillaires

Les Jacinthes

Les Crocus

Le Brachycome

L'eremurus

L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato, HWV 55

George Frideric Handel

Part I :

Recitative "First, and chief, on golden wing"

Air "Sweet Bird"





M E S S A G E

Welcome to *Gaia : Songs of the Earth & Sky*. I invite you to embark on a musical journey that celebrates the awe-inspiring beauty of nature in all its grace. Rather than preaching about climate change, I would like to take this opportunity to show you the magic of nature.

Nature is everything and everywhere. She reaches out with her long arms and gives us a warm embrace, her gentle meandering river brings us peace and serenity. Her vibrant and fragrant flowers stretch their necks to the sky as they listen to birds singing their sweet song, welcoming the dawn of a new day. Emily Dickinson's poem beautifully encapsulates nature's maternal essence, a magical and wondrous presence that nurtures all life on Earth.

With this program, we'll venture into nature's embrace, featuring compositions from different periods—George Frideric Handel, Clara Schumann, Aaron Copland, and Darius Milhaud—each painting a distinct musical landscape. Each piece unveils a facet of the world we inhabit, both on the land we tread and in the boundless skies above.

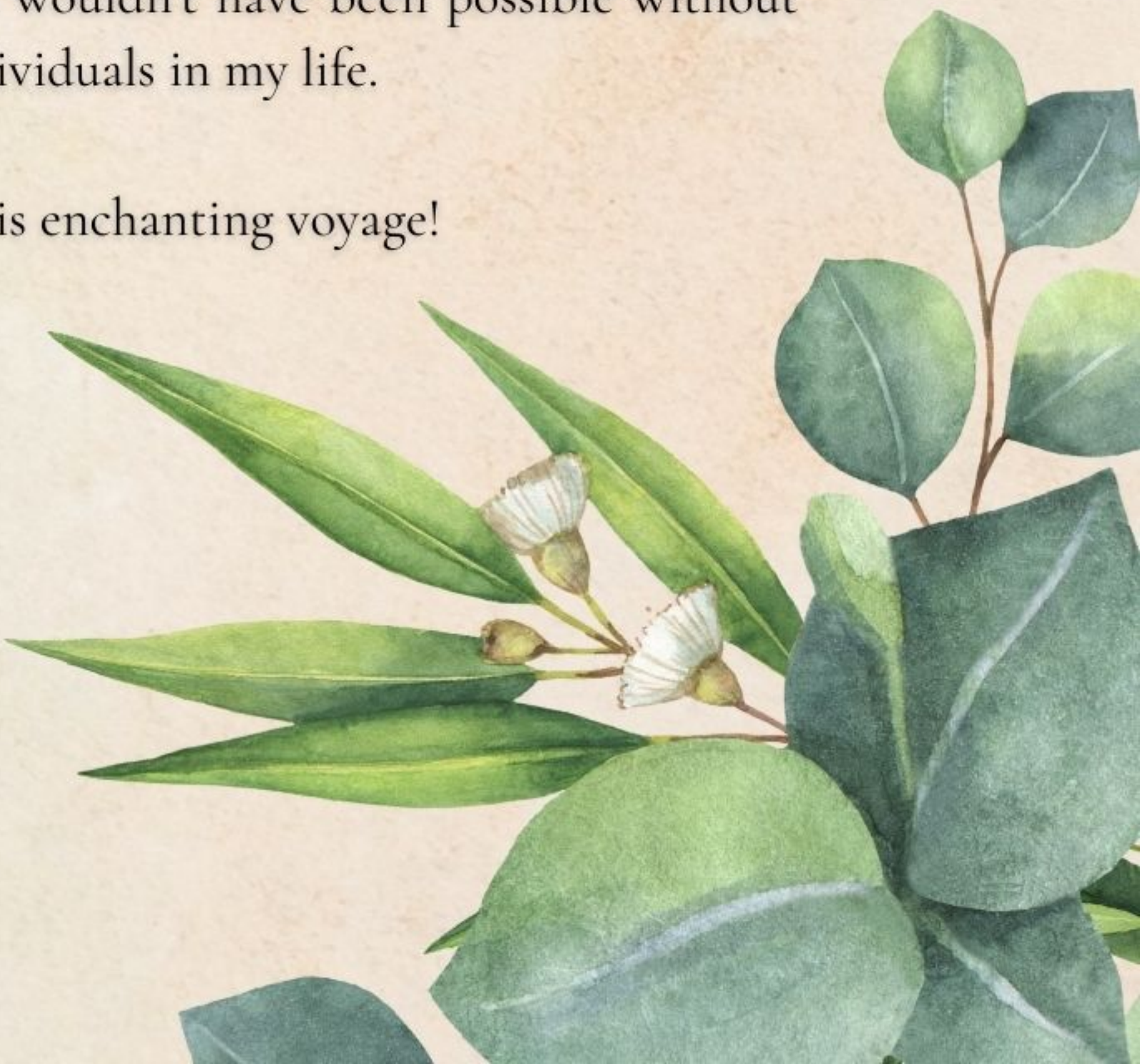
As we explore nature's wonders, immerse yourself in the enchanting melodies and magical imagery of the works by these composers. *Gaia: Songs of the Earth & Sky* seeks to remind us of the intimate connection between the arts and the natural world. I hope you find as much joy in listening to these exquisite works as I do in performing them. This recital wouldn't have been possible without the invaluable guidance of important individuals in my life.

Thank you everyone for joining me on this enchanting voyage!

X

Kira Lim

IG : @kiralimsoprano



PROGRAM NOTES

Aaron Copland (1900-1990)

Nature, The Gentlest Mother

from Twelve Poems of Emily Dickinson

Aaron Copland was a renowned twentieth century American composer and pianist from Brooklyn, New York. As a child, Copland received piano lessons from his older sister and by the age of twenty, he pursued his studies of piano and composition in France. In the late 1920s, he returned to America and his music became known throughout the world. It had a blend of classical, folk, and jazz, making his works very innovative. "Nature the Gentlest Mother" is the first piece of Copland's song cycle, *Twelve Poems of Emily Dickinson*, composed in 1950. The piece is dedicated to the American composer David Diamond. This piece opens the recital as it paints a gentle atmosphere with nature as a nurturing presence. It has a pastoral feel to it, with high notes in the right hand of the piano that evoke birds chirping. In the middle, the music speeds up a bit to reflect the "rampant squirrel" or "too impetuous bird" before returning to a calm, lullaby-esque finish. Copland's use of flowing melodies and delicate harmonies reflects the serenity of the natural world, setting the stage for our exploration of nature's various moods.

Nature, the gentlest mother, impatient of no child,
The feeblest or the waywardest, her admonition mild.
In forest and the hill, by traveller is heard,
Restraining rampant squirrel or too impetuous bird.
How fair her conversation, a summer afternoon,
Her household, her assembly; and when the sun goes down.
Her voice among the aisles incites the timid prayer
Of the minutest cricket, the most unworthy flower.
When all the children sleep, she turns as long away
As will suffice to light her lamps;
Then, bending from the sky with infinite affection
And infiniter care, her golden finger on her lip,
Wills silence everywhere

PROGRAM NOTES



Clara Schumann (1819-1896)

An einem lichten Morgen & Geheimes Flüstern hier und dort **from Sechs Lieder aus Jucunde, Op.23**

Clara Wieck-Schumann was an extraordinary woman by any standards. She was the first female concert pianist, an outstanding composer, and he was also responsible for editing many of Robert Schumann's works and compiling them. She had a successful career as a pianist for about sixty years, she was also responsible for editing many of her husband's works and compiling them. Clara Schumann's *Sechs Lieder von Jucunde, Op. 23* (1853), brings life to Hermann Rollett's novel. "An Einem Lichten Morgen" transports us to a clear morning, filled with optimism as the sun rises and it is awaiting a flower to blossom. "Geheimes Flüstern Hier Und Dort," we delve deeper into nature's secrets. In this piece, the whispered secrets of the forest and the rustling of leaves are beautifully conveyed through delicate passages and intricate weaving of rhythms between the voice and piano.

An einem lichten Morgen, da klingt es hell im Tal:
Wach' auf, du liebe Blume, ich bin der Sonnenstrahl!
Erschließe mit Vertrauen dein Blütenkämmerlein
Und laß die heiße Liebe in's Heiligtum hinein.
Ich will ja nichts verlangen als liegen dir im Schoß
Und deine Blüte küssen, eh' sie verwelkt im Moos.
Ich will ja nichts begehren als ruh'n an deiner Brust
Und dich dafür verklären mit sonnenheller Lust.

Geheimes Flüstern hier und dort,
Verborg'nes Quellenrauschen,
O Wald, o Wald, geweihter Ort,
Laß mich des Liebens reinstes Wort,
in Zweig und Blatt belauschen!
Und schreit' ich in den Wald hinaus,
Da grüßen mich die Bäume,
Du liebes, freies Gotteshaus,
Du schließt mich mit Sturmgebraus
In deine kühlen Räume!
Was leise mich umschwebt, umklingt,
Ich will es treu bewahren,
Und was mir tief zum Herzen dringt,
Will ich, vom Geist der Lieb' beschwingt,
In Liedern offenbaren!

On a clear morning, the valley resounds brightly:
Wake up, dear flower, I am the ray of the sun!
Trust me, and open up your little flower chamber
And let burning love penetrate your sanctuary.
After all, I only wish to lie on your bosom
And kiss your blossoms, before they wither in the moss.
After all, I only desire to rest on your bosom
And transfigure you with sun-bright joy.

Secret whisperings here and there,
Hidden, murmuring springs,
O forest, O forest, consecrated place,
Let me listen in bough and foliage
To life's most pure word!
And when I walk out into the forest,
I am greeted by the trees,
You fair, unfettered house of God,
You enfold me with your howling storm
In your cool spaces!
All that surrounds and whispers round me,
I shall faithfully preserve,
And all that oppresses my heart
I shall, elated by the spirit of love,
Express in song!

PROGRAM NOTES

Darius Milhaud (1892-1974)

Catalogue de fleurs, Op. 60

Darius Milhaud is one of France's greatest twentieth-century composers known for his unique compositional style and membership in Les Six. Milhaud became a member in 1920 after working to compose a ballet with John Cocteau and Erik Satie. Milhaud was the most experimental in the group as he was open to new ideas and incorporated musical elements from Latin and Brazilian music into his compositions. Milhaud is famous for incorporating polytonality in his compositions. In 1920, he composed this song cycle titled, *Catalogue de Fleurs, Op. 60*. It takes us on a botanical journey through an array of flowers. With its charming and playful melodies, presents a colourful bouquet of musical depictions. Each flower has its own unique character and they are brought to life through Milhaud's inventive composition.

La violette

La violette cylope
Se force admirablement
D'un beau rouge Solférino.
Elle est parfumée, hâtive et vigoureuse.

Le bégonia

Bégonia Aurora, fleur très double,
Abricot mêlé de corail,
Coloris très joli,
Rare et curieux.

Les fritillaires

Les fritillaires aiment les endroits
Exposés au soleil
Et à l'abri du vent
Et des gélées printanières.
Pendant l'hiver on les couvre.
On les appelle aussi oeufs de Vanneau
Et Couronnes Impériales.

The Violet

The Cyclops violet
Is most suitable for forcing
Of a beautiful Solferino red.
It is perfumed, early flowering and vigorous.

The Begonia

Begonia Aurora, very double flower,
Apricot tinged with coral,
Very pretty colour,
Rare and unusual.

The Fritillaries

Fritillaries like those places which are
Exposed to the sun
And sheltered from the wind
And from the spring frosts.
In the winter they should be covered.
They are also called Lapwings' Eggs
And Imperial Crowns.

PROGRAM NOTES

Les jacinthes

Albertine blanc pur.
Lapeyrouse mauve clair.
Roi des Belges carmin pur,
Roi des bleus, bleu foncé.
Mademoiselle de Malakoff
jaune vif à bouquet.

Les crocus

Les Crocus se forcent en potées
Ou dans des soucoupes,
Sur de la mousse humide.
A la pleine terre, seuls ou mêlés
A d'autres plantes printanières.
Ils font un très bel effet.

Le brachycome

Brachycome Ibéridifolia étoile bleu nouveauté,
Plante naine charmante
Couverte de fleurs bleues,
D'un bleu vif.

L'eremurus

Eremurus Isabellinus sa floraison est garantie.
La hampe de cette magnifique
Espèce atteint parfois deux mètres,
Ses fleurs sont d'un beau coloris
Entre jaune et rose et d'une longue durée.
Vous recevrez les prix par correspondance.

The Hyacinths

Albertine, pure white.
Lapeyrouse, pale mauve.
King of the Belgians, pure carmine,
King of the blues, dark blue
Mademoiselle from Malakoff
bright yellow and scented.

The Crocuses

Crocuses are forced in pots
Or in saucers
on moist moss.
In the open ground, alone or among
other spring plants.
They make a very beautiful effect.

The Brachycome

The Swan River Daisy, blue star newcomer,
a charming dwarf plant
Covered in blue flowers,
of a striking blue.

The Eremurus

The Foxtail Lily its flowering is guaranteed.
The flowering spike of this magnificent variety
sometimes reaches a height of two metres,
Its flowers are of a beautiful colour
between yellow and pink and are long lasting.
You will receive the price-list by post.

PROGRAM NOTES

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

Sweet Bird

from *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*, HWV 55

George Frideric Handel is considered one of Baroque era's most prolific and versatile composers. Born in Germany in 1685 and later becoming a naturalized British citizen, Handel's compositions encompassed a wide range of genres, from grand operas and oratorios to intimate chamber music. His ability to evoke emotion through music was unparalleled, and "Sweet Bird" from "L'Allegro, Il Penseroso ed Il Moderato" is a shining example of his genius. Written in 1740, Handel painted an image of a graceful bird with his sweet and lyrical melodic lines in both the solo traverso and voice parts which are accompanied by such sensitive orchestration. The contrasting emotions of joy and melancholy are skillfully woven together, creating a deep sense of nostalgia and longing.

Recitative

First, and chief, on golden wing,
The cherub Contemplation bring;
And the mute Silence hist along,
'Less Philomel will deign a song,
In her sweetest, saddest plight,
Smoothing the rugged brow of night.

Air

Sweet bird, that shun'st the noise of folly,
Most musical, most melancholy!
Thee, chauntress, oft the woods among,
I woo to hear thy even-song.
Or, missing thee, I walk unseen,
On the dry smooth-shaven green,
To behold the wand'ring moon
Riding near her highest noon.





KIRA LIM SOPRANO

Kira Lim is currently under the tutelage of Professor Alan Bennett in the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, majoring in Classical Voice. In 2019, Kira graduated from Lasalle College of The Arts with a Diploma in Performance. Kira won First Place for all categories in the American Protege Vocal Competition at Carnegie Hall under the tutelage of Ms Khor Ai Ming.

Kira has performed in notable performances including: Hansel and Gretel (2016) as 'Gretel', Mass of The Children and New York Sounds of Summer, Carnegie Hall (Soloist, 2016), Los Angeles International Music Festival (2018), Carmina Burana (Soloist, 2019), Der Zwerg with The Opera People (2019) as 'First Maiden', Baby Shark Live! The Hidden Treasure musical (2021-2022) as 'Shimmer', In Our Manner of Speaking performing new locally-commissioned pieces with The Opera People (2022), Come, Ye Sons of Art, Away! with the Red Dot Baroque and YST (Soloist, 2022), CabaRED with New Opera Singapore (2023), La Sonnambula with The Opera People (Ensemble, 2023) This summer, Kira performed the role of Zerlina in Mozart's Don Giovanni at the Musikverein, Vienna.

Kira wishes for the arts to be accessible and inclusive to all communities. She enjoys teaching music to people of all ages. In 2022, she and her working partner, Claire Teo, had their first installation at the National Gallery Singapore, working with the visually impaired community. She also acted in An Undefeated Mind - a fundraising theater show to raise awareness for dementia patients.



BEATRICE LIN PIANO

A graduate of the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, Singapore, the Royal Academy of Music, and the Haute école de Musique de Genève, her studies were generously supported by the National Arts Council and the Lee Foundation. She was also awarded the Adolphe Neuman Prize from the canton of Geneva upon graduation. Performances include live radio broadcasts on the Radio Suisse Romande Espace 2, keyboardist with L'Orchestre de Chambre de Genève and Ensemble Contrechamps, as well as répétiteur for the Concours de Genève. On home ground, she is collaborative pianist at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory and freelances with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra as well as the Singapore Chinese Orchestra. Her love for opera has also led to numerous projects with the Singapore Lyric Opera and The Opera People.



GERALD LIM HARPSICHORD

Gerald Lim is a founding keyboardist and ensemble manager of Red Dot Baroque. Other recent appearances outside of RDB include Haydn's Creation with YST Conservatory's Orchestral Institute (fortepiano) and Purcell's Dido and Aeneas with The Opera People (repetiteur/harpsichord).

With the Singapore Symphony Orchestra (SSO), Gerald has collaborated with Peter Hanson, TwoSet Violin, and of late, Chloe Chua's debut CD of Vivaldi's Four Seasons with the SSO.

Gerald read musicology and harpsichord performance at the University of Birmingham, graduating with high first class honours and winning both the book prize and the early music prize upon graduation. He continued his education at the Royal Academy of Music, where he obtained a Master's degree in Historical Performance with Distinction and received the early music prize. His teachers included Christine Whiffen, Carole Cerasi, and Terence Charlston.



JULIEN QUEK TRAVERSO

Julien Quek, born in 2001, has been studying at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music (YST) in Singapore since 2019. He specializes in playing the flute under the guidance of Evgueni Brokmiller from the Singapore Symphony Orchestra and the baroque flute under Cheryl Lim. While in Singapore, he has performed with the SNYO in collaboration with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra in 2017.

Additionally, he had the opportunity to perform with the Red Dot-Baroque Ensemble Singapore in 2022.

Notable masterclasses include Karl Heinz Schütz, Jasmine Choi, Michel Bellevance, Gergely Ittzés, Paolo Taballione and private lessons from Barbara Gisler-Haase (Vienna). Former teachers include flute lessons with Wang Tong and Ke Yi-Chun.



BRENDA KOH VIOLIN I

Baroque and modern violinist Brenda Koh has performed in chamber and orchestra ensembles in Asia, Europe, and the United States. She has performed with the Baltimore Baroque Band, Tempesta di Mare, Washington Bach Consort, and the American Bach Soloists Academy. Brenda is a founding member of Singapore's premier early music ensemble, Red Dot Baroque. Currently based in Singapore as a freelance musician and educator, Brenda serves as adjunct faculty at the NAFA School of Young Talents and School of the Arts, Singapore (SOTA).



REINA TEO VIOLIN II

Reina began her violin studies under the Gifted Young Violinist Programme in NAFA and is currently pursuing an honors degree in Violin Performance at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music. Some notable concerts include: Sounds of Cinema with the Boston Brass, Bach Cantata Series: Come, Ye Sons of Art, Away! with the Red Dot Baroque, Sing50 with the Metropolitan Festival Orchestra, TwoSet Violin x Davie504, and recording for 'Finding You' Ajoomma movie soundtrack.



PLACIDA HO VIOLA

Singaporean violinist, Placida Ho, is equally at home on both the modern and baroque violin. She has played in numerous solo recitals in the Netherlands, Singapore and the US. Her passion for chamber and orchestral music has also led her to play in diverse ensembles, from chamber recitals with her string quartet in the Hague, to orchestras such as the Orchestra of the Eighteenth Century and the Nationaal Jeugd Orkest. She has performed in many international festivals, such as the Utrecht Early Music Festival, Holland Festival where she was part of a Stockhausen opera, Beethoven Festival of the Hague and the Gergiev Festival in Rotterdam. In Singapore, she is a member of Red Dot Baroque, Singapore's premier baroque ensemble.

She finished her Bachelor of Early Music on Baroque violin at the Royal Conservatoire of the Hague, the Netherlands. She studied with Ryo Terakado and modern violin with Liesbeth Ackermans. She studied with Alexander Souptel and Igor Yuzefovich for her Bachelor of Music with Honours (Violin Performance) in Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, Singapore. She also did a minor study on the violone with Maggie Uruqhart in the Hague for 2 years. For her modern chamber music training in the Hague, her quartet auditioned and was chosen to take part in lessons with the Casals Quartet for a year.

Throughout her studies she has been deeply interested in training herself as a teacher. She studied violin didactics with Liesbeth Ackermans for 2 years, attended numerous Kodaly workshops conducted by teachers from the Liszt Academy Kodaly Institute and taught in and observed the Pi music program for young children in the Conservatoire.



LIN JUAN CELLO

A graduate of the Royal Northern College of Music, UK (Bachelor and Master degrees in cello) and Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (Specialist Diploma in Orchestral Conducting), Juan is a highly sought-after orchestral musician, regularly freelancing with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra; he also appears regularly as Principal Cellist with re:Sound Chamber Orchestra, Singapore Lyric Opera Orchestra, The Philharmonic Orchestra, among others.

As an active chamber musician, Juan has most notably collaborated with Red Dot Baroque, Ding Yi Music Company, More Than Music, Incursion Trio, and since 2022 has been cellist of Concordia Quartet.

Juan is Lecturer at Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA), teaching cello, chamber music, and orchestral studies. He was the first Associate Conductor of the Singapore National Youth Orchestra and continues to educate youths as conductor of the Raes Institution and Hwa Chong Institution (College Section) String Ensembles. He is also the Resident Conductor of The Philharmonic Orchestra.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

To my dear collaborator, Beatrice Lin, who has supported me throughout this semester, musically and mentally. Thank you, it would have been impossible to stay sane or in rhythm...

To Robbie Say, thank you for taking my junior recital photos, it turned out amazing. Walking around the park in the hot sun with the equipments is no joke.

To my friends and friends from YST & RDB, thank you for being part of my musical journey. I am so grateful to have met all of you and it is a pleasure to be performing with you.

To the voice studio, thank you for being so warm and welcoming. We have cultivated such an encouraging and safe environment to develop as singers. I am excited to see all of us go on our various paths and thrive.

To my family, thank you for always coming for my shows and constantly encouraging me to do what I am most passionate about. I won't be where I am today without you all.

Cheers,
Kira