

E-CONCERT PROGRAMME

Malaysian  
Philharmonic  
Orchestra

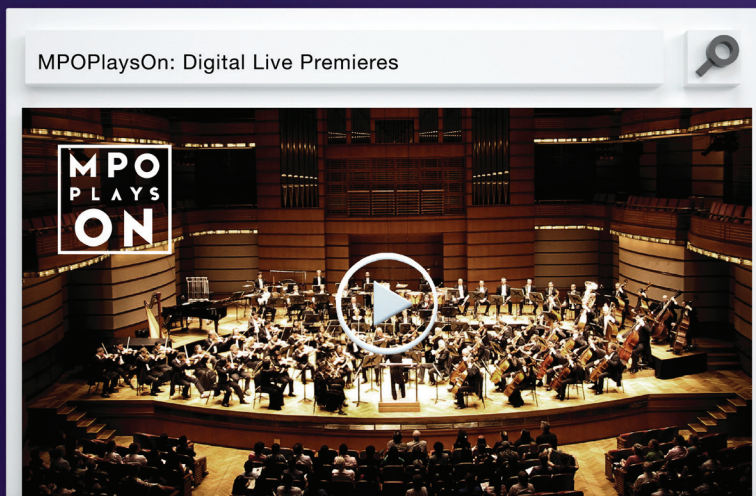


2022 season

PERFORMANCE AT  
DEWAN FILHARMONIK PETRONAS

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## MALAYSIAN PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

The Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra (MPO) gave its inaugural performance at Dewan Filharmonik PETRONAS (DFP) on 17 August 1998. With the initial search for outstanding musicians involving a worldwide audition tour, the MPO today is made up of many talented Malaysian musicians and musicians from other nations, a beautiful example of harmony among different cultures and nationalities.

With each new season, the MPO continues to present an exciting programme of orchestral music drawn from over three centuries, as well as the crowd-pleasing concert series. Its versatility transcends genres, from classical masterpieces to film music, pop, jazz, traditional, contemporary and commissioned works.

Among renowned Malaysian artists who have mesmerised audiences with the MPO include SM Salim, Sheila Majid, M. Nasir, Siti Nurhaliza, Jamal Abdillah, Ella, Faizal Tahir, Dayang Nurfaizah, Aishah, Jaclyn Victor and Aubrey Suwito.

A host of internationally acclaimed musicians have performed with the MPO including Lorin Maazel, Sir Neville Marriner, Yehudi Menuhin, Joshua Bell, Harry Connick Jr., José Carreras, Andrea Bocelli, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Chris Botti, Branford Marsalis and Judika, many of whom have praised the MPO for its fine musical qualities and vitality.

The MPO regularly performs in major cities of Malaysia such as Alor Setar, George Town, Ipoh, Johor Bahru, Kuantan, Kota Kinabalu, Kuching and many more. Internationally, it has toured Singapore (1999, 2001, 2003, 2005 and 2018), Japan (2001, 2009 and 2017), Korea (2001), Australia (2004), China (2006 and 2019), Taiwan (2007) and Vietnam (2013). The MPO has also released 21 CDs.

The MPO remains steadfast in its mission to be the premier Malaysian orchestra, providing the ultimate music experience through the power of live music that educates, entertains and inspires. Its main benefactor is PETRONAS, and its patron is YABhg. Tun Dr. Siti Hasmah Haji Mohd Ali.

# Christmas with MPO

Sat 10 Dec 2022 8:30 pm

- 03 Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra  
05 Gerard Salonga, conductor  
07 Dithyrambic Singers, choir

## PROGRAMME

**HESS**  
Christmas Overture

**RIMSKY-KORSAKOV**  
Christmas Eve Suite: Polonaise  
Snow Maiden Suite

**TCHAIKOVSKY**  
The Nutcracker: Selections  
Overture  
March (Act 1 No. 2)  
No. 12 Divertissement  
(a) Chocolate: Spanish Dance  
(b) Coffee: Arabian Dance  
(c) Tea: Chinese Dance  
(d) Trepak: Russian Dance  
(e) Dance of the Reeds-Flutes  
(f) Mother Gigogne and the Clowns  
Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy  
Waltz of the Flowers

*20 mins intermission*

**PROKOFIEV**  
Lieutenant Kije Suite: Troika

**HOLST**  
In The Bleak Midwinter

**FRANCK**  
Panis Angelicus

**ANDERSON**  
Sleigh Ride

**WILLIAMS**  
Home Alone: Three Holiday Songs

**BEALE/BOOTHE** (arr. Salonga)  
Jingle Bell Rock

**STYNE/CAHN** (arr. Salonga)  
Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow

**BISSILL**  
Christmas Carnival

*Duration: Approximately 90 mins*

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*conductor*

Gerard  
Salonga



Gerard Salonga is currently the Resident Conductor of the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra in Kuala Lumpur, a position he has held since January 2019. For two seasons, he served as Assistant Conductor of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra from 2016 to 2018 and was Music Director of the ABS-CBN Philharmonic Orchestra in Manila from 2012 to 2020. In January of 2021, Salonga began his term as the Music Director of the Orchestra Of The Filipino Youth (OFY).

He has assisted and covered distinguished conductors such as Jaap van Zweden, Jun Märkl, Hans Graf, Yu Long, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Mark Wigglesworth and Leonard Slatkin. He has also conducted the Philippine Philharmonic, Shanghai Opera House Orchestra and Chorus, Kunming Nie-Er Symphony, Evergreen Symphony of Taiwan, South Denmark Philharmonic, Queensland Camerata, Orchestra Victoria, and the Bangkok, Singapore and Sydney Symphony Orchestra.

His orchestral arrangements have been performed by orchestras such as the Hong Kong Philharmonic, Sydney Symphony, Singapore Symphony, RTE Concert Orchestra, New York Pops, Guangzhou Symphony, Winnipeg Symphony, Cincinnati Pops, BBC Symphony and Royal Philharmonic. He has also collaborated as arranger/conductor with artists like Lea Salonga, Regine Velasquez, Wang Leehom, Wu Tong, Tengku Irfan, Michael Ball, Blake, Il Divo, Danielle de Niese, Ksenija Sidorova, Shen Yang, Llŷr Williams James Ehnes, Jing Wang, Jan Lisiecki, and The Beach Boys.

In 2018, Salonga conducted the Sydney Symphony and TaikoOz in the world premiere of Australian composer Lachlan Skipworth's *Breath Of Thunder* (concerto for Taiko and orchestra) at the Sydney Opera House, which earned an APRA AMCOS (Australian art music) nomination for Performance Of The Year.

In 2019, he collaborated with pianist Cecile Licad and the Sønderjyllands Symfoniorkester (South Denmark Philharmonic) on a new recording of the works of George Gershwin for piano and orchestra released on the Danacord label. In 2020 and 2021 he served as music producer for the MPO's recordings of classical and new works for its YouTube channel MPOTV and was also the artistic adviser for MPO's recent collaboration with the Malaysian Composers' Collective, premiering new compositions by Malaysian composers. On stage with the MPO at the DFP, Gerard has conducted symphonic programmes, family, and film concerts including *Raiders of the Lost Ark* and *Ratatouille*.

As a conductor of musical theatre, he has led the orchestras for the Manila stagings of *Carousel* (1996), *They're Playing Our Song* (2000), *Dreamgirls* (2003), *Baby* (2004), *West Side Story* (2008), *Sweeney Todd* (2009) and *Little Women* (2010). In 2019, he conducted *Sweeney Todd* for Atlantis Theatrical in Manila and in Singapore for Singapore Repertory Theatre. For his work in concerts and theatre, he is a four-time recipient of the Aliw Award for best musical director and twice winner of the Gawad Buhay Philstage Award.

In 2012, Salonga was honoured as one of The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM), the Philippines' highest civilian award to achievers under the age of 40. In 2021, he was named one of the recipients of the SUDI National Music Awards by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA).

2022 engagements include concerts in Manila, the UK and Singapore, along with continuing his work with the MPO and OFY.

## DITHYRAMBIC SINGERS

Founded in 2005, the Dithyrambic Singers from Kuala Lumpur is one of the leading choral ensembles in Malaysia. Displaying an array of vocal qualities, the choir's artistic excellence is recognized internationally through its participation in numerous competitions and performances, and hopes to increase awareness and appreciation of choral music through performance, outreach and education. The Choir has claimed many international titles at various choir competitions. It has been invited to perform in South Korea, Singapore, Hong Kong, Indonesia, China, Brunei and at the prestigious Carnegie Hall in the New York world premiere of the concert version of Eric Whitacre's *The City and The Sea*.

Dithyrambic Singers performs frequently with the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra (MPO). Collaborations include "Distant Worlds: Music from FINAL FANTASY (2012, 2014 and 2019), Andrea Bocelli's Asia World Tour (2013), Bizet's *Carmen* and Mahler Symphony No. 2 (2015), Mozart's *Requiem* (2016), Beethoven's Ninth Symphony (2017), Carmina Burana (2018) and Queen of Spades (2019).



# DITHYRAMBIC SINGERS

## NAME OF PERFORMERS

### CONDUCTOR

Ian Lim Kean Seng

### ASST. CONDUCTOR

Gan Kee Huong  
Vivian Lim Xiau Yin

### MANAGER

Aris Lee Chin Pin  
Jeremy Yeo Jia Cai

### REHEARSAL PIANIST

Jeremy Yeo Jia Cai

### SECTION LEADER , SOPRANO

Vivian Lim Xiau Yin

### SOPRANO

Goh Xin Tian  
Tee Zhi Yin  
Tan Shu Zhen  
Low Hui Xin  
Yao Chunting  
Liu Xiao Lu

### SECTION LEADER , ALTO

Chan Siew Fan

### ALTO

Lee Chin Pin  
Shee Xinjie  
Eve Law Wen Her  
Ng Rou Hui  
How Lee Chin  
Wong Xiu En  
Amanda Ho Hui Xin

### SECTION LEADER , TENOR

Lee Yi Chen

### TENOR

Loi Liang Hao  
Loo Yoong Yang  
Yep Jia Jian  
Goh Kai Feng  
Yee Jian Hao  
Quat Yean Peng

### SECTION LEADER , BASS

Gan Kee Huong

### BASS

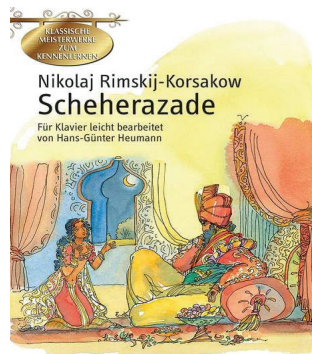
Qayyum Bin Zainal  
Tan Jun Hoe  
Kua Siang Joe  
Kung Khan Cheng  
Ryan Ho Tien Lok  
Nee Yong Zhe  
Bryan Kong Zi Hao



## PROGRAMME NOTES

It's time for another Christmas concert and conductor Gerard Salonga has chosen a varied and well-rounded programme of music to put you in a festive mood. We begin with a potpourri of traditional carols arranged by the British composer and arranger NIGEL HESS (b. 1953), great nephew of the famous pianist Myra Hess. **A Christmas Overture** was commissioned by John Rutter for his 2007 Christmas Festival. It weaves together seven traditional carols plus fragments of others into a buoyant, ebullient concert opener.

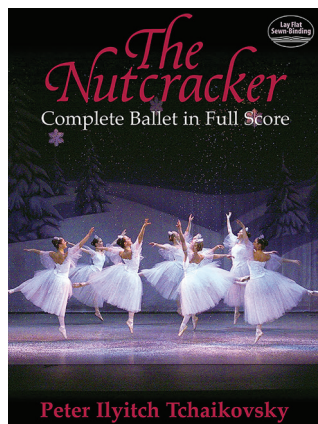
Next comes music from two operas by NICOLAI RIMSKY-KORSAKOV (1844 - 1908), famous in the concert hall for his *Scheherazade* and *Capriccio Espagnol*, but not generally known outside of Russia for operas. **Christmas Eve** (1895) is one of them. Its plot comes from the eponymous story by Gogol. The significance of the title is found in the traditional Russian belief that this is the last night of the year in which the Devil and the Witch Solokha can exert their evil influence on people. Thereafter, the influence of Ovsen and Koliada, symbols of the rebirth of life, prevails. The brilliant Polonaise (a traditional Polish dance) takes place in the Tsarina's palace in St. Petersburg.



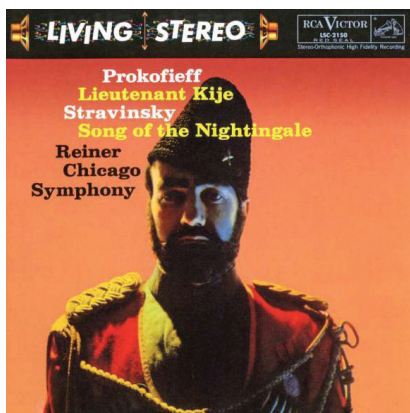
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**The Snow Maiden** (*Snegourochka*) is based on Alexander Ostrovsky's eponymous fairy tale, a variant on the Turandot theme used by Puccini - a girl's transformation from a creature with a heart of ice to one of passionate love. There is also a larger issue at stake: the eternal, life-giving forces of nature, which bring mankind its greatest happiness. Numerous folk tunes are incorporated into the opera, as are bird songs, heard especially in the suite's opening number. Its concluding number, the celebrated Dance of the Buffoons (or Tumblers), forms part of the festivities in the Holy Wood in Act III.

PIOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY (1840 - 1893) is far better known for his ballet scores than for his operas. **The Nutcracker** (1891) may well be the world's most famous ballet. Inevitably several suites have been drawn from the complete, two-hour work. The one we hear tonight includes no fewer than ten numbers, framed by the feather-light Overture and the graceful, elegant Waltz of the Flowers. In between comes a little March for the children, a series of dances representing different nationalities and their associated products (Spanish chocolate, Arabian coffee, Chinese tea, and a Russian dance), followed by a dance for reed flutes, an energetic dance for Mother Gigogne and the clowns, and the Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy, featuring the delicate, tinkly sound of the newly invented celesta.

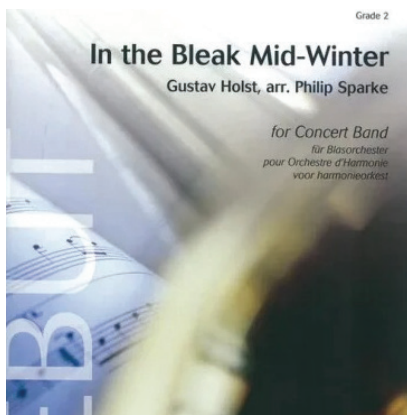


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Following intermission comes a succession of short numbers, all very different, all eminently delightful, and ranging from lively to introspective. We kick off with a lively example, an excerpt from a film score by SERGEI PROKOFIEV (1891 - 1953) entitled **Lieutenant Kijé** (The name Kijé, in case you were wondering, is a phonetic French transliteration of the Russian Kizheh, with the accent on the second syllable: kee-ZHAY). In the Troika we hear an animated tavern song, "A Woman's Heart is Like an Inn" (that is, open and receptive), which evokes a jolly ride in a traditional three-horse sleigh, complete with bells.



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The setting of the traditional carol "**In the Bleak Midwinter**" (1906) by the English composer GUSTAV HOLST (1874 - 1934) is one of the best known. The lyrics come from a poem by Christina Rossetti, published under the title "A Christmas Carol" in 1872, which described the birth of the Christ child on a "bleak midwinter" day. Numerous arrangements have been made of Holst's original score.



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**Panis Angelicus** is one of the simplest melodies in the world. It is also one of the best known, recognised by millions. Its text is the penultimate strophe of the hymn *Sacris Solemnis*. CÉSAR FRANCK (1822 - 1890), among other composers, set it to music in 1872. His setting is for tenor voice, harp, cello, and organ, but it can be performed by any melody instrument or voice with accompaniment. Nearly every famous singer in the world has sung it at one time or another.



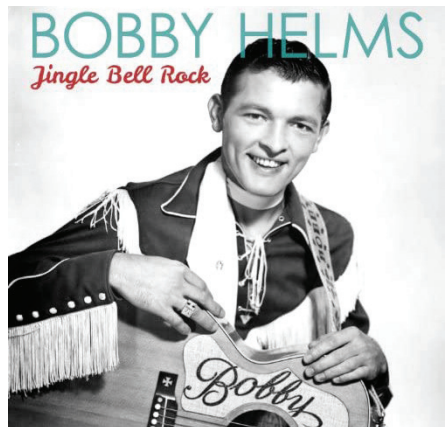
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The movie *Home Alone* was released in 1990, with a sequel in 1992. *Home Alone* was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Original Score, and its signature tune, "Somewhere in My Memory", was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Original Song. The song is heard throughout the film, either in whole or in fragments. The lyrical "Star of Bethlehem" and the snappy, rhythmically alert "Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas" (the latter from the sequel *Home Alone 2*) are just two of the many additional songs JOHN WILLIAMS (b. 1932) composed for the films.



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"Jingle Bell Rock" is a rock 'n roll-style Christmas song written in 1957 by JOSEPH CARLTON "JOE" BEAL (1900 - 1967) and JAMES ROSS "JIM" BOOTHE (1917 - 1976). It was initially released as a single sung by Bobby Helms. Helms and his session guitarist, Hank Garland, disputed the song's true authorship, but this has not diminished its popularity over the years. Helms's original recording (there have been others) reached No. 3 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart in early 2020.



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Sammy Cahn

[www.google.com](http://www.google.com)

**“Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!”** was written by lyricist SAMMY CAHN (1913 - 1993) and composer JULE STYNE (1905 - 1994) in the midst of a heat wave in Hollywood, California in July 1945. The original single was recorded by Vaughn Monroe in 1945 and hit No. 1 on the Billboard Best Sellers music chart in early 1946. It has since been recorded by numerable stars including Frank Sinatra, Bing Crosby, and Dean Martin.

Our Christmas programme concludes with a work called ***Christmas Carnival*** by the English composer, arranger, and professional horn player RICHARD BISSILL. It was commissioned by the London Philharmonic (where Bissill played principal horn for 25 years) and won the first-ever Peter Knight Award for arranging. Roderick Dunnett, writing in *The Independent*, described it as “full of syncopated buzz, ingeniously enjambed carols, [and] stunning orchestration”.



## MALAYSIAN PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

**CONDUCTOR****LAUREATE**

Kees Bakels

**RESIDENT  
CONDUCTOR**Gerard Salonga  
Naohisa Furusawa**FIRST VIOLIN***Concertmaster*  
Peter Daniš  
*Co-Concertmaster*  
Ming Goh  
*Principal*  
Zhenzhen LiangTan Ka Ming  
Wong Lu Ee  
\*Lee Sing Hong  
\*Chan Mei Teng  
\*Leong Siong Quen  
\*Graeme Norris**SECOND VIOLIN***Section Principal*  
\*Miroslav Daniš\*Ionut Mazareanu  
\*Sherwin Thia  
\*Yunzhi Ling  
\*Izzywan Musib  
\*Lisa Chia Xiaoli  
\*Keng Xin Tian  
\*Khaw Hui Yang Catherine**VIOLA***Section Principal*  
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Jebat Arjuna Kee Jia Liang  
Ling Li Yen  
\*Phoon Zu Ying  
\*Fan Ran**CELLO***Section Principal*  
Csaba KőrösElizabeth Tan Suyin  
Dylan Lee Mihn Tang  
Goh Wen Chih  
\*Joshua Sim Te Sheng  
\*Wong Jun Yuan  
\*Gerald Davis**DOUBLE BASS***Section Principal*  
Wolfgang SteikeJun-Hee Chae  
Lin Yi Rou  
Lee Kar Yan**FLUTE***Co-Principal*  
Yukako Yamamoto*Sub-Principal*  
\*Yong Ching Ting**PICCOLO***Principal*  
Sonia Croucher**OBOE***Sub-Principal*  
Lee Chun Howe  
\*Wong Cheong Lum**COR ANGLAIS***Principal*  
Niels Dittmann**CLARINET***Section Principal*  
Gonzalo Esteban*Sub-Principal*  
\*Chew Kai-Xin**BASS CLARINET***Principal*  
Chris Bosco**BASSOON***Section Principal*  
Alexandar Lenkov*Sub-Principal*  
\*Stephen Mak Wai Soon**CONTRABASSOON***Principal*  
Vladimir Stoyanov**HORN***Section Principal*  
Grzegorz Curyla*Assistant Principal*  
Sim Chee Ghee*Sub-Principal*  
Eric Tiow Xian Liang  
\*Yeong Sze Fong  
\*Mohd Adznan Mokhtar**TRUMPET***Assistant Principal*  
Matthew Dempsey*Sub-Principal*  
Jeffrey Missal  
\*Lau Hui Ping**TROMBONE***Section Principal*  
Marques Young*Co-Principal*  
Fernando Borja*Sub-Principal*  
\*Ong Aun Guan**BASS TROMBONE***Principal*  
\*Chee Chow Ming**TUBA***Section Principal*  
\*Tan Shun Zhong**TIMPANI***Section Principal*  
Matthew Thomas**PERCUSSION***Assistant Principal*  
Antti Olavi Ohenoja*Sub-Principal*  
\*Tee Ching Hong  
\*Ng Lip Sheng  
\*Yap Siu Yan**HARP***Principal*  
Tan Keng Hong**PIANO***Principal*  
\*Akiko Danis**GUITAR**

\*Ihzwani Omar

**BASS GUITAR**

\*Luqman Abd Aziz

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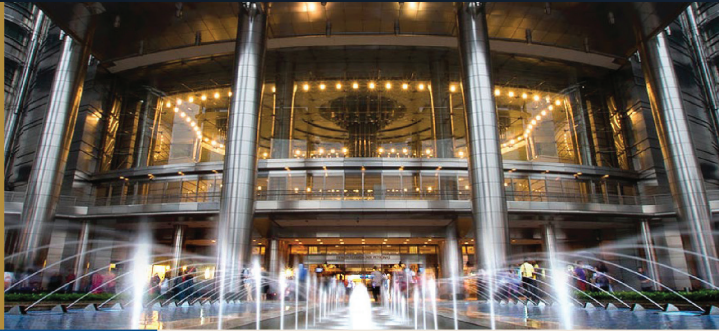
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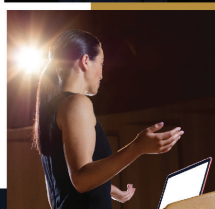
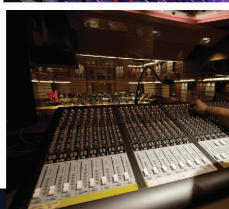
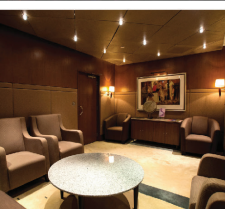
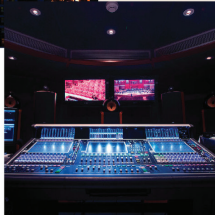
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