#### **E-CONCERT PROGRAMME**



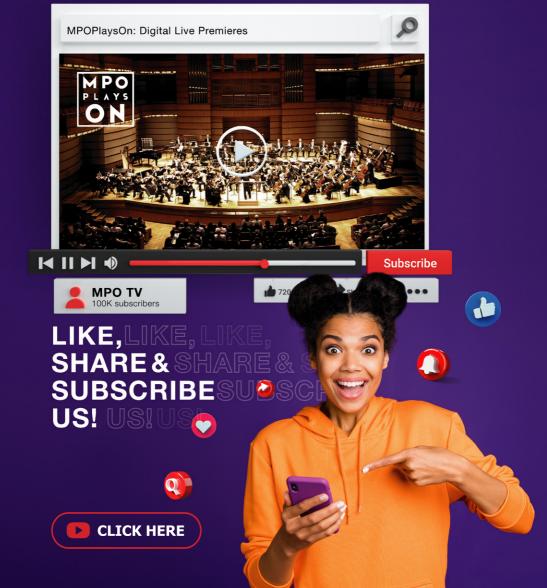


2022 S88SON

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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 mesmerized 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 in 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.

# Halloween Spooktacular

Sat 29 Oct 2022 8:30 pm

- 03 Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra
- 05 Naohisa Furusawa, conductor
- 07 Kuah Jenhan, presenter

#### **PROGRAMME**

#### **WAGNER**

Ride of The Valkyries 5 mins

#### RESPIGHI

Pines of Rome: II. Pines Near a Catacomb 6 mins

#### **STRAVINSKY**

The Firebird Suite (1919): Infernal Dance 5 mins

#### GOUNOD

Funeral March of a Marionette 5 mins

#### SAINT-SAËNS

Danse Macabre 7 mins

#### **GRIEG**

Peer Gynt: In the Hall of the Mountain King 2 mins

20 mins intermission

#### **SNOW**

X-Files Main Theme 3 mins

#### **LLOYD-WEBBER**

Phantom of the Opera 12 mins

#### **WILLIAMS**

Harry Potter and The Chamber of Secrets: The Chamber of Secrets 4 mins

#### **WILLIAMS**

Harry Potter and The Philosopher's Stone: Hedwig's Theme 5 mins

#### **WILLIAMS**

Harry Potter and The Prisoner of Azkaban: Witches. Wands & Wizards 5 mins

#### **WILLIAMS**

The Witches of Eastwick: Devil's Dance 5 mins

Duration: Approximately 90 mins

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Naohisa Furusawa has been a member of the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra (MPO) double bass section since 2003. Born in Tokyo in 1973, he started to play the violin when he was 4 and joined his junior high school orchestra as a double bass player at 12. His first conducting experience was with this orchestra. Later, he studied double bass with Prof. Nobuo Shiga and conducting with Prof. Kazue Kamiya at Toho Gakuen School of Music (Tokyo Japan), and with Prof. Frank Reinecke at the Mozarteum University in Salzburg.

Furusawa has performed as a double bass player with the NHK Symphony, Yomiuri Nippon Symphony, Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony and other orchestras, under the direction of conductors such as Seiji Ozawa, Kazuyoshi Akiyama, Wolfgang Sawallisch, Horst Stein, Lorin Maazel, Herbert Blomstedt, Charles Dutoit, Fabio Luisi, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Mstislav Rostropovich, Paavo Järvi, Pierre Boulez and Valery Gergiev.

He conducted many youth ensembles including the MPO's Encounter Training Ensemble and the Miri Tutti Project in East Malaysia as part of the MPO's Education and Outreach Programme and Beethoven's Ninth Symphony nine times with the MAX Philharmonic Orchestra (Tokyo Japan). In 2015, he conducted Mahler's Second Symphony with the MAX Philharmonic to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the end of Second World War.

Furusawa was Resident Conductor of the MPO from 2016 – 2019 and Principal Conductor of the Malaysian Philharmonic Youth Orchestra (MPYO) from 2020 – 2021. He also serves as cover conductor for Mark Wigglesworth, Roberto Abbado, Stéphane Denève, Jun Märkl and Vladimir Ashkenazy.

The MPO, under his baton, kicked-off its 18th season in September 2016 with four sold-out concerts themed A Musical Journey in Anime featuring the works of acclaimed Japanese composer Joe Hisaishi at Dewan Filharmonik Petronas (DFP).

He conducted Beethoven's Ninth Symphony in DFP as well in August 2017 for the 60th Anniversary of the diplomatic relations between Malaysia and Japan with a combined choir consisting of choirs from The Dithyrambic Singers (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia), The Choir of Gonville and Caius College (Cambridge, the United Kingdom), and The MAX Philharmonic Choir (Tokyo, Japan).

His first conducting tour with the MPO and Malaysian Pianist Tengku Irfan was in Japan at the Tokyo Opera City Concert Hall for the Asia Orchestra Week (AOW) in October 2017, a festival under Japan's Agency for Cultural Affairs. He also conducted the "Side by Side" Orchestra with the MPO and Kansai Philharmonic Orchestra (Osaka Japan) as part of AOW at the Iwaki Performing Arts Center.

He made his debut with the MPYO in the International Youth Orchestra Festivals at the Esplanade (Singapore) in December 2017, Hong Kong Cultural Centre (Hong Kong) in December 2018, and Taman Ismail Marzuki (Jakarta) in September 2019.

Furusawa and the MPO toured to Kota Kinabalu and Kuching in June 2018, Johor Bahru and Melaka in September 2018, and Dalian (China) in November 2019.



Kuah Jenhan is a very scaryyyy person! At least according to his mum. Despite living in Happy Garden, she is often more afraid than happy expressing deep fears like,

"Jenhan, I'm scared you won't have a future as a comedian"

"Jenhan, so scary your cholesterol is so high"

"Jenhan, why are you not married? Not scared to die alone meh?!"

Well, that's because Jenhan has been a comedian by profession since the age of 18. Over a decade since, Jenhan has been nominated for numerous awards including Best Comedy Show at the Perth Fringe World 2016 and has sold out shows in Malaysia, Singapore, Australia, and Hong Kong. Since the pandemic (which was so scary), Jenhan had to even sell himself out and work as a Creative Content Director at The Chariot Agency, where in just one year of working, Jenhan has won numerous awards (for advertising, still none for comedy).

On top of that, Jenhan has written and produced 5 solo comedy/theatre pieces that have seen premieres internationally and Jenhan also co-wrote the award-winning 'Lat Kampung Boy - Sebuah Muzikal' that played at the Istana Budaya.

So don't be scared Mummy! Look at him now performing with the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra!

However, audiences beware! What will this comedian do? Will the horns blow? Will someone steal the maestro's baton? Will a chandelier fall? Even he doesn't know what will happen! It is after all the Halloween Spooktacular!

#### **PROGRAMME NOTES**

Ghosts, ghouls, goblins, monsters, spooks, witches, trolls, vampires, phantoms, wizards, dancing skeletons, haunted houses – these and more are waiting to scare you silly on this MPO programme, designed especially for Halloween.

To most people today, especially in North America, Halloween is a totally secular (non-religious) holiday celebrated on 31 October, during which adults play pranks on each other, hold parties, and dress up in costumes. Children look forward to Halloween as the evening when they go door-to-door calling "trick or treat" and receiving candy. If no treat is proffered, then there is the chance that some kind of mischief or trick will be visited upon that household. However, as far back as the seventh century, Halloween was celebrated as a religious Christian holiday, the day preceding All Saints' Day (November 1). October 31 became known as All Hallows' Eve, which eventually became shortened to Halloween.

The origins of Halloween go back even further, to the Celts of ancient Britain and Ireland. According to the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, "during the Samhain festival, the souls of those who had died were believed to return to visit their homes, and those who had died during the year were believed to journey to the otherworld. People set bonfires on hilltops for relighting their hearth fires for the winter and to frighten away evil spirits, and they sometimes wore masks and other disguises to avoid being recognized by the ghosts thought to be present. It was in those ways that beings such as witches, hobgoblins, fairies, and demons came to be associated with the day."

Tonight's concert is in two parts: the first consisting of music by classical composers, the second of excerpts from film scores.

We begin with music almost everyone has heard: the "Ride of the Valkyries" from Wagner's opera *Die Walküre* (1870). Valkyries (*Walküren* in the original German) are warrior maidens mounted on flying horses who swoop through battlefields and scoop up dead heroes to bring up to Valhalla, the abode of the gods.



Somewhat midway between the extremes of musical horror and sublime comfort is the second movement, "Pines Near a Catacomb," from Respighi's *Pines of Rome*,(1924), four orchestral evocations of the Eternal City. A catacomb is an underground burial chamber. From the depths of the orchestra rises a mournful chant (low horns) which floats through the air like a solemn hymn, then slowly and mysteriously dies away.



The Pines of Rome

The "Infernal Dance" from Stravinsky's *Firebird* ballet (1910) depicts the great demon Katschei and his retainers, The hero Ivan has accidentally ventured into Katschei's kingdom. Theses evil creatures try to bewitch Ivan, but with a magic feather he summons the Firebird, who sends all the monsters into a wild, furious dance that leaves them all exhausted and incapable of doing any harm.

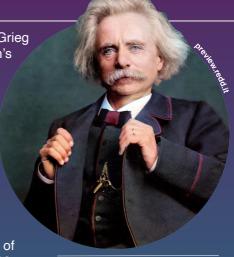
One of the strangest funeral marches ever composed is the *Funeral March of a Marionette* (1873). Charles Gounod wrote it as a short ballet sequence to be performed between acts of a drama about Joan of Arc. The mock-serious music is played while a funeral cortège bears a broken marionette from the stage.

Saint-Saëns' symphonic poem *Danse macabre* (Dance of Death, 1875) was inspired by a ghoulish poem by Henri Cazalis (who wrote under the pen name of Jean Lahor). A mood of eerie fantasy prevails. At midnight (twelve strokes on the harp) Death arrives with his violin, tunes up and begins its evil dance (flute). The solo violin plays a second melody – suave and lyrical but still with an undercurrent of menace. The two themes become ever more frenzied and intertwined, culminating in a fearful climax. But dawn is imminent; a cock crows (oboe), and the diabolical assembly quickly dissipates into the darkness.



In 1876, the Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg wrote some music to accompany Henrik Ibsen's drama *Peer Gynt* (1876). One of the numbers is the short but powerful "In the Hall of the Mountain King," set in the world of Norwegian fairy-tales. Hideous little trolls, representing man's most undesirable qualities, chase and torment Peer. The music consists simply of nineteen varied repetitions of a four-bar theme, which increases in volume and speed to a highly effective conclusion.

The hugely popular **X-Files** franchise consists of a television series and two feature films (1998, 2008) based on extraterrestrial mythology. For



Norwegian composer & pianist Edvard Grieg

this science fiction narrative, American composer Mark Snow (b. 1946) provided the sound tracks. For the first film (*Fight the Future*), director Chris Carter asked Snow for a "very minimal" approach, one with little melody but much "ambient atmosphere" and "sound design".

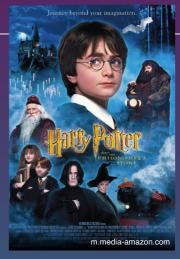


The Phantom of the Opera will conclude its 35-year run at Broadway's Majestic Theatre on February 18, 2023, with a record 13,925 performance.

When talking about *Phantom of the Opera*, one is tempted to coin a new word: phantom-tastic, for the statistics surrounding this musical show *are* truly fantastic: it is the longest-running show in Broadway history (due to close this coming February after 35 years); it has been seen by over 140 million people in nearly 200 cities from over 40 countries on every continent except Antarctica; worldwide receipts have totaled over US6 billion; in New York alone a quarter of a million people saw the show *every week* pre-pandemic; and to date there have been over 13,000 performances in that city. The suite we hear tonight contains six of the show's most famous numbers.



The Harry Potter industry – and an industry it is – staggers the imagination: some of the titles hold records as the fastest-selling books, the largest first printings, and the largest advance sales in history. For this narrative of mystery and magic, dreams and fantasy, John Williams concocted his unique brand of musical magic in scores that shimmer with mystery, shudder with terror, reverberate with heroism, and exult in adventure. The elegantly-gliding, waltzlike tune (the film's title song) of "Hedwig's Theme" brings Williams' wondrous world of music into the concert hall in the spirit of Halloween enchantment.



Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (2001)



The Witches of Eastwick (1987)

The Witches of Eastwick (1987) is a film based on John Updike's eponymous novel. Cher, Michelle Pfeiffer, and Susan Sarandon are cast as the witches living in a small American town but initially unaware of their latent supernatural powers. (One of them is a cellist!) Composer John Williams was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Original Score as well as for two Grammys. "The Devil's Dance" perfectly captures the film's combined qualities of fantasy and comedy.

#### **ABOUT THE WRITER**

Formely a horn player in the Montreal Symphony, Robert Markow now writes programme notes for that orchestra and for many other musical organizations in North America and Asia. He taught at Montreal's McGill University for many years, has led music tours abroad, and writes for many leading classical music journals, including American Record Guide, Fanfare, Opera, Opera News, The Strad, and Symphony. He travels regularly to Europe, Asia and Australia in search of musical stimulation.



## Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra

#### MALAYSIAN PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

### CONDUCTOR LAUREATE

Kees Bakels

#### RESIDENT CONDUCTOR

Gerard Salonga Naohisa Furusawa

#### FIRST VIOLIN

Concertmaster
Peter Daniš
Co-Concertmaster
Ming Goh
Principal
Zhenzhen Liang

Tan Ka Ming Wong Lu Ee

- \*Lee Sing Hong \*Chan Mei Teng
- \*Sherwin Thia
- \*Khaw Hui Yang Catherine

#### SECOND VIOLIN

Section Principal

- \* Miroslav Daniš
- \*lonut Mazareanu
- \*Ling Yunzhi
- \*Leong Siong Quen
- \*Stefan Kocsis
- \*Joanna Ho May Sum
- \*Keng Xin Tian
- \*Lisa Chia Xiaoli

#### VIOLA

Section Principal Caleb Wright

Ong Lin Kern Thian Ai Wen Jebat Arjuna Kee Jia Liang Ling Li Yen \*Fan Ran

#### **CELLO**

Section Principal Csaba Kőrös

Elizabeth Tan Suyin Dylan Lee Mihn Tang Goh Wen Chih \*Wong Jun Yuan \*Joshua Sim Te Sheng

#### DOUBLE BASS

Section Principal Wolfgang Steike

Jun-Hee Chae Lin Yi Rou Lee Kar Yan

#### FLUTE

Co-Principal Yukako Yamamoto

Sub-Principals
\*Wong Xue Fen

#### PICCOLO

*Principal*Sonia Croucher

#### OBOE

Sub-Principal Lee Chun Howe

#### COR ANGLAIS

Principal Niels Dittmann

#### CLARINET

Principal Gonzalo Esteban Sub-Principal \*Ong Chang Yong

#### **BASS CLARINET**

Principal
Chris Bosco

#### BASSOON

Section Principal Alexandar Lenkov

#### **CONTRABASSOON**

Principal
Vladimir Stoyanov

#### HORN

Section Principal Grzegorz Curyła Assistant Principal Sim Chee Ghee Sub-Principals Eric Tiow Xian Liang \*Mohd Adznan Mokhtar \*Loh Zi Shun \*Woon Sze Ting

#### **TRUMPET**

Assistant Principal
Matthew Dempsey
Sub-Principals
Jeffrey Missal
\*Lau Hui Ping
\*Mohamad Firdaus Zainal

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Marques Young
Co-Principal
Fernando Borja
Sub-Principal
\*Ainul Basyirah Aznan

#### **BASS TROMBONE**

Principal
\*Chee Chow Ming

#### 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/SYNTH/CELESTE

\*Akiko Daniš \*Sylvia Loh Huey Sein

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