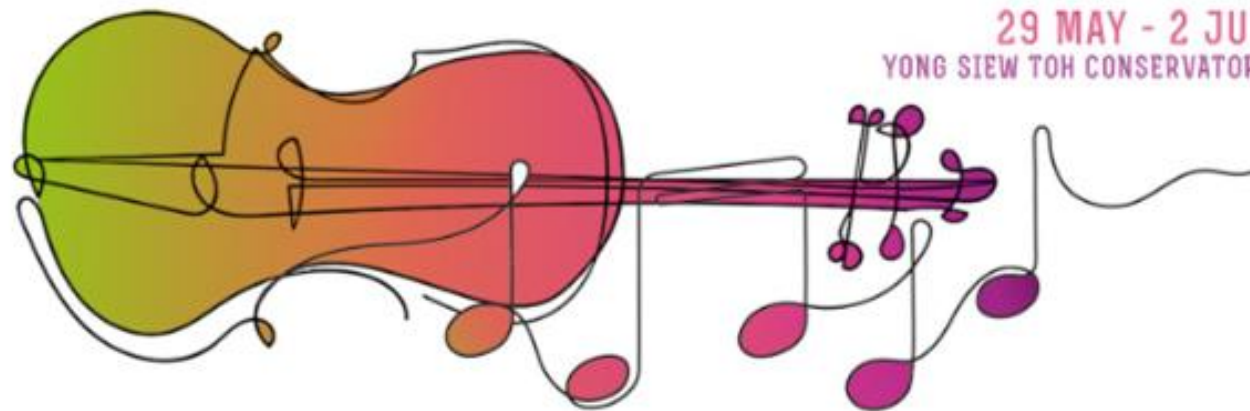


# 8TH SINGAPORE PERFORMERS' FESTIVAL & CHAMBER MUSIC COMPETITION 2024

29 MAY - 2 JUNE 2024  
YONG SIEW TOH CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC



**Adjudicators' *Biographies***

## 8th Singapore Performers' Festival 2024 Adjudicators

### Piano:

Toh Chee Hung

Foo Mei Yi

Shaun Choo

Jena Pang

### Violin/Viola:

Ergys Koni

Chian Lim

### Cello:

Ng Pei Sian

Cho Hang-oh

### Flute:

Jihyun Chang

Ho Chee Kiang

### Voice:

Nancy Yuen

Jonathan Charles Tay



## TOH CHEE HUNG



Hailed by The Straits Times as ‘a flamboyant and passionate virtuoso who plays with her heart on her sleeve’, Toh Chee-Hung is a Singaporean pianist, pedagogue and educator who currently works and resides in London. Highly sought-after as a performer and lecturer, she has played recitals in Canada, Turkey, the U.S.A and around Europe, as well as recorded for radio and television in many countries, most notably for BBC Radio 3 and the BBC World Service.

Chee-Hung has also performed, taught masterclasses, and adjudicated at various piano festivals worldwide, including the Cambridge Piano Weekend, Canadian Music Competitions, and competitions organised by the Music Teachers Association of California.

Having won multiple prizes including top prize for piano performance at the Royal Academy of Music, London where she studied, she often returns to her birth country Singapore to perform as a soloist and chamber musician and teach at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts. One of her more memorable performances was in 2015, where she and her late husband Dennis Lee performed in a concert at Victoria Concert Hall as part of a series to commemorate Singapore’s 50th National Day.

Before his passing, Dennis Lee often appeared with Toh Chee-Hung onstage as a duo, and their performances have been described by The Straits Times as one that ‘is incapable of making an ugly sound, their seamless teamwork born of decades of performing together and listening to each other.’

## FOO MEI YI



Winner of the 2013 BBC Music Magazine's Best Newcomer award, Mei Yi Foo is recognised internationally as an innovative pianist with a diverse and eclectic repertoire. Described as 'an artist with courageous individualism' (*Schweizer Radio und Fernsehen*), Mei Yi's concerts are lauded for their 'liberating' and 'virtuoso display' (*The Times*) that show 'astounding perfection and creativity' (*Unsub Chin*).

A prolific concerto soloist, Mei Yi has appeared with the Avanti! Chamber Orchestra, English Chamber Orchestra, Ensemble Nomad, Fort Worth Symphony, Helsinki Philharmonic, Iceland Symphony, London Chamber Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Malaysian Philharmonic, National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, Remix Ensemble and the Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra, working with such conductors as Matthias Bamert, Martyn Brabbins, Claus Peter Flor, János Fürst, Pascal Gallois, Antony Hermus, Kirill Karabits, Peter Rundel, John Storgårds, Jonathan Stockhammer, Bas Wiegers, Mark Wigglesworth and Benjamin Zander. She has performed at the world's most eminent festivals such as the Lucerne Festival, Ultraschall Festival Berlin, Huddersfield Festival, Suvisoitto Finland, Punkt Festival in Norway and Born Creative Festival in Tokyo.

As a new music advocate, Mei Yi works regularly with living composers including Dai Fujikura, Richard Baker, Chris Harman and Unsub Chin. She was also the featured artist at Southbank Centre's 'Music of Today' series in 2017. Her award-winning solo album 'Musical Toys' and her chamber concerto CD 'ConNotations' with the Britten Sinfonia have been met with unanimous critical acclaim.

A native of Malaysia, Mei Yi resides in the UK after completing her studies at the Royal College and Royal Academy of Music in London with Yonty Solomon, Chris Elton and Alexander Satz. Currently she holds a teaching position at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, and was an Artist-in-Residence at the National University of Ireland 2022-23. Mei Yi was also awarded the medal of Setiawan Tuanku Muhriz for her contribution towards art and music in her home country.



## SHAUN CHOO



*Photo credit: Henry Fair*

Shaun Choo was born in Singapore and commenced piano at the age of seven. Upon attaining his Diploma in Music Performance at fourteen under Ms. Lena Ching, he pursued his studies abroad at the University Mozarteum Salzburg, Austria, graduating as "Bachelor of Arts" under professors Karl-Heinz Kämmerling and Andreas Weber and "Master of Arts" under professor Jacques Rouvier with highest distinction. Further mentors include Dmitri Alexeev, Bernd Goetzke, Matti Raekallio and Dang Thai Son.

Shaun's performing career has taken him across Europe and Asia. Venue highlights include the National Concert Hall Beijing, Bregenzer Festspielhaus, Leipziger Gewandhaus and Chopin's birthplace in Zelazowa Wola. He has been invited to festivals such as the Schwetzingen Festspiele, Duszni Chopin Piano Festival, Klavierfrühling Deutschlandsberg and Festival Piano Pic, and has performed at various international events and congresses. Shaun often appears as soloist with orchestras such as the Südwestdeutsche Philharmonie Konstanz, Mozarteum Symphony Orchestra, Daegu Philharmonic, Leipzig Academic Orchestra and Orchestre de Pau.

Shaun is a prizewinner at more than ten international competitions, including nine first prizes. He emerged victorious at the 3rd International Piano Competition Istanbul Orchestra' Sion and is a five-time prizewinner in international Chopin competitions held in Hungary, France, China, South Korea and Australia. Other notable triumphs include the Artur Schnabel Piano Competition Berlin, Grotrian Steinweg Piano Competition Beijing and ZF Musikpreis Friedrichshafen, and prizes at the "Flame" International Competition Paris and Blüthner Golden Tone Award in Vienna.

## SHAUN CHOO



*Photo credit: Henry Fair*

Back home, Shaun is featured in many local publications such as The Straits Times, Lianhe Zaobao, The Epoch Times, TimeOut and Pioneer magazines, among others. His album “Chopin the Complete Preludes” was awarded the top three best classical albums of 2018 by the Straits Times. By the gracious invitation of the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, he served as juror at the Nanyang International Piano Competition, as faculty member in the Nanyang International Piano Academy, and, after conducting multiple performance classes, has subsequently been appointed Adjunct Lecturer at the institution. Shaun gave solo recitals at both the Esplanade Concert Hall in 2014, and at the Victoria Concert Hall in 2022, the latter as part of the 28th Singapore International Piano Festival organised by the SSO.

Shaun is an increasingly sought-after teacher, with many of his students winning prizes in international competitions themselves. He is frequently invited to conduct masterclasses and lectures, often at established institutions such as the Steinway STEPS program, Keimyung University (Daegu, South Korea), Bela Bartok University (Miskolc, Hungary) and the International Summer Academy Mozarteum (Salzburg, Austria). He holds the title of Adjunct Lecturer at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts Singapore. As an avid composer, Shaun often performs his own works during recitals. He was commissioned by the Singapore Armed Forces to compose the Signal Formation Song during his two-year military service. His 4- hands work “Fiestravaganza” has nearly 6 million cumulative views on YouTube. It has won numerous prizes at duo competitions and has sold hundreds of copies online.

Shaun is the first and only external piano candidate in many years to be successfully admitted into the prestigious “Konzertexamen” Postgraduate Program at the Berlin University of the Arts, Germany, where he will further his studies from 2020 under the tutelage of professor Björn Lehmann.



## JENA PANG



Jena Chun-Wah Pang is based in the United Kingdom and is celebrated for his exceptional teaching, judging competitions and scholarship awards internationally. His students based in the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, Beijing, Malaysia, Thailand, Geneva, Milan, Vienna, Spain, New York and Calgary, are first prize-winners and hold top honors at Amigdala International Piano Competition Italy 2019-2023; Feurich International Piano Competition 2018-2023 Vienna; Carles and Sofia International Piano Competition 2023 Spain; the VI International Liszt Ferenc Competition Hungary 2023; Carmel Arts International Piano Competition USA 2022; Monegro 88 Keys International Piano Competition Spain 2021; London Young Musician International Piano Competition 2020-2021; Harmonium Plus International Piano Competition Armenia 2020, Music and Stars International Piano Competition 2020; Costa Festa International Piano Competition 2019 Spain; Tadini International Piano Competition 2019 Italy, Canadian Music Competition 2019 (violin) Canada; Clavis International Piano Competition 2018 St Petersburg Russia; National EPTA-UK piano competition 2023, 2020. Several of his students have also won the Elena Cobb Star Prize Award and have performed at the Royal Albert Hall.

Mr Pang was Chairman of the piano jury of the Amigdala International Piano Competition Italy 2019-2023 Italy, and has judged numerous international competitions notably Windsor International Piano Competition 2019-2022, BMTG Intercontinental Piano Competition New York USA 2021, the inaugural Carmel Klavier Europe International Piano Competition 2020, the Saint Petersburg International Piano Competition 2020, Osaka International Music Competition 2019 in Japan, Hong Kong and Taiwan; IMPACT Young Artists International Piano Competition USA 2019, Blackheath Music Festival, Dudley Music Festival, Maidenhead Music Festival, Maidstone Music Festival, Longwell Green and Kingswood Performing Arts Festival, and Horsham Performers Platform.

Recognised for his pedagogical skills, Mr Pang has lectured on competition preparation and given masterclasses for the Alberta Piano Teachers Association, the Alberta Registered Music Teachers Association in Canada, Clavis International Piano Competition Bavaria and Maidenhead Music Festival.

## JENA PANG



He annually adjudicates the Freda Parry Scholarship Fund Competition in Essex and previously the annual Jena Pang Piano Competition held at Milton Keynes Preparatory School. He has had invitations to teach and judge at Music Fest Perugia Italy, International Piano Festival Ambassador of Tarnow Poland, Tadini International Piano School in Lovere, Piano Talents International Piano Competition Milan, Tadini International Piano Competition Italy, Talent Music Summer Courses and Festival Brescia Italy, Dulwich Music Festival, Seven Oaks Three Arts Festival, Milton Keynes Music Festival, Bedfordshire Festival of Music Speech and Drama, Edinburgh Music Competition Festival, and Mid Somerset Festival.

Mr Pang was awarded an instrumental scholarship to study Music at St Peter's College, Oxford University and studied the violin with Lydia Mordkovitch and the piano with Lora Dimitrova and had lessons with Christopher Elton, Ruth Waterman, Keith Pascoe, Brenda Farrow, Shaline Jayatilaka and Elsie Brown. He has been teaching the piano and violin for the last 31 years in addition to being a solicitor and partner in a law firm from 2004-2014. As a child he appeared on British and Hong Kong television playing both piano and violin, at the Purcell Room South Bank, and with English Orchestras for concertos. Recent concert engagements have been collaborations with Dennis Lee, Chee Hung Toh and Graeme Humphrey.

He champions the British Music Festival movement and has seen all sides from child competitor, adjudicator, and administration: he is currently the Piano Convenor and a trustee of the Southend Festival of Performing Arts and trustee of the Freda Parry Scholarship Fund Competition. His influence in the musical community continues to grow, making him a highly respected figure in the world of music education and performance.

Jena Pang is an adjudicator for the British and International Federation of Festivals for Music, Dance and Speech and has adjudicated both live and online competitions. Jena stands as a testament to excellence in music education and adjudication, inspiring a new generation of musicians through his extensive knowledge, experience, and commitment to the arts.



## **ERGYS KONI**



In a career spanning more than 30 years, Ergys Koni has performed over 3,900 concerts, appearing as a solo, chamber, and orchestral violinist.

Mr. Koni has been a member of the first violin section of Malaysian Philharmonic orchestra from 2007 to 2015, where he successfully auditioned for the concertmaster position in 2014. He has also served as concertmaster in the Folkwang Kammer Orchester in Germany, and has collaborated with the violin section of the Rotterdams Philharmonic Orkest in Holland. Throughout his career, he has played under the baton of conductors such as Sir Simon Rattle, Valery Gergiev, Riccardo Chailly, and Kees Bakels.

A holder of a master's degree in music, Ergys began to play the violin at the age of six upon entering the "Jordan Misja" special school for gifted children in Tirana, Albania. He went on to study under Professor Ibrahim Madhi at the Academy of the Arts in Tirana, where he played as concertmaster in the chamber orchestra and began touring internationally. He had also been a member of the "Virtuozet e Tiranes" youth orchestra since he was ten years old. In 1995, he left Albania to continue his studies at the Royal Conservatory in The Hague, in Holland, under Professors Kees Hulsmann and Mieke Biesta, where he graduated with distinction in 2001.

In addition to performing extensively in Asia and Europe as a chamber musician and soloist and participating in numerous recording projects, including pop star albums, Mr. Koni has been teaching for the past 25 years.

## CHIAN LIM



*Photo credit: Peter Mould*

Singapore born Chian Lim was awarded a scholarship to study viola at the Royal College of Music in London, where he was a prize-winning student. During his time there he studied chamber music with the Chilingirian Quartet and members of the Juilliard and Cleveland Quartets.

After some time with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra, Chian returned to the UK and began what quickly became a successful period working as a freelance viola player. As an active chamber musician, he plays regularly with various groups including the Marias Ensemble and was a member of the Dowdeswell Piano Quartet. Chian has broadcast with the Endymion Ensemble and Lontano on BBC Radio 3 and has also performed at the Wigmore Hall on numerous occasions with chamber ensembles such as the Guildhall Strings.

He was Principal Viola with Glyndebourne Tour Orchestra and has played Guest Principal Viola with London Mozart Players, City of London Sinfonia, Royal Ballet Sinfonia and Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. With the English Chamber Orchestra and the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, he has recorded and performed worldwide at some of the most prestigious concert halls in the world with esteemed musicians such as Julia Fischer, Joshua Bell, Gil Shaham and Murray Perahia. He joined the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in 2014 and was elected to its Board of Directors between 2016 and 2019.

In addition to his chamber music and orchestral commitments, Chian regularly plays for film soundtracks and recordings with pop artists, most notably Radiohead.

As an educator, he regularly conducts viola and chamber music masterclasses both within the UK and abroad and has been involved in coaching youth orchestras including the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain. He has recently completed a MA in Music Education: Instrumental and Vocal Teaching at the University of York and looking forward to spending more time teaching the viola and researching elite musicians' health and wellbeing, particularly regarding their training and their work environment.



## Cello Adjudicator

# NG PEI SIAN



Ng Pei-Sian was Commonwealth Musician of the Year in 2007, winner of the Gold Medal and First Prize at the 55th Royal Over-Seas League Music Competition held in London. He has performed concertos with the major Australian symphony orchestras, Singapore Symphony (SSO), Malaysian Philharmonic, Hong Kong Philharmonic, Estonian National Symphony, Oulu Symphony, Sinfonia ViVA, City of Southampton Orchestra, Philippine Philharmonic, and the Orchestra of the Music Makers and performed around the world in venues including Royal Festival Hall, Wigmore Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room, Konzerthaus (Berlin), Lincoln Centre and Carnegie Hall.

Born in Sydney in 1984, he began studies in Adelaide with Barbara Yelland and later with Janis Laurs at the Elder Conservatorium of Music before winning the prestigious Elder Overseas Scholarship to study at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. Ng Pei-Sian completed his studies under Ralph Kirshbaum during which he was awarded the RNCM Gold Medal, the highest prize given by the college.

Ng has had appearances in important music festivals including the Brighton, Edinburgh, Manchester International Cello Festival, Kronberg Academy, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Festival and Adelaide International Cello Festival. Ng performed Tan Dun's *Crouching Tiger Cello Concerto* with The Festival Orchestra under the baton of the Academy Award-winning composer and also performed with Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble, Cho-Liang Lin and Renaud Capuçon.

Recent highlights include a performance of Kalevi Aho's *Double Cello Concerto* with his twin brother Ng Pei-Jee and the SSO and also the Asian premiere of John Tavener's *Flood of Beauty* with the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory Orchestra under Jason Lai as part of Tapestry, A Sacred Music Festival. Recently, Pei Sian played alongside Yo-Yo Ma and the SSO performing the fresh and exciting double cello concerto *Violoncelles Vibrez!* by Giovanni Sollima.

Pei Sian is currently Principal Cellist of the Singapore Symphony Orchestra and a faculty member at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, Singapore. He performs on a 1764 Giovanni Antonio Marchi cello, Bologna.

## CHO HANG-OH



Cho Hang Oh, a South Korea-born cellist, stands as both a virtuosic soloist and a distinguished chamber musician. He founded the Baum Quartet, which garnered acclaim by clinching the 1st prize and special honors at the Mendelssohn Competition in Berlin 2020, as well as securing the 2nd prize at the Irene Steels Wilsing Competition in Heidelberg and a silver prize at the Salieri-Zinetti competition in Verona. Notably, the quartet received the esteemed 'Kultur Preis' sponsored by Berenberg Bank at Elbphilharmonie and graced the stage at Konzerthaus Berlin and NDR Kultur 90.3 for live performances as well as 'Audience Prize' at the Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition.

Hang Oh's musical journey extends globally, concerts in Germany, Italy, Spain, Poland, Ireland, collaborating with renowned musicians like Henning Kraggerud, Peter Jarůšek, and Avri Levitan as well as Mozart workshop with Alfred Brendel. He participated in prestigious festivals such as the Ozawa Chamber Festival, VII Musethica International Chamber Music Festival in Zaragoza, the Trondheim Chamber Music Festival, and the Mendelssohn Music Festival.

Moreover, Hang Oh has a rich educational background, receiving guidance from esteemed professors at institutions including the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music under Professor Li Wei Qin, Solo Master with Professor Troels Svane in Musikhochschule Lübeck, chamber music master with Professor Niklas Schmidt in Musikhochschule Hamburg, Professor Oliver Wille in Musikhochschule Hannover, and Artistic Diploma with Professor Günter Pichler Reina Sofia Music Academy in Madrid.



## CHANG JIHYUN



Jihyun is an accomplished flautist who has performed at prestigious venues worldwide and at international music festivals, including Carnegie Hall (New York), the Royal Albert Hall (London) and Miyama Concert Hall (Japan).

After graduating from Chetham's School of Music in Manchester, she obtained a Bachelor of Music from the Royal College of Music in London under the guidance of Paul Edmund- Davies. She then earned her Master's degree in music from the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, with a Deena Shypitka Music Award, a UK Government Scholarship and a Career Development Bursary Scholarship.

As an orchestral musician, Jihyun was principal flute in the National Youth Chamber Orchestra of Great Britain for two years and was selected to perform with the Aurora Orchestra in the BBC Proms Festival at the Royal Albert Hall, conducted by Nicolas Collon. She is also actively involved in various arts groups, including Prime Philharmonic, Cham Philharmonic and Mahlerian Orchestra.

Jihyun creates colourful, unique programming with academic ideas and holds the title of Series Concert Artist at the Ensemblian Hall in South Korea. She is currently a member of Kunstwerk Orchestra, Renoir Flute Trio and King's Flute Choir.

## HO CHEE KIANG



Born in Pangkor Island in Perak, Malaysia, Ho Chee Kiang spent a total of 9 years pursuing a musical education in the West majoring in flute and conducting studies. He studied at DIT Conservatory of Music & Drama in Dublin under Willam Halpin. Then at the Royal Irish Academy of Music where he graduated, under Susan Dolye and conducting under James Cavanaugh.

His achievements include FLCL, LLCM, FTCL, LTCL in Flute Performance. He won the 1996 Woodwind Solo at the Irish Arklow Music Festival. He made his debut international flute/piccolo performance in Ireland, UK and Japan since 1997 as recitalist, orchestral player, chamber musician and has worked with the RIAM Symphony Orchestra, Irish Youth Wind Ensemble/Symphony Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra, DIT Symphonic Band, Dublin Concert Band, Japan-Malaysia Friendship Wind Orchestra, Miyamae Wind Orchestra, Arsnova Wind Orchestra and Arsnova Winds Kawasaki. He was music director/conductor of Perak Symphonic Wind Orchestra and founder/music director/conductor of BELIA'n Youth Winds in 2023.

During his stay in Europe, he attended numerous flute masterclasses with many renowned flutists including James Galway, Mazio Conti, Trevor Wye, Andras Adorjan, Colin Fleming, Rachel Browne and summer flute academy including James Galway International Flute Seminar (Switzerland), Academie Internationale D'ete, Moulin D'ande (France), Elena Duran Flute Course (England), Sankyo-Masterclass in Florence (Italy) and has attended conducting masterclasses with Maestro Frederick Fennell, Jeffrey Renshaw (USA), Robert Houlihan (Ireland).

Chee Kiang has produced and conducted many concerts with various band and chamber ensembles throughout Malaysia, touring USA, Spain, Japan, Thailand, Beijing, Southern China, Hong Kong, Taiwan etc. for concert.



## HO CHEE KIANG



As a conductor, he conducted a commissioned work by local composer, Yeo Chow Shern - “The Bakul Siah” (2013), “Bunga Raya” Concert March (2023), “Jinkly Nona (2023)”, “Perayaan – Celebration and Dance” (2023) Japan Premiere, and Hong Kong composer, Simon Yau - “A Sabah Folk Song Suite” (2013). These brand-new music world premièred with TTWS in Japan. He also conducted world premiere - “Sinpadan - Inspiration from Peaceful Island” (2016) by famous Japanese composer, Satoshi Yagisawa in KLPAC.

Chee Kiang has also conducted music camps, flute masterclasses and as band clinician/specialist in Malaysia, China, Indonesia, and Singapore. He was also adjudicator for some main band competitions in Malaysia and internationally. He attended the World Association of Symphonic Band & Ensemble (WASBE) and BASBWE in Manchester, England, and the 14<sup>th</sup> Conference of Asia & Pacific Band Director Association (APBDA) in Macau.

Chee Kiang now teaches flute and lectures at UCSI (since 2000) and Universiti Malaya (since 2001) in Kuala Lumpur. He is also the Director of Musica EDU Academy in Damansara Perdana, PJ since 2007. In 2009, he formed Malaysian Zephyr Flute Ensemble after purchased the very first bass flute in Malaysia - “Genshin Show” (2023) and he is music director/conductor of Sabah Tshung Tsin Wind Symphony (TTWS) since 2010 and in 2014, he formed SWO for concert with Japan world famous composer Satoshi Yagisawa and Kazuyasu Kaminaga in June 2016.

## NANCY YUEN



U.K. educated, Hong Kong born Singaporean soprano Nancy Yuen, has made Cio-cio-san (***Madama Butterfly***) her signature role winning great international critical acclaim immediately upon graduation from London's Royal Academy of Music. She made her operatic debut in this demanding Puccini's title heroine with the Welsh National Opera and has since repeated the role all over the world, notably with the English National Opera, West Australian Opera, Opera Queensland, Opera Northern Ireland, Bangkok Opera, Singapore Lyric Opera, the 1994 New Zealand International Festival of Arts, the 1995 Barbados Opera Festival and the Royal Albert Hall production by David Freeman for Raymond Gubbay Limited in 1998, 2000 and 2003.

Other operatic roles include Romilda (***Xerxes***) with the English National Opera; Violetta (***La Traviata***) with the Welsh National Opera, Singapore Lyric Opera and London City Opera; ***Aida*** with Kentish Opera and Dublin Lyric Opera Productions; Gilda (***Rigoletto***), Tytania (***A Midsummer Night's Dream***), Rosalinda (***Die Fledermaus***), Nedda (***I Pagliacci***), Siok Imm (***Bunga Mawar***), Leonora (***Il Trovatore***), Antonia (***Les contes D'Hoffmann***), Countessa (***Le Nozze di Figaro***), Liu (***Turandot***) and the title role of ***Tosca*** with the Singapore Lyric Opera; Liza (***The Queen of Spades***), with Kentish Opera; Mimi (***La Boheme***) with the London City Opera, SLO and Bangkok Opera; Jenny (***Mahagony Songspiel***) with Theatre d'Evreux, Micaela (***Carmen***) with the Hong Kong Urban Council Opera; Pamina (***The Magic Flute***) with Opera Queensland and Donna Anna (***Don Giovanni***) and title role of ***Thaïs*** with Bangkok Opera.

In recent years, she has performed the title role of ***Mae Naak*** with Opera Siam in Bangkok and London and sang the role of Soong Ching-ling in the world premiere of newly commissioned opera, ***Dr. Sun Yat-sen***; made her role debut as Desdemona in ***Otello*** and appeared in the world premiere of ***Dan no Ura*** as Empress Kenreimon'in both with Opera Siam; reprised the title role in ***Madama Butterfly*** with Opera Hong Kong and made another role debut as Senta in Wagner's ***Der Fliegende Holländer***.



## NANCY YUEN



Equally at home on the concert platform, she has a wide recital and concert repertoire ranging from Baroque to contemporary and has performed at the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, the Barbican Concert Hall, and Birmingham Symphony Hall in the U.K. and abroad in Europe, the United States, the Middle East, and Asia. The many orchestras she has sung with include the London Mozart Players, the BBC Concert Orchestra, the Singapore Symphony Orchestra, the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, Tivoli Symphony Orchestra and the West Australia Symphony Orchestra. Notable musicians she has worked with include Placido Domingo, Carlo Rizzi, Richard Armstrong, Trevor Pinnock, Christopher Hogwood and Helmuth Rilling. She has also recorded for the BBC, Radio Television Hong Kong and Radio FM, New Zealand. She has performed the soprano solos in ***Messiah, Creation, Seasons, Nelson Mass, Christmas Oratorio, Carmina Burana, Elijah***, Monteverdi's ***Vespers***, Mozart's ***Requiem*** and ***Mass in C Minor***, Poulenc's ***Gloria***, Beethoven's ***Ninth Symphony***, the Brahms', Faure's and Verdi's ***Requiem***, Mahler's ***4<sup>th</sup>*** and ***8<sup>th</sup> Symphony*** and Janacek's ***Glagolitic Mass***.

As an educator, Nancy has been regularly giving vocal masterclasses in the region, including Sichuan Conservatory of Music, Shenzhen Arts School, South China Normal University, China, National Hualien University of Education, Taiwan, Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, Singapore, Bangkok Opera Young Artists Programme. Since 2019 she has been busy directing operas. Fully staged productions she has directed include: ***Così fan tutte, The Merry Widow, Prima la Musica, Don Pasquale, Cavalleria Rusticana, Pagliacci, I Capuletti e i Montecchi, Le Nozze di Figaro*** and ***Carmen***. She was the adjudicator of the 59<sup>th</sup>, 65<sup>th</sup> and 71<sup>st</sup> Hong Kong Schools Music Festival, Bangkok Opera International Singing Competition in 2013 and the "Competizione dell'Opera 2009" in Singapore and Macau Music Festival in 2012 and 2014. She also headed the panel at the SLO ASEAN Vocal Competition in 2016 and 2018 in Singapore, chairperson of the Jury of 2023 International Vocal Open Competition and jury of the International Clara Schumann Competition 2021 and 2022.

**NANCY YUEN**



She has been a member of the Artistic Committee of Opera Hong Kong since 2013 and an Examiner and Independent Advisor to the Hong Kong Arts Development Council since 2010. Since 2015 she has been the first Honorary Artistic Director of the Singapore Lyric Opera.

Nancy was Head of Vocal Studies at Singapore Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts from 2003 to February 2010. Since March 2010, she has been the Head of Vocal Studies of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts.

In recognition of her achievements and dedication as a performer and in education, Nancy was elected an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music in 2014. In 2018 she was appointed as Professor of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts. In December 2023 she was awarded Commendation by the Culture, Sports, and Tourism Bureau of the Hong Kong SAR.



## **JONATHAN CHARLES TAY**



Singaporean tenor Jonathan Charles Tay is one of the leading opera singers to emerge from his home country in this generation. He is a graduate of the Manhattan School of Music, New York City, studying with Neil Rosenshein, and attained his Master of Music in Northwestern University, Chicago, IL. studying with Professor W. Stephen Smith.

Jonathan is also co-founder and co-artistic director of Singaporean Opera Company, The Opera People (TOP). His more recent performance highlights include Eisenstein in Strauss's *Die Fledermaus*, Beppe in *Pagliacci* and Don José in Bizet's *Carmen* with Singapore Lyric Opera and Beethoven's *Choral Fantasia* with Singapore Symphony Orchestra (SSO). With TOP, he performed *Der Zwerg* in *Dwarf* by Alexander Zemlinsky, Jaquino in Beethoven's *Fidelio*, Mozart's masterpiece *Idomeneo* in Singapore's first ever opera film, *Oronte* in Handel's *Alcina* and *Elvino* in Bellini's *La Sonnambula*. Other recent appearances include *Rodolfo* in *La Bohème* with Musician's Initiative and *Bertrando* in Rossini's *L'inganno felice* with Lirica Arts. Coming up, Jonathan will sing *Torquemada* with the SSO in Ravel's *L'heure Espagnole*. Jonathan's recent concert highlights include *Before Life and After* with Singapore International Festival of Arts, as well as Britten's *Serenade for Tenor and Horn* with Orchestra of the Music Makers.

Other credits include performances with Singapore Chinese Orchestra, L'arietta Productions, Braddell Heights Symphony Orchestra, NUS Symphony Orchestra, Richard Wagner Association (SG), The Arts Place, New Opera Singapore and Opera Viva. Jonathan's performances have garnered praise from OPERA magazine as "excellent and very lyrical".