

MP
20th

Malaysian
Philharmonic
Orchestra

OLA BOLA

MOVIE WITH LIVE MUSIC



"Music that Moves You"

**CONCERT PROGRAMME
2017/18 SEASON**



MALAYSIAN PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

The Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra (MPO) gave its inaugural performance at Dewan Filharmonik PETRONAS (DFP) on 17th August 1998. The MPO today comprises musicians from 24 countries, including 7 from Malaysia, a remarkable example of harmony among different cultures and nationalities.

A host of internationally-acclaimed musicians has worked with the MPO, including Lorin Maazel, Sir Neville Marriner, Yehudi Menuhin, Joshua Bell, Harry Connick Jr., José Carreras, Andrea Bocelli and Branford Marsalis, many of whom have praised the MPO for its fine musical qualities and vitality.

With each new season, the MPO continues to present a varied 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, contemporary and commissioned works.

The MPO regularly performs at major cities of Malaysia. Internationally, it has showcased its virtuosity to audiences in Singapore (1999, 2001 and 2005), Korea (2001), Australia (2004), China (2006), Taiwan (2007), Japan (2001 and 2009) and Vietnam (2013). Its Education and Outreach Programme, ENCOUNTER, reaches beyond the concert platform to develop musical awareness, appreciation and skills through dedicated activities that include instrumental lessons, workshops and school concerts. ENCOUNTER also presents memorable events in such diverse venues as orphanages, hospitals, rehabilitation centres and community centres.

The MPO's commitment to furthering musical interest in the nation led to the creation of the Malaysian Philharmonic Youth Orchestra (MPYO). It gave its inaugural concert at DFP on 25 August 2007, followed by a tour in Peninsular Malaysia. It has performed in Sabah and Sarawak (2008), Singapore (2009) and Brisbane, Australia (2012).

As it celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2018, the MPO remains steadfast in its mission to share the depth, power and beauty of great music.

The MPO's main benefactor is PETRONAS and its patron is Tun Dr. Siti Hasmah Haji Mohd Ali.



Fri 15 Sep 2017 at 8.30 pm
Sat 16 Sep 2017 at 8.30 pm

Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra
Jessica Cottis, conductor
Juwita Suwito, vocals
Stephanie Van Driesen, vocals
UCSI Chorale

PROGRAMME

'OlaBola'

Music composed by Onn San
Orchestrated by Isaac Chia & Onn San

Official Partner:



Co-Presenter:



The concert will last approximately 132 minutes including a 20-minute interval.

To ensure an enjoyable performance for all, the following are prohibited within the confines of the concert hall:
Smoking • Eating • Photography • Recording of performance • Talking during performance • Digital watch alarms •
Mobile phones and pager alarms.

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JESSICA COTTIS

conductor

Hailed in the UK music press as “one to watch”, Jessica Cottis possesses intellectual rigour, innate musicality and an easy authority; she is a charismatic figure on the podium who brings dynamism, intensity and clarity of vision to all performances.

Frequently in demand as guest conductor, highlights of recent seasons include performances with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, BBC Concert Orchestra and New Zealand Symphony Orchestra. Highlights of the season 2017/2018 include

BBC Proms with Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall, concerts with London Philharmonic Orchestra, Malmö and Gavle Symphony Orchestras and Manchester Camerata, among others.

Cottis international career was launched through close working relationships with mentors including Vladimir Ashkenazy, Charles Dutoit, and Donald Runnicles. From 2009 to 2011 she was the first Conducting Fellow at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and Assistant Conductor at the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, and from 2012 to 2014 Assistant Conductor of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, where she conducted over thirty concerts per year with the orchestra, being lauded in the Australian press as “one of the big hopes for change”.

Born in Australia, Cottis was awarded a first class honours degree in organ, piano and musicology from the Australian National University and won awards from the Royal Philharmonic Society and Royal College of Organists. A wrist injury subsequently halted her playing career and after reading Law, she began conducting in 2006, studying with Colin Metters and Sir Colin Davis at the Royal Academy of Music. Jessica was awarded the Academy’s top conducting prizes upon graduation and the same month was appointed to her positions at the BBC SSO and RCS, and also became The Manson Fellow in Composition at the Royal Academy of Music.

In 2014, Cottis was appointed Principal Conductor of the Glasgow New Music Expedition.



JUWITA SUWITO

vocals

Juwita Suwito is a vocal coach, singer and songwriter of four albums and multiple Anugerah Industri Muzik (AIM) nominations. She has been featured in regional television and movie soundtracks. Her studio recordings, including her latest hit single, *Belle of the Ball*, have had international airplay while some of her earlier songs were released in compilation albums featuring renowned international artists such as Eva Cassidy and A-Mei.

Suwito thrives on a down-to-earth relationship with her listeners, living out her passion to encourage young people to discover and realize their full potential. In 2011, as one of the founder directors of Four Forty Records, she initiated a two-year mentoring programme for aspiring musicians and vocalists in Sabah. In 2014, she also initiated VoxFest Malaysia, a platform for singers to come together and learn from practitioners in the music industry.

Songs & Stories, her latest project with storyteller and best-selling author Gina Yap Lai Yoong, is an initiative to discover inspiration in everyday people and places throughout Malaysia. Performance highlights include the Kota Kinabalu Jazz Festival, David Foster & Friends in Kuala Lumpur, TEDxKL and the AIM22 'Live' Extravaganza at the Kuala Lumpur's Hard Rock Café.

STEPHANIE VAN DRIESEN

vocals

With a voice described as "hauntingly beautiful" by the New Straits Times, award-winning Malaysian actor/singer Stephanie Van Driesen is best known for her musical theatre lead roles as Sally Bowles in PAN Productions' *Cabaret*, Betty in *The Secret Life of Nora* for which she won Kakiseni Award for Best Performance in a Supporting Role in 2012, and as Marilyn Monroe in her one-woman show *Marilyn & Me* (2015).

Her acting credits include Emma in Harold Pinter's *Betrayal* (2017), *Riwayat* (2016), Desdemona in *Othello* (2011), and Nicole in *Apocalips* (2011).



UCSI CHORALE

choir

Ian Lim Kean Seng, director



The UCSI University Chorale stands out as one of Malaysia's foremost vocal ensembles. Established in 2015, the Chorale has quickly developed a reputation at home and abroad, winning accolades at international choral festivals and competitions. Housed at UCSI University's Institute of Music, one of Malaysia's leading

music school in both the classical and contemporary programs, the choir consists of students selected from aforementioned programmes.

This ensemble has participated and won numerous awards at various international choir competitions in Taiwan, Pattaya, Bali, Vietnam and Thailand.

Versatility is a hallmark of this Chorale. Directed by Professor Ian Lim Kean Seng, who is widely acknowledged as the doyen of Malaysian chorus masters and voice teachers, the Chorale draws inspiration from a wide range of musical genres. Its repertoire extends from the European Renaissance to Malaysian folk and contemporary music, embracing music from an eclectic range of cultures, styles and provenances.

Tonight's performance marks its third collaboration with the MPO. Prior to this, it has performed with the MPO in Mahler's *Symphony No. 2* and Mozart's *Requiem* concerts.

SOPRANO

Chong Wan Shin
Chong Zhi Rui
Charity Goh Shi Chi
Hii Yi Qing
Michelle Kwan Yuh Chin
Sa Yinning
Siew Wan Ying
Tan Shu Zhen
Brenda Teh Boon Bee
Kimberly Tsen Ai Li
Wong Huan Yi
Jessandra Wong Lirn Xin
Yit Aik Lum
Emily Yong Jia Chyi
Yong Xin Nee

ALTO

Chong Chyn Thong
Chua Kai Tze
Kok Choy Foong
Lin Yi Ying
Qistina Alysha
Tasneem Bolhassan
Jessica Teh Ann Ling
Eunice Teu Jing Wei
Wong Kah Wei
Nichole Wong Ming Sze
Yeo Wan Lin
Yong Kai Yi

TENOR

Ku Gee Jie
Lee Yi Chen
Loo Yoong Yang
Lu Ye
Alvin Moo Sen Yuan
Anson Pang Jun Yan
Siaw Ree Cheng
Teo Lee On
Matthew Wong King Jer
Wong Sheng Yuan
Wong Soong Hong
Patrick Wong Tian Her
Yap Zheng Bin

BASS

Ang Yuen Wee
Brian Lasung
Chai Ming Yan
Charles Dan Zhi Jhet
Lim Tyng Hann
Loi Liang Hao
Jason Low Lik How
Richard Ng Li Zhe
Vincent Ng Yao De
Qayyum Zainal
Ting Sing Hau
Yong Wai Kit

PROGRAMME NOTES

Released in January 2016, *OlaBola* is one of the most popular and successful Malaysian films of recent times. Directed by Chiu Keng Guan, its timeless story of overcoming both personal and collective challenges to achieve success struck a chord with the film-going public. Inspired by true events, the movie reignited pride and patriotism in the Malaysian football team, especially among those who witnessed the drama and glory of 1980.

The Story



OlaBola opens in the present day when journalist Marianne is commissioned to research the Malaysia national football team of the 1980s. She is, however, unhappy with her life in Malaysia and has decided to migrate to England after finishing this project. As part of her research, she travels to Sabah to interview Eric Yong, a striker in the Malaysian national team.

The movie then flashbacks to the 1980s. The national football team is training for the Olympic Games qualifying tournament. Captain Chow Kwok Keong has been acting as team coach until Harry Mountain takes over, employing a new formation and switching Eric from reserve goalkeeper to striker. The team, however, struggles with the new formation and ends up losing friendly matches.

Chow, who disobeyed Harry's instructions on the pitch, takes responsibility for the team's poor performances and quits the team. As Eric and fellow striker Ahmad Ali quarrel over their positions in the team, goalkeeper Muthu Kumar faces a family crisis after his younger brothers are injured while helping their father. His father scolds him for wasting his time on football and Muthu ponders if he should quit and help his family instead.

Demoralised, the team faces imminent disintegration until Chow remembers his promise to lead the team to glory. He rejoins the team and, as they pull together through extensive practice and military training, they start winning again. During the final match against South Korea at Stadium Merdeka, Ali finds out that Malaysia will be boycotting the Olympics Games. He shares the news with the stunned team. Muthu, however, exhorts the players to continue to fight and win the match. United in purpose and taking pride in their efforts, the team heroically defeats the South Koreans 3-2 in a thrilling match.

The movie ends in the present day when Marianne manages to persuade Chow to appear on TV and share his story. She then changes her mind about migrating.

OlaBola is inspired by the true story of the Malaysian football team's efforts in reaching the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow. Some of the characters are based on members of the Malaysian football team including the then captain Soh Chin Aun, who also makes a cameo in the film.

The Music

OlaBola was nominated for 14 categories at the 28th Malaysia Film Festival including Best Original Score, which it won. The score was written by Onn San, who has worked on numerous short films, documentaries, commercials and feature films including *J Revolusi*, *Aku Haus Darahmu* and *Jarum Halus*. He recently scored and composed the theme song for a Malaysian Chinese film, *Shuttle Life*, which won three awards at the 20th Shanghai Film Festival, and worked on a TV series called *Anak Merdeka*. This year, he was the composer and music director for the 2017 Kuala Lumpur SEA Paralympic Games Opening and Closing Ceremonies at the Bukit Jalil National Stadium. He has also won four BOH Cameronian Arts Awards.



The music performed by the MPO tonight (which also includes passages that did not make it into the final version of the movie, as well as newly written music) is orchestrated by Onn San and Isaac Chia. Chia composes and arranges classical, pop, jazz and contemporary electronic music for orchestra, chamber ensemble, symphonic and marching band, choir and vocal ensemble, film and animations. He has worked with the MPO in the MPO Forumplus where his work *50%* and *Gambaran Tarian Singa* was premiered in 2009 and 2010 respectively. He is currently enrolled in the Conservatoire National de Région Pierre Barbizet, Marseille, and studies orchestration with Véronique Poltz.

Tonight's concert will feature a solo performance of *Arena Cahaya*, the movie's theme song. Written and originally performed by Zee Avi, this song was named Best Original Theme Song at the aforementioned Malaysia Film Festival and Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival in 2016. Two other songs from the movie will also be performed: *We Will Believe Again* (written by Onn San) and *We Are Heroes* (written by Michelle Lee).

Concert Notes by Christy Yoong

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Film directed by Chiu

Additional music by Alex San

'Arena Cahaya' composed by Zee Avi

'We Are Heroes' composed by Michelle Lee

'Inilah Barisan Kita' composed by Saiful Bahari

'We Will Believe Again' composed by Onn San

Additional solos sung by

Hii Yi Qing

Kok Choy Foong

Qistina Alysha

Jessica Teh Ann Ling

Lee Yi Chen

Matthew Wong King Jer

MALAYSIAN PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA



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Naohisa Furusawa

FIRST VIOLIN

Co-Concertmaster

Peter Daniš

Principal

Ming Goh

Co-Principal

Zhenzhen Liang

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Runa Baagöe

Maho Daniš

Miroslav Daniš

Evgeny Kaplan

Martijn Noomen

Sherwin Thia

Marcel Andriesii

Tan Ka Ming

Petia Atanasova

SECOND VIOLIN

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Timothy Peters

Assistant Principal

Luisa Hyams

Catalina Alvarez

Chia-Nan Hung

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Ionut Mazareanu

Yanbo Zhao

Ai Jin

Robert Kopelman

*Ikuko Takahashi

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Co-Principal

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Sun Yuan

Thian Aiwen

Fan Ran

*Christoven Tan

*Ida Kovács

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Mátyás Major

Gerald Davis

Julie Dessureault

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Sub-Principal

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Sub-Principal

*Jeffrey Missal

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Co-Principal

*Fernando Borja

BASS TROMBONE

Principal

Michael Becker

TUBA

Section Principal

*Daniel Honaker

TIMPANI

Section Principal

Matthew Thomas

PERCUSSION

Section Principal

Matthew

Prendergast

Sub-Principals

Joshua Vonderheide

*Kyle Ritenauer

DRUM KIT

*Matthew Smallcomb

HARP

Principal

Tan Keng Hong

PIANO/CELESTE

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Note: Sectional string players are rotated within their sections. *Extra musician.

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Ahmad Muriz Che Rose
Fadilah Kamal Francis

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MPYO
MALAYSIAN PHILHARMONIC YOUTH ORCHESTRA



MPYO & FRIENDS

Malaysian Philharmonic Youth Orchestra
Orkestra Radio Televisyen Malaysia
Ahmad Muriz Che Rose, conductor
Leonard Yeap, conductor
Adibah Noor, vocals
Jamal Abdillah, vocals
Harvey Malaihollo, vocals

SAT 7 OCT 2017 8:30PM
SUN 8 OCT 2017 8:30PM

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mpo.com.my

boxoffice@tjp.com.my

603 - 2331 7007



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