

The MPO returns on a high note

➤ Music returns to the Dewan Filharmonik PETRONAS with the all new Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra

JOIN the all-new Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra (MPO) as they embark on a new journey with varieties of exciting concerts slated for this March & April 2022 at Dewan Filharmonik PETRONAS (DFP), KLCC.

Concerts to thrill audiences

Setting the stage for another year of enthralling performances, witness the MPO showcase the orchestral wizardry of three famous composers in a concert themed *Señorita*, *Carmen* on Saturday, March 19 at 8.30pm. Tickets for the show are priced from RM94 to RM188.

Led by the MPO's Resident Conductor Gerard Salonga, the concert will feature Rossini's *La Gazza Ladra*, Ravel's *Ma mere l'Oye Suite*, and Bizet's *Carmen Suite No. 1 & 2*.

The popular Family Fun Day series will delight audiences young and old on Saturday, March 26 at 3pm under the baton of the MPO's Resident Conductor, Naohisa Furusawa.

Themed *Totoro Goes to The Carnival*, get ready for a fun-filled concert as the MPO performs Saint-Saëns' *Carnival of The Animals* and Hisaishi's *My Neighbour Totoro*.

Tickets for the fun, family-friendly performance are priced from RM47 to RM122.

Lastly, the month of April opens with the MPO and Gerard Salonga making a whirlwind musical journey around Latin America, inspired by Mexico, Brazil and Argentina.

Themed *A Bailar!*, the concerts will present the works of Elizondo's *Danzas Latinoamericano*, Marquez's *Danzon No. 2*, Copland's *El Salón México*, and three of Piazzolla's works namely *Oblivion*, *Tangazo*, and *Adios Nonino* on Friday, April 1 at 8.30pm.

Tickets are priced from RM94 to RM188. Don't miss out on these exciting MPO's offerings, only at DFP!

Staying safe

All concerts will be held with the best safety measure to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Some of the safety measures implemented are socially distanced seating, frequent sanitisation of all facilities (before and after the concert) and all guests are required to check-in



via the MySejahtera app before entering the DFP premises.

All safety operating procedures are made based on the guideline from Majlis Keselamatan Negara (MKN).

Donate to the MPO

The pandemic has dealt a blow to almost all forms of entertainment, and to performers themselves, and the MPO has not been immune to its effects.

While the MPO promises it will continue to strive to provide the best performances and diverse programming accessible to everyone, it is seeking additional funding to stay afloat during these challenging times.

A statement from the MPO to music lovers reads: "You have been our inspiration, motivating us through all of our

hard work, hours of practice, commitment and challenges at every level.

"All of our achievements are due to your love and support. Be the instruments that keep us alive."

Donations can be made to MPO now at mpo.com.my/donate.

Any contribution given will be channelled to further develop the local talents, to engage our audience with a diverse selection of music and performances that appeal to all, and to continue to inspire hope by bringing the love of music to everyone.

Visit www.mpo.com.my or check out the MPO social media platforms, Facebook and Instagram at (@malaysianphilharmonicorchestra) and YouTube for the latest updates.



Pieces of Her is a new Netflix thriller based on Karin Slaughter's novel of the same name. – **IMDB**

A daughter's quest to uncover a secret

NETFLIX'S *Pieces of Her* is based on a bestselling novel by Karin Slaughter. The eight-episode series is an effective thriller that's good enough to keep you mystified until the end – but ultimately not interesting enough to make you fall in love with the series.

Toni Collette plays Laura Oliver, a speech therapist in the small town of Belle Isle, Georgia, who moved there from New York with her daughter Andy (Bella Heathcote) to take care of her sick mother.

On Andy's 30th birthday, the two are celebrating at a diner when a shooting occurs. Laura steps in, revealing a different side which her daughter has never seen before. Media attention following the incident draws shady figures from Laura's past, forcing Andy to investigate.

The series then splits between Laura's younger days and the present, and Andy begins connecting the dots using the information she gets. The next few episodes are all about Andy's attempt to discover Laura's background, with a few twists and turns.

While I was totally gripped by the show's intense storyline the first few episodes, the show eventually flounders as the season progress. It all feels more complicated than it actually needs to be, because the destination that all of it leads to is pretty simple and straightforward.

As I completed the last episode, I was left with an empty feeling because the show was neither good nor bad. I would conclude it as a pleasant thriller, and it's the relationship between mother and daughter duo that is worth watching. However, I won't deny the obvious fact that *Pieces of Her* could have done much better, because it almost felt like the story is going in circles.

While they worked hard on the plot of the series, whether it actually reached audiences the way the showrunners intended to is something I'll let the viewers decide.

Pieces of Her is available to stream on Netflix. – **by Thashine Selvakumar**

Eurovision confirms Ukraine participation

THE organisers of the Eurovision Song Contest said Monday that Ukraine was confirmed to participate in this year's annual musical pageant in May.

Eurovision Executive Producer Simona Martorelli said the delegation from Ukraine had confirmed and sent in all required materials, even on time.

"This is absolutely admirable, given the situation," Martorelli said.

Ukraine's pick this year is the Kalush Orchestra, with the rap lullaby *Stefania*.

Sung to a mother, the song incorporates traditional Ukrainian music and includes the line: "I'll always find my way home even if all the roads are destroyed".

Martorelli added that the artistes would try to tape a "back-up video" required by all those invited to the contest in case they cannot participate live.

"Hopefully they will be able to make it," Martorelli said.

Eurovision's executive board decided on Feb 25 – the day after Russia invaded Ukraine – to



German winner Malik Harris shows his guitar with the lettering "Stand with Ukraine" as he performs his song *Rockstars* at the German preliminary round. – **AFP**

exclude Russia from this year's contest.

The flashy annual musical event, which has millions of viewers in Europe and even Australia, is scheduled for May 10-14 in

Turin.

In addition, organisers said this year's contest would focus on the theme of peace. – **ETX Studio**



➔ **CAST:** Toni Collette, Bella Heathcote, Jessica Barden
➔ **DIRECTOR:** Minkie Spiro

E-VALUE 7
ACTING 8
PLOT 6
Toni Collette and Bella Heathcote play a mother-daughter duo in a new Netflix thriller. – **CNN**