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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, 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.

Vivaldi's Four Seasons

Sat 8 Mar 2025, 8:00 pm Sun 9 Mar 2025, 3:00 pm

03 Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra05 Peter Daniš, leader & violin

PROGRAMME

Negaraku

MOZART	Symphony No. 25 24 mins
PÄRT	Fratres 12 mins

20-mins intermission

VIVALDI The Four Seasons 40 mins



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Peter Daniš

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Peter Daniš is Concertmaster of the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra (MPO). He has performed as Guest Concertmaster with the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra and the Orchestra Filarmonica de Minas Gerais, Guest Associate Concertmaster with the West Australian Symphony Orchestra and guest artist with the renowned Pavel Haas Quartet. He has also been recorded and broadcast as a soloist for Slovak Radio and the BBC.

Born in Slovakia, Daniš commenced his musical education with his mother, and at an early age, won several prizes in national competitions. He went on to win awards at the Kocian International Violin Competition and the International Music Competition in Ueda, Japan. His main musical influences were Professor Jozef Kopelman at the Academy of Music in Bratislava and Dr. Eduard Schmieder at SMU in Dallas, where he later became a teaching assistant. He also completed his study with Igor Bezrodny, Victor Lieberman, Eric Friedman and Herman Krebbers.

Early on in his musical life, Daniš developed a keen interest in chamber music and chamber orchestras, touring with the Bratislava Chamber Soloists, Capella Istropolitana, European Soloists Luxembourg and I Palpiti Chamber Orchestra, USA. With the Danis String Quartet and a chamber orchestra, he has performed frequently in the MPO Chamber Music Series. He has also toured throughout Malaysia, China and Japan with the MPO.

PROGRAMME NOTES

"Modern music" has always been with us, ever since the first caveman bawled out something resembling a song. Mozart too wrote "modern" music (modern for his time). His Symphony No. 25 was called "too modern" by his employer in Salzburg. Would you have agreed in 1773? Judge for yourself! Arvo Pärt's *Fratres* might be considered "modern" to twenty-first century ears, but "modern" need not necessarily mean difficult to appreciate. Again, hear for yourself. But there is nothing "modern" or controversial about Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* to our ears today. In fact, this may be the most recorded piece of all time, with hundreds of recordings and thousands of live performances around the globe produced since this "old" music was re-discovered in the mid-twentieth century.

WOLFGANG AMADÈ MOZART (1756-1791) Symphony No. 25 in G minor, K. 183 (1773)

- I. Allegro con brio
- II. Andante
- III. Menuetto
- **IV. Allegro**

THE BACKGROUND



britannica.com

"A declaration of war against music as his patron favoured it," was how scholar Karl Geiringer described Mozart's Symphony No. 25 in G minor. Almost entirely absent are the elegance and pretty grace of accepted *rococo* spirit. Pathos, passion, bitterness and a feeling of restless agitation pervade this music, one of only three symphonies in a minor key by Mozart out of a canon of about fifty. The key is significant: Mozart reserved G minor for his most personal, intense, emotion-charged scores: the String Quintet K. 516, the Piano Quartet K. 478, Pamina's aria "Ach, ich fühl's" from *The Magic Flute*, and the aforementioned symphonies. Mozart was only seventeen at the time of writing the "Little" G minor (1773),

but he was already chafing at the restrictive measures imposed on musical taste by his Salzburg employer, the Archbishop Colloredo, who inevitably dismissed this symphony as "too modern."

THE MUSIC

The symphony opens with a wild and stormy theme played over agitated syncopations. The music breathes a spirit of revolt and impatience, contrasting with the gentle, more lyrical and dance-like second theme in B-flat major. The second movement, though in the major mode, conveys a feeling of pathos and resignation. Muted violins produce a subdued, veiled quality; plaintive sighs are frequently suggested by the three-note falling motif. The *Menuetto* too is heavier, darker, more serious than the kind of minuet Mozart usually wrote. The central Trio section, scored for oboes, bassoons and horns, brings a moment of childlike innocence and simplicity far removed from the cruel world of reality. The final movement returns to the brilliant ferocity of the first. Again, there is a contrasting second theme in B-flat major, which throws into relief the sense of urgency and bitter struggle that drive the symphony to its vigourous conclusion.

ARVO PÄRT (b. 1935) Fratres (1977)

THE BACKGROUND



Estonian-born Arvo Pärt is one of the most visible representatives of a musical style that stresses simple materials, pure diatonic harmony, an austere mood, a sense of timelessness ,and haunting intensity. In the mid 1970s Pärt turned to a new style for which he is renowned today, and which has earned the moniker "Holy Minimalism." This style, or technique, incorporates two lines of music simultaneously to the same rhythm, one revolving around the notes of a scale, the other around a triad. Pärt calls this technique tintinnabuli (the plural of tintinnabulum, Latin for "bells"). "Music as a form of prayer," a "constant stillness," and "oriental spirituality" are additional terms often used to describe Pärt's music. These qualities are all much in evidence in Fratres (brothers, or brethren), a family of compositions numbering well over a dozen based on the same original score of 1977 for early-music ensemble, each arranged for a different combination of instruments.

THE MUSIC

Over a drone bass, a hymnlike subject consisting of slowly shifting chords is heard nine times in succession, each repetition pitched a third lower than its predecessor, and each separated by the ritualistic knocking of muted bass drum and claves. Every chord contains one of the three notes of the A-minor triad (A, C or E) in a middle voice, conferring the *tintinnabuli* effect so vital to Pärt's creative process.

ANTONIO VIVALDI (1678-1741) *La Quattro stagioni (The Four Seasons)*, Op. 8, Nos. 1-4 (c.1725)

SPRING : Allegro Largo Allegro

SUMMER: Allegro non molto Adagio Presto

AUTUMN : Allegro: Songs and Dances of the Country Folk Adagio molto: The Drunkard Asleep Allegro: The Hunt

WINTER : Allegro non molto Largo: The Hearth Allegro

THE BACKGROUND



The Four Seasons represents one of the most famous examples of "programme music" (music specifically intended to depict events, characters, places, objects, moods, etc.). Programme music had been written before *The Four Seasons* (which appeared during the 1720s), of course, especially in the form of battle music and bird calls. However, *The Four Seasons* stands out not only as some of the most graphically descriptive music ever written, but historically as the first music of this type to enter the popular repertory.

The Four Seasons are really four examples of the concerto grosso, a popular Baroque genre in which a soloist or small group (concertino) is contrasted with the larger forces (*ripieno*) – usually a string ensemble plus harpsichord or other keyboard instrument. The formal layout of these works is fairly consistent: in the two outer movements, varying episodes from the concertino are interspersed with a full or partial return of the opening material played by the *ripieno*; the central

slow movement usually consists of a long-breathed, lyrical line for the featured soloists. Each of Vivaldi's "seasons" is portrayed as a short, three-movement work of about ten minutes' duration featuring solo violin, and is laid out in the standard fast-slow-fast format common to the age. Superimposed on the formal design of these three-movement structures is a host of musical simulations of bird calls, atmospheric conditions, animal cries, sounds of nature (various types of wind, thunder, rain, the murmuring of swaying grass, babbling brooks), peasant dances, and even an attempt to describe a man walking on ice.

THE MUSIC

SPRING:

- I. Spring arrives, greeted by happy birds, bubbling brooks and gentle breezes.
- II. A goatherd lies asleep in the flowery meadow amidst murmuring grasses, his dog beside him.
- III. Nymphs and shepherds celebrate the brilliance of a new-found spring in a peasant dance, accompanied by bagpipes.

SUMMER:

- I. Man and beast languish beneath the scorching sun. A shepherd senses an approaching storm.
- II. The shepherd is further troubled by the rumblings of distant thunder, as well as by angry insects.
- III.- A full-blown storm movement, replete with graphic pictorial devices to represent thunder, lightning, hail and sheets of wind-driven rain.

AUTUMN:

- I. A merry celebration of the harvest in song and dance, leading to a drunken stupor.
- II. Cool breezes waft over the peasants in their blissful, carefree slumber after the revelry.
- III. A hunting scene.

WINTER:

- I. Icy sound effects, shivering from the cold, the chattering of teeth, the stamping of feet to keep warm, and the howling of the frozen wind are all portrayed in this realistic mood piece.
- II. A scene of quiet contentment before the warm fireplace.
- III. Walking cautiously on the ice, then running recklessly and falling repeatedly; a brief, welcome return of the summer wind; ferocious raging winter winds resume with a vengeance, offering a unique entertainment for the time of year.

ABOUT THE WRITER

Formerly a horn player in the Montreal Symphony, Robert Markow has been writing programme notes for more than forty years for musical organizations in Canada, the USA, Japan, Taiwan, Malaysia and Singapore. He taught at Montreal's McGill University for many years, and as a Wagner specialist, has lectured at the Bayreuth Festival and the Wagner Society of New York. He writes regularly for the journals *Fanfare, Der neue Merker (Vienna), The Strad, Strings, Opera* (UK), and the website *classicalvoiceamerica. org.* Extra-musical interests include travel, film, literature and decadent desserts.

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Tan Ka Ming Wong Lu Ee Sherwin Thia

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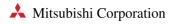
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Symphony of Memories: Nostalgic Hong Kong Classics

MAR SAT 8:00PM

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Programme to include: 上海滩: 主题曲 The Bund: Main Theme 上海滩: 万般情 The Bund: Myriad Emotions 萬水千山總是情 Love and Passion 海閣天空 Boundless Oceans, Vast Skies 一生所愛 Love In A Lifetime 世间始终你好 You Are The Best In The World 铁血丹心 Iron Blood and Loyal Heart

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Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra Gerard Salonga, conductor Datuk Syafinaz Selamat, vocals

ROSSINI CHOPIN GOUNOD MOZART LISZT

The Barber of Seville: Overture Nocturne No. 1 (arr. Mouton) Romeo and Juliet: Juliet's Waltz The Magic Flute Queen of the Night Aria Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2 (arr. Mueller-Berghaus) **BEETHOVEN** Symphony No. 7

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THE MUSIC OF PINK FLOY

12 APR 2025 SAT 8:00PM

PERFORMANCE AT DEWAN FILHARMONIK PETRONAS PETRONAS TWIN TOWERS Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra Brent Havens, conductor Randy Jackson, vocals

After performing the music of renowned groups such as ABBA and The Beatles, the MPO continues its classical pop music exploration with a concert to relive the sounds of renowned British rock group Pink Floyd. Amplified by a full rock band and accompanied by Randy Jackson's fabulous vocals, creator Brent Havens guest conducts the MPO as they capture Pink Floyd's ethereal flow of music and effects while churning out new musical colours. Prepare to be transported back to the psychedelic era as we celebrate the iconic music including *Money, Learning to Fly, Comfortably Numb* and selections from *The Wall album*.

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Pops Vocals





CHARLES YANG: GLASS VIOLIN CONCERTO



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