

Ensemble Virama presents: "Traversing the Baroque"

**TRAVERSING
THE BAROQUE**
Music by Handel, Purcell and Haydn

Soloists:
Loo Bang Hean, Piano

Howard Ng, Oboe

Ang Mei Foong, Soprano

Andrew Filmer,
Guest Leader
Ensemble Virama

3pm / 8pm
Sat / 12 / March / 16
Tickets: RM50
Deciso, Bandar Sri Damansara
(Waze: Thirty Seconds Cafe/Deciso)

Ticketing: 012-241 2532 / 017-382 8637
Enquiries: 016-870 2387

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"Traversing the Baroque" will celebrate the music of the 17th and 18th centuries. The first half of the program explores the eclectic output of two composers: George Frideric Handel and Henry Purcell, with the former representing a majority. Renowned soprano Ang Mei Foong performs a selection of Arias by Handel, and oboist Howard Ng performs the same composer's rarely heard Oboe Concerto in G Minor. The second half of the program features one of the country's most respected pianists, Loo Bang Hean, performing Joseph Haydn's youthful D Major Piano Concerto. The concert will be lead by Dr. Andrew Filmer, who will guide the audience with interesting anecdotes about the music.

Details:

Date & Time : 3pm / 8pm, Sat, 12th March 2016
Venue : Deciso, Bandar Sri Damansara
Tickets : RM50
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Facebook : Virama - Malaysia

Program

G.F. Handel

"Arrival of the Queen of Sheba" Sinfonia from Solomon HWV67

Selection of Arias:

1. "Let the bright Seraphim" from Samson HWV57
2. "But oh! What art can teach" from Ode for St. Cecilia's Day HWV76
3. "Ah! Spietato" from Amadigi di Gaula HWV11
4. "Lascio Ch'io Pianga" from Almira HWV1

Oboe Concerto in G minor HWV287

H. Purcell

Chaconne Z.730

J. Haydn

Piano Concerto in D Major Hob.XVIII:11

Musician

Soloists:

Piano - Loo Bang Hean

Soprano - Ang Mei Foong

Oboe - Howard Ng

Ensemble Virama:

Violin - Ooi Khai Ern

Violin - Mabel Wong

Viola - Angela Lou

Bass - Eugenia Lou

Oboe - Yong How Keen

Clarinet - Lawrence Fong

Horn - Heng Zhi Wen

Direction - Andrew Filmer

Profile

Ensemble Virama



“Virama is the original Sanskrit version of the Malay word 'Irama', meaning rhythm. We wanted a vibrant and beautiful word that would describe our Malaysian roots while being musically relevant in an international context.”

Howard Ng, Leader, Ensemble Virama

For four weeks a year, Malaysian musicians gather to form Ensemble Virama, a musical group dedicated to presenting classical music young and old. Performing chamber music is the core of the ensemble’s artistic endeavours, with a flexible size of two to twenty. With a vested interest in building a future audience, educational workshops are presented to students of all ages, focusing on the musical experience without sacrificing artistic integrity. In 2015, the ensemble presented it’s debut concert calendar with high acclaim, performing at the Malaysian Youth Music Festival and Deciso, lecturing at the UCSI University, as well as presenting an education program at the Alice Smith International School.

Loo Bang Hean, Piano



Born in Ipoh, Malaysia, Bang Hean studied with Serena Chow and Rickie Oui before being awarded a four-year scholarship by the examination board, ABRSM to study at the Royal College of Music (RCM), London. His teachers in England included Yonty Solomon, John Blakely and Dennis Lee. After graduating with first class from RCM he received awards from the Anthony Saltmarsh Prize and the Countess of Munster Musical Trust to undergo postgraduate studies with the Hungarian teacher Ilonka Deckers in Milan, Italy.

Back in Malaysia since 1995, Bang Hean regularly appears in solo recitals, chamber concerts as well as concerto performances with various local orchestras. He has appeared in most major concert venues in Malaysia. An active chamber musician, he performs frequently with various instrumentalists including members of the National Symphony Orchestra and the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra. He has also performed abroad, including England, Italy, Brunei, Singapore, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Cambodia and Korea. He is also very much involved in music education, being an adjunct lecturer at University College Sedaya International (UCSI) as well as a frequent presenter at seminars around this region.

Ang Mei Foong, Soprano



Mei Foong is an award winning alumni of the National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU), the Conservatorio di Musica Santa Cecilia, and the University of Melbourne. As an active recitalist, Mei Foong has given several well received solo recitals in Kuala Lumpur, Taiwan, Macau, Rome and Melbourne. Her repertoire is varied, consisting of both traditional and modern repertoire. Mei Foong's love to contemporary music always led her to work closely with the contemporary composers. She is actively involved in the contemporary music industry and has given world premiers to the vocal works of Malaysian composers Wong Chee Yean, Wong Chee Wei, Neo Hup Hiang and Yeo Chow Shern.

In 2013, she ventured into bold new repertoire and embarked on a new phase in her career, where she made her Malaysia opera debut playing the title role in Bizet's opera "Carmen" with the EST opera company, which have been received warmly in Kuala Lumpur. Her recent theatrical performances included "the mother" (in Menotti's Amahl and the Night Visitors) with the EST opera company, "Princess Yashodhara" (in Imee Ooi's Siddhartha the Musical) with Asia Musical Productions and the roles "Carmen" and "Mercedes" (in Bizet's Carmen) with the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra.

Education has always been an important part of Mei Foong's career, she is now a full time lecturer at the Music Department in University Putra Malaysia (UPM). Apart from being an active performer, she is also an active researcher in the field of vocal health and rehab.

Howard Ng, Oboe



Oboist Howard Ng is recognised for his musicianship as well as his entrepreneurship. An award recipient of the 2013 DIKN-Kaki Seni apprenticeship program, Howard has performed for audiences in fourteen countries on three continents. These included work with ensembles such as the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra, the Singapore Symphony Orchestra, the Asian Youth Orchestra, and many other notable ensembles in the region. With the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra, Howard has appeared as a soloist, chamber musician, and continues to serve as a substitute member for the orchestra. He is currently principal oboe of the newly founded Selangor Symphony Orchestra.

From 2011-2013, Howard was principal oboist of the Malaysian National Symphony Orchestra, where he spear headed the revival of the NSO Wind Ensemble. Since leaving the orchestra, Howard has been dedicating his time towards chamber music and the professional development of Malaysian musicians. He created the Malaysian ABRSM Wind Music Prize, a competition and platform for Malaysian wind players, now running in its 3rd edition. In music education, he continues to serve as a faculty member of the Silpakorn Summer Music School in Thailand. He also conducts occasionally, having guest conducted the KLPAC Symphonic Band and most recently, the 10th Anniversary Concert of the High Winds Ensemble. Howard is a graduate of the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, National University of Singapore.

Andrew Filmer, Guest Leader



Diversity is a hallmark of Dr. Andrew Filmer's career, with interests and expertise in viola performance and musicology. In addition to performing as a soloist, chamber musician and in orchestras, he was a member of the New Zealand jazz band The Troubles. He has been published extensively across North America, Europe and Australasia, and has presented research and lectures at conferences and universities in Europe, Australia, and Singapore. He is the first non-American editor for the Journal of the American Viola Society.

Andrew holds a PhD from the University of Otago and a master's degree in viola performance from Indiana University, both obtained on full scholarships. Andrew is currently a Senior Lecturer at Universiti Putra Malaysia; Consultant to the Australian and New Zealand Viola Society; and serves as Advisor to both Musica Sinfonietta Penang and the Arioso Sinfonia. In what little free time he has, he enjoys science fiction, and discussions on American constitutional law.