



kids'
philharmonic@sg

**A Showcase of
Virtuosity and Brilliance**

PRESTISSIMO!

**Sunday, 11 January 2026
Esplanade Recital Studio**

With the Elite Soloists Ensemble
& KPO String Virtuosi

PRESTISSIMO!

FRANZ SCHUBERT, RAMIN DJAWADI

Erlkoing x Game of Thrones Theme, Arr. Layers Classic

3 Beats in a Pod

BOHUSLAV MARTINU

3 Madrigals for Violin & Viola, I: Poco Allegro - Poco Vivo

Andrei Slobodyanuk, Violin | Kaden Khew, Viola

EDVARD GRIEG

Holberg Suite, Op.40

KPO String Virtuosi | Koh Kaijie, Conductor

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

Concerto for Violin and Oboe in C Minor, BWV 1060R, I: Allegro

Alpheus Tan, Violin | Hugues Malphettes, Oboe | KPO Virtuosi

HENRYK WIENIAWSKI

Violin Concerto No. 2 in D Minor, I: Allegro Moderato

Cathy Chen, Violin | Elite Soloists Ensemble

INTERMISSION [15']

PRESTISSIMO!

LOW PENG GUAN

Romance in F (*World Premiere*)

Low Peng Guan, Violin | Elite Soloists Ensemble

EDOUARD LALO

Symphonie Espagnole, I: Allegro non Troppo

Giselle Ang, Violin | Elite Soloists Ensemble

EDWARD ELGAR

Cello Concerto No. 1 in E Minor, I: Adagio - Moderato

Kimberly Tang, Cello | Elite Soloists Ensemble

FELIX MENDELSSOHN

Violin Concerto No.2 in E Minor, I: Allegro Molto Appassionato

Low Peng Yang, Violin | Elite Soloists Ensemble



Romance in F

A Romance is a short lyrical and expressive piece, often following a theme and variations form. Drawing influences from both classical music and movie music, Romance in F is my take on the classical Romance form blended with a new age, movie – like flavour. My inspirations ranged from classical romances such as Beethoven's Romance in F, to more "cinematic" pieces such as Korngold violin concerto (particularly the second movement), to movie soundtracks such as Schindler's List.

Programme notes by composer Low Peng Guan



Elite Soloists Ensemble

The Elite Soloists Ensemble brings together some of Singapore's most accomplished young musicians — members of the Singapore National Youth Orchestra, prize-winners of the National Violin and Piano Competition, and multiple international award recipients. Each musician in the ensemble has distinguished themselves through exceptional artistry, technical mastery, and a commitment to musical excellence.

As a collective, the ensemble offers a unique balance of individuality and collaboration. Members frequently perform as soloists, commanding the stage with virtuosic performances, while also stepping into the role of collaborators to support fellow soloists and ensemble partners. This versatility reflects both their maturity as artists and their dedication to the shared pursuit of music-making at the highest level.

Dynamic and inspiring, the Elite Soloists Ensemble embodies the next generation of leading performers in Singapore's classical music scene. Their performances showcase not only the brilliance of rising soloists, but also the power of unity — young musicians coming together to create performances of depth, energy, and refinement that resonate with audiences locally and internationally.



KPO String Virtuosi

KPO String Virtuosi is a dedicated chamber ensemble of The Kids' Philharmonic Orchestra Singapore, showcasing some of the orchestra's most gifted young string players, with members as young as seven years old. Despite their youth, these musicians demonstrate remarkable artistry and technical ability, performing with maturity well beyond their years.

The ensemble has taken the stage at renowned venues including the Victoria Concert Hall, where they have captivated audiences with their refined ensemble playing and expressive musicality. Beyond their independent performances, the KPO String Virtuosi have also collaborated with distinguished soloists, further honing their craft and broadening their artistic experiences.

With a repertoire spanning both classical masterpieces and contemporary works, the KPO String Virtuosi continue to develop as a dynamic and inspiring chamber group, carrying forward the orchestra's mission to nurture the next generation of exceptional musicians.



Koh Kai Jie

KPO Principal Conductor

An emerging Singaporean conductor and pianist, Koh Kai Jie is the Principal Conductor of Kids' philharmonic@sg. His performances as conductor have received positive acclaim on numerous occasions. In 2019, His performance of the Beethoven Coriolan Overture with a chamber orchestra comprising Yong Siew Toh (YST) Conservatory musicians was lauded by music reviewer Dr Marc Rochester, who was "deeply impressed with both the quality of playing [he] drew from the orchestra and [his] insightful interpretation". Most recently in 2023, Kai Jie's performance with the Moravian Philharmonic Olomouc "stood out for his energy".

A graduate of the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, Kai Jie worked closely with various YST ensembles, having conducted the YST Conservatory Orchestra and OpusNovus in concert on numerous occasions. In March 2023, he served as Music Director to a musical production of The Fantasticks staged by the conservatory voice department. Having a keen interest in the performance and interpretation of local new music, Kai Jie also conducted numerous new works by Singaporean composers in concert. Most notably, he conducted Chen Zhangyi's chamber opera Kampung Spirit as part of the YST Voyage Festival in 2022.

An accomplished pianist, Kai Jie also attained the first prize in the YST Conservatory Concerto Competition (Piano Category) in 2020, as well as the second prizes in the National Piano and Violin Competition (Senior Category) and the Singapore Yamaha Piano Competition (Open Category) in 2013. In 2022, Kai Jie performed as piano soloist with a chamber orchestra comprising YST musicians, conducting the orchestra from the piano in the Mozart Piano Concerto No. 17. Kai Jie is also an avid collaborator on the piano, having served as rehearsal pianist for numerous productions, most recently in Haydn's Die Schöpfung performed by the YST Orchestral Institute in April 2023.

At YST Conservatory, Kai Jie attained degrees in conducting and piano, studying with conductor Jason Lai and pianist Albert Tiu. In addition, he has also received guidance in masterclasses from prominent conductors Jukka-Pekka Saraste, Tomáš Netopil, Andrew Litton, Otto Tausk, Joshua Tan, Douglas Bostock, Jac van Steen and Colin Metters, working with numerous professional orchestras and ensembles, including the Singapore Symphony Orchestra, Moravian Philharmonic Olomouc and the Singapore Armed Forces Central Band.



Andrei Slobodyanyuk

Violin

Andrei was born in Singapore. The very young boy was exposed to classical music from day one; as a result, he picked up the violin by himself at three years old. Andrei's first public performance with the orchestra at the age of five was a concerto by O. Rieding. He took part in concerts in London (Royal Albert Hall, UK), Vienna, Salzburg (Mozarteum, Austria), People's House in Celje (Slovenia), Paris, and Kuala Lumpur.

Andrei is a laureate and prize winner of many international music competitions: Oscar Rieding Competition in Violin and Composition (Slovenia), Miron Polyakin (Ukraine), Janko Muzykant (Poland), Intercordes (Paris), AAF, SRIMF, Golden Lion Awards, Happy Music Festival (Singapore), EuroAsia (Malaysia), and Artur Grumiaux (Belgium). Andrei received a special prize for Best Baroque Concerto in Piccolo Violino Magico 2023 in Italy. He was awarded the Student Grant in the Andrea Postacchini International Violin Competition in 2024.

Andrei plays a few other instruments, such as the piano, viola, erhu, and recorder. He is an active participant in different ensemble groups.

This year, Andrei was one of the soloists in the Prodigious Concert at VCH with Resound Collective in May 2025. He joined the Singapore Chamber Music Festival in August 2025 with the Fantasia Quartet. Andrei loves to improvise and compose his own tunes for string instruments and piano.

Andrei is studying at the Mandeville Conservatory of Music under Ms. Natalia Kurganova.



Kaden Khew

Viola

Kaden's musical journey began at 3.5 years old when he first picked up violin. He achieved a high distinction in ABRSM Grade 8 violin exam when he was 7 years old. Thereafter, Kaden picked up viola as his second instrument, performing both as a soloist and as a chamber musician and taking part in events such as the Singapore Chamber Music Festival with his quartet.

At the age of 9, he achieved a distinction for his Trinity LTCL violin performance diploma. He continues to pursue his passion for ensemble playing as one of the youngest members of the Singapore National Youth Orchestra. During his stint in the Youth Sinfonia, he was selected to be concertmaster. He was the youngest soloist (Viola) at Prodigious II concert (2025) organized by Resound Collective and principal violist of the SG60 Wolfgang Violin Studio charity concert, helmed by Aleskey Igudesman, where President Tharman was the guest of honour.

Kaden won First Prize and Exceptional Young Talent Special Prize (Violin & Viola) in New York Golden Classical Music Awards and 44th Salzburg Grand Prize Virtuoso Competition. He was First Prize winner (Violin) in Beethoven Young Musician Competition and Bach International Music Competition where he was also awarded Bach Outstanding Technique Special Award. He won First Prize (Viola) in the International Mozart Competition Vienna and Gold prize (Viola) in the Osaka International Music Competition. He was recently awarded second prize in the Violin Junior category of the National Piano and Violin Competition 2025.



Cathy Chen

Violin

Cathy began studying violin at the age of five at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts School of Young Talents under Ms. Ye Lin. Passionate about music, she has actively participated in numerous national and international competitions and achieved outstanding results.

Cathy's awards and achievements include securing Third Prize (Category A) at the 15th Arthur Grumiaux International Violin Competition (2023), Second Prize (Violin Junior) at the Singapore National Piano and Violin Competition (2023), and First Prize at the Christopher & Rosy Ho Music Competition (2023). She went on to receive First Prize (Violin Category A) at the 2025 Hengqin International Mozart Competition for Young Musicians (2025), as well as First Prize (Violin Intermediate Category) at the National Piano & Violin Competition (2025).

Cathy has collaborated with several orchestras as a soloist, including performances with the Accademia d'Archi Arrigoni in Italy during the Piccolo Violino Magico International Competition, and the Salzburg Chamber Soloists in the final round of the Hengqin Mozart Competition. She has also performed with the Singapore Youth Philharmonic Orchestra (SYPO) at the Esplanade Concourse.

Apart from performing as a soloist, Cathy is also an active orchestral musician. She joined SYPO in 2024 and was later admitted to the Singapore National Youth Orchestra (SNYO), continuing her musical journey with great enthusiasm.

Cathy has also performed as a soloist at the Istana and the atrium of Victoria Concert Hall. Her dream is to become a violin soloist and share the beauty of classical music with a wider audience.



Low Peng Guan Violin

Low Peng Guan is a JC student at Raffles Institution, where he is enrolled in the Music Elective Programme. Peng Guan began violin lessons at the age of 3, and he is a student of Mr Loh Jun Hong.

Most recently, Peng Guan won Joint Second Prize in the 2025 National Piano and Violin Competition Artist Category, where he performed a concerto with the NPVC Orchestra. He has won multiple other awards, notably 1st prize for the Senior category of the National Piano and Violin Competition in 2023, and had the opportunity to perform in the Prize Winner's concert. Other awards include 3rd prize for the Intermediate Category of the NPVC in 2021, multiple Gold (highest) awards for Singapore Raffles Music festival, and the Platinum award for the 8th Singapore Performers Festival in 2024.

Peng Guan has performed as soloist with Singapore Symphony Orchestra for the community concerts at several venues including Victoria Concert Hall and Botanic Gardens. Under the sponsorship of National Arts Council, he participated in the Kirishima International Music Festival in 2024, and attended master classes with Professor Sergej Krylov.

In addition to performing, Peng Guan has a strong passion in composing, especially orchestra music. Some of his compositions are featured on the MEP YouTube page. He has performed his compositions at the VCH Atrium for the Light to Night Festival in 2023 and 2025. He looks forward to opportunities to perform his own compositions.



Giselle Ang

Violin

Giselle is a 13-year-old violinist whose musical journey began at a very young age, when her parents noticed her natural talent and interest in music. At the age of four, she was accepted into the School of Young Talents at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA), where she received a comprehensive and well-rounded musical education that nurtured both her technique and artistic expression. She currently studies under acclaimed violinist Loh Jun Hong, whose mentorship continues to inspire her growth. Giselle is also a member of the Singapore National Youth Sinfonia, where she enjoys the collaboration of orchestral music.

Her achievements include being a semi-finalist at the 2025 National Piano and Violin Competition and a quarter-finalist in 2023, as well as receiving international awards such as First Prize at the New York International Music Competition, First Prize at the GSF Singapore Festival, First Place at the King's Peak International Music Competition, First Place at the American Protégé International Piano & Strings Competition, and First Prize with an Exceptional Young Talent Special Prize at the Golden Classical Music Award. She also earned Second Prize at the NOMEA Competition, along with multiple top honours including First Prize at the Vienna Virtuoso Competition, First Prize at String Avenue International, and the Gold Prize and Expressive Performance Special Prize at London Young Musician, as well as the Special Prize at the Singapore Violin Festival. She attained Distinction in ABRSM Grade 8 Violin and Grade 5 Theory at the age of nine.

Giselle continues to broaden her musical experiences through masterclasses, ensemble work, and orchestral projects, always striving to grow as an artist who performs with passion and dedication.



Kimberly Tang

Cello

Kimberly Tang is a dedicated cellist who began her musical journey at the age of seven. From her very first lesson, she has studied exclusively under Wang Yan, cellist of the Singapore Symphony Orchestra, whose long-term mentorship has shaped her musical growth and artistry.

With a love for performing, Kimberly is recognised as a talented, sensitive, and expressive musician, admired for her nuanced tone and musical sincerity. She has received numerous prizes at competitions and festivals, including Gold in the Best Classical Musicians Awards, a Gold Award at the Raffles International Music Festival (judged by panelist Qin Li Wei), First Prizes in the UK International Competition and Vivaldi International Music Competition, and Third Prize at the Qingdao International Cello Festival.

Constantly striving to deepen her artistry, Kimberly seeks to share her passion for music and the emotional depth of the cello with audiences everywhere.



Low Peng Yang Violin

Low Peng Yang started learning the violin at the age of 3, and he is a student of Mr Loh Jun Hong. He loves music and performing. In 2025, he had the opportunity to perform as soloist in the second concert of re:Sound Collective's Prodigious series, and also performed a concerto as soloist with the Elite soloist ensemble.

Peng Yang has won prizes at competitions and festivals. Most notably, 1st Prize at the 2025 National Piano and Violin Competition (NPVC) Senior Category, and 2nd prize at the 2023 National Piano and Violin Competition) Intermediate category, and 3rd prize at the 2019 NPVC Junior category. Other achievements including Gold (highest) awards for Singapore Raffles Music festival in 2019 (Junior A) and 2023 (Youth), and the Platinum award for the 8th Singapore Performers Festival in 2024.

Peng Yang is currently a secondary school student at Raffles Institution (RI), where he is enrolled in the Music Elective Programme. He is the concert master of RI Strings Ensemble, which had the opportunity to perform in Hong Kong, and also achieved the Distinction award at 2025 Singapore Youth Festival (SYF). Peng Yang likes to play the piano in his spare time, and he has achieved Distinction for his ABRSM Grade 8 practical exam.

KPO Soloists



Alpheus Tan

Violin



**Hugues
Malphettes**

Oboe



3Bip

Piano Trio

Alpheus Tan 11yo,
Madeline Grace Sim 7yo,
Sungjoo Kim 10yo

The Orchestra

kids' philharmonic@sg

KPO String Virtuosi

Violins

Siew Xuan Ying (*Concertmistress*)
Alpheus Tan
Andy Chao
Athena Zhou
Chan Ying Ting
Emmy Nguyen
Heiley Yam
Kieran Wee
Lizzy Gao
Richard Zhu
Tara Nadyne
Valerie Ta
Zann Lee
Zeldyr Tan

Violas

Chang Zi Yi*
Pearl Ng*

Double Bass

Lee Siyuan #
Ian Ng

Cellos

Madeline Grace Sim
Ina Ng

Elite Soloists Ensemble

Violins

Low Peng Guan (*Concertmaster*)
Andrei Slobodyanyuk (*Principal*)
Cathy Chen
Giselle Ang
John Foo
Jesper Tai
Lizzy Gao
Low Peng Yang
Samuel Soekarno
Siew Xuan Ying
Tara Nadyne

Violas

Chang Zi Yi (*Principal*)
Kaden Khew
Pearl Ng

Cellos

Kimberly Tang (*Principal*)
Ephraim Tan
Lloyd Loh
Madeline Grace Sim

Double Bass

Lee Siyuan

Flute

Ryan Cheu

Oboe

Hugues Malphettes

Clarinet

Ho Swee Tze

Bassoon

Ang Jun En

Horn

Andrew Lee

* Guest Musician

Instructor

Acknowledgements

Kids Philharmonic Orchestra wishes to thank:

Elite Soloists Ensemble Coaches

Mr Loh Jun Hong

Mr Ang Chek Meng

Mr Ng Yu-Ying

Parents of KPO Virtuosi Members

Parents of Elite Soloists Ensemble Members

Venue Partner

Esplanade Singapore

Photography

Kwang - Lightbox Productions

Photography, Audio & Video Production

Front Media Pte. Ltd.

kids'

philharmonic@sg



esplanade
theatres on the bay
singapore

front
FRONT MEDIA



www.lightboxproductions.sg

Scan for E-Programme!

