

YST

Yong Siew Toh
Conservatory
of Music

Postcards: Memorabilia

Jeremy Ng Chuan Kai
Senior Recital
28 April 25 | 8:10pm
YST Concert Hall

Performer's Notes

To my dear colleagues, batchmates, schoolmates, and everyone in attendance—welcome to my senior recital, **Postcards: Memorabilia**.

Tonight's concert is a deeply personal reflection of my journey as a musician. Each piece serves as a postcard, capturing defining moments in my growth—from my earliest steps in music to the percussionist I am today. Through this performance, I hope you find something that resonates with your own experiences and memories.

This recital brings together a vibrant mix of styles—from electronics to contemporary, from groovy and jazz to the melancholic depths of percussion. I'm honored to share the stage with incredible guest musicians from the **Aurora Quartet, Jazzlings**, and **Artist Faculty from YST**—their artistry brings this music to life in ways beyond what I could ever imagine. I hope you enjoy this hour-long musical journey!

To **Mario, Joachim, Jonathan Fox**, the **Percussion studio**, and my **past teachers**—your guidance, wisdom, and belief in me have shaped the musician I am today. Thank you for your invaluable lessons and unwavering support through the years.

To the staffs at YST (**Benny, Kenny, Zi Qi, Harris, Hui Li, Wei Boon, Jasmine**) and many more..) thank you for providing the resources, encouragement, and opportunities that have made this journey possible. Your dedication to us students will not go unnoticed.

To my batchmates, especially **Kira, Natasha, Reina, Jamie, Elton, Jeffrey, Yi Chung, Hrit, Phillip, Chloe**, and so many more, we did it. This journey was never just about the music; it was about the friendships, the rehearsals, the makan sessions, the late-night practice, supper stretch, and, of course, the yearly parties. Every moment we've shared is something I will always treasure and will miss **dearly**.

And finally, to my **family**, thank you for your love, patience, and unwavering belief in me from the very beginning.

Here's to more music, more memories, and more unexpected moments in the years ahead.

Percussion-ally yours,
Jeremy | Jems | Jemsme

Programme

1) Distractions

2) Hero's Journey

3) Rhythm Gradation

4) ChatterBox

5) Cute

Intermission

(10 Minutes)

6) Pure Imagination

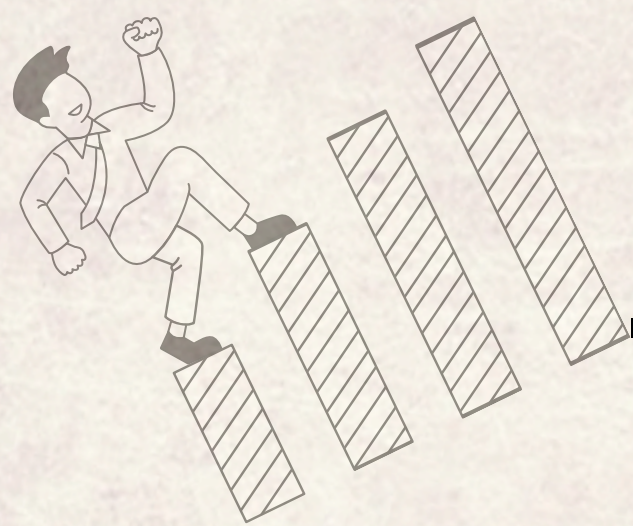
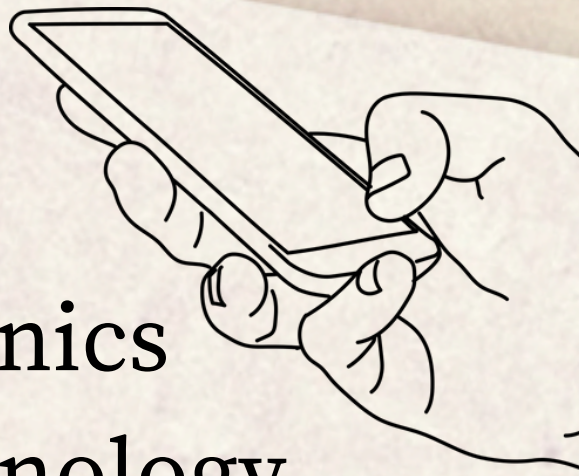
7) Ziu

8) Saudade Fantasia

Distractions

Jensen L. Thomassie

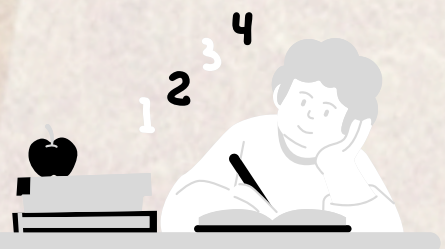
Distractions for solo snare drum and electronics centers around the impact that modern technology has had on social norms and development in the world. The piece takes samples from computers, phones, and a variety of apps to create a sonic environment that encapsulates the distracted state we find ourselves in within our lives due to the abundance of social media and other technological advances.



Hero's Journey

Jarryd Elias

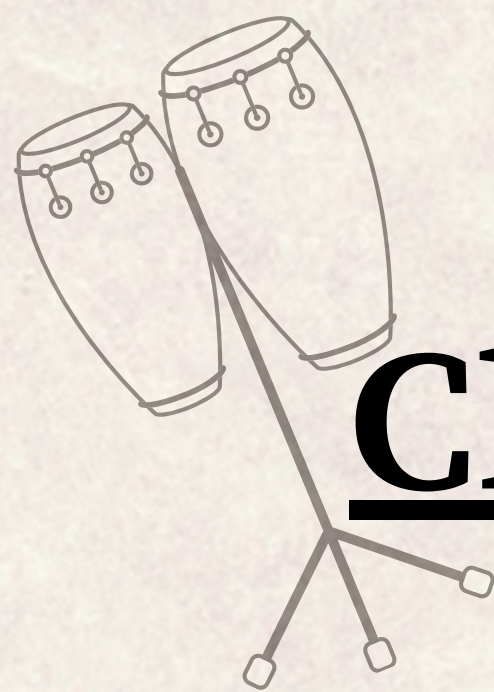
In the process of composing this piece, many superhero films were being featured in theaters, and this composition is mainly inspired by the concept of these heroes' journeys. The piece, at times, sounds like the soundtrack for one of these movies, and the idea in the piece is to be able to convey the emotional weight that these characters carry. 'With great power, comes great responsibility.'



Rhythm Gradation

Toshi Ichiyanagi

Rhythm Gradation by Toshi ichyanagi is an advanced solo for four timpani that makes extensive use of pedal technique. Each drum is notated on its own staff line in order to make it clear which pitch material goes on which drum.



Chatterbox

Chad Floyd

Inspired by the "creative seating solution" composer Chad Floyd used when performing on hand drums in tight spaces, Chatterbox is aptly named and does a lot with a little. Utilizing a cajon, a set of bongos, and a set of congas, this medium-advanced solo is packed with a ton of musical interest. Just as the listener settles in with one tasty groove, an accent here or a melodic phrase there spins it off in an entirely different direction. Effectively and delightfully, this solo walks the line between what audiences expect from a concert solo and what they expect from a hand drum performance. Chatterbox comes as a full, bound score.

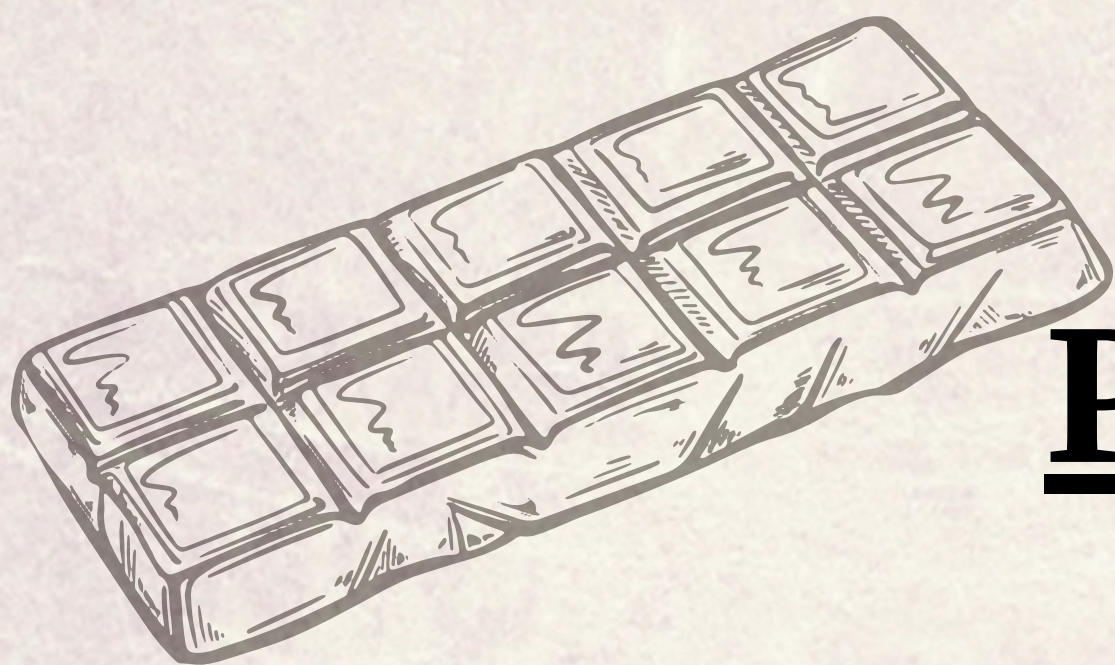
Cute

Accompanied by: Dr. Tony Makarome,
Papat Lertchanvit, Bian Tong, Jun Heng

Neal Hefti



The classic Neal Hefti tune "Cute" was first heard on the classic album "Basie plays Hefti" from 1958. In today's version, we reignite the fun-filled and lightfullness of this swing and number with musicians from YST, Artist Faculty from YST and the Jazzlings. Do snap and vibe along with us!



Pure Imagination

Arr. Alex Stopa

Pure imagination by Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley arranged for solo 5-octave marimba by Alex Stopa. This arrangement requires a high level of sensitivity and technical skill as it blends the whimsy of the original melody with a hint of nostalgia, surprising the listener with unexpected harmonic turns.



Ziu

Daiki Kato

Ziu means "blessed rain" in Japanese and can also be translated into "the rain that comes after the drought." in addition to the live marimba with digital delay, this work is to be performed with a background track consisting of rain sounds which fade in and out at predetermined times.



Saudade Fantasia

Accompanied by: Aurora Quartet

Joey Eng

Saudade is a Portuguese word that very loosely means 'the love that remains.' It is a term that is used to denote the melancholic feeling of missing someone or something; a bittersweet emotion, as it is both a feeling of sadness due to their absence and a feeling of nostalgic joy from their memory. This piece is my attempt at painting this feeling in music.

Performer's Bio



Jeremy Ng Chuan Kai is a Singaporean percussionist pursuing a Bachelors of Music (Percussion) at the **Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music**, studying under **Mr. Mario Choo**, **Mr. Joachim Theodore Lim**, and **Dr. Jonathan Fox**. In the second semester of his junior year, he refined his craft at the **Royal Danish Academy of Music**, studying under **Mr. Søren Monrad**, **Mr. Anders Elten Kahn**, and **Mr. Henrik Thrane** for an exchange semester. Additionally, he was awarded the Yong Liew Chin Music Scholarship (2022).

Jeremy's musical journey began at age eight with the Maha Bodhi School Symphonic Band, joining the percussion section and tutored by **Mdm. Angeline Wee**. In 2012, he was selected for the Music Talent Development Centre's one-year band program, studying with **Mr. Ramu Thiruyanam**. Since then, he has participated in percussion sections and held principal positions for several Singaporean ensembles, some of which include the Philharmonic Wind Orchestra, Ventus Winds, Orchestra of the Music Makers, Musician's Initiative, Asian Cultural Symphony Orchestra, Metropolitan Festival Orchestra and Maha Bodhi School Alumni Band and more.

Internationally, Jeremy toured Europe and Asia as a member of the **Asian Youth Orchestra (2023 & 2024)**, performing under **Maestro Joseph Bastian** and **Maestro Jader Bignamini**. Beyond classical music, he is a core member of **JDN Party Quest**, known for its high-energy **video game music** performances, **The Jazzlings**, an immersive jazz collective and has collaborated with local pop artists such as **Soph.T 霏霏** and **Elton 李泓伸**.

Jeremy Ng Chuan Kai is a passionate advocate for international musical exchange. In 2024, he participated in the **Boum Percussion Academy** in Stuttgart, Germany—a week-long seminar and masterclass series led by **Marc Strobel**, **Kai Strobel** and **Bence Major**—as well as the **Bodø Beat Festival** in Norway, organised by **Sebastiaan Molenaar**. In 2025. He has also been part of **Festival Connect** at the **Tianjin Juilliard School**. Additionally, Jeremy represented the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music as a student representative at the **Pacific Alliance of Music Schools Conference**, held at the **San Francisco Conservatory of Music**.

Passionate about percussion craftsmanship, Jeremy apprenticed at **Pantheon Percussion**, where he built custom drums, including a Rosewood Snare Drum for **Maestro Louis Soliano**. In addition to performing, he is dedicated to percussion education, mentoring students across various levels in Singapore.



Dr. Tony Makarome

Double Bass

Tony Makarome teaches at Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music. He studied with Robert Spano, Miroslav Vitous, Herb Pomeroy, K.R. Shyama, T.R. Sundaresan, Chettiharaveetil Sreekanth (SIFAS), and R. Karthikeyan. As mridangist, he received the Vadya Visharad Award from SIFAS in 2019.

Recent premieres include Kuanzhai Xiangzi for percussion quartet (2022), The Jewel of Srivijaya (2019), Rain Konnakol (2018, Baltimore), What Pattern? (2016, New York), Shiva (for soprano, tenor, mridangam, and piano, 2015), Scifi Lounge (Bangkok), Name with No Street (Shanghai). He arranged music for SSO, SCO and China Broadcasting Folk Orchestra (Beijing). He also published a popular article on konnakol in the Malaysian Music Journal.

As a bassist, he performed with Louis Bellson, Tony Bennett, Quartet West; and as mridangist, in Chennai and New York City. He has been an award-winning teacher of solfege at the Walden School (USA).



Papat Lertchanvit | Rew Piano

Papat Lertchanvit, born on February 27, 2003, began his remarkable musical journey at the young age of three, driven by a deep love for the piano.

During his early years, Papat's unwavering dedication to his craft led him to the respected Pre-College of Music at Mahidol University. Guided by two exceptional mentors, Ms. Kwanchanok Pongpairoj and Dr. Noppanand Chanorathaikul, he laid the foundation for what would become a successful career in classical music.

He demonstrated his skills in well-known competitions, including being a semi-finalist in the 21st and 22nd SET Youth Musician Competition, winning the prestigious 1st Prize at the Golden Classical Music Award, and securing the highly-regarded Gold Award in the Senior B category at the Singapore Asia Youth Piano Competition.

Furthermore, Papat earned his place in the finals of the Thailand 9th Mozart International Piano Competition in Bangkok, where his exceptional talent shone. He also achieved the Gold Award in the Youth B category at the Bangkok International Piano Competition.

Papat's pursuit of excellence continues as he embarks on the next phase of his musical education. He is currently studying at the YST Conservatory of Music in Singapore, under the expert guidance of Professor Albert Tiu.



Bian Tong

Jazz Flute



Bian Tong is currently a final year undergraduate at NUS School of Computing. He is also one of Singapore's most versatile youth musicians, fluent in numerous instruments, genres and styles. Today, aside from being the Orchestra Manager for DJ Wukong, Singapore's top DJ and a DJ Mag top 100 DJ, he is also the Founding Director of The Jazzlings, Singapore's latest and largest youth jazz collective. He also performs and records music actively for audiences local and abroad.

Jun Heng

Electric Guitar



Jun Heng is a guitarist, session musician and mixing engineer whose musical interests span R&B, Neo-Soul and Jazz. He has also collaborated with a range of local artists, such as nkei, vulclaire, rhyu, and performs with the jazz-fusion band The Suitcase. Jun Heng is currently pursuing a degree in Audio Arts and Sciences at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music.

Aurora Quartet



Tsai-Jou Wu | 吴采柔 Violin

Born in 2002 in Taiwan, Tsai-Jou Wu is an exchange student at the Royal Conservatoire The Hague and currently pursuing a Bachelor's degree at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music. She has won First Prize at The North International Music Competition, the National Student Music Competition for Orchestra, and the Concerto Competition of Taichung Second Senior High School.

As an active performer, she has played as a soloist and chamber musician in concerts across Asia and Europe, including performances at the Berlin Philharmonic Hall, Tianjin Juilliard School, and Northwestern University Summer Festival. She has collaborated with Red Dot Baroque and the German-Nordic Youth Philharmonic, serving as concertmaster for RondoFest and assistant principal in her conservatory orchestra.

She has participated in masterclasses with renowned musicians such as Richard Lin, Christoph Schickedanz, Simone Bernardini, Koichiro Harada, and members of the Stradivari, Verona, and Miro Quartets.

Aurora Quartet



Reina Teo Wei En | 张玮恩

Violin

Reina began her violin studies at the age of 5 under the Gifted Young Violinist Programme in NAFA. She is in her final year of pursuing a Bachelor of Music (Honours) in Violin Performance from the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music. Reina was also recently awarded the Goh Soon Tioe Leadership Award.

Reina has performed in prestigious festivals and competitions both locally and internationally. She served as assistant concertmaster and principal violinist at the Round Top Music Festival in Texas, performed in Festival Zeeland Klassiek in the Netherlands, and led an ensemble at the Thailand International Composition Festival, performing contemporary works by composers Xiaogang Ye and P.Q. Phan, among others.

She has performed with the Wuxi Symphony Orchestra and led the YST Orchestra as concertmaster for the Spades of Fate concert. In Singapore, she regularly collaborates with leading ensembles, and has performed with Resound Collective and Red Dot Baroque. She has also recorded Adeline Wong's Montage.

She performs on a 1922 Carletti Carlo violin, generously loaned by the Rin Collection.

Aurora Quartet



Huang Yi (Naomi) | 黄歆 Viola

Huang Yi (Naomi) began her musical journey with the violin at the age of five, under the guidance of Mulie Miao-Wen Liu. At fifteen, she shifted her focus to the viola. Throughout her musical education, she has benefited from the mentorship of Manchin Zhang, Mulie Miao-Wen Liu, Anna Chi-An Tsai, and Stephanie Dai-Fen Tsai. Naomi has gained extensive live performance experience in diverse venues, including the Kagoshima Prefectural Culture Center, Suntory Hall, Matsushima Culture and Tourism Exchange Hall, National Concert Hall, Taipei Eslite Performance Hall, Kaohsiung Music Hall, Puli Arts and Culture Center, Miaobei Art Center, Esplanade Concert Hall, and the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory Concert Hall.

As the student viola principal of the Puli Butterfly Symphony Orchestra, a well-known regional orchestra, she represented the ensemble at international events such as the 9th Kagoshima Asian Youth Arts Festival and the Japan Earthquake Tsunami 311 Commemoration Concert 2017. Driven by her pursuit of excellence, she has attended masterclasses with esteemed musicians including Nobuko Imai, Lech Antonio Uszynski, Honggang Li, Tim Frederiksen, Jennifer Stumm, Mikhail Zemtsov, and Julia Dinerstein.

Currently, Naomi is a fourth-year viola major student in Professor Manchin Zhang's studio at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory, where she continues to refine her artistry and musical proficiency. She aspires to contribute meaningfully to the world of classical music through performance and collaboration.

Aurora Quartet



Zhu Zeyu | 朱泽宇 Cello

Zeyu was born in Beijing in 2003, He began studying the cello at the age of 6. In 2019, Zeyu was admitted to Tianjin Juilliard School Pre-College and studied with Yeonjin Kim. Since 2021, Zeyu has been studying with Li-Wei Qin at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, NUS.

Zeyu regularly participates in various music festivals/academies, including the Mendelssohn Festival, Schiermonnikoog Festival, Orford Academy, Musical Chairs Chamber Music Festival, Heifetz Institute and more. At Heifetz, besides the regular program, Zeyu was also a fellow of the Chamber Music Seminar led by Prof. Shmuel Ashkenasi. Zeyu had the opportunity to improve his skills with renowned masters such as Richard Aaron, Astrid Schween, Lawrence Lesser, Gary Hoffmann, Steven Doane, Christine Walevska, Troels Svane, and more.

Zeyu was the winner of the Hummingbird Music Award in the 2019 China Youth Music Competition and has been invited to Germany to study and perform with the winners of Jugend musiziert. His chamber group received the 1st place in the 2023 17th Cecillia International Music Competition. Zeyu was the grand prizewinner of the 2023 concerto competition at Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, he performed Walton Cello Concerto with the YST Orchestra during the 2023/24 season.

As an experienced soloist, avid chamber musician, and principal cello of orchestra, Zeyu has played in various places including Beijing Concert Hall, National Center for the Performance Arts, the Forbidden City Concert Hall, the Kennedy Center, Austria Haydn Hall, Singapore Esplanade Arts Center, and many cities in Germany.

Zeyu plays a cello by Antonio Guadagnini from 1853, kindly sponsored by the Rin Collection.

