

# SAGA

SENIOR HORN RECITAL  
LINNET SIM

24 April 2023 | 3:40pm  
YST Concert Hall

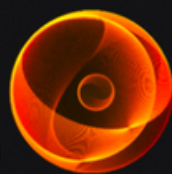


PERFORMING WORKS BY  
Franz Strauss  
Hermann Neuling  
Vincent Persichetti  
James Naigus

ACCOMPANIED BY  
Nicholas Loh

Yong Siew Toh  
**Conservatory**  
*of Music*

YST





# Horn Concerto in C minor, Op. 8 (1865)

Franz Strauss (1822–1905)

I. Allegro moderato

II. Andante

III. Allegro moderato

First performance: March 27, 1865, Munich. Franz Strauss, horn.

Famous as the father of composer Richard Strauss, and an outstanding horn player as well as composer himself, Franz's musical aesthetic holds close to Mozart and Beethoven as his ideals.

In 1847 he joined the Bavarian Court Orchestra as principal horn, a position he held until his retirement in 1889. As a musical conservative, Franz Strauss nonetheless performed in several premiere performances of Richard Wagner's operas, including *Tristan und Isolde* (1865), *Die Meistersinger* (1868), *Das Rheingold* (1869), and *Die Walküre* (1870).

The first movement opens like a traditional concerto, with an [orchestral] accompanimental introduction in the style of a march. The solo horn's entrance is that of a contrasting lyrical material. A pompous theme interjects the lyricism briefly, before rounding with a series of exciting passages. The end of the first movement is dovetailed by a short interlude, introducing the beautifully expressive *Andante*. The final movement recalls materials from the first movement and ends off with an energetic flare.

## **Bagatelle for Horn & Piano (1956)**

Hermann Neuling (1897 – 1967)

Hermann himself was a horn player as well – a low horn player for the *Staatsoper Unter den Linden*, Berlin.

The term 'Bagatelle' refers to a little object or knick-knack without too much importance or value. In musical literature, it is a piece in a light style. Neuling's Bagatelle gives off exactly that delightful and entertaining perception to me, like a little trinket or ornament. Hidden behind the facade of a light and delightful listening experience, this piece challenges horn players with an unrestricted flexibility across the range of the instrument, to flourish and showcase their musicality in a dramatic and almost operatic style at times. This short piece encompasses so much, and that must be why it is such a standard in the horn repertory!



## **Parable for Solo Horn, Op. 120 (1973)**

Vincent Persichetti (1915 – 1987)

A parable is a short story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson. It is derived from a Greek word meaning “comparison.”

This particular parable is the eighth in a series of twenty of Persichetti's Parables for solo instruments – flute, piccolo, oboe, English horn, clarinet, bassoon, alto sax, horn, trumpet, trombone, tuba, viola, cello, double bass, harp, organ, carillon, guitar, harpsichord, and piano.

Persichetti describes his Parables as non-programmatic musical essays. They are in a single movement, and are almost always about a single germinal idea. They convey a meaning indirectly by the use of comparisons or analogies, and are usually concerned with materials from his other works.

The Parable VIII for solo horn quotes several measures from the composer's seventh symphony trading off the horn section's melody for the solo instrument here. It also sees a metaphor for the history of the horn, characterized by fifth intervals starting and ending the piece, and recurring frequently in between. The horn fifths is an archetypal symbol for the horn, evocative of the alphorn and shofar, comparable to hunting horn calls as one of the most ancient, recognizable horn sounds.

The piece is contrasted by grace and grit, portraying questionings for the mysteries of the universe in a musically stimulating and dramatic way.

## **Saga for horn and mixed media (2018)**

James Naigus (b. 1987)

Saga is a sonic journey through several musical landscapes featuring an electronic accompaniment track. There are ups and downs in emotions through this journey, much like my personal journey in music and especially here at YST. I was extremely excited when I chanced upon this piece! Experience this saga for yourself – what would it depict for you?