

Softie ☺

(EVERYTHING'S SOFT EXCEPT THE YSAYE...)

A violin recital by Tan Xin Jie


YST
Yong Siew Toh
Conservatory
of Music

*Works by Brahms,
Amy Beach,
Kreisler, Ysaye ♡*

*with pianist Beatrice Lin
guest violinist Leonid Datsiuk*

4:50PM

5 May 2025

YST Concert Hall



Program

Brahms

Violin Sonata No. 1
I. Vivace ma non troppo
II. Adagio
III. Allegro molto moderato



Amy Beach

Romance

Kreisler

Syncopation

Ysaÿe

Sonata for 2 violins
I. Poco lento, maestoso - Allegro Fermo





Message

Dear friends and family, professors and listeners, welcome to my final recital as a violin performance major in YST~ This performance concludes the end of my studies here at the conservatory and I'm really excited to share a program full of music which I love and have chosen myself for this recital.

The name "softie" describes the pieces I will be playing for you this afternoon, except the ysayeahaha. I love music that is lyrical and soothing, passionate with a touch of softness. It describes the person that I am as well - someone who is passionate about love and life, but is a little timid and soft.

As my time here at YST comes to an end, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported me in my growth as a musician and as a person.

To my professor Yuying 老师, thank you for your patience and gentleness in teaching me, and handling my many breakdowns in lesson with much care and heart.



To Ms Beatrice Lin, my pianist for the recital, (and also my violin teacher before I entered SOTA), who scolded me to practise many times before I was 13 years old, and supported me in my YST years as my collaborative pianist.

To my friends, who have encouraged me, inspired me, and taught me to be braver. I am so honoured to call you my friends. To my family, who have given me nothing but constant support since the very beginning of my musical journey, and attended my performances, regardless whether it is solo or orchestra.

To my violin teacher from sota, Ms Lillian, who patiently and persistently shaped me—technically and musically—from the ground up, and believed in me even when I had nothing to show.

Lastly, to Leonid, who not only agreed to play for my recital, but also helped me prepare and rehearse the ysaye together. (I cried in 90% of the rehearsals because WHY IS YSAYE SO HARD be so for real)

I am so grateful to be able to stand on this stage this afternoon and share music and my love for everyone here. I am so thankful to have had the honour of knowing many of you and being able to call my friends. Thank you for inspiring me and loving me. From the bottom of my heart, thank you.





Program notes

Johannes Brahms - Violin Sonata No. 1 in G Major, Op. 78.

It's also known as the "Rain Sonata", and it is one of Brahms' most deeply poetic and expressive chamber works. It is so lyrical and full of warmth, and for those of you who didn't know, Brahms was in love with the wife (Clara) of his good friend Robert Schumann. I hope this little piece of information helps you to imagine how the turmoil in his music could signify his sense of longing for Clara, a love, something that he cannot have. The first movement is so beautiful lyrical with blending flowing melodies, and the ending of the third movement is so heartfelt and just... *chefs kiss*. The third movement concludes the whole work not with a dramatic flourish, but with a rare plagal cadence, which gives the piece a bittersweet and almost unresolved feeling. To me, this ending makes the work feel even more special - like a memory rather than a grand conclusion. (feeling kinda sentimental writing about it right now)

Amy Beach - Romance for Violin and Piano, Op. 23


Just some background, Amy Beach was a pioneering American composer who wrote this Romance in 1893. It's so lush, so passionate, so expressive. As someone who loves sweet, cheesy romantic music and everything nice, this is just perfect. This short yet deeply emotional piece unfolds with soaring melodies and rich harmonies, ugh such a joy to play and showcase the violin's singing quality.

Fritz Kreisler - Syncopation

Super cute and silly piece. Lighthearted and full of character, with an offbeat rhythm that gives it a mischievous, cheeky quality. So fun to play, 10/10.

Eugène Ysaÿe - Duo for Two Violins, Op. Posth.

Some background on Ysaye, he's a legendary violinist and composer who wrote this duo as a testament to both technical brilliance and expressive depth. This is probably the most showy piece I have in my repertoire, and the piece that is the most out of my comfort zone. The interplay between the two violins is filled with fiery energy, dramatic contrasts, and moments of striking beauty. Really demands virtuosity but also deep musical sensitivity between the players. And I'm so lucky to be able to play it with my love, Leonid Datsiuk who is supporting me in the second violin part. (He is carrying this duet tbh)





Thanks for coming :)