



YST

Yong Siew Toh
Conservatory
of Music



A SAGITTARIUS TALE

KESTLE LOW KIM VEN
BASS TROMBONE

BEATRICE LIN
PIANO

WORKS BY: KOETSIER, JACOB & BOLTER

2025. **II. 26** WED **10:40** AM
CONCERT HALL, YONG SIEW TOH CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

PROGRAM ORDER

Jan Koetsier
(1911-2006)

Allegro Maestoso, Op.58 No.2 (1972)

Gordon Jacob
(1895-1984)

Cameos for Bass Trombone and Piano (1978)

I. V.I.P

II. Nostalgic Singer

III. Nimble Dancer

IV. Phantom Procession

V. Derby Winner

Norman Bolter
(b.1955)

Sagittarius2 for Bass Trombone and Piano
(2002)

THE RECITAL IS APPROXIMATELY 30 MINUTES WITHOUT INTERMISSION

WELCOME!



Welcome to my junior recital - A Sagittarius Tale!

Thank you for your support of my first ever solo recital, it is my utmost honor to showcase to you my journey in YST so far for these three years!

The preparation for this recital is a long process, and the repertoires I have chosen are quite out of my comfort zone. As the saying goes, challenges make people grow. I enjoy the times where I connect to the music and am in the zone when playing the pieces, while I do also enjoy the difficulties encountered during the preparation phases. Rome was not built in a day, and I have faith in myself to become a better person, and a better musician.

The title for this recital - **A Sagittarius Tale**, is a reflection of my own journey as a musician throughout the years. I am a Sagittarius, and today is November 26th, which also falls in the Sagittarius governing period, now. I take horoscope personalities as my life reference. It is not a 100% guide, but I do believe, as a Sagittarius, the guideline helps to shape me as who I am today.

Sit back, relax, and enjoy the Sagittarius Tale.

ALLEGRO MAESTOSO

Jan Koetsier

The first tale of today - **Allegro Maestoso**, is a piece that symbolizes the start of my musical journey. It was the first ever solo piece that I played in my life when I was 16, and this piece holds a very important place for me. I start to know more about trombone solos from my very first interaction with this piece, which also leads me to decide on doing music as my major and career. Little me definitely could not wonder I'm now studying in this prestigious conservatory and performing this piece here!

This will be my first time presenting **Allegro Maestoso** in YST. This piece is one of Koetsier's renowned solo works. It has two contrasting sections, which repeat, following each after the other. The beginning section is big, energetic, and always moving. The second section is soft, flowing, and lyrical, which alternates and makes a contrast to the previous section. The rhythmic intenseness returns at the ending section, which leads towards a grand ending of this piece. The shifting in character in this piece is a highlight, where it shows the versatility of the player in presenting different emotions.

Jan Koetsier (1911-2006) was a composer and conductor who was born in Amsterdam, where his musical works are wide acclaimed around the world. He pursued his music studies at the Berlin Hochschule für Musik. He was appointed as conductor of the Concertgebouw Orchestra, and the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra before he changed his focus to compositions. He composed chamber music, brass solos, orchestral pieces, and concerti.

CAMEOS

Gordon Jacob

The next tale - **Cameos**, is a piece that symbolizes the progress of my musical journey. This piece consists of five movements, where each movement portrays very distinctive characters: the esteemed dignitary, the melancholic vocalist, the jovial folk dancer, a somber burial procession, and a racing horse with its jockey. These five distinctive characters represent the mixed feelings that I have gone through or am currently going through in my musical journey, from noble to humble and from joyful to sorrow, yet I still keep moving and chasing towards my ambition of becoming a better person and a musician.

Cameos was commissioned by Tom Everett, the founder and inaugural president of the International Trombone Association, the founder and director of the Harvard University Wind Ensemble and Harvard Jazz Bands, a charter member of the International Association of Jazz Educators, and a prominent researcher and advocate for the bass trombone repertory. Through sparseness, Jacob's art maintains his signature simplicity and clarity.

Gordon Jacob (1895-1984) was an English educator and composer. He joined the infantry during World War I and was captured by the Germans in 1917. While incarcerated, Jacob formed a tiny orchestra whose whole repertory was composed and arranged by him. After being released, he joined the Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM), where he studied conducting with Adrian Boult and composition with Ralph Vaughan Williams and Charles Villiers Stanford. He taught at the RCM (1924-1966), where his students included Bernard Stevens, Elizabeth Maconchy, Joseph Horowitz, Imogen Holst, and Malcolm Arnold.

SAGITTARIUS2

Norman Bolter

The last tale of today - **Sagittarius2**, is a piece that symbolizes the reflection of my musical journey so far. This piece is dedicated to *Steven Zellmer*, the former principal trombone of the Minnesota Orchestra and also one of the composer's teachers.

Mr. Zellmer himself was a **Sagittarius** with the ***root number 2**, and I coincidentally share the same horoscope and root number with him!

I found this piece kind of related to me as well, as these astrological elements are also influencing my life and shaping my personality. This piece becomes a portrait of the nature of Sagittarius in union with the number 2. **Sagittarius** is a fire sign and masculine in nature, while **number 2** is hidden and receptive. This piece has clearly combined the elements of both together and presented them in a very distinctive yet reasonable and harmonious way.

Reflecting over myself, the nature of **Sagittarius** and **root number 2** has shaped me into a well-rounded person. Being fire and being water throughout my musical journey makes me more emotional and more connected to music, and I would like to express my personality in tandem with the astrological elements. I sincerely believe that this is a sign from the universe to give me this opportunity to perform this piece as a Sagittarius with root number 2 in this recital, in the Sagittarius governing period.

**Explanation of root number in the next page*

SAGITTARIUS²

Norman Bolter

Norman Bolter (b.1955) was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, began playing trombone at age nine. He is a Tanglewood Fellow and C.D. Jackson Award recipient, he joined the Boston Symphony Orchestra in 1975 at age 20, becoming its youngest member. He has also served as principal trombonist of the Boston Pops Orchestra and also a founding member of the Empire Brass Quintet, which later earned the Walter H. Naumburg Award in Chamber Music. Bolter is an active composer with over 100 works performed internationally. Bolter currently teaches at the Boston Conservatory at Berklee, he has previously taught at the New England Conservatory and Longy School of Music and co-leads Frequency Band retreats with Dr. Carol Viera.

**A root number (sometimes called the “life path number” in numerology) is determined by adding together all the numbers of one’s birth date, taking each digit as a separate number and cancelling out any sum of 9, until all that remains is a single-digit number, which is one’s root number. In my case, my birth date is 05-12-2001, and when added together the resulting root number is 2, (ignoring the 0, $5+1+2+1=11$, which breaks down to $1+1=2$)*



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



I would like to express my sincere gratitude to **my family—my parents, my elder sister and brother** who have supported me a lot emotionally and financially through my studies at YST and throughout my musical journey. Without my family as my backbone, I could not have achieved what I have accomplished today.

To my teachers at YST, **Wang Wei and Marques Young**, thank you very much for guiding and teaching me for these years. I really appreciate the knowledge, skills, mindsets, and ways to shape me into becoming a better musician. Thank you both for being here with me throughout my studies here. Thank you for keeping supervising me and making sure that I am on the right path to improve myself and get better. Special thanks to Marques too, who has been my teacher back to the time I was still studying high school at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Thank you for your teaching and guidance, which eventually led to opening my new chapter at YST and having opportunities to play in a professional orchestra too.

To my pioneer teachers, **Low Wen Hong and Roger Chee**, thank you very much to both of you for shaping my playing when I was in high school. Both of you have witnessed my growth from a young kid to an adult, and I do appreciate your help throughout my musical journey. Your advice and guidance shaped the younger me, and it holds a special influence for me until today.

To my collaborative pianist, **Ms. Beatrice Lin**, thank you very much for your help and guidance during the rehearsal together. Thank you for being nice and patient with me and giving me comments to improve my playing and the collaboration between us. It is my utmost pleasure to have you as the collaborative pianist for my recital. I look forward to more collaboration next time!

And also, a huge thanks to the **YST Stage Crew** for helping to set up the piano and the music stands. The recital cannot be going smoothly without your help.

A Sagittarius can be crude, wild
wanderer, always seeking
adventures and freedom from
all restraint.

A. P. PARASHAR,
DR. V.K. PARASHAR,
EXPLORE THE POWER OF ASTROLOGY TRIKONA



THANK YOU!



To all of you who have been reading until here,

Thank you for your support and I hope you have enjoyed the performances. I wish you all have a great day ahead, and wish your life is always filled with prosperity and happiness.

xoxo

With love and sincere,
Kestle

