



Yong Siew Toh
Conservatory
of Music

SENIOR RECITAL

Chai Li Qing

Robert Schumann

Dauidsbündlertänze, Op. 6

Maurice Ravel

Gaspard de la nuit, M. 55

29 April, 2026

Wednesday, 3:10 PM

YST Concert Hall






Biography

Venus Chai Zi Qing began her piano studies at the age of five with Mr. Loh Chia Ping, later continuing her musical development under Mr. Ng Chong Lim.

Venus has received top prizes in various competitions, including second prize at the Steinway Malaysia Youth Piano Competition and second prize at the ASEAN International Chopin Piano Competition. In 2025, she won the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music Concerto Competition. That same year, she was awarded first prize in the piano category as well as the Grand Prize at the Southeast Asia Bach Competition, following which she was invited to perform at the Leipzig Bach Festival in 2026.

In 2022, she was awarded a full scholarship to the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, National University of Singapore, where she is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance under the guidance of Mr. Albert Tiu.





Programme Notes

Robert Schumann's *Davidsbündlertänze*, Op. 6, is a richly imaginative and character-driven work, inspired by the composer's fictional "League of David," a group created to oppose the artistic conservatism of his time. The eighteen short pieces form a richly contrasted cycle, reflecting Schumann's dual musical personalities: the impulsive, passionate Florestan and the introspective, lyrical Eusebius.

Rather than presenting traditional dances, the work unfolds as a psychological and poetic journey, shifting between exuberance and inward reflection. Beneath its seemingly fragmentary structure lies an intimate narrative, often associated with Schumann's love for Clara Wieck. The music invites the listener into a private world where fantasy and reality intertwine, ending in a quiet, almost dreamlike introspection.

Maurice Ravel's *Gaspard de la nuit* stands as one of the most technically demanding and evocative works in the piano repertoire. Inspired by the prose poems of Aloysius Bertrand, the three movements—*Ondine*, *Le Gibet*, and *Scarbo*—explore dark, fantastical imagery with remarkable sonic imagination.

Ondine depicts a water nymph whose shimmering song attempts to lure a human into her underwater realm, conveyed through fluid textures and luminous colors. In stark contrast, *Le Gibet* presents a haunting, desolate landscape, where a lone bell tolls over the image of a hanging corpse at sunset. The final movement, *Scarbo*, is a terrifying portrait of a mischievous and unpredictable goblin, bursting with explosive energy and virtuosic brilliance.

