

# To You, 10 Years Ago

Ping Hui's Senior Recital

These programme notes are probably going to be a bit different from the usual and it'll be less about the pieces and more about how they relate to me and the recital. (I'm probably gonna yap about the same thing on stage so you don't have to read too closely)

I've had an idea for the theme of the recital for probably over more than a year now. 'To You, 10 Years Ago' stemmed from many thought experiments like what would your younger self think about you now or what would you tell your past self. This led me to think, why not just perform for myself? The repertoire in this recital all holds a special place in my heart, they all contributed towards steering me on to the path of pursuing music. Whether it was giving me motivation hearing someone else perform it, being a core memory for me as I started this musical journey, or just music that I thought, 'Wow this must be what makes playing music worth it.'

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## **Aria con Variazioni - G.F Handel**

This wonderful theme and variation will probably live on in my heart for the foreseeable future. When I was in secondary school, I was offered to audition for the Singapore National Youth Orchestra. At that time, I had a senior in the trumpet section in the school band who was already in SNYO, and when I talked about it to him, he told me that perhaps I should consider taking a private lesson with his teacher at that time in order to prepare for it. I remember very fondly the first time I went for a lesson together with my senior, he had his lesson first and this was the piece that he was working on with the teacher at that time. The beauty of this piece was the only thing I could think about for the half hour that they were working on it. This senior is a dear friend of mine and made me look forward to every band practice and made it that much more enjoyable (although he can be pretty annoying at times). Performing this piece is my eternal gratitude to my friend who kickstarted this obsession.

## **Trumpet Concerto in F minor, Op. 18 - Oskar Bohme**

As mentioned in the previous section, I started out in wind band, and brass band before that. Being a stupid band kid, I never really had much experience with formal music education, especially in a school setting. I remember first entering YST, at that time, the year 3s and 2s were preparing for their recitals and juries. At that time, I had gotten close with one of my seniors and fellow Singaporean, and this was the piece he had been working on. Having the opportunity to sit in for some of his practice sessions, I learnt what it is like to really practice and strive for consistency and perfection, but also to have fun while you're at it. Performing this, I remember the goofiness in the all serious work and the fun in the challenging.

## **Postcards - Anthony Plog**

This piece is the cornerstone in this recital as I figuratively send postcards back to my past self. Despite this, Postcards is a piece that has also left a deep impression on me. I believe that Postcards was the first ever trumpet solo I've heard performed. This was back in 2017 at a WBAS festival performed by my wonderful teacher Lau Wen Rong. At that time, I sat there with my jaw on the ground completely dumbfounded at the level of artistry I was witnessing. I thought this piece must be impossible for me to perform and I have never heard anything like it. Fast forward to 2023, where I once again had the opportunity to hear Postcards being performed live, this time for a senior recital. Once again, I was left utterly speechless but this time I started to believe that it was possible. Coming to today, this piece is honestly still a bit of a nightmare for me, but it proved to be a fun challenge and one that has taught me a lot. It may not be perfect today, but performing this teaches me that with enough time and drive, anything is doable.

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# INTERMISSION

go have your break, i know i desperately need one

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## **The Raindrop Flower - M2U**

Okay as we get into this half, we have music that I have enjoyed deeply and have always wanted to perform.

The Raindrop Flower is a piece of music from 'Maplestory', a game that is almost over 23 years old now. I first played the game when I was 7 or 8 and it was probably the first computer game that I have ever played, and I remember that my cousin first introduced it to me. He helped me create an account and a character and I played together with him as well as my sister and other cousins. Since then, I have been an avid gamer (sorry mum you can go blame them). Being a 23-year-old game, it has gone through a myriad of changes, from gameplay mechanics, maps, monsters etc. But one thing that has never changed was the music. Sure, new releases come with new music but old locations and events would always have the same music. And y'know what they say, nostalgia is a hell of a drug.

## **Tifa's Theme - Nobuo Uematsu**

As I got older, my cousins introduced me to Japanese media like anime and J-Rock and JRPGs (yes I'm blaming it on them again). I guess it was inevitable having a half Japanese cousin. Although I didn't get into the Final Fantasy series until much later. The writing of Tifa's Theme never fails to tug on my heart strings and brings back the memory of hanging out at my cousin's place playing on his GameCube (A rarity might I say here in SG). Hearing a wonderful jazz waltz arrangement of the tune by the 8-bit Big Band, I enlisted the help of a friend, Robbie, to help arrange for a smaller instrumentation.

## Life Goes On - Shoji Meguro

Ahh Persona 5.. Yet another JRPG, the music in this game sits right in the sweet spot of my musical tastes ranging from Funk to Acid Jazz to Hip Hop. I would have been glad to perform any of the soundtracks in this game. Persona 5 was a game that was released in 2016 and a remake for it came out again in 2022. At both times, this game was a huge talking point for me and my friends who aren't musicians. I spent countless hours nerding out to them about the wonders of the music written in the game and sharing many MANY rearrangements of the tracks. It was special to me because I truly felt like I had connected two of my favourite things in the world together, music and games AND I was able to show my friends this connection. As mentioned before, I could have picked any song from this game and would have been happy, but Life Goes On was a message I wish to tell myself both past and present that while it's fun to look back and see how far we've come, time will always move on.

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I hope that the concert was fun for you my audience, please hang around and take pictures and catch up!

And to you, Ping Hui of 10 years ago, and maybe the future, I hope you too had fun and know that if you just keep going at it you can do whatever you want.



this fella