

Adelaide Festival Centre presents

Lunar New Year Concert

2025 新春音乐会

with

Hong Kong String Orchestra 香港弦乐团

Celebrating the Year of the Snake



31 Jan '25 – 7pm

Her Majesty's Theatre





Hong Kong String Orchestra

Founder and Artistic Director: Yao Jue

Founded by virtuoso Yao Jue SBS, BBS, JP, the Hong Kong String Orchestra (HKSO) strives to nurture home-grown musical talent. Over the past ten years, the Orchestra has touched the lives of music lovers through its concert series and overseas exchange tours. It has achieved significant recognition locally and internationally for its “music uniqueness fusing Eastern and Western influences”. The Orchestra continues to aim for artistic excellence and has enjoyed successful collaborations with an array of international musicians, including Tan Dun, Sarah Chang, Qin Li-wei, Hayley Westenra, Mario Hossen, Andrés Cárdenes, Lio Kuok-man, Sharon Andrea Choa, Wilson Ng, and Tsung Yeh. By fostering connections between gifted players and international maestros, the Orchestra reaches new heights of artistic achievement.

Under the leadership of Artistic Director Yao Jue, the Orchestra showcases Hong Kong’s musical talents to audiences around the world. On tour, the Orchestra has represented Hong Kong in celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of HKSAR and has been invited to perform in many countries, including Central and Eastern Europe, the United States, Finland, Sweden, and South Korea. The Orchestra has also participated in the 19th China Shanghai International Arts Festival, the China International Youth Arts Festival, and performed at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. In 2019, the Orchestra embarked on a “Belt and Road” initiative concert tour in Southeast Asia. In June 2023, the Orchestra

performed at the National Centre for the Performing Arts in Beijing (国家大剧院), sponsored by the China National Arts Fund. In November 2023, the Orchestra undertook a Central and Eastern Europe Tour, earning praise from Romanian Ambassador Han Chunlin as a cultural ambassador of the “Belt and Road Initiative”. By December 2023, the Orchestra had toured 13 countries and 40 cities.

The Orchestra remains committed to its credo of supporting young musicians and spreading the joy of music. As the first to launch the 21st Century Music Education Project for Young People across eight local universities, it collaborated with Oscar-winning composer Tan Dun and partnered with Yoku for live video streaming, attracting over 280,000 viewers globally. In May 2018, the Orchestra broke the Guinness World Record for the “Largest String Instrument Ensemble”. In September of the same year, the Orchestra was honoured as the sole performing group at the opening ceremony of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (Hong Kong Section). Since the outbreak of COVID-19 in 2020, the Orchestra has demonstrated resilience by introducing online concert series, concert videos, and music videos via social media platforms, attracting 140,000 viewers worldwide. In 2022, the HKSO became the only orchestra of Western instruments shortlisted by the China National Arts Fund, which was opened to arts groups in Hong Kong and Macau for the first time.



Yao Jue Founder and Artistic Director of Hong Kong String Orchestra and Soloist

Prof Yao Jue, SBS, BBS, JP, is known as one of China's acclaimed female violinists, celebrated for her unparalleled artistry and impactful performances on the international stage. She received the Silver Bauhinia Star (SBS) in 2023, the Bronze Bauhinia Star (BBS) in 2017 and the Justice of the Peace (JP) in 2013 from the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for her contribution to the community.

A graduate of the Juilliard School, San Francisco and Shanghai Conservatory of Music, she was honoured as an Honorary University Fellow by the Hong Kong University of Science & Technology in 2023, Hong Kong Baptist University in 2022, and Hong Kong Polytechnic University in 2015. She was selected as a council member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference from 2018 to the present. Prof Yao plays a 1713 Stradivarius Violin and has released 11 solo CDs and DVDs, including the popular Butterfly Lovers Violin Concerto.

Yundi Yuan Special guest

Adelaide-based pianist Yundi Yuan has performed widely across Australia as a soloist, accompanist, and chamber musician. Highlights include performing Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No. 1 in 2019 with conductor Andrew Groch and the Elder Conservatorium Chamber Orchestra, and being a guest artist at the 2022 Freedman Classical Award at the Sydney Opera House. Notable appearances include Recitals Australia, Urrbrae House Twilight Concerts, Nexus Arts, The PianoLab, Soundstream New Music, and Government House Adelaide.

Yundi studied piano with Mrs Eleonora Sivan and Professor Anna Goldsworthy, and has won the 2018 Recitals Australia Lunch Hour Award and the SA State Final of Young Virtuoso. She was a national finalist in the 2016 Young Virtuosi Award. A graduate of the University of Adelaide with First Class Honours in 2018, she completed a Master of Philosophy in 2021 and is currently a PhD candidate at the Elder Conservatorium of Music. Yundi has also worked with major music organisations such as the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, Elder Hall, and the Australian Festival of Chamber Music. She is a board member of Recitals Australia.

Program

MC
Joon-Yee Kwok

Joseph Koo's Medley
Arranged by Ronald Fu

Variation on The Pastoral
Rearranged by Xia Liang

Serenade for Strings, Op. 11
Dag Wiren

Blossom Shanghai Medley
Arranged by Ronald Fu

INTERMISSION

Joy of the Spring
Mao Yuan

Nocturne
Margaret Sutherland

The Four Seasons (Excerpts)
Antonio Vivaldi
Violin Solo: Yao Jue

Concerto No. 1 "Spring" I. Allegro
II. Largo

Concerto No. 2 "Summer" III. Presto

Concerto No. 3 "Autumn" I. Allegro

Concerto No. 4 "Winter" I. Allegro non molto
II. Largo
III. Allegro

Hong Kong String Orchestra

Yao Jue

Soloist & Artistic Director

Isabella Lu

Head of HR & Admin

Coolia Kwok

Assistant Programme Manager

Katie Tsang

Marketing & Public Relations Assistant

*Ringing in
Lunar New Year
with a Melodic Feast,
Bridging Hearts
and Cultures of the
West and East.*

John KC LEE

Chief Executive
Hong Kong Special
Administrative Region,
People's Republic of China

*Splendid Concert
Celebrating Chinese
New Year,*

*Music Inspiring Cultural
Exchange, Strengthening
the Bonds among Peoples.*

Xiao Qian

Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary of the
People's Republic of China to
the Commonwealth of Australia

Hong Kong String Orchestra Musicians

Choi Kwan Yeung Brian

Concert Master

Chow Yip Wai

Assistant Concert Master

Chen Xixi

1st Violin

Hui Chi Kin

1st Violin

Li Ka Ho Leo

1st Violin

Cheng Ho Chung

1st Violin

Chan Sam Yu Sammi

2nd Principal

Ho Kwun Chung

Assistant 2nd Principal

Chen Ning

2nd Violin

Wong Tak Kin

2nd Violin

Au Samuel

2nd Violin

Yeung Ho-yin Victoria Kathleen

2nd Violin

Xu Ying

Acting Viola Principal

Wong Kin Chung

Viola

Cheng Ho Yan Tiffany

Viola

Wong Tai Shing Calvin

Cello Principal

Lee Ka Long

Cello

Yip Chun Kit

Cello

Zong Xiaoqian

Double Bass Principal

So Lok Yee

Double Bass

Message from Douglas Gautier AM

This Lunar New Year we are delighted to present the 25-piece Hong Kong String Orchestra at our beloved Her Majesty's Theatre for their Australian debut. Led by virtuoso Yao Jue, this ensemble captures the charm and energy of Hong Kong's vibrant music culture. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, whose generous support has made this remarkable celebration of music and culture possible.

Adelaide is a creative city with music as its heartbeat, and a special highlight of this performance is the collaboration between two cities: Hong Kong String Orchestra and renowned Adelaide pianist Yundi Yuan from the Elder Conservatorium, who will join the orchestra for some of the program.

We welcome audiences to celebrate The Year of The Snake with what's sure to be an unforgettable musical performance in Australia's only UNESCO City of Music.

Douglas Gautier AM

CEO & Artistic Director



Adelaide Festival Centre

Douglas Gautier AM

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& Financial Officer

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