

## Colin Toh



Colin's started his music exploration at the age of two when he started learning the violin. He attained a certificate of Distinction in the ABRSM Grade 8 exam in 2016 and his first overseas performing opportunity was in Carnegie Hall, New York in 2010, as a finalist for the American Protégé Internet Competition.

He has also been involved in various competitions such as the Symphony 92.4 Young Talent Project 2012 where he was the finalist. He also attained the second prize for open category 2013 ZhongSin International Music Competition. In 2013 and 2014, he was awarded gold for both the Piano and violin festival and 5<sup>TH</sup> Singapore performers' festival and chamber music competition. Just last year, he had attained the gold medal award in the senior category of the Mandeville music festival. He was also recently awarded 1<sup>st</sup> prize in the 12<sup>th</sup> ZhongSin International Music Competition.

Apart from competitions, Colin also attended the biennial Singapore International String conference and was exposed to masterclasses and group classes by professionals such as Dr Timothy Durbin, the principal conductor of the Cave Run Symphony Orchestra. He also performed at the ChildAid 2013 concert as a member of the Kids'philharmonic@sg orchestra.

Additionally, Colin was a member of the string ensemble in Primary school and the string ensemble was awarded a Silver Award in the Singapore Youth Festival (SYF). He is active member of his secondary school military band and also plays the oboe.

He is under the tutelage of Ms Natalia Kurganova, from Mandeville Conservatory of Music.

## **Program notes**

### 1. **Dvorak** *Romantic Pieces, Op. 75, No. 1 and 2*

'*Romantic Pieces, Op. 75, No. 1 and 2*' were composed by Antonio Dvorak in 1887. The pieces were originally composed as a trio titled '*Miniatures*' for the amateur violinist Josef Krius who lived with Dvorak's family. However, it was later arranged for the violin and piano and renamed as '*Romantic pieces*'.

The '*Romantic pieces*' are one of Dvorak's most acclaimed works and are renowned for its difference in character through tempo changes and key signatures. In the first movement, the piece begins with an enchanting melody in Bb major. The second movement contrasts the former piece as it is heavily articulated and is played in D minor. As it reaches the third and fourth movement, it reverts to the calm ambiance and sorrowful tone respectively. This gives the listener an influx of emotions and listeners are sure to enjoy this piece.

### 2. **J.S. Bach** *Concerto No. 2 in E Major BMV 1042, Movement III*

Bach's Concerto No. 2 in E Major, BMV 1042, Movement III has a more contrasting tone, with it being the fastest of the three movements. Composed in 1717, Bach had shaped it after the three-movement ritornello concerto form created by Vivaldi.

With a steady pulse and a country ambiance, it is pleasing to the ear. It has a rondo structure, with the theme always bringing back the piece to its E major key. It has multiple variations of the theme and always returns to its tonic note. The last movement also makes use of the rhythm of a three-part Baroque dance known as the passepied.

This fast-moving, lively piece is sure to put a smile on your face.