

## Clara Toh



Clara started playing the violin at the age of three. She recently achieved Distinction in her ABRSM Grade 3 exam 2018. She also received the silver award for the biennial Mandeville Music Festival for two consecutive years, 2015 & 2017. Additionally, she participated in the ensemble competition in the 4<sup>th</sup> Singapore Raffles International Music Festival 2017 and received Gold Award.

She loves making music especially with her elder sister who plays the piano and elder brother who plays violin too. Music truly brings the family closer.

## Program notes

### ***J.S. Bach - Gavotte 1 (from Gavotte in D major)***

Johann Sebastian Bach (J.S. Bach) was a German Baroque composer and he composed many pieces, such as the well-known 'Tocatta and Fugue in D minor', 'Well-Tempered Clavier' and 'Brandenburg Concertos'.

Gavotte refers to a lively French folkdance that was popular in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century. The piece 'Gavotte in D major' was originally an Orchestral Suite piece composed by J.S. Bach for trumpet, timpani, oboe, strings and continuo. It has then been adapted into a solo violin and piano accompaniment piece.

### ***Paganini - Theme and Variation: from 24 Caprices, Op. 1, arr. Christiane Bornemann***

Niccolo Paganini was a famous Italian Romantic composer and violin virtuoso. 'Theme and Variation: from 24 Caprices, Op. 1' was the last and most popular of all his Caprices. The original 'Caprice No. 4 in A minor' was composed in 1817 and contains 11 variations on the theme and a finale. However, this arrangement by Christiane Bornemann has been made easier and only has one variation.

### ***Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim - America: from West Side Story, arr. Jerry Lanning***

Both Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim were American composers. 'West Side Story' was a musical first performed in 1957 before becoming a film in 1961. It has a story like Romeo and Juliet and the story is about the romance between a couple from two rivalry street gangs: the Jets and the Sharks. This piece 'America' was sung by the gang Shark's girlfriends who argue with the guys over the pros and cons of coming to America to live. This piece is special as it switches between 6/8 and 3/4 metre.