



NATIONAL DAY

May 3rd Constitution Day of the Republic of Poland



4th May 2021 at 7:30 pm
Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre
Auditorium
1 Straits Boulevard, Singapore 018906

PROGRAMME

7:30 pm

Opening of the official part

Livestream Speeches

HE Magdalena Bogdziewicz

Ambassador of the Republic of Poland

Mr. Alvin Tan Sheng Hui

*Minister of State for the Ministry of Trade & Industry
and the Ministry of Community, Culture and Youth*

National Anthems

Majulah Singapura

Mazurek Dąbrowskiego

8:00 pm

Concert Programme

Frédéric Chopin
(1810-1849)

Waltz in C-sharp Minor, op. 64 no. 2
Churen Li

Frédéric Chopin
(1810-1849)

Fantasie-Impromptu, op. 66
Churen Li

Henryk Wieniawski
(1835-1880)

Legende, op. 17
Churen Li & Shuxiang Yang

Frédéric Chopin
(1810-1849)

Andante Spianato and Grande Polonaise Brillante
Churen Li

Krzysztof Penderecki
(1933-2020)

“Aria” and “Scherzo” from Suite for Solo Cello
Leslie Tan

Andrzej Panufnik
(1914-1991)

Piano Trio, op. 1
Churen Li, Leslie Tan & Shuxiang Yang

9:00 pm

Programme ends

The International Chopin Piano Competition, initiated in 1927 and held every five years in Warsaw since 1955, is one of the most important music events in the world. Apart from its huge role in popularising Chopin's music, it discovers the greatest piano talents, providing young musicians with the most effective start in their international career. For years, the competition has enjoyed enormous interest, attracting talented pianists from all over the world including Asia and Singapore. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 edition has been moved to October 2021.

PERFORMERS



Churen Li

Artist Fellow at Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music & part-time academic faculty at Yale-NUS, pianist Churen Li has won top prizes at international & national piano competitions. She has been invited to perform recitals & chamber music at international festivals such as the Norfolk Festival, Aspen Music Festival, Four Seasons Chamber Music Festival & the International Summer Academy Music Festival. Concerto engagements include performances with SSO, Klassische Budapest Philharmonic, Metropolitan Festival Orchestra Singapore, Mikhail Jora Philharmonic of Bacău & NUS Symphony Orchestra. Passionate about new music & having experimented increasingly with combining musical genres, as well as reconsidering performance practices in the programming of her concerts, Churen was in Singapore Tatler's Generation-T List 2018. She holds degrees from Yale University, Cambridge University & Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music (NUS).

Founding member of the T'ang Quartet & cellist of Red Dot Baroque, Leslie Tan has performed to critical acclaim in major venues & festivals worldwide, including Tanglewood & Aspen Festivals (USA), Melbourne & Port Fairy Festivals (Australia), New Zealand Festival, Hong Kong Arts Festival, Prague-Vienna-Budapest Sommerakademie & Edinburgh Festival in Europe. With a career spanning 35 yrs, ranging from orchestral to chamber & solo concerts, contemporary & cross-disciplinary works to historically informed performances, he is sought-after both as a pedagogue & concert artiste & is a champion of outreach activities, & musical & transformative education in the ASEAN region, teaching in different festivals & projects in Thailand & co-directing the Music Society of Myanmar. He works frequently with young musicians from Jakarta, Bandung, Yogyakarta, & Surabaya & is the artistic director & co-founder of the Bach-in-Bali Festival. He has also just started a program with the Singapore Int'l Foundation to work with Afghan refugees. He hopes to enrich the lives of the underprivileged & the disenfranchised across Asia through his latest initiative, ProjectArtitude.



Leslie Tan



Shuxiang Yang

Following his performance at the 2012 President's Young Performer's concert, violinist Shuxiang Yang was praised for giving "arguably the finest solo performance in the history of the President's concert series. Seldom has there been a performance of such intensity, one that grabbed the listener by the lapels & never let go" (Straits Times). Yang has concertised in Asia, North America, Europe, & Australasia, at venues ranging from Singapore's Esplanade & Victoria Concert Hall to Boston's Jordan Hall to the iconic Museo del Violino in Cremona. Solo appearances include concerti with the SSO, Singapore National Youth Orchestra, NUS Chinese Orchestra, & The Chamber Players. He has also performed at festivals such as the Perlman Music Program & Macao Arts Festival. Yang currently teaches violin & chamber music at the School of the Arts. He has previously served as teaching assistant to Prof. Donald Weilerstein at the New England Conservatory.

THE CONSTITUTION OF 3RD MAY 1791



The Constitution of May 3 - a painting by Jan Matejko (1838–1893)

As early as in the 18th century, on May 3rd 1791, Poland enacted the country's first modern constitution, to ensure freedom and political equality on its territory and the introduction of constitutional monarchy system. What was very much forward thinking and revolutionary for these times was the guarantee of tolerance and freedom to all religions.

It was Europe's first modern constitution and the world's only second. Inspired by the political thought and philosophy of the European Enlightenment and the American Constitution (adopted only 4 years earlier) its authors believed that power should serve the good of the whole nation, not just the interests of privileged classes.

The Constitution was meant to launch new reforms aimed at strengthening the state. It introduced the division of power into the legislative, the executive and the judicial and abolished various inefficient, even obstructive aspects of the former system, including so called *liberum veto* – which meant the right to block the adoption of any act by any individual member of the legislative assembly.

Although the Constitution of 3rd May 1791 would remain in force for a mere fourteen months, it was a tremendous achievement for the Polish nation, which sought to preserve the independence of the state and ensure the country's economic and political development. May 3rd was declared a national holiday in 1919, but celebrations were banned during WWII as well as under the communist regime. Only in 1990, after communism fell and Poland regained its sovereignty, the pre-war tradition was restored.

