SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL CHORAL FESTIVAL 24

28 – 31 JULY

Opening Concert

28 July 2024 | 7.30pm

Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music
Concert Hall

featuring **ONE Chamber Choir**
conducted by **Ms Lim Ai Hooi**

with Guest-of-Honour
Ms Emily Kuo Vong
President, IFCM

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to the Opening Concert of the 8th Singapore International Choral Festival 2024! Tonight, I'm very honoured to have with us many friends and choristers from overseas as part of the audience, including our Guest-of-Honour Ms Emily Kuo Vong and her husband Mr William Vong.

The concert tonight is special to me as I'm also part of the ONE Chamber Choir family and have been with them on their journey since inception. Fresh from their trip to the 17th China International Chorus Festival in Beijing, the choir presents 'ONE with The World', which is a smorgasbord of works from different cultures and countries around the globe.

As we gather here on this night, let us embark on a journey through these musical landscapes together and let the harmonies guide us to new understandings and deeper connections. Tonight, we celebrate not only the diversity and richness of choral music but also the unity and shared humanity that it brings.

Thank you for joining us tonight and I hope you enjoy the concert.

MESSAGE

With Warmest Regards,

Seah Quee Ming
Festival Director
8th Singapore International Choral Festival

ONE CHAMBER CHOIR

ONE is a young adult choir under the baton of Ms Lim Ai Hooi. Established in June 2009, ONE currently consists of 45 singers, all of whom are choral enthusiasts with rich choral performing experience.

FEATURE CHOIR

In June 2012, ONE was invited as a guest choir for the 1st Festival Corosde Verão, organised as part of the annual Festas de Lisboa event. Apartfrom performing Mozart's "Requiem" for the opening concert, ONE also performed at various landmarks in Lisbon, notably the UNESCO World Heritage site, the Mosteiro dos Jerónimos. In 2013, ONE took part in the Andrea O. Veneracion International Choral Festival in the Philippines and emerged first place in the Chamber Choir category. The choir then took part in the Llangollen International Musical Eistedfodd 2015 in Wales and came back with two second place finishes and a spot in the Choir of the World Grand Finals.

In 2016, ONE took part in the Laurea Mundi Budapest and achieved Laurea Summa Cum Laude for the Mixed Choirs and Musica Sacracategories. In 2017, the choir achieved a 2nd Prize at the prestigious 15th International Chamber Choir Competition Marktoberdorf as well as the Special Prize of the Carl-Orff-Stiftung Diessan am Ammersee for the best interpretation of a choral work premiered at the competition for "The Emigrant" by Wolfram Buchenberg.

More recently in 2018, ONE took part in the World Choir Games 2018, Tshwane, clinching Gold in the Musica Contemporanea and Pop Choir categories, as well as the Champion of the World Choir Games in the Mixed Chamber category.

In 2014, ONE started a new concert series where we explore new genres of music with overseas clinicians, collaborating with Maestro Werner Pfaff from Germany. The choir has since worked together with Maestro Maris Sirmāis from Latvia in 2015 and Maestro André van der Merwe from South Africa in 2016 and 2023, delighting audiences with unique and exciting choral repertoire.

With a vision to bring a new dimension to choral performances, ONE's mission is to challenge conventional choral delivery to present auniquely ONE experience. ONE hopes to engage, entertain and explore new themes and concepts with our audience in every performance.

LIM AI HOOI

SINGAPORE

ISTIC DIRECTOR
CHAMBER CHOIR

Ai Hooi's philosophy for choral music and teaching stems from her view that a fulfilling musical journey is one that is filled with sincerity, love and excellence. She uses the creation of music as a platform to share and infuse her values and beliefs in her singers, and inspires them to use the beauty of music to craft experiences that touch the hearts of the audience.

Born in Penang, Malaysia, Ai Hooi graduated from Royal College of Music, London with Majors in Piano and Voice. After moving to Singapore, Ai Hooi actively contributes to the growth of the local choral scene, through nurturing younger choral conductors and choristers. On top of conducting several local secondary and junior college choirs, Ai Hooi established ONE Chamber Choir, a young adult choir. In 2017, the choir achieved the 2nd Prize of the Mixed Choirs category at the 15th International Chamber Choir Competition Marktoberdorf 2017, as well as the Special Prize of the Carl-Orff-Stiftung Diessan am Ammersee for the best interpretation of a choral worked premiered at the competition for "The Emigrant" by Wolfram Buchenberg. Recently, the choir took part in the 10th World Choir Games in Tshwane, South Africa and achieved Gold in all three categories they competed in, including Champion of the World Choir Games in the Chamber Choir Category.

She has also been the conductor of the Hwa Chong Institution Choir since 2000 which has achieved numerous accolades over the years, including emerging Champion in the Mixed Choir category at the 5th World Choir Games 2008, achieving the title Absolute Winner (top choir across categories) at the Festival of Songs Olomouc, and the Prix du public (Public prize) at the 2010 Florilège vocal de Tour.

Ai Hooi has served as a jury member on numerous international choral festivals, including the World Choir Games, Asian Choral Grand Prix, Singapore International Choral Festival, Bali International Choir Festival, Taipei International Choral Competition, Canta Al Mar Festival Coral Internacional, Karangturi International Choral Festival, Festival Coros de Verão and so on. She has also shared her conducting experiences as a panellist in Poland, China, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Ai Hooi co-founded Sourcewerkz PL in 2010 to further her calling to teach, touch and transform the larger choral community and its audience. To date, Sourcewerkz has organised the Winter Choral Festival in Hong Kong since 2010 and Festival Coros de Verão in Lisbon since 2012, as well as various workshops with international choral clinicians. In 2014, she conceptualised and directed the 1st Singapore International Choral Festival and since then, SICF has played host to over 15,000 choristers and is now in her eighth iteration.

CONCERT PROGRAMME

Singapore Town / arr. Cherie Chai

Bunga Sayang / Dick Lee / arr. Chan Ern Theng

Irama Belia (Carnatic) / Zechariah Goh

Loi Krathong / Ua Sunthornsanan / arr. Kaiwan Kulavadhanothai

Dandansoy / Francisco de Guzman Jr.

Weeping / Dan Heymann / arr. André van der Merwe

Izar Ederrak / Josu Elberdin

Seaside Rendezvous / Freddie Mercury / arr. Paul Hart

鬼女 / Hideki Chihara

天净沙 • 秋思 – Tianjingsha: Autumn Thoughts / Xia Yanbin

Fajar dan Senja II / Ken Steven

Burung Kakaktua / arr. Juliette Lai

Malay Folksong Medley / arr. Jason Ong

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