20 April | SATURDAY

Ho Qian Hui
Viola Recital

Liu Jia, piano

ARNOLD BAX
Sonata for Viola and Piano
   I. Molto Moderato - Allegro
   II. Allegro energico, ma non troppo presto
   III. Molto Lento

INTERMISSION (10 minutes)

GEORGE ROCHBERG
Sonata for Viola and Piano
   I. Allegro moderato
   II. Adagio lamentoso
   III. Fantasia: Epilogue, allegro moderato, ma un poco parlando
About The Performer

Born in Singapore, Ho Qian Hui initially started on the violin before changing to viola in late 2015.

Qian Hui has won a number of awards, both musical and extracurricular including 2nd prizes in the junior categories of both the national chinese and national violin and piano competition in Singapore, bronze, silver and gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards and was a recipient of the Steven Baxter Memorial Scholarship. She was also the grand prize winner of the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory Concerto Competition in 2017.

She is currently a freelance violist with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra and the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra.

Programme Notes

Arnold Bax, Sonata for Viola and Piano

Arnold Bax (1883-1953) was an English composer and poet widely considered to be one of the best symphonists of his time. Although most famous for his orchestral music, notably his symphonic poem ‘Tintagel’, his compositional output was prolific and included many songs, choral music, chamber music and piano works.

Bax composed quite a number of works for viola, including a Concert Piece (Fantasy) and a viola sonata with harp. He also composed a well known trio for flute viola and harp that is now an important repertory in the genre. The most important influence for Bax’s viola works was Lionel Tertis. Before the Viola sonata (with piano), Bax had previously composed for Tertis the Concert Piece. This sonata was dedicated to Tertis and premiered with Bax playing the piano part in 1922 at London’s Aeolian Hall.
George Rochberg, Sonata for Viola and Piano

George Rochberg (1918-2015) was an American composer who was the Chairman of the music department at the University of Pennsylvania. His compositional output was varied and went through many different musical styles. As a young music student at the Mannes School of Music, he was drafted to fight in the Second World War at the age of 21. Wounded in Normandy, he returned to the US a more bitter person with a changed perspective. From this point onward and till 1964, Rochberg’s music was almost entirely serialist.

In 1964, Rochberg’s son died of a brain tumour. This marked a turning point in his compositional output. He returned to implementing a more classical style and returning to tonality. For example in his 3rd string quartet that includes a set of variations in the style of late Beethoven. His music became deeply romantic, which some called ‘New Romanticism’. The viola sonata was written in 1979 and is a good example of this. This sonata was written in honour of William Primrose’s 75th birthday and premiered at the 7th International Viola Congress.