



# UNDERSTANDING PERFORMANCE

CONFERENCE

Sunway University School of Arts

Friday 30 August. 9.30am to 5.00pm

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# Understanding the Art of Performance

Welcome to Understanding Performance, the conference for dedicated to navigating the subtle yet impactful transition from simply playing to truly performing music.

A successful performance is the culmination of so much effort - mental and physical, seen and unseen - to bring a musical work to life.

At Understanding Performance, delve into the areas of musical performance that complement technical skill, allowing a performer to truly shine.

This year, our presenters, esteemed academics and performers themselves, will be sharing valuable ideas and innovative methods on topics such as building an engaging programme, performance practice and interpretation of the music and dealing with the stresses of performance anxiety.



# Program of the day:

## Morning Session

Time	Items
9.00	Registration and book display by Arrowvision
9.30	<b>Words of Welcome</b> by Prof Mayco Axel Santaella, Dean of the School of Arts <b>Opening Address</b> by Terence Lam, Trinity College London Regional Manager
10 – 10.45	<b>Ages of Complexity and Simplicity: Unravelling Music for Strings of the Baroque and Classical</b> Asso. Prof. Dr Andrew Filmer, Musicologist and Lecturer Gabriel Lee, Lecturer and Performer  Using selections from the Trinity syllabi for bowed strings, string specialists Gabriel Lee and Andrew Filmer will delve into nuances of style and technique performances of works from the Baroque and Classical periods -- providing tips, and common misunderstandings, for each period, across various levels of study.
11 – 11.45	<b>A journey of undergraduate study</b>  Pedagogical Approaches to Developing Pianists Dr Poom Prommochart, Lecturer and Steinway Artist.  Students are often guided on technicalities rather than psychological and musical preparedness, more so when working on polyphonic works which can be abstract. In this lecture-recital, Poom Prommochart explores the important points to be aware when learning selected polyphonic works from the Baroque and Romantic period. The session will also consider different approaches to teach different levels of pianists in nurturing musicality from a young age.  Works featured:  1. J.S. Bach: The Well-Tempered Clavier, Book 2, BWV 870-893 - Prelude and Fugue in F Major, BWV 880  2. Johann Sebastian Bach - Franz Liszt Fantasy and Fugue in G minor, BWV 542  3. Chopin Polonaise Fantasy, Op. 61
12 – 12.45	<b>Piano Masterclass</b> with Dr Poom Prommachart
12 – 12.45	<b>Strings Masterclass</b> with Dr Andrew Filmer and Gabriel Lee
1.00	<b>Lunch Break</b>

# Program of the day:

## Afternoon Session

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Time	Items
2.00 – 2.45	<p><b>Remote Rhythm Foundations: Developing counting and subdivision via innovative online teaching.</b> Asso. Prof. Dr Tom Pierard, Lecturer</p> <p>This presentation explores strategies for effectively teaching rhythmic fundamentals in online learning environments. Through practical demonstrations and research-based insights, participants will discover how to leverage digital tools and interactive exercises to foster rhythmic fluency in students. Emphasis will be placed on adaptable approaches to counting, subdivision, and rhythmic patterns that can be easily integrated into existing curricula.</p>
3.00 – 3.45	<p><b>Helping Students overcome Musical Inhibition</b> Datin Dr Kathryn Ang, Music Educator</p> <p>Musical inhibition can contribute to performance anxiety, where musicians may experience loss of confidence, loss of interest, and trauma during a performance. This psychological pressure can impede their ability to express themselves freely, hindering the natural flow of creativity and compromising the overall quality of their musical delivery. Issues related to parenting, teaching, and the prevalent culture of exams and competitions are factors that influence inhibition. Teachers generally attempt to bolster the motivation of students to help them overcome the inhibition.</p>
4.00 – 4.45	<p><b>Programme Building for Pianists</b> Asst. Prof Dr Christine Tan, Lecturer</p> <p>Approaches to constructing piano programs entail employing a diverse range of strategies. Given the vast repertoire available, it's essential to strike a balance between contrasting elements to meet technical and musical demands effectively.</p>
5.00 – 5.10	<p><b>Closing words</b> by U-Jin Lim and Terence Lam</p>

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## Featuring:



### **Asso. Prof. Dr Andrew Filmer**

Dr Andrew Filmer is an associate professor at Sunway University, a Senior Fellow of the UK's Higher Education Academy, and is Head of Jury for the Euroasia Strings Competition. Andrew has been featured at four International Viola Congresses. His research has been presented twice at the University of Cambridge, and published across four continents.



### **Gabriel Lee**

Singaporean violinist Gabriel Lee performs in diverse sound worlds with his baroque and modern violins, and builds new frontiers in the Southeast Asian musical landscape as a music educator and entrepreneur. He is the Managing Director of the SEA Music Academy Online, and Adjunct Faculty at the YST Conservatory of Music and the School of the Arts.



### **Dr Poom Prommachart**

Steinway artist Poom Prommachart is a noted performer who also dedicates his time in academia, being currently the program leader for undergraduate studies in music performance at Sunway University as well as an Elite Fellow of University Malaya's music faculty. He is also the artistic director of the Steinway Youth Piano Competition in Thailand. A multi-award winner during his time at Royal College of Music, London and the Moscow Conservatory, Poom continues to garner accolades in numerous concerts and performances, both overseas and in Malaysia.

## Featuring:



### **Dr Kathryn Ang**

Dr. Kathryn Ang, a renowned musician, holds a Doctorate in Music and Masters in Piano Didactics. With over four decades of experience, she is acclaimed for training teachers and performers. As an adjudicator, lecturer, and researcher, she actively contributes to the music community globally, showcasing her dedication to advancing music education and nurturing future talent.



### **Asso. Prof. Dr Tom Pierard**

Dr Tom Pierard is a versatile musician and educator who brings a wealth of experience to his role as Associate Professor at Sunway University. His musical career balances teaching, research, touring, and composing music for film and television while his eclectic musical influences inform his dynamic approach to innovative pedagogy.



### **Asst. Prof. Dr Christine Tan**

Dr Christine Tan holds Bachelor's, Master's, and DMA degrees in Piano Pedagogy and Performance from the United States. She currently serves as an Assistant Professor at UCSI University, Malaysia. Renowned for her duo-piano performances across Malaysia, Indonesia, Taiwan, and China, she is also a respected adjudicator and clinician, conducting workshops locally and overseas. At UCSI University, she leads initiatives like the UCSI Piano Pedagogy Conference and the International Piano Festival and Competition, in addition to overseeing Praxis, Industry, and Community Engagement for the Institute of Music.