

Musicians of The 2nd Flute Festival Singapore 2011

William Bennett (UK)

One of the foremost musical artists performing today, William Bennett has raised the profile of the flute to that of an instrument capable of a wide range of tonal colors, dynamics, and expression, giving it the depth, dignity, and grandeur of the voice or a string instrument.

He studied in London with Geoffrey Gilbert, and in France with Jean-Pierre Rampal and Marcel Moyse. He has been principal flute in many orchestras including the London Symphony, the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, and the English Chamber Orchestra. The Master classes of Marcel Moyse in Switzerland in the late 70's provided extra stimulus and inspiration so that, in tandem with William Bennett's burgeoning career developed as an international soloist and recording artist partnerships with Clifford Benson (piano) and George Malcolm (harpsichord) and solo recordings with Yehudi Menuhin, the Grumiaux Trio, I Musici, the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, and the English Chamber Orchestra have received international acclaim and enthusiastic reviews in record and CD journals.

Early in his career, he made the first English recording of the complete Handel Flute Sonatas, and of contemporary works including the Sonatine of Boulez, Berio's Sequenza, Messaien's Merle Noir, and Richard Rodney Bennett's "Winter Music" (written for him). In addition to recording the standard flute repertoire of Bach, Handel, Vivaldi, Mozart, etc., he has made pioneer recordings of many neglected 19th century works, such as music by Ries, Romberg, and Taffanel. He has recorded with artists such as Jimi Hendrix and Wynton Marsalis. He has made over 90 CD's as a soloist. Recently he premiered the Concerto by William Mathias, the Concerto by Diana Burr ell and the Concerto for Flute and Flute Orchestra by Venezuelan composer Raymund Pineda. All of these were specially written for him.

This year his Concert engagement take him to U.S.A (February, May, June), Switzerland, Japan, Venezuela.China/Taiwan etc. and he is going to record several contemporary Flute Concertos with English Chamber Orchestra and two CDs with pianist Clifford Benson.

In January 1995 H.M. The Queen presented William Bennett with the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (O.B.E) for his distinguished Services to Music. In 2002 he was awarded the National Flute Association's "Lifetime Achievement Award" and in 2003 he was appointed the British Flute Society's "Flautist Laureate".

Michie Bennett (UK)

Michie Bennett was the flute professor of Royal Academy of Music in London and assistant teacher of William Bennett. She studied at the Tokyo University of Art with Professor Masao Yoshida and Masaru Kawasaki, at the Zurich Music Hochschule in Switzerland with Andre Jaunet, and later studied with William Bennett in London.

Ms. Bennett is the director of the BEEP Records, and director of the William Bennett International Flute Summer School for the past 26 years.

Goh Tiong Eng (Singapore)

A pioneer on the flute, Tiong Eng's CD recordings are being played regularly on radio. 1st prize winner with the Best Performer Award in the National Competition, he studied music in Paris for 3 years under a French government scholarship. Graduated with 1st prize and the Prix d'Excellence, he performed full time with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra for 15 years.

In 1994, Tiong Eng obtained his LRAM and Master of Music degree when he furthers his studies in London with the renowned virtuoso William Bennett at the Royal Academy of Music. Besides performing, his other passion includes teaching flute with the best method from both the French and the British school of flute playing.



Tone Melody Flute Ensemble (Taiwan)

Founded in 1984, Tone Melody Flute Ensemble was the first ensemble assembled of the same instrument in Taiwan. Since 1985, it has been holding annual events such as public concerts at the National CKS Concert Hall, regional Cultural Center, or concert tours around the island. It has performed well over one hundred times in public.

In its twenty-six-year history, Tone Melody Flute Ensemble not only managed to bring regular concerts to the audience but also invited numerous world-class flutists to perform in Taiwan. It has been highly praised for its role in promoting cultural exchange and enrichment of civil life as well as introducing fine flute music to audiences.

Some of its international events:

- 1987 – Concert tour in Canada and USA
- 1990 – Invited to perform in the 1st Asia Flute Festival
- 1997 – Performed in the N.F.A Chicago
- 2005 – Invited to 12th Japan Flute Convention
- 2009 – Concert tour in China



The Flute Ensemble (Singapore)

Directed by flutist Goh Tiong Eng, this new flute ensemble consists of top professionals and upcoming flutists in Singapore. Aims to promote the art of chamber and ensemble music for flutes, it also provides a platform for flute enthusiasts to fellowship and play the flute together on a regular basis. Future highlights include concerts with other regional flute ensembles in Hong Kong, Taiwan and beyond.

Chan Yoong Han, Violinist (Singapore)

Currently the 4th Chair 1st violins in the Singapore Symphony Orchestra as well as the National Arts Council appointed Concertmaster of the Singapore Festival Orchestra, Yoong Han's principal teachers have included his father, Chan Yong Shing, as well as renowned violinists such as Beryl Kimber, Sergiu Luca, Charles Treger, David Cerone, Kurt Sassmannshaus and Dorothy Delay. Yoong Han is a graduate from Rice University and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Yoong Han has appeared as soloist with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra, the Szeged Symphony of Hungary, the Singapore Chinese Orchestra, the Singapore Youth Orchestra, the SAF Chinese Orchestra and the Braddell Heights Symphony in concertos by Dvorak, Lalo, Berg, Mozart, Weniawski, Sibelius, and Er Yenn Chwen appearing with conductors such as Erwin Acel, Matthias Bamert, Han Zhong Jie and Lim Yau. He was featured as soloist in the 2003 Presidents Young Performers Series as well as the 1999 Presidents Charity Concert. As concertmaster of the Singapore Festival Orchestra and various ensembles, he has worked closely with conductors such as Lan Shui, Lim Yau, Chan Tze Law, Joshua Tan Kang Ming, Stephen Cleobury, Markus Huber, Arnie Roth, Tan Dun and Uros Lajovic. Yoong Han has been a prize winner in the Adelaide Estedffod, the Iris Colley Prize (Australia) as well as the 1994 Corpus Christi Young Artist Competition (USA).

Yoong Han has performed in the Aspen Music Festival, the Singapore Arts Festival, the Adelaide Bach Festival, The Port Fairy Spring Festival (Australia), The Singapore Encore (Brussels), the Cascade Head Music Festival (Oregon, USA), the Contemporary Music Ensemble (Amherst College), the New Music Forum, the SSO Chamber Ensemble Series, the Encore School for Strings (Ohio, USA). Furthermore, Yoong Han has also collaborated as chamber musician with the T'ang Quartet, the Choir of King's College (Cambridge), the Singapore Dance Theatre as well as the Magnetic Band.

Yoong Han is the 2000 Shell-NAC Arts Scholar and the winner of the 2004 NAC Young Artist Award in Singapore, and a member of the Advisory Committee of the National Piano & Violin Competition. Yoong Han has also been active in premiering, performing and recording works by local composers such as Phoon Yew Tien, Leong Yoon Pin, Er Yenn Chwen, Joyce Koh, Tan Chan Boon and Tsao Chieh. As a teacher, Yoong Han has taught in the University of Massachusetts and Amherst College. He currently is a faculty member in the Singapore Arts School (SOTA). Besides making music, Yoong Han enjoys sharing life with his wife Cindy and daughter Chantal.

Han Oh, Violist (Singapore)

At the age of nineteen, Han was the sole prizewinner in the 1993 National Singapore Music Competition-Open Lower Strings Category. Han has also served as principal violist for numerous orchestras including the Colorado Mahler Festival and the San Francisco Lyric Opera.

Relocating to Los Angeles in 2003, Han has actively performed and recorded with numerous orchestras, ensembles and high-profile events including the 48th Annual Grammy Awards. He also performed with the American Idol Band in the 2006 season and had multiple appearances on Tonight Show with Jay Leno, Late Show with David Letterman and Late Night with Conan O'Brien.

Han has since worked with Grammy-winning producers such as David Foster and "Dangermouse" aka Brian Burton. He has also performed live alongside Josh Groban, Linkin Park, Jay Z and Michael Buble amongst many others. As an original member of the

multiple Grammy-winning band Gnarlz Barkley, Han has toured with the group extensively within the United States of America and Canada.

Upon his return to Singapore, Han has been actively involved in the local performing arts scene, contributing his expertise to various arts groups such as the newly formed Singapore Festival Orchestra, Singapore Lyric Opera. He also currently serves as conductor and instrumental coach for the National Junior College String Ensemble, Methodist Girls Secondary School and the Singapore National Youth Orchestra.

Han joined the critically acclaimed T'ang Quartet in 2009 and has since performed in numerous festivals including Christchurch Arts Festival and Port Fairy Music Festival.

Chan Wei Shing, Cellist (Singapore)

Born to a musical family, Wei Shing started learning the piano at the age of eight and the cello at ten, with Mrs. H. Ilano (Former sub-principal, SSO). In 1985, he won the First Prize in two categories of the National Music Competition - the Cello Open and the Chamber Music. Since then, Wei Shing has been involved in many concerts and opera productions such as *Die Fledermaus* and *La Traviata*, and also Young Musicians Concerts. As principal cellist of the Singapore Youth Orchestra then, he was also selected as soloist in 1985 and in 1988 for the orchestra's tour to Australia.

In 1988, Wei Shing studied in the University of Music in Vienna with Prof. Angelika May for two years, as a result of winning the scholarship from the former Cultural Foundation and the Lee Foundation. Then he went on to the University of Music in Graz to study with Prof. Rudolf Leopold. Here in 1996, he was awarded the Master Degree of Arts major in Cello Performing. During his study at the Graz University, Wei Shing has been appointed principal cellist of the University Orchestra and University Opera Orchestra where he played in many concerts and operas. He was also chosen to represent the university in the exchange program with many different Academies and Universities in Europe.

Besides playing in orchestras, Wei Shing also played in many Concerts and festivals such as the Vienna Festival Weeks, Bad Aussee Music Festival Weeks, Holland Music Session, Brahms Music Weeks, among others. He has also participated in master-classes with renowned cellist like William Pleeth, Phillipe Müller, Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi, Wolfgang Bottcher, Valentin Erban and Ivan Montigetti.

Since his return to Singapore, Wei Shing has been performing regularly. He has been involved in many chamber concerts in Asia including a trio performance with pianist Pascal Roger, in the Singapore Arts Festival with the Singapore Dance Theater, and CD recording of works from Tsao Chieh and Poon Yew Tien. This year, Wei Shing was appointed the Music Director of The Millennial Orchestra and in his inaugural concert as music director, the orchestra hope to feature local talents and composers which will include works by Dr Kelly Tang, Dr Er Yenn Chwen and many more.

Huang Yu-Hsin, Harpist (Taiwan)

The *Boston Globe* acclaiming her playing as "deft and sensitive" said "Yu-Hsin Huang was worth your keenest attention" and "she plays moon, snow, romance, and a lot of other characters."

Born in Taiwan, Ms. Huang went to the United States at the age of 18 under a Full Scholarship to study harp and piano at the Boston University's School for the Arts after winning First Prize over all instrumentalists in the Boston Classical Orchestra's Concerto Competition. Since then, her other awards including: The Boston University Concerto-Aria Competition, the Elizabeth Herbert Hobin Harp Competition, the American String Teachers Association with National School Orchestra Association Competition, and Arlington Young Artist Competition.

As a soloist, Ms. Huang won acclaims for her recitals in the US and Taiwan as well as for her solo appearances with various orchestras. She has played concertos with the famous Boston Pops Orchestra under the direction of Keith Lockhart, the Boston Classical Orchestra, Braddell Heights Symphony Orchestra (Singapore), and also with the Boston University Symphony Orchestra. After moving to Singapore in 2005, Ms. Huang has given numbers of solo harp recitals and chamber music concerts at the Esplanade, Victoria Concert Hall, and other venues. She was also invited to perform for the President and the Chief Justice of Singapore at the Istana in 2006, and 2007.

A frequent orchestral and chamber music performer, Ms. Huang has been invited to music festivals including Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra and National Orchestral Institute. In 2001, she was engaged to play the Balanchin Ballet of Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker" with the New York City Ballet at the Lincoln Center in New York. Ms. Huang held Principal Harpist position of the Hingham Symphony Orchestra from 2002-2004. Ms. Huang is a regular substitute with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra. She has also performed with the Singapore Lyric Opera, and Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra.

As an educator, Ms. Huang's students performed at the Arts House in 2007. Her Harp Ensemble will make their debut to public in June this year. She is currently the harp coach for National University of Singapore Symphony Orchestra and Singapore National Youth Orchestra. Ms. Huang is a Doctoral of Music candidate at Boston University. She received her Bachelor of music, Master of music, and Performance Diploma degrees in Harp Performance ---All with Full Scholarships from Boston University, where she studied with Ms. Lucile Lawrence, and Emily Halpern Lewis.