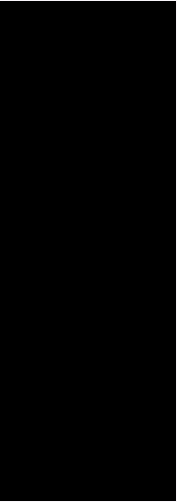


EUNOIA JUNIOR COLLEGE

MELOMANIA VI

PROGRAMME BOOKLET

12th May 2023, 1730 - 1900



Steve Reich: It's Gonna Rain

programme

Lowell Liebermann: Gargoyles

Edgard Varèse: Density 21.5

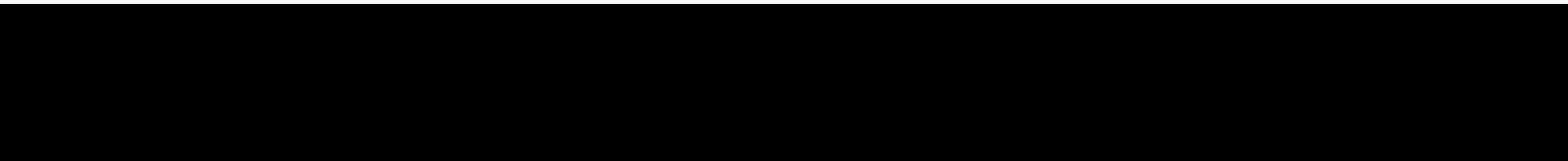
Steve Reich: Piano Phase

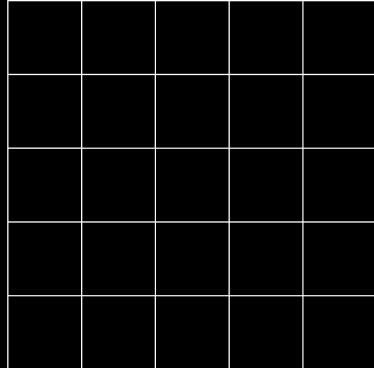
Intermission

Xavier Hui: ma

Arvo Pärt: Für Alina

Xavier Hui: Five Movements in 6001





About this concert

The "Melomania" concert series was conceived when a bunch of EJC Music students who had a like-minded interest towards the experimental and the weird decided to start a concert with John Cage's 4'33"....

Melomania V was thus programmed in May in 2022. The concert featured mainly American avant-garde music of the late 20th century, from Cage to Henry Cowell to Steve Reich.

Melomania VI can be regarded as the sequel to Melomania V with an even crazier programme involving a Frenchman, an American, two minimalists, and two original compositions by Xavier Hui.

This concert is not so much a concert, but an exhibition of new music.



It's Gonna Rain



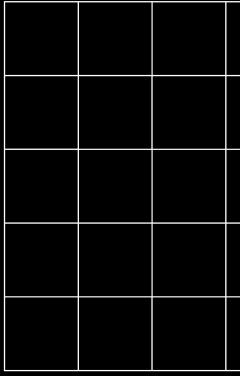
Before officially starting this concert, we will be presenting an electroacoustic display of this work.

It's Gonna Rain is a composition for electronic tape written in 1965. According to the composer, this work was written amid the backdrop of the Cuban Missile Crisis where people lived under constant threat of nuclear annihilation.

The source material is taken from a tape recording in San Francisco's Union Square in 1964, of a Black Pentacostal preacher preaching about the end of the world. "It's Gonna Rain" is an allusion to the biblical flood of Noah.

Phase shifting is one of the most prominent techniques of the works. Two tapes presenting the material at the same time gradually become more out of sync, resulting in the creation of numerous overtones and interesting textures.

Gargoyles



About:

Lowell Liebermann is an American composer, pianist and conductor. His music is an exploration of various tonal colours, combining the usage of both tonal and conventional harmonies with more radical polytonal innovations.

This Work

In architecture, a Gargoyle is a grotesque face protruding out of a building, often expressing great humour. In a similar sense, this four-movement piano suite explores the idea of grotesque humour.



Density 21.5

Imagine writing a piece based on the density of platinum...

Yes. Density 21.5 is a work composed by Edgard Varèse for solo flute in 1936 at the request of flautist Georges Barrère.

Varese is a composer best known for his orchestral works and in his reconceptualisation of music as the manipulation of sound masses. Varese has a tendency towards large orchestral forces, with the inclusion of weird and even unorthodox instruments such as sirens and boat whistles.

An interesting angle of Varese would be in his chamber music. Density 21.5 is a peculiarity in his output in comparison with works such as Arcana, Ameriques and Deserts.





Piano Phase

Fun Fact

We actually played Reich's piano phase in Melomania V. However, due to time constraints, we only played the first phase. For Melomania VI, the Piano Phase will be presented in full.

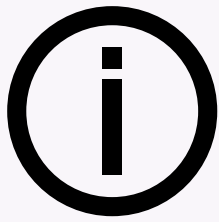
About Minimalism

Minimalist music is often described as meditative, soothing and even hypnotic. Minimalism, as the name suggests, aims to strip music to its bare essentials. A simple theme is often expanded and restated for minutes or even hours on end. Two of the most prolific minimalist composers that emerged are Phillip Glass and Steve Reich. Both of them are still living!

About this Work

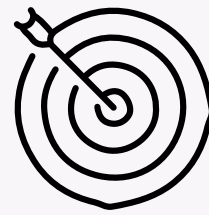
Steve Reich's Piano Phase explores with the technique of phasing. Quite simply, the music gradually becomes out of sync, producing unique acoustic effects. Reich uses this technique with a simple set of notes to prolong the music.

ma



About the work

ma is a solo flute work exploring the Japanese concept of ma (i.e negative space)



Dedicated to: my music teacher

Mr Lee Ji Heng, who is as I recall a huge fan of Luciano Berio



An overview: of the music

My vision of ma is not so much about silence, but the "empty space" between notes. I explored this concept through having a point of return to a note. Between iterations of the note, I explored numerous techniques.

From a harmonic perspective, the work gradually degrades from a pentatonic modal quality to a highly chromatic colour, and finally to a gritty multiphonic-like section.

Für Alina



Für Alina (for Alina) is a short piano piece by the composer Arvo Pärt. The piece was dedicated to an eighteen year old family friend's daughter who had divorced. This was actually dedicated to the daughter's mother, and explores an introspection of loss and longing.

Compared to Reich, Part's music is characterised with a sense of spirituality. Notably, Part uses the technique of Tintinabulation, which aims to evoke the sounds of bells.

For this performance, we have reimagined the evocations by amplifying the piano!

Five Movements in 6001

"But, does this chord sound like a sus"

Five Movements in 6001 is a multi-medium work involving an electro-acoustic track and live performers. This work is dedicated to my other music teacher Dr Gooi, who as I fondly recall is a huge fan of electro-acoustic music. The number 6001 is a homage to the moniker than my teacher uses.

This work is part of the inaugural performance of what the FORTE (WTF) - a group of young musicians who are interested in unorthodox music and local avant-garde compositions



I imagine this work as a exploration of different musical parameters. There are a total of five sections. The first explores the full sample, the next section explores a rather gritty and granulated section. The third section explores a point of harmonic stasis marked by time-based structures. The fourth explores the idea of reversed audio looping and the last is a dense chaos reminiscent of the music of New Complexity composers such as Ferneyhough and Finnessy

The primary theme of the work is the intersection between the artificial and the organic. This duality manifests in different ways: electronic vs acoustic, rigidity vs looseness.

About Xavier



Xavier completed his studies in Eunoia Junior College in 2022, having read A Level H2 and H3 music under the Music Elective Programme (MEP). As a highly passionate and conscientious learner of music, he continues to put hundreds of hours into understanding musical scores, compositional technique and music history. The fruits of his labour can be seen in how he won the Eunoia Music Commendation Award three consecutive times in 2021, 2022 and 2023.

The past two years of studying music under Mrs Joanne Yeo, Mr Lee Ji Heng, and Dr Gooi Tah Choe had cultivated his interest in composition and his exploration of various stylistic influences. At present, Xavier is currently under the tutorlage of Mr Terrence Wong who is currently mentoring him in composition and counterpoint.

One word to describe Xavier's music - **eclectic**

As a composer of a multitude of styles, he embraces stylistic diversity in his fusion and integration of many contrasting styles - from neo-classicism to swing jazz to electro-acoustics to Javanese Gamelan. He continues to explore new styles of writing and firmly believes that the bounds of exploration are limitless. Xavier is also a very versatile composer who writes for different instrumental combinations, from large orchestral/concert band works to chamber wind groups to electronics. Xavier is currently the artistic director of the new new music ensemble, what the FORTE (WTF), which specialises in presenting contemporary music and local compositions.

As an avid advocate for music, he helped organised outreach programmes for his peers in Eunoia Junior College, notably the previous instalment Melomania V in 2022. Xavier is also an aspiring conductor, having conducted the Eunoia Junior College Symphonic Band and ensembles for the MEP concert Euphony in 2022, as well as the recent Menagerie concert in 2023. At present, Xavier is also in the process of starting a new wind ensemble Re:Cinta Winds - a group of passionate like minded youths.

Xavier also currently plays the Euphonium to an acceptable standard, having played in the WBAS Youth Band Festival in 2019 and 2022. Xavier has also played under numerous conductors such as Mr Adrian Chiang, Mr Seow Yibin and Mr Wilson Ong, and is currently playing with New Gen Wind Symphony.

what the FORTE (WTF): the players



Born and raised in Singapore, Dylan began playing the Trombone when he was 9 in the Saints Symphonia under the baton of Mr Tan Beng Wee, Mr Terry Lee, and Ms Yip Yuen Cum. He has subsequently been under the baton of Mr Tarun Jayaram, Mr Sebastian Koh, and Mr Benjamin Yeo in the St. Andrews Secondary School Military Band, as well as Mr Gavilan Neo in the Nanyang Symphonic Band where he served as the Student Conductor. Under the guidance of his instructors, Dylan quickly discovered a love for music and a natural talent for playing and performing.

As a student, Dylan has pursued his musical education with determination and enthusiasm. He has performed with various ensembles such as the Band Directors Association (Singapore) Band, Kids Philharmonic Orchestra, The Purple Symphony, Saints Alumni Band, Nanyang Junior College Alumni Band, and Authentico Winds Ensemble. He is currently studying under the tutelage of Mr Samuel Armstrong of the Singapore Symphony Orchestra and spent countless hours practicing and refining his technique.



Jaden studies music as a J2 student under Dr Gooi Tah Choe and Mr Lee Ji Heng, and have obtained the Music Elective Scholarship in 2022. Passionate about performing and constantly seeking improvement, he has gained much experience in this field and have performed in numerous competitions and concerts. Most recently, he attained first place in the 2023 Music Singapore International Piano & Violin Competition.

As a percussionist in Eunoia Junior College Symphonic Band, Jaden also enjoys collaborating and performing with other musicians. He has previously collaborated with Xavier in the planning of the recent Menagerie Concert.

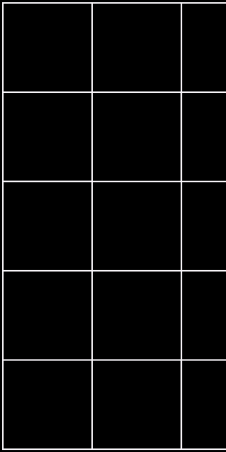


Jiawen is a rock/pop/indie drummer who has been playing drumset since around 8 years ago. He had been participating in stage performances since secondary school, in CCAs such as SPF Symphonic Band, EJC Symphonic Band, EJC Rock Band and NUS Amplified. In EJC Rock Band, he started writing and recording his first project with the band called EJC School Anthem rock version. He is very pleased to be participating in the formation of WTF to give an alternative experience to you all.



Ng Sheng Jun is a 19 year old flute major currently studying in the Nanyang Academy of Fine Art , under the tutelage of Roberto Alvarez , the Singapore Symphony Orchestra piccolo player.

Sheng Jun has been learning the flute under Goh Tiong Eng when he was 15, preparing for the NAFA audition. When he started learning the flute at 13, he has been participating in band festivals and concerts. Sheng Jun loves to perform for an audience and he also has an interest in working with composers to premiere their pieces.

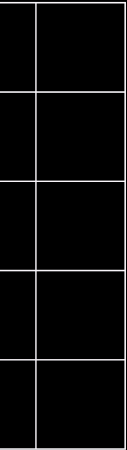


thank you!

Mr Lee Ji Heng
Dr Gooi Tah Choe

what the FORTE (WTF)

The support of Eunoia
Junior College



**and the audience
who came today!**