

# Singapore Symphony Group

FY 2019/20 Highlights



# ABOUT THE SINGAPORE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Founded in 1979, the Singapore Symphony Orchestra (SSO) is Singapore's flagship orchestra, touching lives through classical music and providing the heartbeat of the cultural scene. In addition to its subscription series concerts, the SSO is also known for its outdoor and community appearances. The orchestra also presents intimate chamber performances in the VCHpresents series, the annual Singapore International Piano Festival (SIPF) and the biennial National Piano and Violin Competition (NPVC) at the Victoria Concert Hall, Home of the SSO. The SSO is part of the Singapore Symphony Group, which also manages the Singapore Symphony Choruses, and the Singapore National Youth Orchestra.

## Hans Graf, Chief Conductor, Singapore Symphony Orchestra



Hans Graf assumed the title of Chief Conductor of the Singapore Symphony Orchestra in July 2020. His collaboration with the SSO has been described as an “inspired partnership” (The Straits Times). Graf was formerly Music Director of the Houston Symphony (2001–2013), the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, the Orchestre National Bordeaux Aquitaine, the Basque National Orchestra and the Mozarteum Orchestra Salzburg. He has appeared with most major orchestras in the US and Canada, including a close collaboration with the Boston Symphony Orchestra. In Europe, Graf has conducted the Vienna Philharmonic, the London Symphony Orchestra and the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra among many others. In 2014, he was awarded the Österreichischer Musiktheaterpreis for Richard Strauss's *Feuersnot* at the Vienna Volksoper. In 2017 and 2018, Graf's semi-staged production of Berg's *Wozzeck* with the Houston Symphony won the ECHO Klassik and GRAMMY awards for best opera recording.

## OUR AFFILIATED PERFORMING GROUPS

### SINGAPORE NATIONAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA



The Singapore National Youth Orchestra (SNYO) creates the extraordinary, where young musicians come together to become an extraordinary orchestra. The SNYO delivers an experience that transforms youths, our audience and the music community by inspiring young people towards artistic excellence, nurturing them to reach beyond their potential, and developing them through rigorous training within a vibrant, supportive and diverse environment.

### SINGAPORE SYMPHONY CHORUSES

The Singapore Symphony Choruses is a premier choral body comprising the Singapore Symphony Chorus, Singapore Symphony Youth Choir and Singapore Symphony Children's Choir.



SINGAPORE SYMPHONY CHORUS  
CELEBRATING CHORAL EXCELLENCE

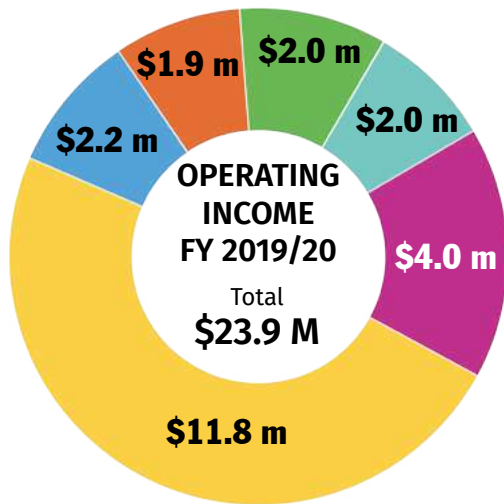


SINGAPORE SYMPHONY YOUTH CHOIR  
INSPIRING CHORAL PASSION



SINGAPORE SYMPHONY CHILDREN'S CHOIR  
NURTURING CHORAL BRILLIANCE

# INCOME & EXPENDITURE



● Income from Ticket Sales	\$2.0 M
● Donations Raised	\$2.0 M
● Grant from Toteboard	\$4.0 M
● Grant from MCCY/NAC	\$11.8 M
● Income from Cultural Matching Fund	\$2.2 M
● Other Income	\$1.9 M



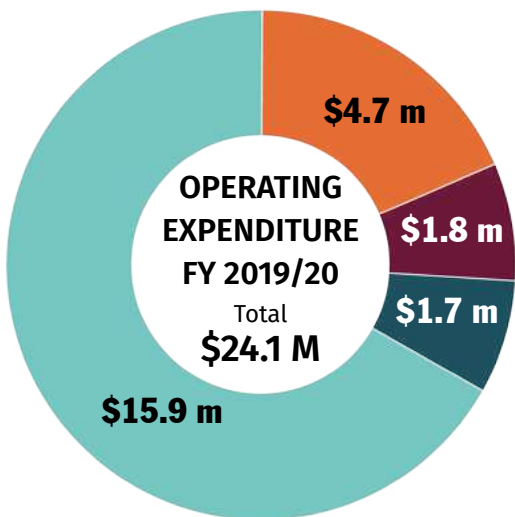
**\$2.0 M**  
income from  
ticket sales



**\$2.0 M**  
Donations &  
Sponsorship



**\$15.8 M**  
Government-  
related grants



● Staff Costs	\$15.9 M
● Programmes	\$1.7 M
● Marketing and Publicity	\$1.8 M
● Operational Expenses	\$4.7 M

# AUDIENCES



**187**  
events &  
concerts



**428**  
beneficiaries  
from various  
charities



**3,680**  
students from the  
Young Symphony  
Explorers programme



**58,251**  
ticketed  
audience



**101,672**  
Lives Touched

# 2019/20 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

## SPREAD THE LOVE OF MUSIC



### **PHILLIPE QUINT: THE RED VIOLIN** **5 MAR 2020**

Principal Guest Conductor Andrew Litton with violinist Philippe Quint.

### **MUSIC OF STAR WARS CONCERT** **19 & 20 DEC 2019**

A live orchestra concert of John William's music from the Star Wars movies with conductor Christopher Dragon.



### **KAVAKOS PLAYS KORNGOLD CONCERT** **17 JAN 2020**

SSO Chief Conductor Hans Graf and virtuoso Greek violinist Leonidas Kavakos.



### **RED BALLOON SERIES:** **MOONRISE AND AURORA** **30 AUG 2019**

A one-night film+music experience at the Esplanade Concert Hall, on a big screen, hosted by Emmy-nominated astronomer, science educator, experimental photographer and visual artist José Francisco Salgado.



# 2019/20 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

## ENRICH OUR COMMUNITIES

### LIVESTREAM OF NATIONAL DAY CONCERT 10 AUG 2019

Celebrating Singapore's National Day in this all-Singaporean showcase of homegrown musical flair with Jeremy Monteiro, Christy Smith, Samuel Phua, Nawaz Mirajkar and V M Sai Akileshwa, ending with Iskandar Ismail's glorious arrangement of the National Anthem sung by Joanna Dong.



### SSO MOTHER'S DAY CONCERT AT THE BOTANIC GARDENS 12 MAY 2019

SSO's popular Mother's Day Concert at the Singapore Botanic Gardens with the winsome young violinist Chloe Chua.



### PRESIDENT'S YOUNG PERFORMER CONCERT 27 SEP 2019

SSO's Annual President's Young Performers Concert 2019 with our Guest-of-Honor President Halimah Yacob, young Singaporean classical guitarist Kevin Loh and student beneficiaries from Bukit Panjang Primary School.



# 2019/20 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

## WHEN COVID-19 HIT

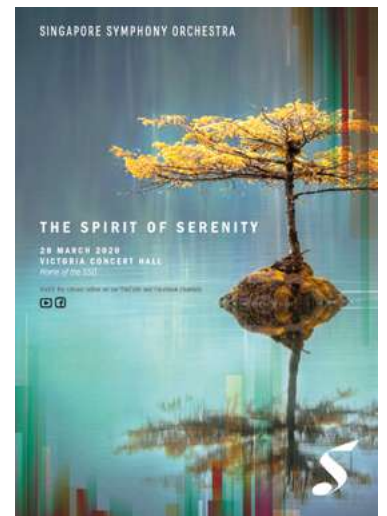
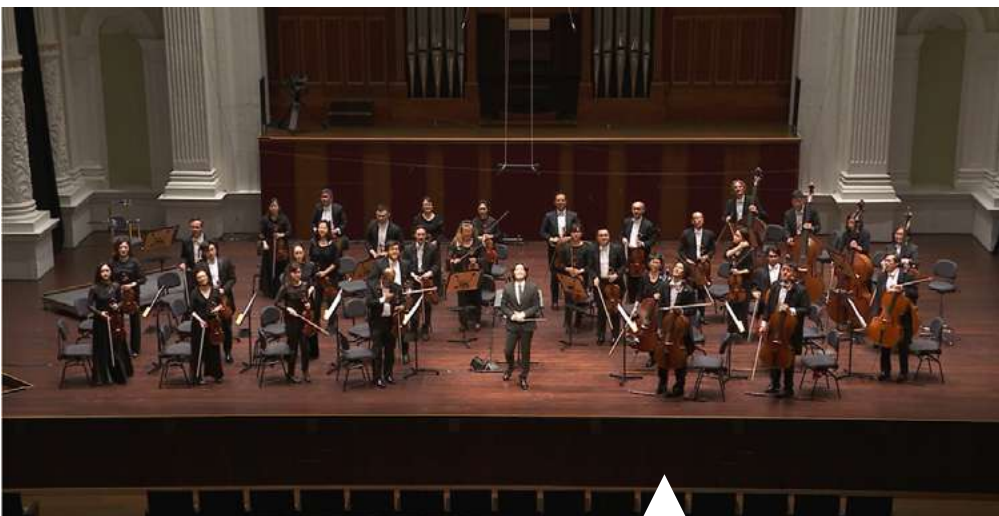
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the SSG's ability to carry out live events was affected from the middle of March. Following the cancellation of live concerts, the SSO put on a livestream concert dedicated to Singapore's healthcare workers.

As part of our dedication to frontline workers, the Company invited 294 employees of frontline service providers in healthcare and transport to our concerts in February and March 2020.



### **SYMPHONY IN THE GARDENS: GARDENS BY THE BAY THE MEADOW 15 MAR 2020**

Overnight, this popular free concert had its audience entry limited to 250 persons, due to newly-announced social distancing guidelines. dedicated to Singapore's healthcare angels.



### **SPIRIT OF SERENITY 28 MAR 2020**

Initially scheduled as two concerts of choral and orchestral music, the concert was swiftly reprogrammed into a livestream concert of music for a small string ensemble, led by conductor Darrell Ang. This was the last time the orchestra performed on stage together before the Circuit Breaker.

# CREATING MEMORABLE SHARED EXPERIENCES WITH MUSIC

Because of COVID-19, the SSO, like many orchestras around the world, is going through a very difficult time. Since February, corporate giving and ticket revenues have plummeted due to cancellations.

Despite this, the SSG has worked hard to ensure that everyone has a chance to experience the power of a symphony orchestra in concert. With the help of private sector donors, we have been able to offer tickets under the Young Symphony Explorers programme. Children who have benefited from our discounted tickets come from many organisations and schools including Beyond Awesome, Child at Street 11, the Purple Symphony, and the YMCA. Our Young Symphony Explorers also come from schools at different corners of Singapore, including Blangah Rise Primary School, Bukit Panjang Primary School, North View Secondary School and Yishun Junior College.

In addition, with the help of private sector donors, we provide complimentary or discounted tickets to youth and underprivileged groups to attend our concerts and activities through initiatives such as the SSO Young Symphony Explorers (YSE). Through this programme we provide complimentary or discounted tickets to students and other children who may not have the means to attend our concerts.

Companies that generously support the Young Symphony Explorers include John Swire & Sons and Santa Lucia Asset Management. Tickets in Categories

3 to 6 are kept affordable with the support of Temasek Foundation Nurtures. Thanks to the generous support of Keppel Care Foundation (KCF), the Keppel Nights @ SSO programme was launched in July 2019. This initiative that helps to fulfill both SSO's mission and Keppel's aims to generate social capital for our communities and care for the underprivileged. The Keppel Nights @ SSO series has hosted participants from a wide range of charities, including Montfort Care, AWWA, Singapore Disability Sports Council and Thye Hua Kwan Moral Charities.

For over 40 years, the SSO has shared the pleasure of fine music with people in Singapore in concert halls, schools and public parks. Chances are, you too, have been inspired by the SSO in one way or another. We believe that the music should be accessible to all and the cost of a ticket should not be a barrier. Grants from the government, Tote Board and Temasek Foundation help us to keep ticket prices affordable.

If you are able to do so, please consider a donation to the SSO to help us spread the love of music to more people.

“Through the generous support of SSO and its sponsors, SSO has provided immense value in giving our children from diverse backgrounds exposure to the beauty of high-quality classical music experiences.”

- **Nirmala Murugaian**,  
CEO, Child at Street 11



Keppel Nights @ SSO with Beneficiaries from AWWA



SSO Young Symphony Explorers from Beyond Awesome



Keppel Nights @ SSO with Thye Hua Kwan Moral Charities and Keppel Volunteers



SSO Young Symphony Explorers from Child at Street 11

# SINGAPORE SYMPHONY GROUP

## VISION

A leading arts organisation that engages, inspires and reflects Singapore through musical excellence.

## MISSION

We create memorable shared experiences with music. Through the Singapore Symphony Orchestra and its affiliated performing groups, we spread the love for music, nurture talent, and enrich our diverse communities.

## SINGAPORE SYMPHONY GROUP

Singapore Symphony Orchestra  
Singapore Symphony Chorus  
Singapore Symphony Youth Choir  
Singapore Symphony Children's Choir  
Singapore National Youth Orchestra  
Victoria Concert Hall  
ABRSM

*The Singapore Symphony Group is a charity and not-for-profit organisation. To support us and share the gift of music, please visit [www.sso.org.sg/support-us](http://www.sso.org.sg/support-us).*



## SINGAPORE SYMPHONY GROUP

80 Bencoolen Street, NAFA Tower  
Block, 08-01. Singapore 189655

Tel: +65 6602 4200  
Email: [corporate@sso.org.sg](mailto:corporate@sso.org.sg)

