



Mr Goh Geok Khim and SSO Concertmaster Igor Yuzefovich

## A SPECIAL BIRTHDAY PRESENT FOR MR GK GOH AND THE SSO

Three months ago, on a balmy evening in July, just as Mr Goh Geok Khim was settling down for a sumptuous dinner to celebrate his 85th birthday with his family and friends, in walked SSO Concertmaster Igor Yuzefovich, who serenaded Mr Goh with the beautiful “Méditation” on violin (from the opera *Thaïs* by French composer Jules Massenet). The birthday boy was completely caught by surprise!

A frequent presence at SSO concerts, Mr Goh, the founder and Executive Chairman of investment holding company G.K. Goh Holdings, has been a staunch supporter of the national orchestra. Since its founding almost 40 years ago, Mr Goh and various companies that he controls have collectively given over \$3 million to the SSO.

His only son, Mr Goh Yew Lin, who had masterminded all the celebrations behind the scene, had asked the guests not to bring any gifts for the birthday fête, but to consider making a gift instead to the Singapore Symphony Orchestra. Greatly encouraged and inspired by Yew Lin and his wife Charlotte who made a substantial donation to get the ball rolling, friends and other members of the family pitched in enthusiastically and a collective total of over \$1.8 million was raised in donations and pledges!

As a gesture of appreciation for their generosity, the SSO is pleased to announce the naming of the SSO Concertmaster position, the GK Goh Chair, endowed by the Family and Friends of Mr Goh Geok Khim.

An internationally acclaimed violinist, Igor said, “As the David Tecchler violin I’m currently playing on was loaned to me by Mr GK Goh and his wife, I was already well aware of the generosity of the Goh family. An



Igor’s surprise serenade!

endowment of a chair is one of the highest acts of dedication to the orchestra from its patrons. It is of course, a great honour to be the beneficiary of such generosity. I hope this kind gesture of the Goh family and friends will lead the way to even warmer relations between the orchestra and its community.”

As for the elder Mr Goh, he could not think of a better way to mark his 85th birthday than to have his name linked with his beloved orchestra.

### *Marking a special occasion*

If you wish to mark a special occasion like a milestone birthday or a special anniversary, do speak to us. When you make a gift to the Singapore Symphony Group, you are helping the SSO and its affiliated groups to spread the love for music, nurture talent, and enrich our diverse communities.

*Peggy Kek and Leong Wen Shan*