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The Czech Affair with T'ang Quartet

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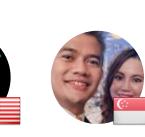
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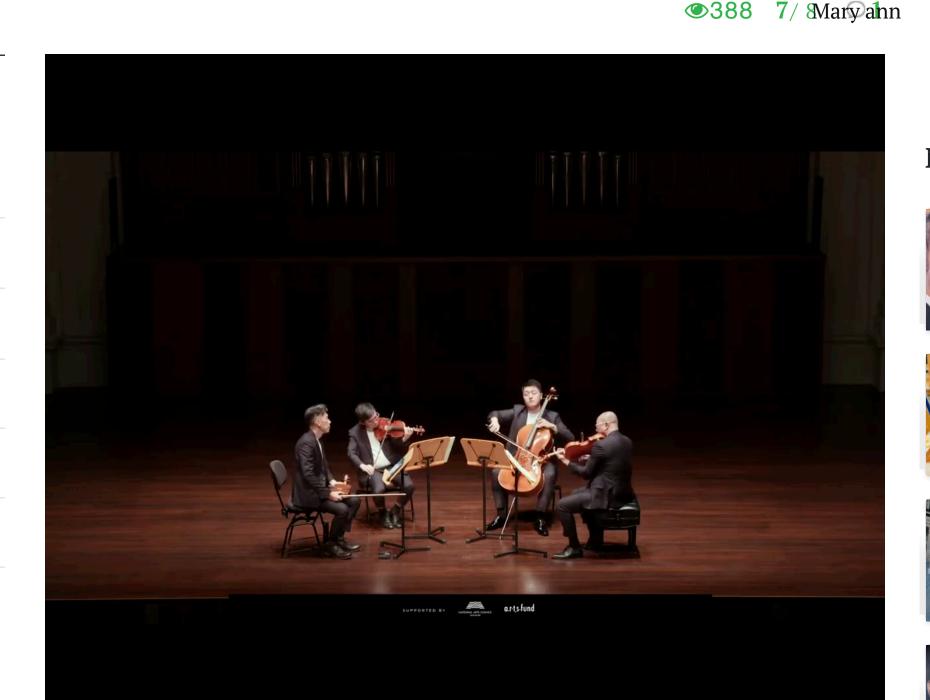
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T'ANG QUARTET PRESENTS THE CZECH AFFAIR

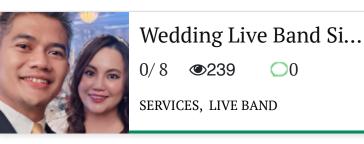
Quartet's illustrious 30-year musical journey.

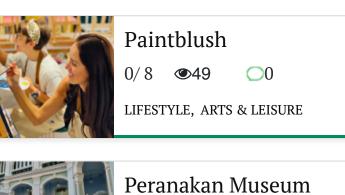
Josef Suk, Antonin Dvořák and Pavel Haas.

CLASSICAL MUSIC CLASSICAL STRING QUARTET ENSEMBLE CZECH CZECH COMPOSERS CZECH MUSIC

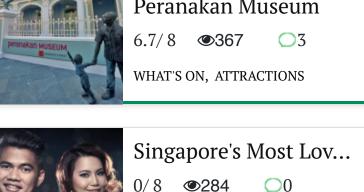


NEW CHOICES

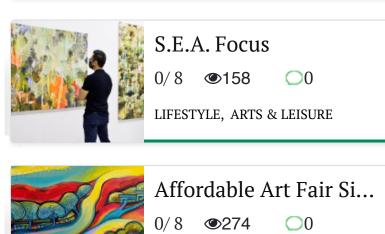




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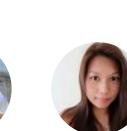


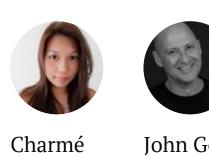
Gastrom...



Sylvia

Richard





Eastern European folk traditions." **OF CZECH SPIRIT & ESSENCE**

The evening begins with Suk's nationalistic Czech piece, Meditation on the Old Czech Chorale "Saint Wenceslas' Choice N... Op.35a. Suk, who studied under Dvorak, is the turn-of-the-century composer, and one of the leading composers in Czech Modernism.

With a combination of biography, cultural commentary and personal reflection, the third edition of the T'ang Quartet's

30th Anniversary Season is one flavoured by Eastern Europe. The upcoming show on Oct 4 at Victoria Concert Hall

music of the 19th and 20th-century – a refreshing detour from the old world classics, representing a part of the

First violinist Ng Yu-Ying and second violinist Ang Chek Meng were mentored by former Singapore Symphony

Orchestra's violist Jiri Heger from Czech Republic. He taught the two members during their formative years as

musicians. Jiri, who played an instrumental role in the T'ang Quartet's development, went on to help the ensemble

record their 2005 debut album, The Art of War, as well as the 2006 Made in America album (featuring Jiri), in Prague.

On Oct 4, classical music fans will be treated to a stunning fare of quartet masterpieces by three Czech composers -

Yu-Ying says: "The programme speaks a common language of the rhythms, novel harmonies and lyrical melodies from

harks back to the T'ang Quartet's Czech connection, and the ensemble has assembled a programme devoted to Czech

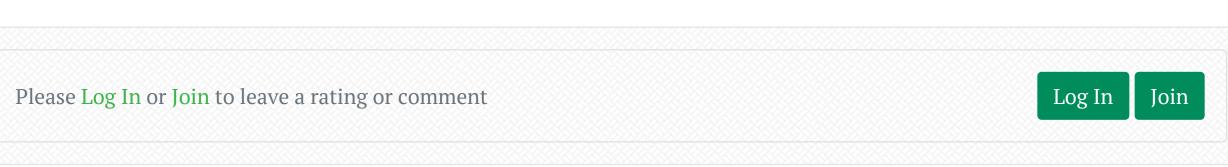
Stunning, contemplative as well as emotional and nostalgic, the four-part polyphonic work was written in 1914 in World War I in a time when the Czechs hoped to gain independence from the Austrian Empire, of which they were part of. The composer wanted to ignite the Czech nationalist movement, while the old Bohemian chorale on which it was based on honours Svatý Vaclav (St. Wenceslas), the patron Saint of Bohemia. "The second piece by composer Antonin Dvořák is a well-loved one," says Chek Meng of The String Quartet in F Major, Op.96 "American". "This work is very much idiomatic of his Czech roots but he combined the best of Czech folk tunes with New World spirituals and drum rhythms. It's one of the most popular works in the string quartet repertory.

"Dvořák's 'American' and Haas' quartets are also featured on our critically- acclaimed albums The Art of War and Made in America albums."

Post intermission, the Quartet turns their attention to the third piece – Pavel Haas'

String Quartet No. 2 "From the Monkey Mountains". "This piece was chosen in our programme as it is considered to be one of Haas' first high points of his oeuvre," adds cellist Zihao.

The Czech-Jewish composer, who was greatly influenced by his teacher Leo Janácek, combined the neo-classicist techniques of Igor Stravinsky with a very personal adaptation of jazz elements as well as the melodic and harmonic features Czech folk music and Jewish synagogue music.



Comments



Sylvia 05 OCT 2022, WED 354 COMMENTS

one musical delight a day.

to stretch my legs. Hmmmm....

ELITE

RATED 7/8

An enjoyable night to be had, I loved the feeling of stepping into Victoria Concert Hall. The cosy atmosphere lent the notion that I could recede into a cocoon of relaxation this evening. Simple but grand with lighting dimmed to a comfortable level, we were in for a treat as four musicians armed with their instruments, stepped out on stage.

Czechoslovakia, a country that is on my bucket list is one of great interest to me. Opera and music in general seems to run deep here and tickets I am told do not cost an arm and a leg. I could see my schedule, when I visit, dotted with

Tonight we were in for Czech music from the 19th and 20th century. The T'ang Quartet's third edition of their 30th anniversary, quite different to the usual old world music. As the night began, so did my imagination. Seeing pictures in my mind created by rhythms that Josef Suk, the Czech composer of this piece put together, I felt the march of war. Written in 1914 in World War 1 when the Czechs were hoping to gain independence from the Austrian Empire I

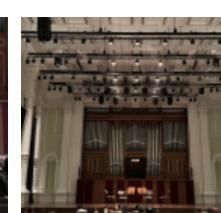
observed the safe haven I was in. What a contrast to the scene of this music. The second piece, a Dvorak named "American" from his time spent in Iowa's Bohemian colony in 1893. Nothing American about it, though I thoroughly enjoyed use of the pentatonic scale, evident in ethnic music today.

As an intermission was called, most of the audience chose to stay in their seats. I felt this was more of a feeling from this music that had grounded us into a state of inertia. Funny I thought as typically, I would be heading for the door

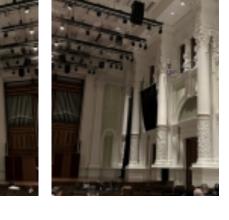
Drums were moved in for Haas' String Quartet No 2 "From the Monkey Mountains" which marked his first high point as a composer. In four parts this was indeed different, a mix of mystery, folk melodies and jazz. The precision of each musician was uncanny - the way they sat, the way they moved their bodies with the music. I wondered what daily life would be for them being trained in this way. Did everything have to be so precise?

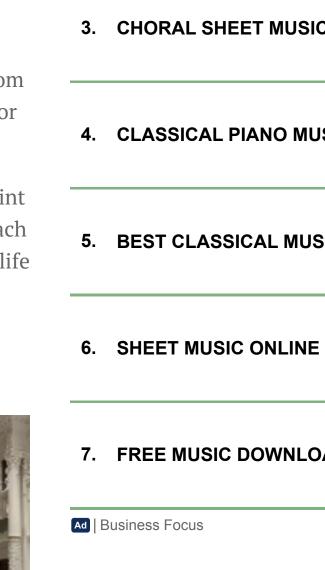
Obvious that the audience enjoyed the night's repertoire for there were quite a few encores, as we slipped away feeling all together and totally satiated.







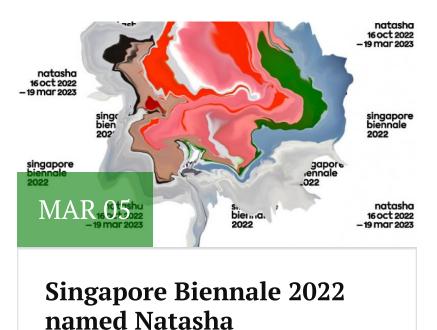


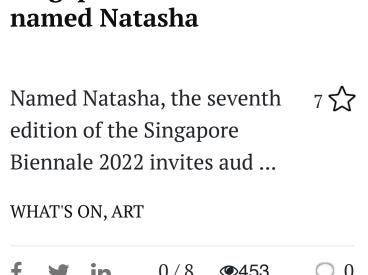


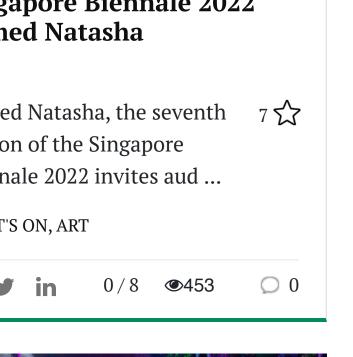
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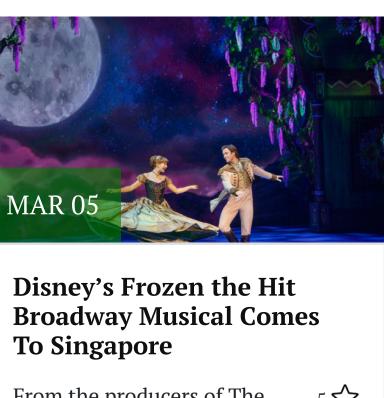
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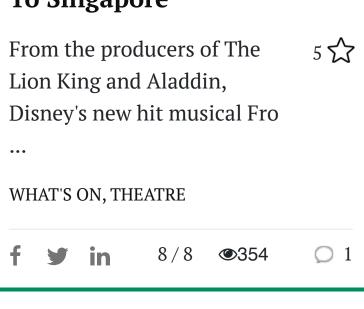
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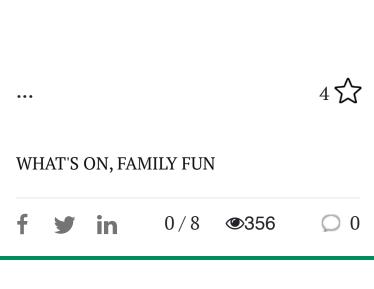








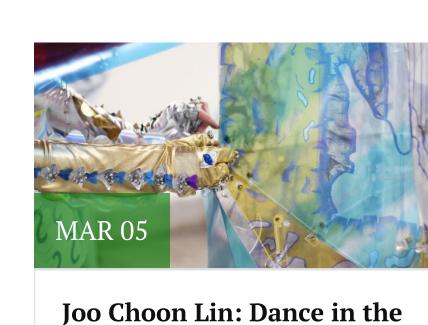








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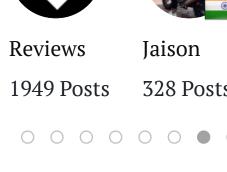


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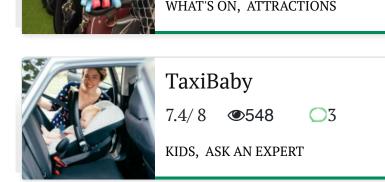


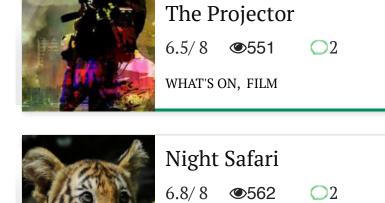




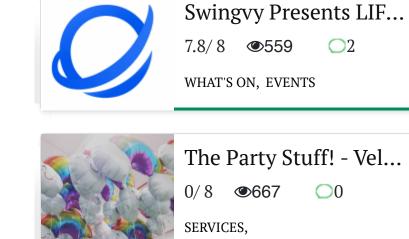


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