



THE COLOMBO WIND ORCHESTRA PRESENTS

MUSIC FROM AROUND THE **WORLD**

Conductor: **Keiko Kobayashi**

CWO
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SCAN ME

THE COLOMBO WIND ORCHESTRA
Presents

MUSIC FROM AROUND THE WORLD

CHIEF GUEST

Dr. Lalanath De Silva

CONDUCTOR

Keiko Kobayashi

Tuesday, 2nd April 2024 at 7.00 p.m.

Lionel Wendt Theatre,

Colombo 07



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF GUEST

It is a great privilege and honour for my wife, Mangalika Pereira and myself to be invited as Chief Guests to the Colombo Wind Orchestra (CWO) Concert on 2nd April 2024. I am a flautist and recorder player and therefore value the contribution that the CWO has made to improving standards of wind playing in the country. There is a vast body of music written for brass and woodwind instruments and the CWO offers an opportunity for wind players to perform these works and for audiences to hear them live.

I congratulate the CWO for continuing their efforts through the many challenges and current difficult times, to ensure that wind music is kept alive in Sri Lanka. My wife and I wish the CWO strength and success.

Dr. Lalanath de Silva, PhD, LL.M
Composer and Conductor

TONIGHT'S CONDUCTOR - MS KEIKO KOBAYASHI

Keiko Kobayashi was born in Tokyo, Japan. After graduating from the Music Department of the Faculty of Education at University of Yamanashi, she finished the diploma course for conducting at Sengoku Gakuen College of Music. She studied conducting under renowned conductors such as Seiji Ozawa, Kazuyoshi Akiyama, Kenichiro Kobayashi, Yuji Yuasa and Douglas Bostock.

She has conducted many orchestras including Oper Schloss Hallwyl in Switzerland, Symphony Orchestra of Sri Lanka, Bombay Chamber Orchestra in India, Colombo Wind Orchestra in Sri Lanka, Taipei Wind Orchestra in Taiwan and others in Japan.

After her positions as the Vice Conductor of Tokyo Kosei Wind Orchestra (2004 - 2006) and the Permanent Conductor of the Tokyo Wind Symphony Orchestra (2016 - 2021), she is the Chief Conductor of the Japan Wind Ensemble from 2013, and the Project Associate Professor of the Toho College of Music from 2021.

In 2011 Ambassador of Japan in Sri Lanka awarded her. She released DVDs / CDs, and her conducting text book "Score reading for wind music".

Ms. Kobayashi is no stranger to Sri Lankan audiences, having been a guest conductor of the Symphony Orchestra of Sri Lanka since 2008. She has also conducted the Colombo Wind Orchestra since its inception in 2012.



MESSAGE FROM THE CONDUCTOR

I have a profound respect for the players of the Colombo Wind Orchestra who have made continuous efforts since 2011. Indeed many have become dear friends.

The CWO will become a leading orchestra in the Sri Lankan music scene and I am very confident about that. During this concert we will be playing "El Camino Real" once again. You will hear the progression made by the CWO since that inaugural concert.

In addition we are performing a rare march by J.P.Sousa, "The March of the Royal Trumpets" as well as original wind music, musical and film music for you to enjoy.

More importantly, I hope that you will be fascinated by the sounds of a wind orchestra.

Keiko Kobayashi



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Colombo Wind Orchestra,
It is with great pride and joy that I welcome you to this special concert, marking the 12th anniversary of the Colombo Wind Orchestra. Over the past 12 years, our orchestra has grown from strength to strength, thanks to the dedication and passion of our musicians and the visionary leadership of our Conductor, Keiko Kobayashi.

Under Keiko's guidance, we have embarked on a journey of musical discovery, constantly pushing the boundaries of our repertoire and striving for excellence in our performances. This concert is a celebration of our musical journey so far and a testament to our commitment to reaching new heights of artistic achievement.

As we reflect on the past 12 years, we are filled with gratitude for the support of our audiences, sponsors, and all those who have helped us along the way. Your support has been instrumental in our success, and we look forward to many more years of creating beautiful music together.

I invite you to sit back, relax, and enjoy this evening's performance, which showcases the talent, dedication, and passion of our musicians. Thank you for being a part of our musical family, and here's to many more years of making beautiful music together.
Sincerely,

Naveen Fernando
Chairperson
Colombo Wind Orchestra

THE COLOMBO WIND ORCHESTRA

The Colombo Wind Orchestra (CWO) was established in 2012 and is Sri Lanka's first ever concert symphonic wind orchestra. Initiated by the wind players of the Symphony Orchestra of Sri Lanka (SOSL) with the objectives to improve, develop and foster talents in wind music performance and to promote an appreciation of wind music among the public, the CWO has in its ranks leading performers from the SOSL and bands of the Sri Lankan armed forces, as well as talented young musicians from schools and universities.

Since its inception, the CWO continues to perform an annual concert for their loyal audience in Colombo which is often followed by an "Outreach Concert", educational concerts generally performed outside of Colombo.

Its inaugural concert in 2012 was performed under the baton of Japanese conductor, Ms. Keiko Kobayashi, who continues to support and conduct the CWO.

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FOR YOUR DIARY

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Date : 7th September 2024

Venue : The Bishop's College Auditorium

CWO CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Date : 1st December 2024

Venue : The Bishop's College Auditorium



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MUSIC FROM AROUND THE WORLD

TONIGHT'S PROGRAMME

John Philip Sousa : March of the Royal Trumpets

Franco Cesarini : Bulgarian Dances op. 35
(In memoriam Alfred Reed)

Alfred Reed : El Camino Real

INTERMISSION

John Williams : The Empire Strikes Back
(arr. J. Bullock) (Finale)

Joe Hisaishi : Selections from Princess Mononoke
(arr. Kazuhiro Morita)

C.-M. Schönberg : Les Misérables
(arr. J. Vinson)

PROGRAMME NOTES

John Philip Sousa (1854-1932)

March of the Royal Trumpets

Sousa, the March King, was born in Washington D.C. This work consists of five strains, and is cast in the key of B-flat major. The Sousa band, in its original performance (1892) used 6 exotic Egyptian trumpets, about 1.5m long. In 1904, Sousa used some of these strains in the march "Her Majesty the Queen", a movement in his "At the King's Court" suite. Band parts of the original "March of the Royal Trumpets" found their way to the Detroit Concert Band in 1966, and the piece was revived for a radio broadcast. This was the first performance in seventy-four years and the march was never published in the original form.

Franco Cesarini (b. 1961)

Bulgarian Dances, Op 35

Franco Cesarini was born in Bellinzona, Switzerland and studied in Milan and Basel. Bulgarian Dances is a free rhapsody composed in 2006, and is subtitled "In Memoriam Alfred Reed". There are four movements, based on famous Bulgarian folk songs. These songs are from an old tradition, and stem from both Byzantium as well as the even more ancient civilization of the Thrace region. The four songs, played without a break, are titled Harvest Song from Thrace, Song of Schopsko, Todora is Taking a Nap, and The Golden Apple.

Alfred Reed (1921-2005)

El Camino Real

A well-known New Yorker, Reed was a composer, arranger, conductor and editor of scores. Originally a trumpeter, he went on to compose over 200 works. *El Camino Real* (literally "The Royal Road" or "The King's Highway") was commissioned by and was first performed on 15 April 1985, in Sarasota, Florida, by its dedicatees, the 581st Air Force Band directed by Lt. Col. Ray E. Toler.

It is fortunate that Reed left his own notes for the work. It bears the subtitle "A Latin Fantasy", and the music is based on a series of chord progressions common to countless generations of Spanish flamenco (and other) guitarists, whose fiery style and brilliant playing have captivated music lovers. These progressions and the resulting key relationships have become practically synonymous with what we perceive as the true Spanish idiom. Together with the folk melodies they have underscored, in part derived by a procedure known to musicians as the "melodizing of harmony", they have created a vast body of what most people would consider authentic Spanish music.

The first section of the music is based upon the dance form known as the Jota, while the second, contrasting section is derived from the Fandango, but here altered considerably in both time and tempo from its usual form. Overall, the music follows a tradition three-part pattern: fast-slow-fast.

John Williams (b. 1932)
The Empire Strikes Back (Finale)

Star Wars Episode V – The Empire Strikes Back as it is now known, is a 1980 "space opera" film, directed by Irvin Kershner, based on a story by George Lucas. The second of the most celebrated film series of all time, it also remains the top rated of all nine films, for most fans. Part of its appeal lies in the inspired score by the inimitable John Williams, often pulling on the heart strings for the appearance of Yoda and for Han Solo's freezing in Carbonite. This wind-band transcription is by Jack Bullock, and features memorable themes, including Star Wars (Main Theme), The Imperial March (Darth Vader's Theme), Yoda's Theme, Han Solo and the Princess, and the moving May The Force Be With You.

Joe Hisaishi (b. 1950)
Selections from Princess Mononoke

Mamoru Fujisawa is known professionally by the name Joe Hisaishi, and is a renowned composer, musical director, conductor and pianist.

"Princess Mononoke" is a 1997 Japanese animated fantasy film, written and directed by Hisaishi's frequent collaborator, Hayao Miyazaki. The plot involves a princess living in the woods with a beast, and the story follows a young Emishi prince named Ashitaka, and his involvement in a struggle between the gods (kami) of a forest and the humans who consume its resources. The film deals with themes of Shinto and environmentalism. The development of the score for the movie involved a much closer collaboration between the two than on previous works.

Hisaishi first composed an image album – a collection of demos and musical sketches that serve as a precursor to the finished score – which was then reworked into the final score, performed by the Tokyo City Philharmonic. This arrangement is by Kazuhiro Morita.

Claude-Michel Schönberg (b. 1944)

Les Misérables Medley

Les Misérables, colloquially known as Les Mis or Les Miz is a phenomenally popular sung-through musical which debuted in London's West End in 1985. Set in Paris, it is the story of Jean Valjean, a French peasant, and his desire for redemption, who is released in 1815 after nineteen years in jail for stealing a loaf of bread for his sister's starving child. The words by Herbert Kretzmer brought the musical to a much wider audience, and its orchestration and tuneful score have made it a crowd pleaser since its debut. This arrangement is by Johnnie Vinson, and includes iconic songs from the musical, including the opening Look Down; Fantine's I Dreamed a Dream; "Suddenly", the 2012 film song sung by Valjean; the Thenardier's uproarious duet Master of the House, and the rousing Do You Hear the People Sing?

This concert is dedicated to the memory of Dinesh Schaffter
We would like to remember the late Dinesh Schaffter (1971-2022)
for his philanthropy and faithful support
for the CWO from 2013 onwards.
He will be deeply missed by everyone that knew him.



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our Chief Guest tonight, Dr. Lalanath De Silva

Our Conductor, Ms. Keiko Kobayashi, for motivating and guiding us.

**The Conservatoire de Fribourg in Switzerland and
The Conservatoire d'Evian in France**, for their support.

The Management and Staff of the Lionel Wendt Theatre.

The Management and Staff of The Symphony Orchestra of Sri Lanka for all their support and for lending us percussion instruments and sponsoring the flight tickets for Ms. Kobayashi.

Mr. Rajeev Aloysious, for the programme notes.

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