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Embassy of Finland

Singapore
Finnish Business Council

Presented By

Singapore
Conference
Hall  新加坡大会堂

From
FINLAND

Ensemble TemperaTur Plays

Piano Quartet in E flat Major Op. 47 by Schumann
Romance in D flat Major Op. 24/9 by Sibelius
Beautiful Jiangnan

Guest Performance By

The Huqin Quartet

Message

Music is arguably the most esteemed Finnish art form abroad.

The key to the fame and reputation lies in our music education. The large majority of Finnish schools at all the levels provide ("compulsory") music lessons conducted by specialized music teachers. We also have a network of excellent music schools that virtually covers the whole country. Music education has been made available to all. The music institutes offer instrument lessons, music theory and history for an affordable fee, and discover the real talents! They also play a significant role in educating the core of an open-minded and active concert audience.

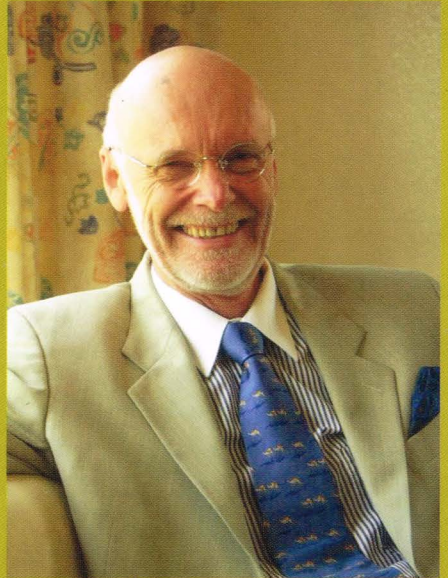
Tonight, we have a great pleasure to welcome three strings and a pianist, the Ensemble TemperaTur who will play us some most enchanting pieces by Jean Sibelius, the icon of the 20th century Finnish music. The Tempera Quartet has gained fame in many countries and many continents, not least after being selected into the Rising Star Scheme of the European Concert Hall Organization in the season 2000-2001. The group has had successful debut recitals at Carnegie Hall in New York, the Wigmore Hall in London, tours in Germany, Russia, and Switzerland just a few to mention. Mr Turriago has had extensive solo tours in the USA, in the Baltic countries, Hungary, Germany, Israel, South Korea etc. When the Ensemble TemperaTur and The Huqin Quartet jointly offer us a musical treat tonight, I hope it will be only a Prelude for future interactive music projects!

With tonight's concert we also celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Finnish Business Council in Singapore. The established presence of about eighty Finnish companies in Singapore shows, for its part, the importance of the city state as a major commercial, financial and logistical centre in South-East Asia.

We are privileged to have Finnish and Singaporean ministers as our distinguished guests of honour.

I would like to wish all the classical music lovers an enjoyable evening.

Risto Rekola
Ambassador of Finland
Singapore



Message



Music plays an integral role in enhancing the quality of our lives. Through the years, the Singapore Conference Hall, home of the national Chinese orchestra, has become an important impetus for the appreciation and development of music and the arts in Singapore.

It is with our greatest pleasure that we present this classical music concert with the Embassy of Finland and Finnish Business Council. Finland's rich music tradition is renowned, in particular the genre of classical music. We are privileged to have the Ensemble TemperaTur share this significant element of their culture with us tonight through classical music pieces of celebrated 19th and 20th century composers, Robert Schumann and Jean Sibelius.

Tonight, we anticipate with delight the debut collaboration of the Ensemble TemperaTur and The Huqin Quartet for an interactive performance of western string music instruments and Chinese bowed string orchestral music instruments.

We welcome and look forward to more collaborative opportunities with music groups and organizations beyond our shores to foster international cultural exchange and explore new frontiers on the artistry level.

With that, I wish you a beautiful evening of music.

Thank you.

Chew Keng Juea
Chairman
SCO Board of Directors

Message



The Finnish Business Council's principal mission is to promote trade between Finland and the various countries of South East Asia. Due to its strategic location, Singapore is very often selected as the home base for the regional operations of Finnish companies, while trade is the natural starting point for any commercial activities between Finnish companies and their regional counterparts.

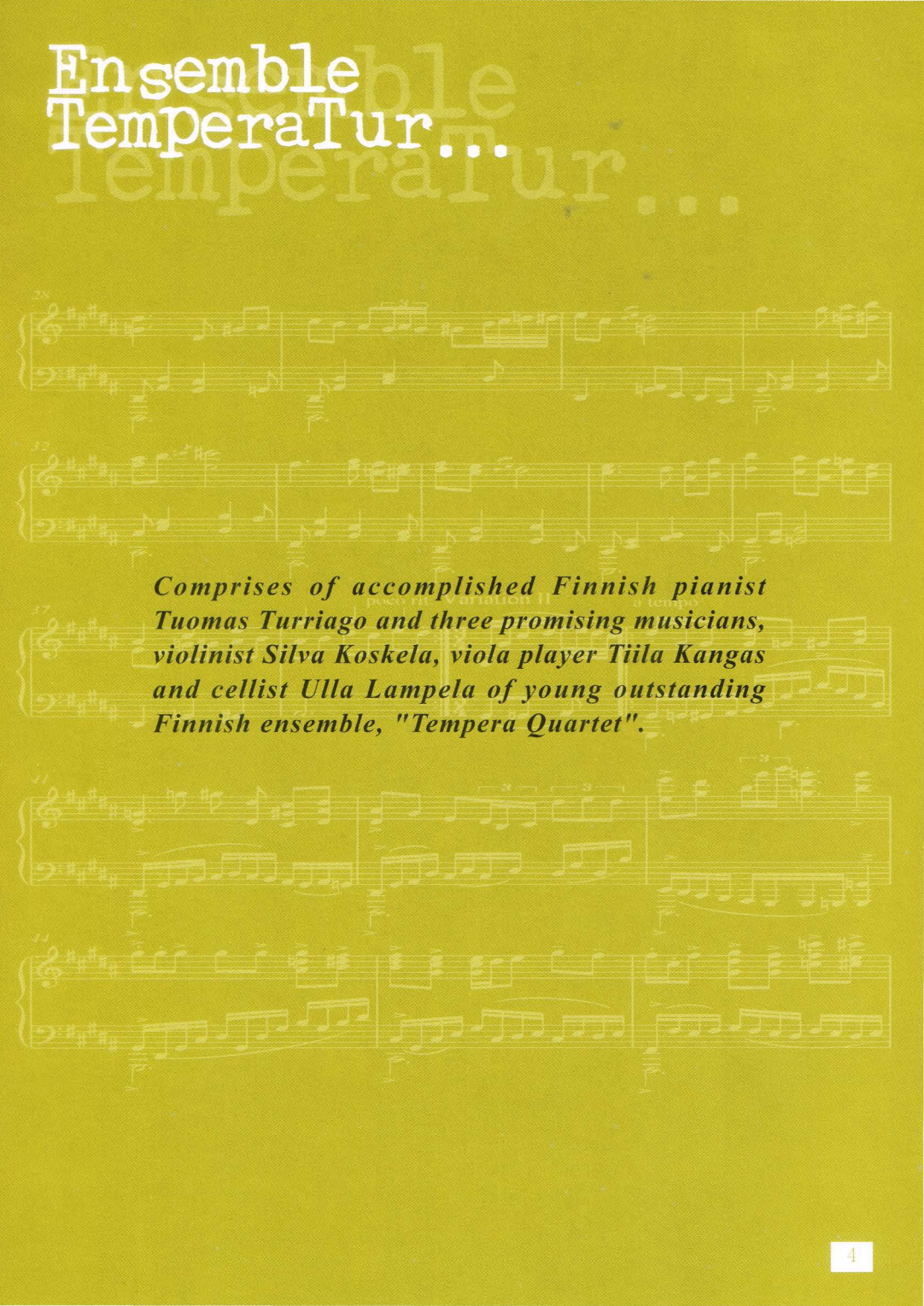
Today, the Finnish Business Council's role is very much to provide a meeting forum for the representatives of Finnish companies to exchange views and share experiences. The aim is to strengthen our understanding of local and regional markets and the people who work in them through interaction between members of the Finnish and Singaporean business communities.

The Council provides a forum for social activities, too. These have included in the past high quality recitals by world famous Finnish artists, exciting jazz happenings, wine tasting evenings, Night at the Races, to mention just a few. The Finnish National Day Golf Tournament has also become an annual feature of the social calendar.

This year marks the 20th Anniversary for the Finnish Business Council in Singapore. We are delighted to have this kind of cultural event as a part of the celebrations. I wish you very pleasant moments with the Ensemble TemperaTur.

Harri Ranta
Chairman
Finnish Business Council (Singapore)

Ensemble TemperaTur...

The background of the page is a faint, light-colored musical score for piano and strings. It consists of four systems of staves. Each system has a grand staff with a treble clef on top and a bass clef on the bottom. The music is written in a key with one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings like 'poco rit.' and 'a tempo'.

*Comprises of accomplished Finnish pianist
Tuomas Turriago and three promising musicians,
violinist Silva Koskela, viola player Tiila Kangas
and cellist Ulla Lampela of young outstanding
Finnish ensemble, "Tempera Quartet".*

Tempera Quartet

Tempera Quartet

(from left) :

Tiila Kangas, viola

Silva Koskela, violin

Laura Vikman, violin

Ulla Lampela, cello



The Tempera Quartet, formed in 1997, has rapidly gained prominence as an outstanding young ensemble in their native Finland. They have equally been recognized elsewhere and for the 2000/2001 season the Quartet was selected for the 'Rising Stars' scheme of the European Concert Hall Organization. This resulted in successful debut recitals at the Carnegie Hall in New York, the Wigmore Hall in London, the Musikverein in Vienna, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Palais des Beaux-Arts in Brussels, the Cité de la Musique in Paris, the Kölner Philharmonie, the Athens Concert Hall and the Birmingham Symphony Hall.

The Tempera Quartet has performed at most Finnish chamber music festivals – the Kuhmo, Helsinki, Turku and Naantali festivals to name a few - and the ensemble was the Young Artist of the Year 2001, nominated by the 'Finland Festivals' organization. The Quartet has a busy concert schedule abroad as well, having toured in Japan, Germany, Russia,

Austria, the UK, Sweden, Switzerland, Romania, Spain, Belgium, Luxemburg, and the UAE. They are recording all of Jean Sibelius' works for string quartet in 2004-2005 for the BIS Records. Since 2004, the Tempera Quartet is the Artistic Director of the Riihimäki Summer Concerts chamber music festival.

The Tempera Quartet has had a broad musical education with studies at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, the Edsberg Music Institute in Sweden and the Royal College of Music in London where they took their Master of Music degrees in Chamber Music Studies in 2000. Their teachers have included Risto Fredriksson, Mats Zetterqvist, Simon Rowland-Jones and the Chilingirian Quartet as well as numerous other string quartet authorities at master classes such as the Amadeus Summer Course in London, the IMS Prussia Cove and the Britten-Pears Academy for String Quartets in Aldeburgh.

Ms Tiila Kangas, viola

Tiila Kangas started her studies with violin at the Central Ostrobothnia Conservatory in Finland and changed her instrument to viola during her teenage years. She studied at the Sibelius Academy under Mr. Ilari Angervo and Mr. Atso Lehto, where she obtained her diploma in viola in 2003. She has been a member of Tempera Quartet since its beginning in 1997. In addition, Ms Kangas has been studying chamber music at the London Royal College of Music where she obtained her Master of Music diploma in 2000, and the Edsberg Music Institute in Sweden. She is also the Artistic Director of chamber music festival Konsertserie Katrina in Åland and the Deputy Principal of viola at Lahti Symphony Orchestra since autumn 2005. Ms Tiila Kangas holds the viola of Leonard Maussiel (1722) granted by OKO Bank Art Foundation.



Ms Silva Koskela, violin

Silva Koskela began her violin studies at the Central Ostrobothnia Conservatory in Finland. Thereafter, she has been studying violin and chamber music at the Central-Finland Conservatory of Music, the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, the Utrecht Conservatory in the Netherlands, the Royal College of Music in London and the Edsberg Music Institute in Sweden. She became Master of Music at Sibelius Academy in 2003 and Master of Music in Chamber Music Studies in London 2000. Silva Koskela has performed with Tempera Quartet at the most renowned music festivals in Finland as well as in most European countries, USA, Japan and United Arab Emirates. Furthermore, she holds a violin lectureship at the Tampere Conservatory of Music since 2002. She holds the "ex-Sulo Aro"-violin granted by the Finnish Cultural Foundation.

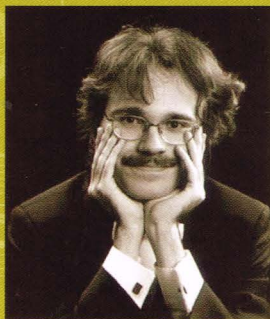
Ms Ulla Lampela, cello

Ulla Lampela has been studying cello at the Sibelius Academy under Mr. Timo Hanhinen, Mr. Marko Ylönen and Mr. Hannu Kiiski. In 2004, she obtained her diploma with excellent grades in and became Master of Music in 2005. As a member of Tempera Quartet she has been studying chamber music at the Royal College of Music in London (Master of Music in 2000) and the Edsberg Music Institute in Sweden. In addition she has given concerts widely both in Finland and abroad. Ms Lampela won the 4th prize at Turku Cello Contest in 1998. Ms Lampela is a freelance orchestra musician in Helsinki and teaches cello at the East-Helsinki Music Institute and Tapiola Music School as well. She holds Claude Pierray-cello (1714) granted by the Finnish Cultural Foundation.



Tuomas Turriago

poco rit. Variation II



Tuomas Turriago (1979) studied 1999-2004 at the Sibelius Academy with Prof. Erik T. Tawaststjerna and chamber music under the guidance of Prof. Ralf Gothoni. Currently, he is a lecturer of piano and chamber music at the Pirkanmaa Polytechnic in Tampere, Finland. He has performed as a recitalist, chamber musician and orchestra soloist in Finland, Estonia, Russia, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Arab Emirates, Colombia, South Korea and the US. Mr. Turriago is also a successful composer whose output includes a chamber symphony, string quartet, piano and harp solo music. He received second prize in the national Finnish piano competition in Jyväskylä (2001), first prize in the Scandinavian piano competition in Sweden (1992) and was finalist in the international Ettlingen piano competition in Germany (1992).

The Huqin Quartet



The Huqin Quartet
(from left) :
Ling Hock Siang , *erhu*
Chiang Kum Mun , *gaoju*
Cheng Chung Hsien , *zhonghu*
Poh Yee Luh , *gehu*

The Huqin Quartet is the first Chinese bowed string quartet in the world that boasts a repertoire of both Chinese & Western style musical works. Since their debut in 1999, they have performed extensively at local & international events, fascinating audiences with their unique fusion of East-West musical styles.

In 2004, it was the first Singaporean arts group to be invited by the Association of Asia Pacific Performing Arts Centres to tour Australia & New Zealand. They performed at the Sydney Opera House, the Victorian Arts Centre & the Adelaide Festival Centre.

Other prestigious international platforms include the Cervantino International Festival (Mexico), the Asia Music Festival (Korea), the New Zealand International Arts Festival (NZ) & a cultural media tour to Los

Angeles & San Francisco (USA). Local events include the National Heritage Festival Opening, the Esplanade Opening Festival, the Overseas Arts Music Festival Directors Showcase, the Singapore Hua Yi Festival at the Esplanade with the Tang Quartet, & functions for foreign dignitaries.

The Huqin Quartet is actively involved in promoting Chinese Art Music in the Singapore National Arts Council's Arts Education Programme, and its musicians are mentors, educators & conductors to various schools & community associations. In recognition for its pioneering work & musical excellence, The Huqin Quartet was awarded the Singapore Youth Award (Team) in 2004.

Programme

String Trio in G Minor

Silva Koskela, violin
Tiila Kangas, viola
Ulla Lampela, cello

Jean Sibelius

Romance in D flat Major Op.24/9

Impromptu in B Minor

Kyllikki Op.41

Tuomas Turriago, piano

Jean Sibelius

Beautiful Jiangan

Ensemble TemperaTur & The Huqin Quartet

Tan Mi Zi

~~ INTERMISSION ~~

Piano Quartet in E flat Major Op. 47

Ensemble TemperaTur

Robert Schumann

Synopses

String Trio in G Minor

Jean Sibelius

The one-movement string trio in G Minor (1893-94) is reminiscent of Tchaikovsky. The sharp accents also bring to mind Sibelius' well-known symphonic poem, Finlandia.

Romance in D flat Major Op.24/9

Jean Sibelius

Impromptu in B Minor

Kyllikki Op.41

Sibelius was first and foremost a symphonic composer. His piano output was large but very uneven. The three piano works on the programme tonight are each one in its own way exceptional in the composer's piano oeuvre. The Romance in D flat Major Op.24/9 (1901) opens with a cello-like theme which builds up to a big climax which is preceded by a very virtuosic and pianistic cadenza, quite unlike anything else in the composer's piano production. The Impromptu in B Minor Op.5/5 (1893) is of startling beauty and sensitivity. In it, a simple chorale-like theme is ornamented by harp-like figuration, unusually pianistic by Sibelius' standards. Written between the second and third symphonies, and much resembling the former, the Kyllikki-suite Op.41 (1904) is the most important composition Sibelius wrote for piano. The three-movement work is inspired by the Finnish national epic, Kalevala. The first movement, in loose Sonata form, is full of symphonic gesture, the second movement is of unusual depth in the composer's piano output and the seemingly innocent last movement conceals its share of intense and dark feeling.

Beautiful Jiangnan

Tan Mi Zi

This is a Chinese folk music piece with a bright and brisk melody depicting the beautiful scenery of Jiangnan, China.

Piano Quartet in E flat Major Op.47

Robert Schumann

Schumann began composing chamber music relatively late in his career. All of a sudden, in 1842, he wrote 3 string quartets, a piano quintet, and the Piano Quartet in E flat Major Op.47 which we will hear tonight. The four-movement work hardly gives the pianist a break. The slow introduction, which presents the thematic cell on which the first and last movements are built, returns once in the otherwise very active first movement. The quick, staccato-driven scherzo has two trios, the first one melodic and the second one more capricious. The third movement, Andante cantabile, is one of unique beauty. The lively and very contrapuntal fourth movement brings the work to a joyful conclusion.

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