

**Union
Church**
Kennedy Road

**Mendelssohn
in Scotland**

8 Nov 2025
Saturday
6:30pm

**The Hebrides Overture
Op.26**

Violin Concerto

Op.64

- Andante

- Allegro molto Vivace

Symphony No. 3 (Scottish)

Op. 56

- Vivace non Troppo

- Adagio

- Allegro Vivacissimo

Harty TAM
Conductor

Jun WANG
Violin Solo

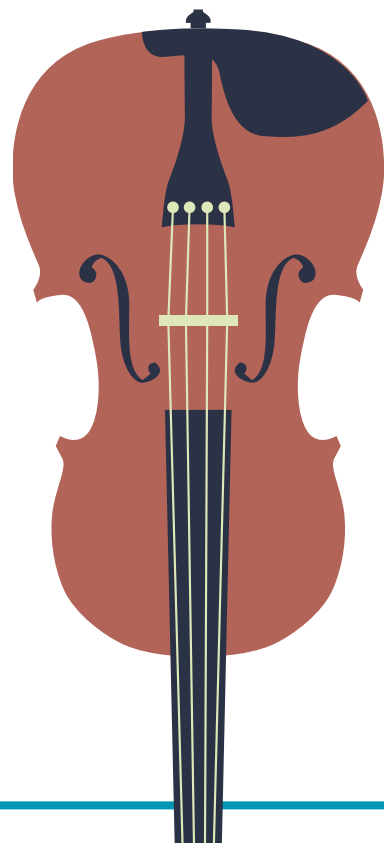
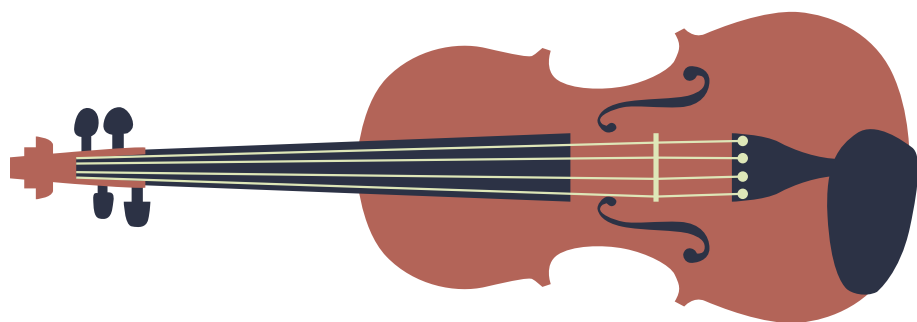
\$150

For enquiries, please email committee@hkchamber.org



MENDELSSOHN IN SCOTLAND

THE HONG KONG
CHAMBER ORCHESTRA



PROGRAMME

Felix Mendelssohn (1809 - 1847)

The Herbides Overture “Fingal’s Cave”, Op. 26

Violin Concerto in E minor, Op. 64.

2. Andante

3. Allegretto non troppo - Allegro molto vivace

Symphony No. 3 in A Minor “Scottish”, Op. 56

Movements 2, 3, and 4.

2. Vivace non troppo

3. Adagio

4. Allegro vivacissimo - Allegro maestoso assai

Harty Tam - Conductor

Wang Jun - Violin Solo

The Hebrides Overture “Fingal’s Cave”, Op. 26

Written in 1830, Mendelssohn’s Hebrides Overture was inspired by his visit to the Hebrides islands off Scotland’s coast, particularly Fingal’s Cave with its dramatic sea arches. The piece powerfully evokes the rugged seascape and mysterious atmosphere encountered there, marking one of the earliest examples of musical tone painting.

The work begins with a haunting motif announced by the lower strings and woodwinds, evoking the deep, echoing interior of the sea cave. This introductory theme, set in B minor, is repeated and transformed, representing the natural soundscape of waves crashing and swirling currents. Gradually, this intense opening gives way to a flowing, more lyrical second theme in the relative major, portraying the calm beauty of the surrounding sea and sky.

Mendelssohn uses a free sonata form with rich chromatic harmonies and delicate orchestration, especially in the strings and woodwinds, to conjure a vivid sonic image of the Hebrides. The expressive shifts between minor and major tonalities reflect the changing moods of the landscape—sometimes brooding and dark, sometimes gently radiant. With its blend of structural coherence and atmospheric freedom, the overture remains a lasting tribute to the Romantic ideal of nature-inspired music.

Violin Concerto in E minor, Op. 64.

(Movements 2 and 3)

Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in E minor, completed in 1844, stands as a cornerstone of the violin repertoire, celebrated for its seamless blend of poetic lyricism and virtuosic brilliance. The concerto was revolutionary in linking movements without pause and integrating the cadenza fully within the first movement's structure, innovations that transformed concerto writing.

The second movement, Adagio, offers a serene calmness, contrasting with the fiery first movement. It opens with a gentle 6/8 rhythm and an introspective solo bassoon melody, giving way to a rich, song-like violin line in C major. The movement's tender phrases and warm harmonic colors create a meditative atmosphere filled with delicate nuance. Challenging yet graceful, the solo violin rises and falls melodically, underscored by a soft orchestral backdrop that emphasizes intimacy and lyricism.

The finale, Allegro molto vivace, bursts forth energetically without pause, embodying joyful exuberance. This movement is characterized by spirited dialogue between soloist and orchestra, featuring rapid passagework, lively rhythms, and sparkling virtuosity. The music's bright E major key and buoyant gestures conclude the concerto with a jubilant flourish, showcasing Mendelssohn's gift for balancing technical brilliance with expressive warmth.

Symphony No. 3 in A Minor “Scottish”, Op. 56 **(Movements 2, 3, and 4)**

Mendelssohn’s Symphony No. 3, known as the "Scottish," was inspired by his travels in Scotland and composed during a long period from 1829 to 1842. A work full of Romantic depth and structural innovation, Mendelssohn instructed that its four movements be performed without interruption, creating an uninterrupted musical journey.

The second movement, *Vivace non troppo*, is a lively scherzo infused with Scottish folk character. Opening with a clarinet melody that utilizes the characteristic “Scotch snap” rhythm—a short, clipped note followed by a longer one—this movement captures the rustic dance spirit. Scored in a brisk 2/4 time rather than the usual 3/4 for dances, the music feels wild, energetic, and rhythmically charged, embodying the untamed landscapes and joyous celebrations of the Scottish countryside.

The third movement, *Adagio*, shifts mood dramatically to one of calm reflection. Set in A major, it blends broad, flowing melodic lines in the strings with somber chords and rich textures in the winds. Some passages evoke a funeral march quality, suggesting contemplation and melancholy. This movement delves into deeper emotional realms, perhaps reflecting Mendelssohn’s personal introspections and the mysterious Scottish setting.

The final movement, *Allegro vivacissimo – Allegro maestoso assai*, is a monumental sonata-form movement beginning turbulently in A minor with vigorous, almost martial energy. It features complex counterpoint and chromatic tension throughout, depicting conflict and dramatic action. Unusually, the symphony closes with a majestic, hymn-like coda in A major that contrasts with the preceding turbulence. Mendelssohn intended this triumphant ending to evoke the sound of a male voice choir and to symbolically resolve the symphony’s emotional journey with hope and exaltation. Though initially controversial, this uplifting conclusion has become a defining feature of the work.

Wang Jun - *Violin Solo*

Wang Jun, an outstanding violinist and violist, was born in Qingdao. He began learning the violin at the age of five and was admitted to the Shanghai Conservatory of Music's affiliated primary school at the age of ten. Renowned conductor Edo de Waart praised him as a genius performer. During his school years, he represented the Shanghai Conservatory of Music in performances for leaders of various countries, including US President Bill Clinton during his visit to China. He obtained a bachelor's degree in music from the Shanghai Conservatory of Music and was awarded a full scholarship for postgraduate studies at the Royal College of Music in the UK in 2006. He has won numerous first prizes in international and domestic string competitions, including the first prize in the Central Conservatory of Music Viola Solo Competition and the first place in the International String Competition. Wang Jun has served as the principal violist of the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra and the Shanghai Philharmonic Orchestra, and as a guest principal violist for renowned orchestras such as the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra. His student, Gao Zixuan, won the gold medal in a competition in the UK and was admitted to the prestigious Juilliard School in 2022. His career has spanned thousands of performances worldwide, including at the Berlin Philharmonic Hall, the Vienna Musikverein, and the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam. In 2004, during the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra's US tour, he showcased his talent at the Chinese Embassy in Washington.

Harty Tam Wing-Kai - *Conductor*

Ms. Harty Tam is an accomplished conductor and double bassist, currently serving as the Music Director of both the Hong Kong Chamber Orchestra and the New Hong Kong Philharmonia (NHKP) Baroque Chamber Orchestra. Since 2016, she has served as the Music Director and Conductor of the Hong Kong Chamber Orchestra, leading 3-4 performances annually and curating a rich repertoire that spans from classical masterpieces to contemporary pop arrangements. She also conducts charity concerts with the Hong Kong Chamber Orchestra regularly, giving back to the community through music and using performance as a means of outreach and service.

Her extensive career includes collaborations with esteemed orchestras such as the Bern Symphony Orchestra in Switzerland, the Bohuslav Martinu Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Sokola Symphony Orchestra of Brno in the Czech Republic. Beyond her work in Hong Kong, she has conducted internationally at events such as the Festival Musicale Nel Comune di Morigerati e Sicili in Italy (2018) and the Scuola Italiana D'Archi International Music Masterclasses in Mantua, Italy (2019). She has also appeared at prestigious arts festivals, including the French May Arts Festival and the Emilia Romagna Music Festival in Ravenna, Italy. Her performances have taken place in historic venues such as the 9th-century Abbazia di Casola Valsenio and the UNESCO-listed Basilica di Sant'Apollinare Nuovo in Ravenna, as well as in various venues across the United Kingdom, Czech Republic, Switzerland, and Hong Kong. Last December, Tam premiered **Beautiful Hong Kong**, a multimedia music work by renowned Hong Kong composer Dr. Mui Kwong Chiu, to overwhelming success.

Harty is an orchestral conducting graduate of the Hochschule der Künste Bern, Switzerland, where she studied under Prof. Dominique Roggen. She further refined her craft with guidance from Prof. Gustav Meier, Tomas Netopil, Prof. Donald Schleicher, and Kirk Trevor.

Harty Tam Wing-Kai - *Conductor*

Alongside her conducting career, she is an active double bassist, having studied performance at The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Her musicianship has taken her to the British Isles Music Festival in the U.K. as a Resident Artist, and she regularly teaches masterclasses in Italy, where she works with students from Europe, the Middle East, and Asia.

Harty has collaborated with a diverse group of international and local artists, including pianists Colleen Lee and Rachel Cheung; violinists Riccardo Zamuner, Stefano Pagliani, Leung King Fung, Wong Sze Hang, and Vince Chua; violists Yu Sun and Dr. Joseph Kam; and singer-songwriter Sir Bertie Higgins.

Deeply committed to nurturing young musicians, Harty is the founder and Music Director of the Hong Kong Youth Music Festival. Through this initiative, she collaborates with faculty from top-tier universities and world-class orchestras to inspire and educate young talent. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she adapted the festival to an online format and launched the Composers Retreat, led by renowned composer Chen Yi. In 2023, she organized an international conducting workshop in Cesena, Italy, taught by Swiss conductor Matthias Bamert and Hong Kong conductor Ken Lam.

Her work continues to bridge classical music with broader audiences while fostering the development of future generations of musicians.

The Hong Kong Chamber Orchestra



Hong Kong Chamber Orchestra was established in 1976 by a group of international musicians living in Hong Kong. Nowadays our players consist of professional musicians graduated from local and overseas music academies and universities, professional music teachers, and experienced musicians. As a non-profit making orchestra aiming at promoting music, we usually give free admissions to smaller concerts to music lovers whenever budget allows. Our musicians enjoy the freedom in choosing our repertoire without commercial burden, and perform music which may not be popularly known but still musically interesting.

We have a wide coverage of repertoire from the baroque to the romantic period, from chamber work such as quartets and sextets, to small ensemble such as Bach Cantatas, Haydn and Mozart work, to larger scale symphonic work such as Brahms and Verdi. At times, we commission work from home-grown local composers. We also gave the Hong Kong premiere of Richard Strauss' *Metamorphosen* in June 2005.

We enjoy collaboration with local and overseas musicians who share similar objectives of ours. Previous exciting engagements include Siam Philharmonic, Malaysian conductor Eugene Pook, soprano Nancy Yuen, and pianist Stephen Hung.

Website - www.hkchamber.org

Facebook - Hong Kong Chamber Orchestra

Instagram - @hkchamberorchestra

Gazzini Violin Making Academy



With more than 20 years of experience in violin-repair, Danny Chan has built a reputation as one of the best restorer and bow-maker in Hong Kong.

Danny began his apprenticeship under renowned Cremona violinmaker Andrea Schudtz in the past decade. In 2022, Danny and co-founder Dennis LEE decided to start a new chapter by bringing the spirit of Cremonese Violinmaking culture to Hong Kong.

Gazzini as a school offers a wide variety of courses that prepare enthusiasts to reach the standard of world class luthiers.

We strongly believe the knowledge and passion of our team can produce some of the best sounding instruments that can impact the market.

Instagram - [@gazziniofficial](#)

Perfomers

Violin I

William Lee**
Henryk So
Ken So
Danny Chan#
Wong Yu Cheung
Sandy Lai
Sam Luk
Lucas Chan
Dennis Lee#
Francis Yiu
Katherine Leung

Viola

Benny Lee*
Raymond Han
Angel Hsu
Karin Malmstrom
Elvira Cheng
Cheryl Chung
Chloe Ng
Marcus Yan
Larry Lee
Nick Wan

Flute

Jonathan Ma*
Ginny Tin

Clarinet

Susan Edwards*
Laura Tan

Trumpet

Vincent To*
Matthew Wong

Violin II

Kate Moran*
Ng Wah Hei
Eva Nowak-Solinska
Andrew Nowak-Solinski#
Hilary Wong
Chiman Fong
Kevin Leung
Tree Chan
Brittany Kubiak
Jun Tsang
Ivan Chiu

Cello

Chavonne Lam*
Brittany Wong
Kelly Kwok
John Kim
John Chan

Double Bass

Mimi Poon*
KiSi Li

Oboe

Carol Chan*
Vincent Yu

Bassoon

Tom Or*
Kelly Chan

Horn

Sharon Wallis*
Vivian Ting
Jacqueline Tsui
Shum Hing Cheung

Timpani

Sharon So

***Concertmaster*

**Section leader*

#*Members of the Gazzini Academy*