



**BRADDELL  
HEIGHTS  
SYMPHONY  
ORCHESTRA**

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## **BRADDELL HEIGHTS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PRESENTS BEETHOVEN'S 9<sup>TH</sup> SYMPHONY**

*Concert is to be the community orchestra's most ambitious project,  
involving more than 200 members of the Singapore community*

**Singapore, 31 October 2014** – The Braddell Heights Symphony Orchestra (BHSO), Singapore's longest-serving community orchestra, announced that it will be performing Ludwig van Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 in D minor. The symphony is best known for the theme, "Ode to Joy", featured in the choral finale of the last movement. In the upcoming concert, the BHSO will be involving more than 200 members of the Singapore community.

Held on Sunday, 25 January 2015, at the Esplanade Concert Hall, the concert is titled, "JOY!" - Beethoven's 9<sup>th</sup> Symphony presented by the Braddell Heights Symphony Orchestra in collaboration with Esplanade – Theatres by the Bay, to bring joy and hope to the Singapore community as we celebrate the New Year and the nation's 50<sup>th</sup> year of independence.

Adrian Tan, Music Director of the BHSO, commented on the selection of Beethoven's 9<sup>th</sup> Symphony, "Beethoven composed this work, possibly, at the lowest point in his life. He was enduring great psychological and emotional pain from events in his personal life and from the loss of his hearing. This must be the most difficult thing for any composer or musician to accept. Yet, out of all of this emotional agony, he created a work that inspires hope and joy in the audiences. Even until today, the message of hope and joy is always echoed whenever this piece is played. This is especially so when mankind endures great trauma or tragedy and needs an affirmation of the resilience of the human spirit. The tune, "Ode to Joy" always comes to mind be it after the fall of the Berlin Wall, the Tiananmen Square tragedy in China and post-September 11<sup>th</sup> in New York City."

Mr Tan continued, "As a tribute to Singapore and our 50 years of independence, the orchestra felt it was fitting to present Beethoven's 9<sup>th</sup> Symphony, bringing together Singaporeans from across generations and from all walks of life to celebrate our arduous journey of nation building, our many achievements and share our aspirations for the future."



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Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 will be presented by the 80-strong orchestra, comprising primarily amateur musicians with a passion for music. The orchestra will be joined by soloists and members of "The Joy Chorale", formed by the Singapore community, and led by Choral Director, Khor Ai Ming.

A renowned vocalist, vocal coach and choral director, she has performed in numerous recitals and concerts, and served as chorus mistress for several opera productions by the Singapore Lyric Opera (SLO). Ms Khor is no stranger to the symphony as she has performed Beethoven's 9<sup>th</sup> Symphony many times in the past.

Ms Khor, Chorus Mistress of Joy Chorale, said, "Beethoven's Symphony 9<sup>th</sup> is one of the best works written in classical music history. It is also one of the most challenging work to sing, even for trained singers. Hence, the decision to have the Joy Chorale made up of experienced choristers as well as amateur singers. We wanted amateur singers to join us because this concert is really a gift to the nation."

Encouraging all those interested to join, Ms Khor said, "Being part of a historical concert of this nature is definitely a once-in-a-lifetime experience. We are still looking for choristers and welcome anyone who is interested to join us, even if you are an amateur."

"The symphony is about hope and joy. As a gift to the nation, we wanted to engage as many members of the Singapore community as possible. More importantly, we also wanted to spread the message of hope and joy as well as love for classical to the community as far as possible. Hence the reason to involve those who are completely new to classical music, to singing and even to the German language," said Mr Tan.

As a prelude to the symphony, the BHSO will also perform "Overture in C – The Story of Singapore", composed by Cultural Medallion recipient and local jazz legend Jeremy Monteiro. While better known as "Singapore's King of Swing", the "Overture in C – The Story of Singapore" offers a rare glimpse into Mr Monteiro's rich and diverse musical personality. Incorporating a line from the well-loved national song, "One People, One Nation, One Singapore", which he composed in 1990, the Overture tells the history of Singapore – how the country began from a sleepy fishing village through to modern day.

"JOY!" - Beethoven's 9<sup>th</sup> Symphony presented by the Braddell Heights Symphony Orchestra in collaboration with Esplanade – Theatres by the Bay, will be held on Sunday, 25 January 2015, at the Esplanade Concert Hall at 5pm. Tickets are available from from Sistic. More information on the concert can be found via the BHSO's website and Facebook page at [www.bhso.org](http://www.bhso.org) and <https://www.facebook.com/ILoveBHSO> respectively.





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## **About Braddell Heights Symphony Orchestra**

The Braddell Heights Symphony Orchestra (BHSO) is Singapore's oldest and most established community orchestra. Established in 1986, the orchestra has been home-ground for many Singaporean musicians as well as those from around the world to pursue their passion and love for music. Comprising both professional and amateur musicians, the orchestra has a current strength of about 80 members.

BHSO presents at least four concerts in each concert season. In recent years, it has worked with renowned pianist, Albert Tiu, as well as home-grown talent, Loh Jun Hong. The orchestra's repertoire has also grown in diversity over years, covering Baroque to even contemporary works by John Adams, Aaron Copland and Armenian composer and pianist, Alexander Arutiunian.

Community engagement is core to the orchestra – presenting concerts such as “Sing Messiah” in 2013 where the audience was encouraged to bring along their scores and sing along to excerpts of G.F. Handel's “Messiah” performed by the orchestra soloists and chorus.

More information about BHSO can be found at:

Website: [www.bhso.org](http://www.bhso.org)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ILoveBHSO>

## **Media Contacts**

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