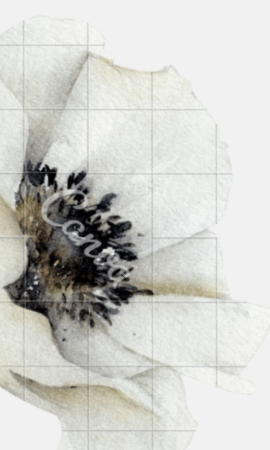




*Isabelle's  
First-Year  
Recital*

**PROGRAM BOOKLET**  
**ISABELLE ONG, VIOLIN**  
**Jiarong Li, PIANO**





## **CONCERT PROGRAM**

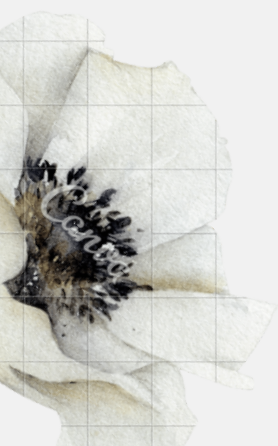
**JANUARY, 25, 2025**

**Ludwig van Beethoven**

**Violin Sonata No. 8,  
Op. 30**

**Jean Sibelius**

**Violin Concerto in D  
Minor, Op. 47**



## ISABELLE ONG

Isabelle Ong is a first-year violinist from Timothy Dwight College, and hails from Singapore. She started learning the violin at the age of four. From the age of 7, she was under the tutelage of pedagogue Ms Yah Wan Har and at the age of 14, came under the tutelage of Assoc. Prof. Zuo Jun, Head of Violin Studies at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, National University of Singapore. She is currently studying with Prof Ani Kavafian at the Yale School of Music under the BA/MM program.

In 2014, she won second place at the American Protege International Piano and Strings Competition and had the opportunity to perform at the Winners' Gala Concert in Carnegie Hall, New York. She also participated in the 2014 Singapore Performers' Festival and Chamber Music Competition and was awarded the Gold award.

The following year in 2015, she joined the Concours International A. Grumiaux for Young Violinists, obtaining a Mention Triès Bien, as well as the Singapore Raffles International Music Festival where she won an Excellence Award. She was also a semi-finalist in the Singapore National Piano and Violin Competition that year.

The year of 2016 saw Isabelle attain a High Distinction for her Licentiate of Trinity College London in Violin Recital (LTCL Diploma) with a score of 98/100 at the tender age of 11. She also participated in the Young Talents Project organised by 92.4 fm, attaining a Certificate of Excellence for semi-finalist. At the 2016 Singapore Performers' Festival and Chamber Music Competition, she attained the highest award possible, the Platinum award. Her outstanding performance in that competition gave her the chance to be one of the few who performed at the Winners' Gala Concert.

In 2018, she competed in the Osaka International Music Competition, winning the Espoir Prize (4th prize). In 2019, she attained Third Prize in the Intermediate Category of the Singapore National Piano and Violin Competition. In 2020, she was one of 11 finalists in the Leonid Kogan International Competition for Young Violinists, and in 2022 was awarded First Prize and Jury's Special Prize in the Inzai International Music Competition. Most recently, she was 1 of 5 finalists at the 2024 Leonid Kogan International Competition for Young Violinists. Outside of music, Isabelle loves Math and Physics and enjoys reading in her free time.

## **VIOLIN SONATA NO. 8, LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN**

Much unlike the dramatic, brooding nature of the preceding violin sonata (No. 7), Beethoven's Violin Sonata No. 8 deviates from the darker color of his later works and sparkles with musical humor and high spirits. The first movement features standard sonata form, with sudden sforzandos and subito pianos evoking a sense of humor. The second movement features varied statements of the opening lyrical, sonorous subject, while the third movement features a vivacious rondo theme with a bagpipe-like drone in the bass.

## **VIOLIN CONCERTO IN D MINOR, JEAN SIBELIUS**

Finnish composer Jean Sibelius began work on this concerto in 1902, by which time he had established himself as a force to be reckoned with in his field. Despite his professional success, his personal life was marked by a melancholic disposition and a troubling alcohol addiction.

During this period, Sibelius' home's proximity to nature and tranquility had a deep impact on his music, which is particularly evident in this work. The concerto begins with a haunting solo violin melody over a muted orchestra, conjuring images of a snowy Finnish landscape. This quickly gives way to virtuosic passages in the solo violin and a short cadenza, before the expressive and loving second theme is introduced. A cadenza then ensues, before a recapitulation of the poignant melodies in the exposition and a fiery cadenza that brings the first movement to its climactic end.

The second movement features beautifully lyrical themes, with a sense of yearning, melancholy and introspection, a respite from the fast-moving first movement.

The third movement begins with an energetic driving rhythm in the orchestra and a syncopated theme in the violin. The spirited nature of the movement is maintained throughout the movement, with infusion of lively Finnish folk rhythms and themes.