

*k u c i n a t*



Performed by

**VICTORIA CHORALE**

**AMADEUS CHORAL SOCIETY**

**TAMPINES JUNIOR COLLEGE**

Conducted by

**NELSON KWEI**

Produced by

**ZECHARIAH GOH TOH CHAI**

## Victoria Chorale

1. **Kucinta** • Goh Toh Chai 4:49
2. **Sakura** • Toru Takemitsu 4:28
3. **Windy Nights** • John Rutter 1:10
4. 送大哥 • 青海民歌 2:27
5. 丢丢铜仔 • 吕泉生编曲 2:07
6. 渔唱 • 桂乃舜 2:59
7. 槐花几时开 • 邵光编曲 2:32
8. 落水天 **Luo shui Tian** • Goh Toh Chai 3:31
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## Amadeus Choral Society

10. **Beati Quorum Via** • C.V.Stanford 3:53
11. **Migildi Magildi** • Grayston Ives 1:47
12. **Full Fathom Five** • Vaughan Williams 3:14
13. 海南的回忆 **Reminiscences of Hai Nan** • Goh Toh Chai 4:07
14. **Popok Alimpako** • Francisco Feliciano 2:37

## Tampines Junior College

15. **Crown Of Roses** • Tchaikovsky 2:35
16. 云飞天不动 • 瞿希贤 5:02
17. **Wings** • Toru Takemitsu 2:26
18. **Idem - dem Mallida** • Elmo O. Makil 1:58



## Victoria Chorale

Founded in 1988 by Nelson Kwei, an up and coming choral scholar and conductor, The Victoria Chorale consists of members from the Victoria Junior College Choir. While the Chorale still maintains close ties with the College Choir, it has been under the umbrella of the Siglap Community Centre since 1990. Besides performing classical and contemporary choral pieces, the Chorale has also distinguished itself with the staging of several musicals.

The Chorale has been successful having earned acclaim both at home and abroad. International accolades include the 1992 Adult Choir Of The Year Award at the Bournemouth Music Makers' Competition in England, and the Gold, Silver and Golden Butterfly Awards at the Concorso Corale Internazionale 1994 competition. And in 1998 June, Victoria Chorale returned home with a Gold Diploma and Open Mix Category winner's award at the 3rd International Choir Festival Pohlheim, Germany to the music scene in Singapore led to him being awarded the "Youth

Service Award" in 1993, the highest youth award in Singapore.

And Mr Kwei, who's willingness to excel and to bring out the best of his singers led to a new career high when he was awarded the "Most Outstanding Choir Director Award" at the 3rd International Choir Festival in Pohlheim, Germany. This was awarded after he led three choirs to achieve Gold Diplomas in an international competition with over 50 choirs from all over the world and to top it off, Victoria Chorale came in 2nd overall in the grand finals.



## Amadeus Choral Society

The Amadeus Choral Society was founded in 1994 by former members of singing. Under the umbrella Kampong Kembangan Community Club, the choir aims to promote the public's awareness of choral music through their annual concerts.

The Choir was awarded Gold diploma in the Choral competition held in Polheim, Germany 1998. The festival, Musica Mundi attracted participants from all around the world and it was a very wonderful experience for the choir.

In accordance with Kg Kembangan community Club's emphasis on cultural diversity, the choir believe in exploring all aspects of music and do not confine themselves to any one style of singing. Thus, a wide and rich repertoire of songs are performed each year ranging from classical motets to ethnic folk songs to jazz pieces in the hope that the audience will gradually be able to appreciate the intricacies of fine music in various forms while enjoying themselves at the same time.

The Tampines Junior College Choir made its debut in 1987 and has since then come a very long way. It was established with the vision of promoting a life-long interest in singing and character building in the areas of discipline and team spirit.

The choir developed rapidly, chiefly through embarking on increasingly challenging tasks. Besides performing at college functions, it also holds an annual public concert entitled "Plaisir de Chanson". The choir engages actively in Christmas carolling at well-known hotels and shopping malls, adding much warmth and joy to the festival.

It joined the festivities in celebrating the Nation's birthday in the 1991 National Day Parade. In 1992, the TPJC Choir's first public performance was indeed a success, and the Choir capped it all by emerging the champion in the Cantata Competition organised by the Young Musician's Society. The choir embarked on a tour to Europe



## Tampines Junior College Choir

in 1993 and participated in the Bournemouth Music Festival as part of the prestigious Bournemouth Festival of Arts.

There, it was awarded the distinction of being named the "Best Adult Choir of The Year". In 1993, the choir received a Certificate of Distinction for its first appearance in the Singapore Youth Festival (SYF) Choral Competition. In 1995, not only did it again achieve a distinction award, it was also selected for the finals of the SYF Competition. The choir maintained its high choral standards by once again achieving a distinction award in the 1997 competition. In 1996, the choir was selected to join the elite ranks of school choirs under the Ministry of Education's Choral Excellence Programme. The choir was again privileged to perform before an international audience when it participated in the Closing Show for the World Trade Organisation Conference held in Singapore during December 1996. In 1997, the Choir once again joined in the National Day Celebrations when it was selected

to be one of the 2 recording choirs for the National Day Parade and it participated in "A Nation Connects".

In December 1994, the choir toured Seoul and Honolulu and in June 1996, the TPJC Choir went on an educational-cum-concert tour to San Francisco. The trip was an enriching experience that exposed the choir to an overseas audience and enabled them to learn and appreciate different artistic and cultural standards.

The TPJC Choir has indeed gained much from its public performances and overseas tours. With continued enthusiasm and commitment to excellence, the choir is on its journey to greater heights in music making.

The TPJC choir came in as the winner in the Youth Choir Category in a competition held in Polheim, Germany 1998. With this remarkable achievement the Choir will continue to scale greater height in the future.

Nelson Kwei

The Resident Conductor and Founder of the Victoria Chorale, Mr Nelson Kwei is an accomplished musical personality. Trained in the demanding art of vocal music since the age of eight, Mr Kwei's credentials are impressive. He has a Licentiate in singing from the Guild Hall School of Music. He also won the coveted title of Most Promising Singer in an Asian Song Competition at the age of twenty.

Mr Kwei started conducting at the tender age of ten when he was selected to direct his primary school harmonica band. It was the start of an illustrious career. He went on to conduct and sing for the National University of Singapore Choir.

In 1985, he founded and conducted the Victoria Junior College Choir. Two years later VJC Choir captured the first prize in the Singapore Youth Festival Choral Competition out of more than 100 participating choirs.

In June 1990, the VJC Choir made history in the local music scene by being the first school choir to win an international choir competition at the prestigious Cardigan International Choral Competition. In the same year, Mr Kwei was awarded a scholarship by the Ministry of Education resulting in a Certificate of Advanced Studies in Choral Conducting Studies for

Post-Graduates from The Royal Academy of Music in London.

He had the honour of being the first Choral scholar from Singapore. During his stay in England, he was invited to conduct numerous choral workshops and performances. On his return he was appointed as a Choral Project Officer with the ECAC, Ministry of Education. Currently Mr Kwei is conducting various choirs in Singapore. Victoria School, Dunman High, Victoria Junior College, Tampines Junior College, Anderson Junior College, Nanyang Technological University, Amadeus Chorus Society and Victoria Chorale are some of the choirs under his baton.

His biggest project in his career so far was to be the Chorus Master of Verdi's grand opera "Aida", an international production staged on a lavish scale performed in the Kallang Indoor Stadium in 1996.

Besides conducting and singing, Mr Kwei also composes and arranges songs. He was the 5th Prize winner in an Asian Song Writing contest in 1981. He was also the winner of the Naval



Anti-Drug Campaign Song Writing competition in 1980 and 1981. His choral arrangements are frequently performed by choirs both locally and abroad. His frequent contributions to the music scene in Singapore led to him being awarded the "Youth Service Award" in 1993, the highest youth award in Singapore.

And Mr Kwei, who's willingness to excel and to bring out the best of his singers led to a new career high when he was awarded the "Most Outstanding Choir Director Award" at the 3rd International Choir Festival in Pohlheim, Germany. This was awarded after he led three choirs to achieve Gold Diplomas in an international competition with over 50 choirs from all over the world and to top it off, Victoria Chorale came in 2nd overall in the grand finals.

Zechariah Goh Toh Chai

Some of his prize - winning compositions include commissions such as Burong Kakak Tua written for the Victoria Chorale in 1992, Dayong Sampan for the Tamasek Junior College in 1993, Reminiscences of Hainan in 1995 for the Tampines Junior College and most recently Kucinta and Luo Shui Tian for Victoria Junior College. His

compositions were performed in Bournemouth Choral competition, Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod in Wales and Musica Mundi in Polheim Germany. Toh Chai's compositional efforts could also be appreciated in a recent release of a CD by the All Saints' Church Choir performing four of his choral works. In December 1998 Toh Chai will be organising a concert featuring all his compositions since 1988.

A modern day Renaissance man Toh Chai has been a lecturer in Nanyang Academy Of Fine Arts since 1993. He is also the conductor of Victoria Junior College Symphonic Band that has since premiered two pieces which he has written especially for them. At home, he teaches piano and treble Recorder. As a pianist he was featured in the much talked about Two-Piano Charity Recital in 1998. On a few occasions, he has also worked as an accompanist performing with the Victoria Chorale. In April 1998, the man of many talents was offered a merit-based scholarship to study piano at the Kansas University music department while working towards a master degree in music, a rare honour, indeed.

Toh Chai wishes to extend his gratitude to Nelson Kwei, the Victoria Chorale and The Amadeus Choral Society who have helped him in achieving his dream as a composer. Toh Chai would also like to express his appreciation to his Piano Teacher Mr. Ong Lip Tat for being the best teacher and friend ever.

# P r o g r a m m e

This is an album of songs with a difference for it features live recordings of choral pieces performed virtually by homegrown choir groups. Some of the pieces in this album were recorded during the Musica Mundi , a Choral competition held in Germany. These groups all won Gold Medals, a truly remarkable achievement.

The album starts with Singaporean composer Zechariah Goh Toh Chai's Kucinta performed by the Victoria Chorale. The next few tracks also feature the chorale with Chinese folk songs , Toru Takemitsu 's arrangement of Sakura as well as Windy night by John Ruttle. Luo Shui Tian In track number 8 is another composition by Toh Chai .



Quorum Via by C.V. Stanford , Migildi Magildi by Grayston , Full Fathom Five By Vaughan Williams , Reminiscences of Hai Nan by Toh Chai and Popok Alimpako by thr Phillipino Composer Francisco Feliciano .

The Tampinese Junior College represents the students section of the CD with their rendition of Tchaikovsky's Crown of Roses and folk song arrangements by Chinese composer Xi Sian , Japanese composer Takemitsu and Phillipino composer Elmo Q . Makil.

Live recordings are always a joy; the rush of adrenaline in the voices , the wilful anticipation and finally the rapturous applause. You can experience all of the above in this album, which is the art of

Amadeus Choral Society is featured in the next five tracks , which are performances of Eati choral singing at its finest.

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