


## 1. Soloists

<p><b>Benjamin Boo</b></p> 	<p>As an active and highly sought-after performer, Benjamin Boo joined Singapore Chinese Orchestra (SCO) and was the Percussionist from March 2018 to September 2022. In October 2022, he was promoted to Percussion Principal. Benjamin is also the Co-Founder and Ensemble Principal of Reverberance.</p> <p>Benjamin started learning Piano from his parents at the tender age of 3. He was first exposed to Chinese Percussion at the age of 9 when he joined his primary school's Chinese Orchestra. A year later, he began studying Chinese Percussion with the current SCO Resident Conductor Mr. Quek Ling Kiong, and picked up Western Percussion with Mr. Ngoh Kheng Seng (SCO) under Mr Quek's recommendation.</p> <p>In 2007, he studied Western Percussion at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) under the National Arts Council Georgette-Chen Bursaries Award. Benjamin attained his Diploma in Music Performance in 2010, under the tutelage of Mark Suter (Associate Principal, Percussion, SSO). He then furthered his studies in Music Theory under Cultural Medallion Recipient, Mr. Phoon Yew Tien. In 2014, Benjamin graduated with First-Class Honours for his Bachelor of Music (Hons) through the NAFA-RCM joint degree programme.</p> <p>He graduated from the Royal College of Music (RCM, London) with Masters of Performance (Distinction) in 2016, with the support of the Neville Wathen Award. He was taught by renowned percussionists including David Hockings, She-e Wu, Matt Perry, and Ralph Salmins. His unique experiences in traditional Chinese Percussion allowed him to teach and perform traditional Chinese Percussion with RCM's Percussion Department. He also performed with The Philharmonia, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the Musical "Motown", and the BBC Symphony Orchestra, with exclusive training under the BBCSO Pathway Scheme 2014 – 2015 in London. Benjamin proudly endorses Innovative Percussion, as well as Pantheon Percussion.</p>
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## Derek Koh



Touted as one of the most promising musicians of his generation, (The Straits Time, Singapore), percussionist Derek Koh's sensitive musical voice and varied musical ventures have afforded him the opportunity to perform extensively in the United States, Europe and Asia. His burgeoning rise as a dynamic and flexible musician has led him to work with art forms of all genres and mediums, from western and Chinese classical music to theatre and dance. Derek joined the Singapore Chinese Orchestra (SCO) as percussion musician in 2022.

A graduate of the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts School of Young Talents, he continued his undergraduate studies at the institution where he received his Bachelor of Music conferred by the Royal College of Music. Derek then headed to New York to receive his Master of Music at the Mannes School of Music with a full Mannes Dean's Scholarship.

Derek most recently performed with the Berlin Philharmonic new music ensemble ZeMU Ensemble at the Singapore International Festival of Arts (SIFA) 2022, and is a regular substitute with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra. He has also been invited as guest percussionist for the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra, Szechuan Symphony Orchestra and was a fellow at the Grammy-award winning Orpheus Chamber Orchestra. Derek is the secretary-general of Singapore Chinese Music Federation, chairman at the Singapore Chinese Music Federation Youth Chapter, secretary-general at the Percussion Association of Singapore, creative director of acclaimed contemporary percussion collective Morse Percussion, and adjunct faculty at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, and a guest lecturer of Yong Sew Toh Conservatory of Music. Derek is a Freer Percussion Artist and plays exclusively on Freer Percussion mallets.

## 2. Guest Percussion group

### Nadi Singapura



Since its formation in 2011, Nadi Singapura Ltd has been focused on engaging and empowering our community, including our youths through the art of traditional Malay drums and percussion drumming. Instruments such as the rebana – gendang melayu, jidur, rebana kompang, hadrah, angklung and talempong – are some of the intangible cultural heritage of our community, and we aim to elevating the art of performance with these drums to a new visible level, ensuring relevance and prominence in the current times. Through our rigorous training and capability building programmes, we also aim to nurture the next generation of cultural leaders for Singapore’s arts and cultural sector.

## Swarhythm Singapore



The Swarhythm Ensemble is a multiracial group of talented musicians based in Singapore. The Swarhythm group was started and continues to be lead by Indian-born Singapore resident Nawaz Mirajkar, a talented musician, composer and winner of the 2011 (Young Artist Award) YAA. Though he is an accomplished Indian classical musician, Nawaz is constantly inspired by the rich and diverse sounds of traditional and contemporary music that is present in Singapore. He handpicked some amazing talented local musicians to create a majestic confluence of the rich melodies and rhythms of India weaved in with beautiful Chinese, Malay and exciting Spanish elements!