

## TOKYO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA SPECIAL CONCERT IN KUALA LUMPUR 2025

PIANO  
TOMOHARU USHIDA

CONDUCTOR  
NAOTO OTOMO

PROGRAM BOOK

1 JUNE 2025 SUNDAY, 3:00PM

DEWAN FILHARMONIK PETRONAS, KLCC

TOKYO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASIA PROJECT SUPPORTED BY

THE JAPAN ARTS COUNCIL

ORGANIZED BY



Jonathan Nott, Music Director



SUPPORTED BY



PIANO  
SPONSORED BY



CO-PRODUCTION







## TOKYO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASIA PROJECT

The Tokyo Symphony Orchestra of leading orchestra in Japan is promoting a new activity, the “Asia Project” funded from the JAPAN ARTS COUCIL from 2023.

This project aims to develop multifaced activities throughout Asia. In our plan we will explore diverse values and cultures, promote cultural and human exchanges through music, and progress the music culture of Asia as whole.



Please take our survey  
on classical music

Tokyo Symphony Orchestra Asia Project Special Website  
(Japanese, English and Thai)

<https://tokyosymphony.jp/asia-project/>





## H.E. SHIKATA NORIYUKI

AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO MALAYSIA

It gives me great pleasure to extend my warmest congratulations to the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra on their Special Concert in Kuala Lumpur.

The Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, one of Japan's premier orchestras, has embarked on its Asia Project, a comprehensive initiative dedicated to fostering cultural exchange across Asia, with the goal of promoting musical culture throughout the region. We are honored that Malaysia has been chosen as one of the project's destinations for the first time.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to all those who have diligently worked to bring this special event to fruition. I am confident that this concert will be a great success, and I trust that all of you will be captivated by the extraordinary performance today.



## MR. OKAZAKI TETSUYA

CHAIRMAN

TOKYO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

As part of the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra Asia Project, we are very pleased to present a concert in Kuala Lumpur. The classical program conducted by Maestro Naoto Otomo with Mr. Tomohiro Ushida on piano.

We are truly looking forward to deepening our exchange with the people of Malaysia through music.

We would like to thank Ambassador Shikata, Ambassador of Japan, and all those who are helping us to this project.





Tokyo Symphony Orchestra  
ASIA PROJECT

# TOKYO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA SPECIAL CONCERT IN KUALA LUMPUR 2025

1 JUNE 2025 SUNDAY, 3:00PM  
DEWAN FILHARMONIK PETRONAS, KLCC

CONDUCTOR: NAOTO OTOMO  
PIANO: TOMOHARU USHIDA  
CONCERTMASTER: GLEB NIKITIN

CHOPIN: PIANO CONCERTO NO.1 IN E MINOR, OP.11

INTERMISSION (20')

MUSSORGSKY/RAVEL ARR.: PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION

TOKYO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASIA PROJECT  
SUPPORTED BY **THE JAPAN ARTS COUNCIL**

ORGANIZED BY TOKYO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA / POCKET MUSIC

SUPPORTED BY EMBASSY OF JAPAN IN MALAYSIA

PIANO SPONSORED BY YAMAHA

CO-PRODUCTION IAA

ORGANIZED BY



Jonathan Nott, Music Director



SUPPORTED BY



PIANO  
SPONSORED BY



CO-PRODUCTION





## NAOTO OTOMO

CONDUCTOR

Honorary Guest Conductor, Tokyo Symphony Orchestra  
Conductor Laureate, Kyoto Symphony Orchestra  
Music Director, Ryukyu Symphony Orchestra  
Artistic Director, Takasaki City Theatre  
Music Adviser, Seto Philharmonic Orchestra

Since his debut with the NHK Symphony Orchestra at the age of 22, Otomo has been invited regularly to conduct all the major orchestras both based in Tokyo and all over Japan.

Outside his country, Otomo led the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra on their overseas tours and has appeared repeatedly with the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestre nationale de Lorraine. He also led the Philharmonia Orchestra on its tour to Japan. Otomo has premiered numerous new works, conducting especially the first performances in Japan of several pieces by James MacMillan and the opera "A Flowering Tree" by John Adams.

Born in 1958 in Tokyo, Otomo graduated from the Toho Gakuen School of Music having studied conducting under Seiji Ozawa, Kazuyoshi Akiyama, Tadaaki Otaka and Morihiro Okabe.





## TOMOHARU USHIDA

### PIANO

Tomoharu Ushida was born in Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture, in 1999. Soon after his birth, his family moved to Shanghai. It was there that Tomoharu began his piano studies.

In 2012, Tomoharu won 1st Prize in the 16th Hamamatsu International Piano Academy Competition (becoming the youngest winner in its history). In the same year, he was the youngest-ever Japanese classical pianist to release a debut CD on the Universal Music label. Since then he has released numerous CDs including Tomoharu Ushida Debut (2012), Memories (2012), Liszt & Chopin (2013), Traumerei (2014), Liebesfreud (2015), Pictures at an Exhibition (2016), Chopin 24 Preludes and Ballad No.1 (2019), and in August 2022, he is set to release a new CD CHOPIN RECITAL 2022 as his first live recording.

In addition to performing recitals in many locations, Tomoharu Ushida has performed as a soloist on the Japan tours of Wiener Kammer Orchester conducted by Stefan Vladar (2014), Russian National Orchestra led by Mikhail Pletnev (2015 and 2018), Hungarian National Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Ken-ichiro Kobayashi (2016), and The Warsaw Philharmonic led by Jacek Kaspszyk (2018) and Prague Symphony Orchestra conducted by Tomáš Brauner (2024). This season, he is slated to perform with the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra on their Japan Tour.





Tokyo Symphony Orchestra (TSO) was founded in 1946 and has a reputation for giving the premiere of a number of contemporary music and opera. And has been regularly performing various operas and ballets at the New National Theatre, Tokyo since its open.

TSO, together with music director Jonathan Nott, has been attracting attention as a leader in the Japanese orchestra world. 《Elektra in Concert Style(2023)》 won the 1st prize in the "Top 10 Concert 2023". The orchestra also has Keitaro Harada as Permanent Conductor, and Naoto Otomo as Honorary Guest Conductor.

Outside of Japan, the orchestra has performed 79 concerts in 58 cities, including Queen Sirikit' s 60th birthday celebrations at Thai Cultural center in 1992.

In 2023 TSO has launched new activities "Asia Project" with funding from the JAPAN ARTS COUNCIL with performance in Bangkok. It will explore diverse values and cultures, promote cultural and human exchange through music, and progress the music culture of Asia as whole.



## CHOPIN: PIANO CONCERTO NO.1 IN E MINOR, OP.11

---

Polish-born Fryderyk Chopin (1810-1849) was first and foremost a composer of piano solo music: sonatas, ballades, polonaises, mazurkas, and nocturnes. On the other hand, his works for piano and orchestra, including the E minor piano concerto we will hear today, were composed when he was still a youth in Warsaw, having just graduated from the music conservatory. At the time he was an ambitious pianist, and one can well imagine from these works that he must have been a fine virtuoso. Of the two concertos, the one in F minor (op. 21) was composed first, but the E minor concerto became No. 1 because it was published first as op. 11. Chopin began composing the E minor concerto shortly after the premiere of his F minor concerto in March 1830. We know from a letter Chopin wrote to a friend that by May 1830, he had completed the first two movements, although the Rondo finale was still incomplete.

Chopin modelled his work on the virtuoso concertos of celebrated pianist-composers such as Hummel and Moscheles, written to display their technical abilities to the full. As a result, however, the role of the orchestra remains rather subservient.

The first movement (*Allegro maestoso*) opens with a dignified orchestral introduction where the two main themes appear. When the solo piano enters, it elaborates the two themes with embellishments and flourishes that are reminiscent of operatic arias of Bellini, a composer Chopin adored. Chopin himself explained that the slow second movement is a "romance in a sentimental vein, tranquil and melancholic" and "it resembles beautiful springtime reflections... by moonlight." The finale, a lively rondo, is based on a traditional Polish dance "krakowiak" which is characterized by syncopated rhythms in fast 2/4 time.

The Concerto in E minor was premiered in public on October 11, 1830, at the National Theatre in Warsaw with Chopin himself at the piano. The concert was a great success, but it became the last public appearance for Chopin in his native country. When he departed for Vienna in November, he took the concerto with him and he performed it at the capital's Kärntnerthor Theater and in Paris the following year, which helped establish his reputation in Europe.

## MUSSORGSKY/RAVEL ARR.: PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION

*Pictures at an Exhibition* was originally a work for solo piano composed by the nineteenth-century Russian composer, Modest Mussorgsky (1839-1881). It was later orchestrated by Maurice Ravel (1875-1937), at the request of the Russian-born conductor Serge Koussevitsky. Ravel was a renowned master in orchestration, and the work is perhaps more familiar in the orchestral version than the original piano suite.

Mussorgsky was a member of the so-called “Mighty Handful” , a group of five Russian composers whose aim was to create a distinctly Russian school of music. He was largely self-taught in composition, developing his own distinct style.

His piano suite *Pictures at an Exhibition* was composed in 1874, around the same time as his opera *Boris Godunov*. He had gone to see the memorial exhibition of his friend Viktor Hartmann, a painter and architect who had died suddenly the previous year, and inspired by the paintings on show, he composed this masterpiece in three weeks. Mussorgsky depicts his impressions of Hartmann’ s paintings with plenty of character and exotic colors.

The work opens with “Promenade” , which alternates between 5/4 time and 6/4 time. Led by the fanfare-like solo trumpet tune, the music depicts the composer visiting the exhibition, wandering from one picture to the next. The theme appears five times, much varied each time, forming the links between the pieces.

“Gnomus” begins with a weird and grotesque theme in the lower register played by clarinets, bassoons, cellos and basses in unison. “Il vecchio castello” (The Old Castle) depicts a nostalgic song of a troubadour which Ravel allocated to the alto saxophone, which was not a standard orchestral instrument. “Tuileries” captures children running around and quarreling in a garden in Central Paris. “Bydło” ( “cattle” in Polish), featuring a solo for a tuba, is said to be a song of the laborers pulling an oxen cart. “Ballet of the Unhatched Chickens” , a work for which Hartmann had provided the costume designs, is a light-hearted and humorous dance. “Samuel Goldberg and Schmuyle” paints a cynical view of the dialogue between two Jews, one rich and the other poor.

Two contrasting pieces, “Limoges Marketplace” and “Catacombs” are played without a break, and are followed by the violent music of “Baba-Yaga” , a witch that appears in Russian folklore. The magnificent final piece, “The Great Gate of Kiev (Kyiv)” was inspired by Hartmann’ s imaginative design for the city gate (which was never realized). It quotes an Orthodox hymn in the middle section and ends gloriously with the sound of bells ringing from the cathedral towers.

(Nahoko Goto)



## TOKYO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Music Director / Jonathan Nott

Conductor Laureate / Kazuyoshi Akiyama, Hubert Soudant

Permanent conductor / Keitaro Harada

Honorary Guest Conductor / Naoto Otomo

Permanent Honorary conductors / Arvid Jansons, Masashi Ueda, Shinji Toyama

1st Concertmaster	Issey Kobayashi / Gleb Nikitin
Concertmaster	Jun Tajiri
1st Violins	○Masaki Kimura / ○Sachiko Horiuchi / ○Yuria Morioka Atsuko Ogawa / Azusa Koyama / Yurie Tatsuoka / Kyoko Tsuchiya Fuko Nakamura / Yuri Mizutani / Mari Yoshikawa
2nd Violins	◎Yasuaki Shimizu / ◎Ayako Hattori / ○Mana Kato ○Fumihiko Fukutome / Azusa Kawasuso / Koji Suzuki Kaori Tsujita / Mayumi Abe / Midori Sakai
Violas	◎Atsuko Aoki / ◎Naoko Takeo / ◎Maki Nishimura ○Chihiro Tai / ○Miho Yamahiro / Mizuho Arai Masaoki Konishi / Marina Suzuki
Celllos	☆Fumitsugu Ito / ◇Tatsuki Sasanuma / ○Mayumi Kawai Takehiro Uchiyama / Yoshiyuki Kanie / Yasuyo Higuchi Mariko Fukuzaki / Yukari Watanabe*
Double Basses	◇Ryu Sukegawa / ◎Cody Roseboom / ○Ippei Kitamura ○Chizu Hisamatsu / Shuhei Yasuda / Atsuko Watanabe
Flute	◇Masahiro Aizawa / ◎Ai Takeyama
Flute & Piccolo	Mariko Hamasaki
Oboes	◎Eriko Ara / ◎Ryota Araki / Kenta Urawaki
Oboe & English horn	Takayuki Mogami
Clarinets	◎Emmanuel Neveu / ◎Akina Yoshino Chikako Kondo
Bassoons	◎Mariko Fukushi / ◎Osamu Fukui Yuka Sakai / Yuki Maezeki
Horns	◎Yoshiyuki Uema / Tomohiro Kato Arin Shirai / Marie Fujita*
Trumpets	◎Masato Sawada / ◎Dylan Lowery Takefumi Nozawa / Moe Matsuyama
Trombones	◎Naoto Oba / ◎Shinsuke Torizuka / Keisuke Sumikawa
Bass Trombone	Ryota Fujii
Tuba	Yoichi Kondo
Timpani & Percussion	◎Futoshi Shimizu / ◎Yudai Yamamura Yoshifumi Takeyama / Jummi Tsunakawa
Harp	Sara Watanabe
Librarians	Tomoya Hayashi / Sachiko Kato
Stage Managers	Risa Nishioka / Satoshi Yamamoto

◎Principal

☆Solo Principal

○Vorspieler

◇Guest Principal

\* on probation

## **TOKYO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

Honorary Chairman	Hideo Sawada
Chairman	Tetsuya Okazaki
Vice Chairman	Hajime Hirasawa Tatsumi Yoda
Executive Adviser	Shigeto Kanayama
Managing Director	Yoshitaka Hirooka
Senior Personnel Director	Makoto Fujiwara
Personnel Manager	Tami Janamoto
General Manager	Tsutomu Tsuji
Staff	Moto Ichikawa Amy Ito Hinata Enoki Hiroshi Ogawa Takao Ogi Misa Kirihara Kotaro Nagakubo Makoto Mitsuhashi Michiko Yamada Junko Kajikawa Mioko Yamamoto Yasuko Fujiyama*

## **POCKET MUSIC SDN. BHD.**

Lum Lai Fun  
Phang Hsueh Ping  
Tang Lee Khoon  
Ng Boon Hong  
Ling Hui Rui  
Lim Hong Liang  
Tan Ying Jian  
Pua Kuo Jie

## **IAA Incorporated**

Masatoshi Hirota  
Masato Yamamoto  
Daisuke Makino  
Mizuho Hirata  
Makoto Takani  
Manorung Wisalya

\* on probation





しゃぶしゃぶブツフェ

# しゃぶ葉

SHABU-YO 葉



**Skylark Group**

The largest restaurant chain in Japan.

**NOW OPEN  
IN PENANGG!**

# SHABU-YO

**JAPANESE RESTAURANT**

**SHABU-SHABU  
and  
SUKIYAKI**

We have  
300 outlets  
in Japan

Meat,  
vegetables  
and desserts are  
all you can eat!!

Fresh Vegetables

**Price**  
**Weekdays**  
**RM39.90~**

\*6% SST & 10% service charge  
are not included.



Follow us on 

Desserts

Fried Dishes

Sauce & Condiments