

AN ART SONG RECITAL

# KABUS KABUS MEMORI

(OPERA SERIKANDI NUSANTARA PREVIEW)

PENTAS 2,  
KUALA LUMPUR PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

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# KABUS KABUS MEMORI

(OPERA SERIKANDI NUSANTARA PREVIEW)

Opera Serikandi Nusantara is a piece composed by our very own Dean of Faculty Music, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tazul Izan Tajuddin. His unconventional works have been performed and presented in 23 countries and broadcasted in Asia, Europe, Australasia and North America. This recital serves as a preview to Dr. Tazul's second opera that he has written, Opera Serikandi Nusantara. It effortlessly blends the musical style of Malay traditional and European opera.

For this recital, we will have leading local opera such as Chaing Yi Ling (Mezzo Soprano), Phang Kong Chien (Tenor), Khairunissa Diyana Md. Noor (Soprano), Bernard Tan (Pianist) and with the award winning UiTM Chamber Choir led by Associate Professor Dr. Masashi Kishimoto.

# PROGRAM

## LAGU I: MIMPI DALAM LAGU

LAGU II

LAGU III

LAGU IV

**(II, III & IV ARIAS FROM OPERA PUTERI SAADONG)**

Composer, Tazul Izan Tajuddin, Soprano, Khairunnisa Diyana Md Noor, Piano, Bernard Tan

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## LAGU VII: ARIA FROM PUTERI SAADONG

Composer, Tazul Izan Tajuddin, Mezzo-Soprano, Chaing Yi Ling, Piano, Bernard Tan

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LAGU VI: TANGO WALTZ

LAGU I: MIMPI DALAM LAGU

Composer, Tazul Izan Tajuddin, Tenor, Phang Kong Chien, Piano, Bernard Tan

# INTERMISSION

## **Puteri Bidasari Aria From Opera Serikandi Nusantara (World Premiere)**

Composer, Tazul Izan Tajuddin, Soloist, Chaing Yi Ling

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## **Kisah Mawar Di Malam Hari**

Composer, Mochtar M Embut, Mezzo-Soprano, Chaing Yi Ling, Piano, Bernard Tan

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## **Srikandi**

Composer, Mochtar M Embut, Tenor, Phank Kong Chien, Piano, Bernard Tan

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## **Carry You To The Presence Of My Song: Aria From Operetta Hang Li Poh**

Composer, Chan Lok Hung, Tenor, Phang Kong Chien, Piano, Bernard Tan

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## **ENJIT-ENJIT SEMUT**

Malay Folk Song arr. Tazul Izan Tajuddin, UiTM Chamber Choir, Conductor, Masashi Kishimoto

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## **ULEK MAYANG EXCERPT FROM OPERA SERIKANDI NUSANTARA (WORLD PREMIERE)**

Composer/Arr. Tazul Izan Tajuddin, UiTM Chamber Choir, Conductor, Masashi Kishimoto

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## **JANGER**

Choir Arr. Budi Susanto Yohanes, UiTM Chamber Choir, Conductor, Masashi Kishimoto

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## **AHTOI POROSH**

Composer/Arr. Tazul Izan Tajuddin, UiTM Chamber Choir, Conductor, Masashi Kishimoto

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## **JONG-JONG INAI**

Malay Folk Song arr. Tazul Izan Tajuddin, Khairunnisa Diyana Md Noor, Chaing YiLing, Phang Kong Chien, UiTM Chamber Choir, Piano, Bernard Tan, Conductor, Tazul Izan Tajuddin

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# PROGRAM

A brief description of the songs: Lagu I Mimpi Dalam Lagu, Lagu III and Lagu V.

These 3 pieces is a collection of short melodies and songs written in between my other major works. It is written especially for the National Choir commissioned. It consists of Lagu III was written in 1998, Lagu V in 2008 and Lagu I in 1994. The pieces also were used as Arias in my work Opera Puteri Saadong. The text is written by myself together with some input from Catriona and was written on our way to St. Ives, Cornwall, England from London. The text is about mimpi (dream) and the words are usually suggesting sounds. They can be in any order and framed within the word mimpi itself.

Lagu II was composed in Pittsburgh, USA together with Lagu I both were written without any words just humming throughout. In my work Opera Puteri Saadong I inserted as one of the Aria and the words was also inserted. The version is combination of 1994 and the words from the opera.

Lagu VI Tango Waltz was composed during my time at Universiti Teknologi MARA as a recreational work.

Lagu VII Mimpi Dalam Lagu was originally conceived in my work for piano and chamber orchestra Warna Yang Bernada and then it became an Aria in my work Opera Puteri Saadong for voice which is the version here.

These songs (lagu) do not follow my usual concept of sounds and they are tonal works. These Lagu's are snapshots of moment written outside my conception of sounds and they spanned over more than 25 years.

*'...experience of time is that it, at times, is composed of instants, and that, at times, it flows by, devoid of units. It is discontinuous and it is continuous.'*

Michel Serres

This collection passing through many places since 1994 from Pittsburgh (USA), Brighton, London (UK), Kelana Jaya, Subang Jaya, Shah Alam, Kuala Lumpur, Kuala Lumpur, London, Dubai, Bruges, St. Ives, Margate and Cameron Highlands, Massachusetts, Reykjavik, Singapore, Bali, Jogjakarta, New Zealand, Cyprus, Japan, Batumi Georgia, Istanbul, many European countries (Venice, Zagreb, Dubrovnik, Budapest, Innsbruck, Luxembourg, Torun and many others)

Clouds of Memories are collection of pieces from the past, some are revisited work and some are used previous materials as based for new one. Time here is past memories, clouds that shrouded the memories, some are clear and some are misty. This collection is a shred of this memory. As human, time is as our one's own moment and past memories preserved but no memories of the future exist except imagined or predicted one.

I hope the project would continue to benefit the younger generations of musicians and composers and to preserved and documented some musical memories too.

Kabus-kabus Memori II is dedicated to the front liners who fought and the victims of the pandemic COVID19 in 2020.

Thank you to all front liners. In Memoriam to all victims of coronavirus.

Tazul Tajuddin, Subang Jaya SS19, 8 April 2020

# PROGRAM

world premieres

Puteri Bidasari (2021)

Ulek Mayang (2021)

Srikandi (1960s)

Kisah Mawar Di Malam Hari (1960s)

Carry You to the Presence of My Song: Aria from Operetta Hang Li Poh

Ahtoi Porosh

Ahtoi Porosh, which means sad, is a Borneo folk song originating from the province of Central Kalimantan, more specifically from the Ot Danum Dayak tribe. It is beautifully arranged by Budi Susanto Yohanes. This song is about a man who is in love with a woman, and he expresses how much he loves her, as if the world belongs to them both. However, in the end the man could not see the woman again. He also wasn't sure that she felt the same way about him. Then he was angry, upset, hated himself, because if he had not met the woman before, he would not be as sad as he is now.

UCC song: Janger

Janger is a Traditional Balinese song that describes the joys of young boys and girls who are madly in love. The song is arranged by the famous choral composer and conductor, Budi Susanto Yohanes. Janger is originally a dance that is one of the most popular dances from Bali, Indonesia. The theme of the song is about the association spirit of youth and enthusiasm of lovers.

Enjit-enjit Semut (1991/2)

This is a well known Malay folk melody used by kids for a game where who is bitten by the ant feel the pain and continuously going up. The melody is arranged for choir by Tazul Tajuddin and using imitation technique for each of the voices and it will be repeated as many times until it ends.

Jong-jong (1991/2)

It is another Malay folk melody which is well known. The melody is arranged for choir by Tazul Tajuddin. The text is repeated throughout the arrangement and was arranged with piano accompaniment in an eclectic style from traditional to popular modern. It was arranged in 1991/2.

# COMPOSER

## TAZUL IZAN TAJUDDIN (PHD, ASSOC. PROF.)

Tazul Tajuddin (D.Phil) is a Malaysian composer and Fulbright Visiting Scholar at Harvard University. He is recipient of the highest Malaysian award in arts Anugerah Akademik Negara and Anugerah Akademik UiTM (2017) He won the prestigious Toru Takemitsu Composition Award (2003), Lutoslawski Award (2005), Japan Society of Contemporary Composer Award (2004), the New Millennium Award UK (2005) and Malaysian Book of Records (1997). Other prizes include 1st prize in the 8th Tokyo International Competition for Chamber Music Composition 2003, Japan, 1st prize in the 2nd Molinari Quartet Composition Competition 2004, Canada. He is the first Malaysian composer to be shortlisted composer with the Society for Promotion of New Music three times in 2001, 2004 and 2007. His work Tenunan was selected by the Asian Composer's League-Asian Music Festival, Tokyo in 2003. In 2006, International Society of Contemporary Music (ISCM) Britain selected Tenunan II for the ISCM World Music Days 2007 Hong Kong, representing both UK and Malaysia. Other works have been finalist in the 4th Seoul International Competition for Composers, South Korea (2007), EARPLAY Donald Aird International Composition Competition 2006, San Francisco, USA, Derek Shiel Composition Competition 2000, London, UK, Edvard Grieg International Composition Competition 1999, Oslo, Norway, Carnegie Mellon Student Composition Competition 1996, Pittsburgh, USA.

His more than 50 works have been performed and broadcasted in 23 countries as well as critical acclaimed reviews worldwide. His music such as the Arabesque, Tenunan, Mediasi Ukiran, Gamelbati, Pantun and Topography cycles have been inspired by Malay-Asian cultures, Islamic geometrical patterns and Western European art combined with diverse contemporary cultural ideals. Opera Puteri Saadong is his first opera and the first in Malay language was funded by Ministry of Culture and Arts premiered in Malaysia, Japan and UK. He is published by Babelscores.com, Alexander Street Press (online), Dynamic Publication and recorded by ATMA Classique (Canada), FMR Records (UK), Ibersonic (Spain).

He is currently the Dean and Associate Professor in composition at the Faculty of Music, UiTM. He is also President of the Society of Malaysian Contemporary Composers (SMCC), Vice President of Fulbright Alumni Association Malaysia (FAAM), Chopin Malaysian Society (committee members) and member of Performing Rights Society UK.

His new opera, Opera Serikandi Nusantara will be premiere in 2022 supported and funded by CENDANA with Joe Sidek Production Sdn Bhd

# CONDUCTOR

## MASASHI KISHIMOTO (PHD, ASSOC. PROF)

Born in Akashi, Japan. Dr. Kishimoto received 2 bachelor degrees from Osaka college of music, Japan and Tirol state conservatory, Austria in vocal performance. Consequently, 3 Masters degrees from Osaka college of music, Tirol state conservatory, Austria in vocal performance (Lied, Oratorio) and in choral conducting from Mansfield university, USA with full scholarship. He received a Doctor of Musical Art degree (DMA) in choral conducting with full scholarship from North Dakota State University, USA.

He was invited to guest-conduct the Pachuca Music Festival, Mexico, Asian Youth Choir in Philippines, and assistant director of Japan National Youth Choir, international music education conference in Malaysia, 33rd World Conference of the International Society for Music Education (ISME) in Azerbaijan and World Expo in Dubai presenting with Malaysian prime minister. He was also invited as a judge at the international competition in Indonesia, Malaysia Singapore, Thailand, Hong Kong, Macau and Finland. His 1st prize winning achievements at international choral competition including Grand Prix are in Germany, Italy, Finland, Spain, France, Greece, Poland, Czech Republic, Indonesia, Japan and Malaysia.

2012-2014 he was a director of choral activities at Rangsit University, Thailand. Currently, as a professor and director of choral activities at University Technology MARA (UiTM), Malaysia with university academic arts & creative awards 2018, ministry of education special award, Malaysia 2017 and university excellent teaching service award, Malaysia 2016 and 2019.

International Choral Conductors Federation (ICCF) Board member, Japan representative

IFCM Asia Pacific Choral Council (APCC) Japan representative

American Choral Director's Association, USA (ACDA) International mentor

Takarazuka International Chamber Choral Competition, Japan (TICC) Board member



# SOPRANO

## KHAIRUNNISA DIYANA MD NOOR

M.Mus. University of Tasmania

B.Mus. (Performance), UiTM

Recipient of:

-Jessie Wakefield-Luckman Prize for Voice, University of Tasmania

- Lestari Grant UiTM (Indie Music in Malaysia)

Cendana Grant for Independent Music

Khairunnisa has appeared in live telecast radio performance for 3MBS radio stations in Melbourne, Australia as well as in various solo recitals and chamber concerts locally such as A Celebration of Voice (Muzium Negara, Kuala Lumpur), The Eximious Concert (Istana Budaya, Kuala Lumpur), Opera Puteri Saadong (KLPAC Kuala Lumpur and many more). In 2017, she had her first performance in London for the British Malaysia Society 60th Anniversary of Malaysian Independence Concert. Recently, in May 2019, she was invited to perform alongside with Tun Dr Siti Hasmah binti Haji Mohamad Ali for Kasih Perak Charity Gala Dinner (MAPS, Ipoh).

Khairunnisa has also given lectures and workshops at various higher learning institutions, locally including UNIMAP and Petrosains and has served as jury member for solo singing and choral competitions at regional, state, and national levels. She is currently working as a Lecturer at the UiTM Faculty of Music Shah Alam. She performs regularly with VerSeS and is a strong supporter of indie classical music, Malaysian folk tunes and outreach programmes such as The Singing Balcony.

# MEZZO SOPRANO

## CHAING YI LING

YiLing holds her bachelor degree from Birmingham Conservatoire(UK) as vocal and operatic performance singer and completed master degree at the Kodály Institute of Franz Liszt Academy of Music (Hungary) as Kodály expert in music education. YiLing's international operatic performance career and as Kodaly Expert brought her to many cities for concert as well as international workshops as speaker.

She has been invited to major cities of the United Kingdom, Hungary, Australia, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Indonesia, China, Myanmar, Thailand & Malaysia. She sang in many prestigious venues as soloist/opera singer. Her operatic role inclusive of Lay Sister in Puccini's "Suor Angelica" (2013), Kate Julian in Britten's "Owen Wingrave" (2013), Ravel's Scheherazade(2014), Surya in Somtow

Sucharitul's opera premiere "Das Jati" (2016), 3rd Lady in Mozart's "The Magic Flute" (2017 & 2019), 3rd Wood Sprite in Dvořák's "Rusalka" (2017), Cherubino in Mozart's "Le Nozze di Figaro" (2017), Hansel in Humperdinck's "Hansel & Gretel" (2018), Kate Pinkerton in Puccini's "Madame Butterfly" (2018), Flora Bervoix in Verdi's "La Traviata" (2019), and upcoming as Elle in Poulenc's solo opera "La Voix Humaine" (2022), and understudy of the title role of Bizet's "Carmen" (2022).

YiLing is currently an adjunct music lecturer at Universiti Teknologi MARA, Sunway University and University College Fairview, Malaysia.

Her students are blooming as prize winners of competitions in UK, Italy, Spain, Austria, Romania, Slovenia, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, and Malaysia.

# TENOR

## PHANG KONG CHIEN (PHD.)

Phang Kong-Chien (PhD), tenor, is currently a senior lecturer and head of postgraduate studies at the Faculty of Music, Universiti Teknologi MARA, holding a PhD in Musicology from UPM; Master of Music in Voice Performance from Rutgers University; and Bachelor of Science in Music and International Business from New Jersey City University. Phang has performed as a soloist in the Dewan Filharmonik Petronas, Opera at Florham, Dicapò Opera, Opera at Rutgers, Victoria Concert Hall, Zimmerli Art Museum, Istana Budaya, Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Center (KLPAc) and the Yongan City Hall in works of the Messiah, the Creation, Beethoven's 9th Symphony and has been casted Albasar in Il Turco in Italian, Eisenstein in Die Fledermaus, The First Armed Man in The Magic Flute, Gobin in La Rondine and in operatic scenes in Marta, Gilbert and Sullivan at the Opera and Amadeus—Mostly Mozart. Phang has released two solo albums under record labels of Sony Music and Goodstyle Enterprise. Recent recording projects include Malay Folksongs from Malaysia for Voice and Piano (2018), Selected Art Songs by Malaysian Chinese Composers (2020) and Kabus-Kabus Memori II (2021).

# PIANO

## BERNARD TAN (PHD.)

Malaysian pianist Dr. Bernard Tan graduated with a Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) degree in collaborative piano at University of Michigan, USA, being the only Malaysian to have been accepted to this program, under the tutelage of the world-renowned Martin Katz. He previously resided in Birmingham United Kingdom, where he graduated with Master of Music with Distinction from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, under the tutelage of Robin Bowman and Jan Loeffler.

Dr. Tan has won numerous prizes, awards, and fellowships for his work as a pianist in art songs and operas. In the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, he was awarded the John Ireland Accompanist Prize, Birmingham Town Hall Symphony Hall prize, second prize in the Delia Hall Accompanist Prize, and highly-commended pianist in both the Edward Brooks Lieder and English Songs Prizes, and the Stuart Cameron French Song Prize. He was also a recipient of the Denis Matthew Memorial Trust and Malcolm John Bullock Memorial Trust Award. Bernard won the inaugural Hester Dickson full scholarship award to Oxenford International Summer School in 2016, led by the renowned pianist Malcolm Martineau. His work as an opera répétiteur has seen him appointed as an opera coach in productions in Italy, Canada and the USA. In 2019, he attended the prestigious Music Academy of the West as a vocal piano fellow and was a coaching fellow in both Opera on the Avalon (Canada) and International Lyric Academy (Italy) opera companies in 2018.

A phonetics enthusiast, Bernard coaches lyric diction of 9 languages. In particular, he has developed a specialisation in Italian diction and its functions in operas and Italian songs, and was regarded as "an excellent Italian language and music coach" by Matteo Dalle Fratte, Italian coach at Royal Opera House, London. His work in the Italian repertoire has also seen him being appointed as a regular vocal coach with Melofonetica in London, in their annual Veneto Opera Summer School in Italy. In March 2017, he directed, coached, and performed in a project of Romantic Italian art songs "Amore e morte". Bernard is also the creator of "Pinyin to Singing", a method of diction in Mandarin Chinese for English-speaking singers.

Bernard is also a passionate music educator. He started teaching as a teenager and has since devoted his time to developing his teaching philosophy not only in piano playing, but also in coaching singers. As a specialist in vocal music, he has coached numerous singers in competitions, opera productions and recitals. Praised for having "an admirable physiological setup" by pianist Robin Bowman, Bernard is known in his piano teaching to emphasise on technique as a foundation for expressive playing. One of his highlights is guiding a pianist in his 70s to perform a full-length piano recital. Bernard has also given masterclasses at University Putra Malaysia (UPM), Kuala Lumpur City Opera, and Opera Emporio in the UK. His constant work with pianists and singers alike has led him to be described as a "knowledgeable and enthusiastic coach" by soprano Dr. Rose Mannino.

Raised in Seremban, Malaysia, Bernard Tan started playing the piano at the age of 6 under Chen Chit Shian in Melody Music School. In 2007, he came under the tutelage of Woon Chi Choong and obtained both the Licentiate Diplomas in Piano Performance, LTCL and LRSM. Majored in classical piano performance, he completed undergraduates with First Class Honours from University Putra Malaysia (UPM), under the tutelage of Carolyn Lo. He was the pianist in Malaysian Philharmonic Youth Orchestra (MPYO) from 2013–2015, performing under the baton of Kevin Field and Fabian Russell as an orchestra pianist and as a chamber pianist in Dewan Filharmonik Petronas (DFP).

Dr. Bernard Tan is currently serving as a senior lecturer in the Faculty of Music at Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), besides being a coach and répétiteur at Kuala Lumpur City Opera (KLCO) and a chamber music tutor at Bentley Music Academy (BMA).

# CHOIR

## UiTM CHAMBER CHOIR

UiTM Chamber Choir (UCC) was formed early 2015 by Professor Madya, director of choral activities Dr. Masashi Kishimoto. UiTM Faculty of Music contains more than 500 music students from Diploma through PhD program as it is known as one of the largest music programs in Malaysia. UCC members are selected by audition and rehearse regularly. The performance opportunities are wide variety such as convocation, music festival, conference, TV show, hospital and also support local orphanage.

In 2015, UCC won 1st prize and champion title at 4th Bali International Competition, Indonesia. 1st prize Malaysia National Choral Competition in 2016 and 2017. 1st prize Pohon International choral competition, Malaysia, 1st prize world champion in women's voice category and 2nd prize in mixed voice category also received Martinu foundation special award at 30th Praga Cantata International Choral Competition, Prague Czech Republic. We were also invited from United Nations office Vienna for special performance in 2016 Europa tour. In 2017 October, UiTM Chamber Choir and Women's chorale (UWC) both got 1st prize and Grand Prize at 2nd Kalamata international choral competition, Kalamata Greece. During the Europa tour 2017, UCC had concert in Athens, Greece and Musikverein in Vienna Austria.

In 2018, UCC had competed at 9th Rome international choir competition, Italy and received 1st prize in women's voice category with outstanding special award, 1st prize in men's voice category and gold diploma in mixed voice category. In 2018 Nov, UCC received first prize at open category and UWC became a Grand Prix champion at 1st Malaysia international choir competition.

UCC and UWC participated to 7th International Copernicus choir competition, Poland and received 1st prize in 3 categories with audience prize. Consequently, joined International Johannes Brahms choir competition in Germany and 1st prize in 2 categories with Jury special prize and audience prize.