

# SINGAPORE DANCE THEATRE

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR **JANEK SCHERGEN**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Singapore Dance Theatre presents Ballet Under the Stars**  
**31 August – 2 September & 7 – 9 September 2018 | Fort Canning Green**

01 August 2018



*The Four Temperaments* by George Balanchine | Photo: Bernie Ng

Ballet Under the Stars is back for its 23<sup>rd</sup> edition! Established by Singapore Dance Theatre in 1995 as Singapore's most loved and iconic outdoor dance event at the **Fort Canning Green**, we will be presenting a weekend of neo-classical works from **31 August – 2 September**, and another weekend dedicated to masterpieces by Singapore Choreographer Choo-San Goh from **7 – 9 September**.

"Ballet Under the Stars has become such an annual tradition, after 23 years, that many people who have become acquainted with Singapore Dance Theatre see us first in the park performances. For this reason alone, it is imperative that we present the absolute best of our repertoire suitable to the environment of the park's performance situation. Our first weekend begins with one of George Balanchine's masterpieces, *The Four Temperaments*, followed by a ballet made especially for us by Edwaard Liang with his brilliant *13th Heaven*. The evening concludes with François Klaus' *Midnight Waltzes*, a ballet meant to evoke the grandeur of the theatre. Our second weekend is a tribute to the Singaporean choreographer Choo-San Goh. We present some of his most iconic works with *Schubert Symphony*, *Unknown Territory* and *Fives*. Each of these three ballets represents a different aspect of Choo-San's remarkable ability as a choreographer. Having Choo-San's extraordinary ballets as one of the backbones of our performance repertoire is a part of heritage and history that cannot be measured." says Artistic Director Janek Schergen.

### **31 August – 2 September 2018**

With pure symmetry and captivating elegance, the first weekend of Ballet Under the Stars brings to you three rousing and powerful creations – George Balanchine's *The Four Temperaments*, Edwaard Liang's *13th Heaven* and François Klaus' *Midnight Waltzes*.

#### **The Four Temperaments**

**Choreography** George Balanchine© The George Balanchine Trust  
**Staging** Elyse Borne  
**Music** Paul Hindermith

As explained in Mr. Balanchine's text, "Great Ballets," this work is "an expression in dance and music of the ancient notion that the human organism is made up of four different humors, or temperaments. Each one of us possesses these four humors, but in different degrees, and it is from the dominance of one of them that the four physical and psychological types - melancholic, sanguinic, phlegmatic and choleric – were derived. Greek medicine associated the four humors and temperaments with the four elements – earth, water, fire, and air – which to them composed the human body as well as the world."

However, this notion is not treated literally in the ballet – more as a point of departure. Premiered in 1946 by Ballet Society (predecessor of the New York City Ballet), *The Four Temperaments* represents another area of the Balanchine spectrum. Along with Concerto Barocco and Symphony in C, *The Four Temperaments* is another essay in pure Balanchine classicism, but a distillation of it which seems influenced by modern dance, or more possibly modern sculpture – only classical dancers could acceptably perform *The Four Temperaments*. The choreographer's tendencies here seem to crystallize later in *Agon* and *Movements*. Exotic costumes for the original production of *The Four Temperaments* were discarded by the choreographer in 1951 in favor of practice clothes.

The performance of *The Four Temperaments*, a Balanchine® Ballet, is presented by arrangement with The George Balanchine Trust and has been produced in accordance with the Balanchine Style® and Balanchine Technique® Service standards established and provided by the Trust.

*The Four Temperaments* was first performed by SDT in 2017.

#### **13<sup>th</sup> Heaven**

**Choreography** Edwaard Liang  
**Music** Oliver Davis

Featuring a large cast, *13th Heaven* portrays the raw emotionality of a deep longing for connection – a constant reaching to be intertwined with ourselves, others, and a higher power. An inner craving for relational fulfilment intermingled with the bittersweet of humanity creates a force of joy and honour, a sense of yearning and lost, a reality of unity and isolation. This work is choreographed to a big and soaring, but intimate and spiritual score by Oliver Davis.

This was Edwaard Liang's fifth work for SDT. His other works include *As Above, So Below*, *Age of Innocence*, *The Winds of Zephyrus* and *Opus 25*.

*13th Heaven* was acquired through the financial sponsorship of the Artistic Director's Fund in 2017.

#### **Midnight Waltzes**

**Choreography** François Klaus  
**Music** Johann Strauss & Aram Ilyich Khachaturian

We are in Russia, little more than a century ago and it is time for a long-anticipated ball. The dance master calls on one of his pupils, Henrietta, to give some last-minute instruction, but Henrietta is only determined to win the heart of handsome André. Romantic Tamara finds herself partnered with awkward Sergei while beautiful Anna is pursued but uninterested by three eager suitors. There are upsets and surprises but under the ever-watchful eye of the dance master, the bewitching hour of midnight will weave its magic and unravel it all.

*Midnight Waltzes* was first performed by SDT in 2015.

## **7 – 9 September 2018**

In celebration of SDT's 30th Anniversary, the second weekend will be dedicated to the renowned Singaporean choreographer and dance prodigy, Choo-San Goh, who was one of the inspirations for the formation of the company. We will be presenting three of his most exquisite works – *Unknown Territory*, *Schubert Symphony*, and *Fives*.

### Unknown Territory

**Choreography** Choo-San Goh  
**Staging** Janek Schergen  
**Music** Jim Jacobsen (commissioned for the ballet)

The ballet depicts the traditional custom of a marriage ceremony in a fictional place – Unknown Territory. Among the most significant of the customs is the departure of the groom upon his betrothal to prove his manhood and worthiness toward his beloved before returning to her in their marriage.

*Unknown Territory* was first performed by SDT in 1997.  
Presented by arrangements with the Choo-San Goh & H Robert Magee Foundation.

### Schubert Symphony

**Choreography** Choo-San Goh  
**Staging** Janek Schergen  
**Music** Franz Schubert (Symphony No.2 in B Flat)

The hallmarks which distinguish the best of Choo-San Goh's creations are well known: an inimitable sense of propulsion and timing, keen eye for line, extraordinary sensitivity to the music and the intelligent sculpting of dance gestures from Asian and Western classical traditions within a modern sensibility and language. There was no doubt that Goh was an artist well in tune with the demands and needs of his time. Yet, given his penchant to experiment with his Asian heritage and Western training, he was capable of surprises set to Franz Schubert's symphony No. 2. Goh's ballet is conceived as a purely classical work. After its premiere it was stated that *Schubert Symphony* was "a major triumph... An eagerly awaited world premiere..." By the prevailing standard of ballet choreography, *Schubert Symphony* is unquestionably a fine work. It demonstrates, beyond a shadow of doubt, that Goh can manipulate a stripped down neoclassical idiom skilfully.

*Schubert Symphony* was first performed by SDT in 1998.  
*Schubert Symphony* was first created for The Washington Ballet.  
Presented by arrangements with the Choo-San Goh & H Robert Magee Foundation.

### Fives

**Choreography** Choo-San Goh  
**Staging** Janek Schergen  
**Music** Ernest Bloch (Concerto Grosso No. 1)

Energetic and vibrant, the piece shows off many of Choo-San Goh's trademarks: a brilliant management of ensemble patterns and space; line and unexpected gestures. Goh described this ballet as 'music ballet', that is one in which the movement comes from the music itself and the audience in fact 'sees' as well as 'hears' the music. Created for 10 women and 5 men, *Fives* is an exciting work full of energy and sculptural pictures in dance.

*Fives* was first performed by SDT in 2000.  
Presented by arrangements with the Choo-San Goh & H Robert Magee Foundation.



*Schubert Symphony* by Choo-San Goh | Photo: Bernie Ng

## **FAST FACTS**

**Title** : Ballet Under the Stars  
**Date** : 31 August – 2 September & 7 – 9 September 2018 (Friday - Sunday)  
**Venue** : Fort Canning Green  
**Time** : 7.30pm  
**Ticket prices** : \$35 (SISTIC fees apply)  
20% concessions for:  
• Children aged 12 and below/Students/NSF/Senior Citizens

**Ticket Sales Date:** General Sales: 1 June – 9 Sept 2018

Tickets are available at all authorised SISTIC outlets and SDT Office.  
Email [ticketing@singaporedancetheatre.com](mailto:ticketing@singaporedancetheatre.com) or call 6338 0611 for ticket enquires.

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## ARTISTIC TEAM

Artistic Director	Janek Schergen			
Ballet Master	Mohamed Noor Sarman			
Principal Artists	Chihiro Uchida	Li Jie	Etienne Ferrère	Kenya Nakamura
First Artist	Chua Bi Ru Huo Liang	Elaine Heng Jason Carter	May Yen Cheah Kensuke Yorozu	
Artists	Akira Nakahama Kwok Min Yi Nanase Tanaka Yeo Chan Yee	Beatrice Castañeda Ma Ni Ruth Austin	Jessica Garside Mai Suzuki Sun Hong Lei	Kana Minegishi Marina Yatsushiro Tamana Watanabe
	Ivan Koh Satoru Agetsuma Wan Jiajing Jerry	Jeremie Gan Shan Del Vecchio	Justin Zee Takeaki Miura	Reece Hudson Timothy Ng
Apprentices	Leane Lim	Valerie Yeo	Jasper Arran	Reo Mizuno
Trainees	Felicia Er	Ma Xiaoyu	Reiko Tan	Sayaka Yamauchi

## THE COMPANY

SDT was founded in 1988 by Goh Soo Khim and Anthony Then. Since then, SDT has developed into Singapore's premiere professional dance company comprising of 32 dancers plus apprentices. In the course of each year, the Company performs six main seasons, including the widely popular Ballet Under the Stars at the Fort Canning Park, two full length classics, Masterpiece in Motion which brings together three works of the finest international choreography and Passages Contemporary Season.

The Company's repertoire ranges from 19<sup>th</sup> century traditional classical to contemporary works, from renowned choreographers like Choo-San Goh, George Balanchine, Stanton Welch, Natalie Weir, Val Caniparoli, Edmund Stripe, Kinsun Chan, Edwaard Liang, Nils Christe, Toru Shimazaki, Christina Chan, Ma Cong, and most recently Timothy Harbour, resident choreographer of Australian Ballet.

In 2008, Janek Schergen was appointed as the Artistic Director of SDT, after his extensive involvement with SDT since its inception years in 1988. Under his leadership, the Company has made new achievements in the international and Singapore dance arena. In the last ten years, the Company has added 29 world premieres and 19 company premieres and new productions to the repertoire, in addition to numerous revivals of the existing Company's repertoire. Janek is also the Artistic Director of the Choo-San Goh & H. Robert Magee Foundation which oversees the licensing and production of Choo San Goh's ballets and the annual Choo San Goh Awards for Choreography.

SDT has captivated audiences in Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Mexico, China, Australia, France, United States, London, and Switzerland. The Company has taken part and has performed in numerous international festivals and events, such as Le Temps d'Aimer la Danse a Biarritz in France, Mexico's Festival Internacional Cervantino, Chang Mu Arts Festival in Korea, Philippines Festival of Dance, and was part of the Victorian Arts Centre's Made to Move subscription series. SDT tours Kuala Lumpur and Penang annually, and has seen a growth in its dedicated support to the company.

SDT actively reaches out to the public to create greater awareness of dance through outreach to schools with its Arts Education Programme, Dance Appreciation Series (jointly presented with Esplanade Co.), Adults Dance Classes, Scholars Programme for students considering dancing as a career, SDT Choreographic Workshop focusing on local emerging talents and One @ the Ballet, an initiative to help the public gain a better understanding of the different aspects of dance.

In 2013, SDT moved to a new premise with four state of the art studios. Since, the Company has enhanced efforts in Education and Outreach, bringing greater awareness and appreciation for dance to a wider audience. We also cater the Ballet Associate's Course (BAC) for students who intend to develop their dance skills and techniques. Last year, we introduced Adopt an Audience to make arts accessible for everyone, including the low-income, underprivileged, and disabled in our society.

In celebration of SDT's 30th Anniversary as well as for the Nation's birthday, SDT's ballet master, Mohamed Noor Sarman choreographed the dance music video for NDP 2018 theme song 'We are Singapore'.

## SDT ACTIVE REPERTOIRE LIST (2009 – 2017)

### Swan Lake

Choreography after Petipa/Ivanov  
Staging Janek Schergen

### Cinderella

Choreography: Graham Lustig  
Created for SDT

### Glow-Stop

Choreography: Jorma Elo

### A Million Kisses To My Skin

Choreography: David Dawson

### Piano Concerto #2, Opus 102

Choreography: Edmund Stripe  
Created for SDT

### Concerto Barocco #

Choreography: George Balanchine

### Unknown Territory

Choreography: Choo-San Goh

### Raymonda Divertissements

Choreography: Marius Petipa

### Double Contrasts

Choreography: Choo-San Goh

### Pellucid

Choreography: Kuik Swee Boon  
Created for SDT

### Sometimes I Think I Remember

Choreography: Jeffrey Tan  
Created for SDT

### Evening at the Ritz

Choreography: Molly Lynch  
Created for SDT

### Giselle

Choreography after Coralli / Derrot  
Staging Janek Schergen

### Allegro Brillante

Choreography: George Balanchine

### Peter & Blue's Forest Adventure

Choreography: Janek Schergen  
Created for SDT

### Oneiros

Choreography: Adrian Burnett  
Created for SDT

### Sleeping Beauty

Choreography after Marius Petipa  
Staging Janek Schergen

### As Above So Below

Choreography: Edwaard Liang  
Created for SDT

### Nameless

Choreography: Xing Liang  
Created for SDT

### Living Greens

Choreography: Mohamed Noor Sarman

### Beginnings

Choreography: Choo –San Goh

### Birds of Paradise

Choreography: Choo-San Goh

### In The Glow of The Night

Choreography: Choo-San Goh

### Momentum

Choreography: Choo-San Goh

### Variations Serieuses

Choreography: Choo-San Goh

### Serenade #

Choreography: George Balanchine

### Romeo and Juliet

Choreography: Choo-San Goh

### The Winds of Zephyrus

Choreography: Edwaard Liang  
Created for SDT

### Maninyas

Choreography: Stanton Welch

### Fearful Symmetries #

Choreography: Nils Christe

### The Nutcracker

Choreography and Staging: Janek Schergen  
Created for SDT

### Paquita

Choreography after Marius Petipa

### Age of Innocence #

Choreography: Edwaard Liang

### ZIN!

Choreography: Nils Christe

### Chant

Choreography: Val Caniparoli  
Created for SDT

### Organ Concerto

Choreography: Nils Christe  
Created for SDT

### Jabula

Choreography: Natalie Weir

### Divertimento No. 15

Choreography: George Balanchine

### Peter & Blue Go Around The World

Choreography: Janek Schergen  
Created for SDT

### Absence of Story

Choreography: Toru Shimazaki  
Created for SDT

### Waiting...

Choreography: Christina Chan  
Created for SDT

### Coppélia

Choreography after Arthur Saint-Léon  
Staging Janek Schergen

### Opus 25

Choreography: Edwaard Liang  
Created for SDT

### Fives

Choreography: Choo-San Goh

### 4Seasons

Choreography: Natalie Weir  
Created for SDT

### Lambarena

Choreography: Val Caniparoli

### Theme and Variations #

Choreography: George Balanchine

### Peter & Blue's Birthday Party

Choreography: Janek Schergen  
Created for SDT

### Slide

Choreography: Kinsun Chan  
Created for SDT

### Shift or Go

Choreography: Christina Chan  
Created for SDT

### Bittersweet

Choreography: Natalie Weir  
Created for SDT

### Swipe #

Choreography: Val Caniparoli

### Traces We Left Behind

Choreography: Christina Chan  
Created for SDT

### Shadow's Edge

Choreography: Ma Cong  
Created for SDT

### Blue Snow

Choreography: Toru Shimazaki  
Created for SDT

### Don Quixote

Choreography after Marius Petipa  
Staging Cynthia Harvey

### Rubies \*

Choreography: George Balanchine  
Staging: Elyse Borne

### Schubert Symphony

Choreography: Choo-San Goh  
Staging Janek Schergen

### Bournonville Divertissements \*

Choreography: August Bournonville

### Midnight Waltzes

Choreography: François Klaus  
Created for SDT

### Bliss #

Choreography: Gigi Gianti  
Created for SDT

### Incandescent Dream #

Choreography: Max Chen  
Created for SDT

### Sticks and Stones #

Choreography: Kinsun Chan  
Created for SDT

### Incomparable Beauty

Choreography: Ma Cong  
Created for SDT

### Symphony in Three Movements #

Choreography: Nils Christe

### Another Energy

Choreography: Timothy Harbour  
Created for SDT

### Unfound

Choreography: Christina Chan  
Created for SDT

### The Four Temperaments #

Choreography: George Balanchine

### 13th Heaven\*

Choreography: Edwaard Liang

### Triptych \*

Choreography: Val Caniparoli

### Unexpected B

Choreography: Toru Shimazaki

### New Additions 2018

#### Linea Adora#

Choreography: Timothy Harbour

#### SYNC#

Choreography: Nils Christe

#### World Premiere\* by Timothy Rushton

# Acquired through the Ambassador's Circle

\* Sponsored by Artistic Director's Fund