

## **Chua Lik Wuk**

At the age of sixteen, Chua Lik Wuk made his solo debut with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra. That same year, he was awarded a scholarship to study at the Royal College of Music in London. His teachers included Hugh Bean, Rodney Friend, and Professor Karel Sneberger.

Among the numerous prizes Chua won whilst at college were the WH Reed Prize and the Woltmann Award, the Marguerita and Peter Oundjian Prize (for Violin and Piano Duo) and the Percy and Dorothy Coates Prize (for Piano Trio). He was also winner of the Overseas Prize in the Royal Overseas-League Music Competition.

Chua was concertmaster of three of the four orchestras in college. In 1985, he performed at the Orford Music Festival in Montreal, Canada, and also represented Singapore at the World Philharmonic Orchestra's debut performance in Sweden. In 1984, he was accorded the distinction of being the first and only Singaporean to perform for Queen Elizabeth II on Commonwealth Observance Day. Chua graduated with a Class I Award in the Performer's Course, and his outstanding results won him another ABRSM scholarship for the prestigious postgraduate course where he graduated with the ARCM (Honours) in Performing and Teaching.

Upon returning to Singapore in 1987, Chua joined the Singapore Symphony Orchestra, and also appeared as soloist with the SSO on numerous occasions. His quartet, formed in 1989, has played to critical acclaim, both locally, as well as in Japan in 1989, and Indonesia in 1990.

In 1992, Chua went to the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, USA, to study with the world-renowned American violinist Charles Treger. He taught in his capacity as Professor Treger's studio assistant, and was active as soloist and recitalist. He also led the Symphony Orchestra, Graduate String Quartet and 'Opus One' String Ensemble. In 1994, he was conferred the Master of Music degree.

In 1996, Chua founded PRISM Chamber Concerts, in an effort to promote chamber music to local audiences. That same year, he was invited by the Britten-Pears Foundation to give a recital and conduct masterclasses in Yangon, Myanmar. In 1998, Chua was appointed Assistant Leader of the SSO, a position he held until 2000. He is also the recipient of the National Arts Council's Young Artist Award for 1999.

From 2007 to 2009, Chua collaborated with pianist Lim Yan in a series of recitals at the Esplanade Recital Studio which received high acclaim from both critics and audiences. He continues to be active in the local music scene as an orchestral and chamber musician. Off the concert stage, he is violin lecturer at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts and the Nanyang Technological University/National Institute of Education, and also continues to maintain his own private studio.

Chua plays on a 1711 Antonio Stradivari.