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TJC SYMPHONIC BAND PRESENTS A NIGHT TO REMEMBER - LIMELIGHT 2018

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On 7 May 2018, the Temasek Junior College Symphonic Band performed at the Esplanade Concert Hall as part of the *Limelight* series. *Limelight* is a series that gives some of the best school choirs and symphonic bands in Singapore an opportunity to perform at the Esplanade Concert Hall, with the aim to inspire excellence in performance among schools by offering them another platform to showcase their musical abilities to the public.

To open the concert, the Symphonic Band performed *Legends of Gold in Green*, detailing the story of a small church village. Despite being a purely musical performance, the melodies played by the band brought the story to life, and allowed the audience to experience the mystique of the piece. The contrast of light, airy melodies with heavier, more dramatic swells of music brought everyone on a memorable journey, and was truly a spectacular way to open the concert.

Following that, the band played selections from *La Traviata*, an Italian opera whose name can be translated to *The Fallen Woman*. The audience was able to follow the story of Violetta and Alfredo on the screen, and the marrying of music and storytelling emphasised the tragedy of their love. The emotions brought out through the story could truly be felt in the heart-rending strains of music.

Subsequently, the IP sector of the Symphonic Band performed an upbeat and lighthearted piece titled the *Alvamar Overture*. The song opened with joyful, upbeat chords which transitioned into a slower, calmer middle portion. Overall, this piece lifted the spirits of the audience, which brought smiles to the audience's faces. However, this was sharply contrasted by the tragic, solemn piece they performed next, titled *Cry of The Unicorn*, which spoke of the death of the last unicorn on Earth. The juxtaposition of such strong, opposing emotions spoke of the impressive ability of the IP Symphonic Band to tug at the audience's heartstrings and evoke intense emotion, displaying their talent at communicating emotions purely through the magic of music.

The next two pieces, titled *Arsenal* and *Jericho*, served to pump the audience up, and once again exhibited the flexibility and ability of the band to access such a broad range of emotions. The band also played selections from *Turandot*, an opera by Giacomo Puccini. By telling the story of the frigid Princess Turandot, the band transitioned from the solemn atmosphere of an execution at the start to the exultant, triumphant atmosphere of a wedding at the end, and touched many hearts in the audience.



Finally, to close the concert, the Symphonic Band performed a medley of songs from the well-known movie franchise *Star Wars*, with scores composed by the greatly respected John Williams. The audience were expecting a beautiful arrangement of the medley, but they were in for a surprise. While the piece started off with the band's regular conductor, the band chose to add an element of comedy by having the conductor be led off stage by students dressed as Siths and replaced by the student conductor dressed as Darth Vader. With this unexpected "appearance" of the Chosen One, the audience were further enraptured by the performance, and grooved to the familiar tunes. It was a tremendous end to a show-stopping performance, and the sounds of clapping rung through the hall long after the performers had taken their bows.

An audience member expressed their thoughts of the band concert. They stated that the concert was truly riveting and enjoyable, though they hoped that the concert would include the "stage band" performance, which to them, was the highlight of the annual band concert. Personally, they enjoyed the performance of *Turandot*, performed by the JC Symphonic Band the most. When asked what made the band concert a memorable experience, they agreed that the comedic element in the *Star Wars* medley was something they would never forget.

Another audience member felt that the band concert was a great experience and exposure for them, as it was their first time attending a band concert. For them, they really enjoyed the fact that some of the pieces, namely *La Traviata* and *Turandot*, were accompanied by storylines that really came alive with the band's enthralling performance which truly captured the essence of the play.

Captivating performances and talented musicians culminated in a wonderful night, which completely cured any Monday blues the audience was experiencing. Overall, *Limelight* was truly a breathtaking experience. Exuding confidence, professionalism, and enthusiasm, the Temasek Junior College Symphonic Band went well above and beyond the expectations of the audience, gifting the audience with a night to remember. Till next year, TJC Symphonic Band!