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Winner of Singapore International Violin Competition makes triumphant return at Singapore Violin Festival 2017

This year's Singapore Violin Festival (29 May – 6 June) has seen many wonderful performances, but one very special performance not to be forgotten is that of the Tseng Yu-Chien in his triumphant return to Singapore following his win in the 2015 Singapore International Violin Competition.

Accompanied by Evgeni Sinaiski on piano, the duo performed a repertoire of W. A. Mozart, J. Brahms and J.S. Bach, as well as Variations on an original theme Op. 15 for violin and piano, from H. Wieniawski.

The near capacity audience attending the concert at the Yong Siew Toh Concert Hall rewarded Yu-Chien with rapturous applause and standing ovations for the Festival Opening Concert.

When asked about the performance Artistic Director of the Festival and Chairperson of the Singapore International Violin Competition Artistic Committee, Qian Zhou said:

"We were thrilled to welcome back our 2015 winner, Tseng Yu Chien, to Singapore for the opening concert of the Singapore Violin Festival."

"His stunning performance for the opening concert of the Festival showed great maturity, virtuosity, sincerity and the depth. It is reflective of our competition aims - to support the most deserving violinist by giving them the best opportunities for a professional career. Seeing his career flourish excites us to make the second one even better."

About his return to Singapore for the first time since winning the inaugural Singapore International Violin Competition in 2015, Yu-Chien said:

"I feel very thankful to everyone; to my parents to my teachers, and to the competition and Qian Zhou. For me, I just feel like I'm doing what I do everyday, like practice. Then after winning competitions, there are things that you've never learned before. Relationships with your manager and conductors and orchestra - it's a whole different level of artists and commitment. People view you as a winner of the competition, and they expect you to play at a certain level, so you always want to improve yourself. I think it's a never-ending journey."

The Singapore Violin Festival ends tomorrow Tuesday 6 June and there are many more opportunities for violinists and enthusiasts to enjoy lessons, master-classes and concerts. For more information on the Festival, visit <http://singaporeviolinfestival.com>.

The timing of this year's Festival coincides with the opening of applications for the 2018 triennial Singapore International Violin Competition, which attracts participants from all over the world. For more information on how you can apply, visit <http://singaporeviolincompetition.com>

About The Singapore International Violin Competition (SIVC)

The SIVC is a landmark cultural initiative for Singapore and South-East Asia launched in 2014/2015. The Competition returns in 2018 and expects a pool of world-class talent to be gracing Singapore's concert hall stages.

In its inaugural year the Competition welcomed 35 competitors between 17 and 30 years of age to Singapore from 14 countries. The winner, Tseng Yu Chien from Taiwan has since enjoyed an impressive career performing with some of the world's best orchestras including the London Philharmonic Orchestra among others.

Applications opened on 1 June for competitors and the organisers expect to receive applications from around the globe.

The live final rounds of the Competition will take place from **28 January – 8 February 2018** across Singapore's concert halls and the finalists will perform with the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory Orchestra and the Singapore Symphony Orchestra.

The winner will receive prize money of USD\$50,000, significant international performance engagements and a loan of a fine, rare instrument from the Rin Collection owned by Founding Partners of the SIVC, the late Mr. Rin Kei Mei and Mrs. Rin.

The Competition is again being hosted by the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music (YST) at the National University of Singapore, and is supported by the National Arts Council of Singapore. The triennial competition serves to promote the continued growth and strength of classical music in the region and around the world.

Important Dates:

Applications Open:	1 June 2017
Applications Close:	30 September 2017
Announcement of 30 Shortlisted Competitors:	16 October 2017
First round:	28-30 January 2018
Semi-Finals:	1-3 February 2018
Finals:	5-6 February 2018
Grand Final:	8 February 2018

Applications and more information: www.singaporeviolincompetition.com

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