

The NAXOS logo is a white rectangular box with the word "NAXOS" in a bold, sans-serif font. Above the text are three stylized classical columns, and below it are three horizontal lines.

Darius
LIM

Songs of Dreams

Echoes of the Lost World • A Puppet's Dream
The Fire Dance of Luna • The Water Dance of Lluvia
The Glass Slipper • Cries From A Distant World

Voices of Singapore Choral Society

Darius Lim

Darius
LIM

(b. 1986)

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Julian Li, Double Bass **1–3 14**

Voices of Singapore Children's Choir **1 3 4 6 7 9–14**

Voices of Singapore Ladies Choir **2 7 8 12 13**

Voices of Singapore Men's Choir **2 5 8**

Darius Lim, Conductor

Recorded: 1 **3–5**, 2 **2 6–11** and 3 **1 12–14** March 2024 at the Concert Hall (main choral recordings)
and 26–27 March 2024 at the Recording Studio **2–4 6 9 14** (supplementary string and percussion parts),
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Publishers: DariusMusic **1–7 9–11 13 14**, Edition Peters **8**, Walton Music **12**

Darius Lim (b. 1986)

Songs of Dreams

The choral works on this album, all written by Darius Lim and presented by the Voices of Singapore Choral Society, showcase the diverse choirs of Voices of Singapore, including the Voices of Singapore Children's Choir, Ladies Choir, Men's Choir, and Choral Scholars, and highlight the wide-ranging choral music composed by Darius Lim, who is also the founder and artistic director of Voices of Singapore. Known for incorporating theatrical and dramaturgical elements into his compositions, Darius Lim creates performances that move audiences both aurally and visually. From emotional journeys through life's experiences to South East Asian folk music, theatrical pieces for children's choirs, and ensemble works, his music tells the vibrant story of Singapore, a young nation brimming with energy and hope. This album also marks a significant milestone for Singapore's choral scene, being the first all-Singaporean album recorded by a Singaporean ensemble.

Echoes of the Lost World

This work, commissioned by Kathy Fok, principal conductor and music director of The Hong Kong Children's Choir, takes the singers on a journey of discovery into a mystical new world. It navigates numerous emotional twists and turns, ultimately revealing a glorified lost world filled with people passionate about music and dance. Inspired by my life experiences of love, hope, excitement, anticipation, spontaneity, passion and joy, the work is written with the belief that anyone, young or old, has the ability to transcend reality and live their dreams. The echoic writing in this piece symbolises a voice that brings hope to the lost.

Deliverance

Deliverance was commissioned by the Artistic Committee of the World Symposium on Choral Music for the 2023 WSCM, themed 'Changing Horizons'. Set to the liturgical text of the *Sanctus*, the work draws inspiration from the strength of the human spirit during the Covid-19 pandemic, highlighting how this journey has taught us to hope, unite, and celebrate life – against all odds.

The Shadow Dance of Sylva

Commissioned by National Concerts at Carnegie Hall and conductor Dr Jeffery Redding, *The Shadow Dance of Sylva* is a choral-theatrical piece depicting a mystical forest inhabited by warrior-like beings. The music evokes an atmosphere of mystery, magic, and adventure, where time moves differently, and nature holds a powerful, otherworldly presence.

The Star Dance of Elysium

Commissioned by St. Paul's Co-educational College (Hong Kong) for St. Paul's Co-ed Summer Portal 2023, *The Star Dance of Elysium* is a choral piece inspired by paradise, beauty, and imagination. Centred on faith, hope and love, it transports listeners to an ethereal realm, evoking joy and optimism. The music encourages creativity through improvisation and movement.

Cries from a Distant World

Written for the Paya Lebar Methodist Girls' School Choir, *Cries from a Distant World* explores the human drive of conviction, passion, forgiveness and perseverance. The work is written to provoke and evoke self-reflection of our life goals, human experiences and dreams.

The Light of the Night

Commissioned by Junyuan Primary School for the Singapore Youth Choir Central Judging of Choirs (2010), *The Light of the Night* is a song that seeks hope through determination and the vibrant energy of life. It is one of Darius Lim's earliest compositions.

Ave Maria

This work was written as a dedication to Catherine Tan. It was inspired by the tenacity of the human spirit during the challenging 2020 Covid-19 pandemic. Set to the sacred text of *Ave Maria*, it reflects a prayerful call for hope and harmony both in the world and within oneself. The piece is part of the Towards A Better World Project, an initiative by Voices of Singapore, aiming to bring hope, restart music making globally, and address global issues through performances recorded at the historic Pasir Panjang Power Station.

From Ashes to Dust

This work is a dedication to Singapore's founding father, Lee Kuan Yew, and reflects on the meaning of life as we look back on the years we've lived. It was inspired by the period of mourning when the entire nation grieved his passing, capturing the collective experience of loss and reflection.

The Water Dance of Lluvia

Commissioned by Temasek Chorale for the Singapore Youth Choir Arts Presentations (2015), *The Water Dance of Lluvia* evokes the mystical sounds of a tribal fantasy world of *Lluvia*, which translates as 'rain' in Spanish. With chant-like Latin text, the music captures the excitement and power of water, symbolising its control over the cycle of life and death.

The Glass Slipper

Commissioned by the Music Talent Development Centre (MTDC) Choir (Primary Schools) and Angila Tan, *The Glass Slipper* is inspired by the story of Cinderella and offers a playful, whimsical interpretation of the classic tale. It explores different colours of sound and invites children to dance and enjoy themselves on stage, capturing the magic and joy of the story.

A Puppet's Dream

Commissioned by Temasek Chorale for the Singapore Youth Choir Central Judging of Choirs (2012), *A Puppet's Dream* is a theatrical choral work inspired by an imaginary fantasy world where a group of puppets long to become human. The work explores their journey of confusion and mystery as they hear voices and undergo a magical transformation, only to realise in the end that it was all a dream.

Dayung Sampan

Written for the Voices of Singapore Ladies Choir in 2014, *Dayung Sampan* is an Indonesian folk song that was adapted by immigrants to Singapore in the 19th century. The song tells the story of fearless travellers navigating violent storms to reach Singapore's shores, driven by the hope of a better life despite the dangers of their journey.

Psalm 7:18

This work was inspired by a visit to the evensong service at Llandaff Cathedral in Wales, where Lim was captivated by the choir's beautiful overtones – a soundscape he longed to explore. The text is from Psalm 7:17 in the modern Bible, though in the Hebrew text, it is labelled as 7:18, as all verse numbers are shifted down by one.

Fire Dance of Luna

Commissioned by Junyuan Primary School Choir for the Singapore Youth Festival Central Judging of Choirs (2012), this work depicts a fantasy story set in a distant future where people inhabit the moon. The music brings to life fiery, tribal-like rhythms that aim to stir the imagination, illustrating the 'children of the moon' dancing around a mountain of raging fire to celebrate their glorious land, 'Luna'.

The children of the moon gather to call upon the power of light through a dance – a dance of beauty, fire, and magic: The Fire Dance of Luna.

Darius Lim

1 Echoes of the Lost World

Lux
Omnis terra
Spiritus
Anima
Vita

Arise, arise
Come into the light
Seek the world alone

Far across a stormy land
Somewhere where the pebbles end
Lies a glowing rainbow in the woods

Make a wish and you'll feel the breeze
Of a thousand rustling leaves
Walk through that rainbow's end

Hear a voice sing in the wind and the grand music
Through the magical and mystic tunes they sing

Can you hear the sound of angels?
Can you hear the sound of life?

Lux mundi
Laudabunt
Precor Pace
Bonitas
Amor
Lux!

Far across the stormy land
Somewhere where the pebbles end
Lies beneath the trees the rainbow

Make a wish you'll hear the beat
Of a thousand drums that sound
Let the music arise!
Anima incipere!
Let the breath of life begin!
Light the fire arise in song!

*Light
All the earth
Spirited Blowing Wind
The Breath of Life (Soul)
Life*

*Light the world
Sing for joy
Pray for Peace
Goodness
Love and affection
Light!*

Pede Pede Tellurem Pulso!
Olleh! Ollah! Omnis Terra!
Vita Vita Exoriore!
Cano Cano!
Pergaudeo!
Sempiternum
Lux!

Omnis Terra Vade!
Canto! Lauda! Anima!

Listen to the echoes of the night!
Arise! See the shining light!
Come forth! Feel the music of the night!
Fill the sky with the voices of the light!

There's a voice moving in the wind and the grand music!
In the sounds echoed in the hills of eternity

Sempiternum gaude!
Canto! Pergaudeo! Vita!

Light
All the earth
Spirited Blowing Wind
The Breath of Life (Soul)
Life

Darius Lim (b. 1986)

2 Deliverance

Sanctus, Sanctus
Dominus Deus Sabaoth
Pleni sunt cæli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis

Mass Ordinary (Sanctus)

*Beat the ground with your feet!
Olleh! Ollah! All the earth!
Life Come Forth!
Sing! (Celebrate)
Rejoice!
Last forever
Light!*

*All the earth, go!
Sing! Praise! Give life!*

*Rejoice forever!
Sing! Rejoice! Life!*

*Holy, Holy
Lord God of hosts
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory
Hosanna in the highest*

3 The Shadow Dance of Sylva

Do not wander too far into the woods
Haunting rustles whisper in the night
Do not wander too far;
too far that I may lose you to the shadows
You'll never find your way back!

The ancient trees
The tangled vines
The hidden groves are alive!

The air is thick filled with the scent of flowers whisp'ring harmonies in the
wind
The endless beat ignites a song moving through the night
Surrender to its rhythmic might!

It's the valley of wonders
It's the voice of the angels
It's the light that empowers
It's the voice that calls us to the dance
Move the music of the ancient forest woods

Mystic ancient
Pow'rful ancient
Magical Enchanting ancient
It's the valley of wonders
It's the voice of the angels
in the shadows of Sylva!

Darius Lim

4 The Star Dance of Elysium

Credimus in fidem spem et amorem in aeternum
We believe in Faith, Hope, and Love forever

In the realm of the radiant light
A world untold reveals a sight
A melody arises from the voices as they dance!

Darius Lim

5 Cries from a Distant World

Kyrie eleison
Christe eleison

*Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy*

Mass Ordinary (Kyrie)

6 The Light of the Night

Light
The illuminating light!
Light
Shining in the quiet night
And the light revealed a sight
Of the beauty of the night

Light of night
Night light
Night light

Through the night of darkness
Through the silent whispers
Stands a candle burning bright
Light that blinds the shadows
Like the dawn the rising sun will show the way

Light of the night
Shine through the darkness
Bring all in sight
Into your light

Whispering, strongly, leading, alluring,
Blazing, flowing, guiding, gloriously,
Beaming, speaking, shining all through the night!

The light that shines at night!
Illuminating the night!
The darkness fades away!
Light of night

Light
The illuminating light!
Light

Shining in the quiet night
And the light revealed a sight
Of the beauty of the night
And the light revealed a sight
Of the beauty of the night

Darius Lim

7 Ave Maria

Ave Maria
Gratia Plena
Dominus tecum
Benedicta tu in mulieribus

Traditional Latin

*Hail Mary
Full of grace
The Lord is with thee
Blessed art thou among women*

8 From Ashes to Dust

Kyrie eleison
Christe eleison
Dona nobis pacem
Amen

Mass Ordinary (Kyrie, Agnus Dei)

*Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Grant us peace
Amen*

9 The Water Dance of Lluvia

La Lluvia
See, feel, dance!
La Lluvia
Oh the rain calls!

Step across through the storm of the rain dance
Embrace the fiery beat of night
Come forth with thy light

La Lluvia
Move the waters!
Let the beats enchant a sound that surrounds us
Oh let the sun and moon and stars shine forth with thy light!

Prosterno totus sic quo hic malum
Tot sic quo hictela enim niteo
Nascentes Morimur!

Circle the waters!
The life is renewed!
Moving, rising, falling, searching
Flowing, flooding, circling, calling

La Lluvia!
Nascentes morimur
Lluvia!

Darius Lim

10 The Glass Slipper

The sun is down!
The magic light!

Sparkling, shimmering in the dark
Quickly hide the crystal light!
Wear the slippers fit it right
Let thyself reveal thy sight!
Sparkling, shimmering from afar
A rainbow light appears before

She slips into those pretty lights
A ray so strong a mystic might!
And the magic suddenly transforms in her sight!

So run! Run!
The ball awaits in your dream
Your dream of amazing reality
Go horses fast as you go
The carriage flies before the clock strikes twelve
Before the magic falls
The great hall and the prince awaits the dance!

*Destroy all that is evil
So that good may flourish
From the moment we are born, we die!*

From the moment we are born, we die

Dance away
Let the night astray
Candles burning bright
And the prince's might
Let your beauty shine in the crystal light of dawn

Let the night of dreams fill your heart with desire
And be glad with him
Magic flows within diamonds
Step into the world of the beauty, the glory
The night of dreams
Let your heart be seen to him

Cinderella, time is up!
Can't you hear the chime of the magic
Fading into despair?
Run! Go! Cinderella run!
Clock is ticking
Stardust is dissipating
Bell of the magic fading into despair

The ball awaits in your dream
Your dream of amazing reality
Go horses, fast as you go
The carriage flies
And now the clock strikes twelve
And now the magic falls
The light from the slippers slips away

Go, Cinderella, time is up!
Can't you hear the chime of your slippers fading
Oh can't you hear the chime...

Darius Lim

11 A Puppet's Dream

Sha Sha!

A bright and shining flower
The little forest shower
The sun that shines and marvels
The night that brings the owls

Dance in the woods
Make a merry laughter
Oh dance in the woods
Dance a little faster

The light of the dawn has a secret
That many would not know
That it hears where the night goes
And where the starry sky hides the moon on high

Shining hills and streams
And the showers in the sunlight
Fading stars at sight
And the moonlight still in silence

Dance and stomp a little faster
Dance for joy, dance for the laughter

Dance lightly dance swiftly dance in the woods sweetly
Dance in the moonlight
Fading stars at sight and still moonlight in the silence

Around we go
As soft as snow
The moon is shining
The starlight beaming

Lightly dance, swiftly dance
In the woods sweetly dance!

Darius Lim

12 Dayung Sampan

Dayung sampan, dayung dayung sampan
Datang dari negara Cina
Sampai Singapura

Dayung mendayung
Sampai ke Singapura

Traditional Indonesian folk song

**wooden boat*

Row the sampan, row the sampan
Coming from China
Reaching Singapore*

*An oar to row your sampan
All the way to Singapore*

13 Psalm 7:18

Confitebor Domino secundum iustitiam eius
Et psallam nomini Domini altissimi
Amen

Vulgate Bible Psalmi 7:18

*I will give glory to the Lord according to His justice
and will sing to the name of the Lord the Most High.
Amen*

14 The Fire Dance of Luna

Awake all you who from the lands
Listen to the evening song
Fire burn alight the sky the deepest night arise!

Luna!
Mighty Luna, sing out to Luna!
Sing!
Move the magic into the music
Luna Luna!
Sing! Oh sing! Oh sing! Powerful Luna!
Dance the night away Luna!

Luna Luna, sing out to Luna
Beautiful Luna
Luna Luna, dance out to Luna

Dance away away
Sing away away
Dance away away!

Let the world be filled with desire
Oh magical Luna
Light our fire
Through the mystic lights that appear
You save all from fear of dark and grey

Show us Luna
Shine your light and power
Trust our eyes to see
Make us see the light
Beauty glory and enchanting mystery
Magic beams it begins!

Darius Lim

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English translations: Darius Lim*

Voices of Singapore

Voices of Singapore (VOS) is Singapore's largest singing organisation. It is dedicated to transforming lives and fostering a 'Singing Singapore' through the power of music and choral singing. With over 30 singing groups and a community of more than 1,500 members, VOS provides platforms that celebrate, build and inspire a 'Singing Singapore'. From large-scale productions to inclusive community initiatives, VOS creates opportunities for people of all backgrounds to experience the joy of singing. Its flagship programmes include the VOS Festival, Singapore's largest non-competitive choral festival; community impact choirs that welcome children with special needs, underprivileged youth, and seniors; and the VOS State Choirs, which represent Singapore on prestigious global stages. As an arts charity, VOS is committed to making music accessible to all, championing an inclusive choral culture that enriches lives and strengthens communities across Singapore.

www.voicesofsingapore.com

VOS State Choirs

Serving as the main recording choirs for this album, the Voices of Singapore (VOS) State Choirs represent the pinnacle of choral excellence within VOS, bringing together a distinguished array of ensembles that showcase the depth and diversity of the VOS Choral Society. Comprising the VOS Children's Choir, VOS Youth Choir, VOS Ladies Choir, VOS Men and VOS City Chorus, the State Choirs champion artistic excellence, cultural exchange, and community connection through the transformative power of music. At the heart of the VOS State Choirs is a vision to inspire a 'Singing Singapore'. United by a shared dedication to choral excellence, the State Choirs aim to elevate Singapore's choral landscape while nurturing a love for music and singing across generations. As VOS' leading choral ensembles, the VOS State Choirs regularly perform at prestigious local and international platforms, earning accolades and engaging audiences worldwide. Together, they embody Voices of Singapore's vision of fostering a vibrant choral culture, contributing to the nation's cultural and artistic heritage.

www.voicesofsingapore.com









Darius Lim



Photo: Daniel Ho

Dr Darius Lim is a Singaporean conductor-composer renowned for his visionary approach to choral music. Aside from being the founder and artistic director of Voices of Singapore (VOS), he holds several positions in the local and global music scene, including CEO of The Voice Company, board member of the International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM), council member of the Asia Pacific Choral Council, and board chairman of the World Alliance of Children's Choirs. Lim's compositions are known for their lyrical, dramatic, instrumental and theatrical elements, creating powerful and engaging performances. His works have been performed by thousands of choirs globally, including world-renowned ensembles Voces8, Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra and the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain. In 2023, he was the commissioned composer for the World Symposium on Choral Music in Istanbul, the set-piece composer for the Singapore Youth Festival Arts Presentations (Junior College Choirs) and the composer-in-residence for National Concerts at Carnegie Hall. www.dariuslim.com

Singaporean composer and conductor, Darius Lim, incorporates theatrical elements into his choral compositions, taking audiences on an emotional journey. The 14 works in this album attest to his belief in the passion, joy and transcendence of the human spirit, whether as a response to the Covid-19 pandemic, or to the beauties of nature and imaginary fantasy worlds. Lim's music embraces the mystical, the magical and the ethereal in ways that stir the imagination and touch the heart.

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*FIRST COMMERCIAL RECORDING **WORLD PREMIERE RECORDING OF ARRANGEMENT

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Voices of Singapore Choral Society • Darius Lim

A detailed track list and full recording and publishing details can be found inside the booklet.

The sung texts are included in the booklet and may also be accessed at www.naxos.com/libretti/579154.htm

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