



EVENT PROGRAMME

FOLK SONGS FROM SINGAPORE TO WALES

Wednesday, 10 June 2026, 3.00pm

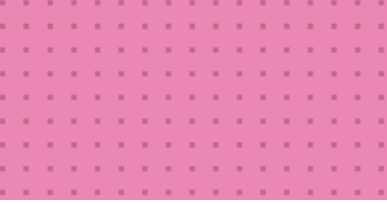
Boilerhouse Auditorium

There will be no interval during this event.

Estimated event finish time: 3.30pm

Please no flash photography or visual/audio recording throughout the event.

For news about our PLAY! events, please visit royalholloway.ac.uk/events



WHO WE ARE

We are a chamber group that initially met through the Royal Holloway Strings Society and performed one of these works in their Term 2 concert. Having formed a bond, we decided to continue sharing this music and our passion throughout our third and final term. This performance is a lecture recital where we hope to share some background context and personal experiences to the audiences to accompany these tunes.

YOUR PERFORMERS

Mako Uemura

Violin I

Maisie Pearce

Violin II

Poppy Shingler

Viola

Bernadette Chin

Piano

THANK YOU

Our chamber group would like to thank the PLAYFest! organisers for the opportunity to showcase our work and to share our respective cultures on this platform. We would like to thank everyone who has come over this afternoon and we hope you enjoy these tunes!

EVENT PROGRAMME

Kelly Tang (b. 1961): Three Folk Dances (Adapted by Bernadette Chin for piano quartet)

I. Rasa Sayang

II. Bengawan Solo

III. Di Tanjong Katong

Kelly Tang's 'Three Folk Dances' was originally composed for strings, providing a contemporary spin on well-known folk tunes from South East Asia.

The first song, "Rasa Sayang", comes from the Malay Archipelago, though its origins have long been debated. "Rasa Sayang" translates to a feeling of love or sense of affection in English and is based on a pantun (poem). As the lyrics convey a sense of togetherness and centres on the beauty of life, the tune is also lively and rhythmic, often performed during celebrations and festivals. In this rendition, the melodies are weaved across the different instruments and the music undergoes several harmonic changes that are sure to keep you on your feet.

Rasa sayang, hey!
Rasa sayang sayang, hey!
Hey, lihat nona jauh,
Rasa sayang sayang, hey!
Buah cempedak di luar pagar,
Ambil galah tolong jolokkan;
Kami budak baru belajar,
Kalau salah tolong tunjukkan.
Pulau Pandan jauh ke tengah,
Gunung Daik bercabang tiga;
Hancur badan di kandung tanah,
Budi yang baik dikenang juga.
Dua tiga kucing berlari,
Mana sama si kucing belang;
Dua tiga boleh ku cari,
Mana sama adik seorang.

I've got that loving feeling, hey!
I've got that loving feeling, hey!
See that girl in the distance,
I've got that loving feeling, hey!
Where cempedak tree grows
without the fence,
Go prod them gently with a stake;
A youthful learner I, so hence,
Be pleased to point out each
mistake.
The Pandan Island is far from land,
Have three peaks does the Daik
Mountain;
Though the self has rot in the sand,
The good deeds are never
forgotten.

Pisang emas dibawa berlayar,
Masak sebiji di atas peti;
Hutang emas boleh dibayar,
Hutang budi dibawa mati.

*Two or three cats are running
around,
The cat with stripes is the one
superior;
Two or three (gals) can be easily
found,
But not the same as having you, my
dear.
With golden plantains sail away,
Whilst on a chest lies one that's ripe;
The debts of gold we can repay,
But debts of kindness last through
life.*

“Bengawan Solo” translates to “Solo River”, with its lyrics depicting the longest river in Java, Indonesia. Composed by Javanese composer Gesang Martohartono (1917–2010) as a symbol of Indonesia’s independence, this song has become popularised within South East Asia and Asia following WWII. Originally composed in Indonesian kroncong style, this song has since been widely adapted into different styles. Kelly Tang’s arrangement of this song highlights a slow and calm mood, coupled with lush harmonies.

Bengawan Solo
Riwayatmu ini
Sedari dulu jadi
Perhatian insani
Musim kemarau
Tak brapa airmu
Dimusim hujan air
Meluap sampai jauh
Mata airmu dari Solo
Nan terkurung gunung seribu
Air mengalir sampai jauh
Dan akhirnya ke laut
Itu perahu
Riwayatnya dulu
Kaum pedagang selalu
Naik itu perahu

*Solo River
As you were destined to be
For a long time you have been
In human hearts
During the drought season
You dry up
When it rains
You flow far
From Solo* you spring
Through a thousand mountains
Your water flows far
Far into the sea
Ships
Sail as they were destined to
The merchants always
Sailed on ships*

The final song in this set, “Di Tanjong Katong”, is a Malay folk song composed by Singaporean composer, Osman Ahmad. It is once again based on a pantun (poem) and describes Tanjong Katong, a district on Singapore's east coast. It has frequently been sung during festivals and celebrations, especially during Singapore’s National Day Celebrations. While originally sung in a moderate tempo, this tune is now adapted into a lively, up-beat atmosphere with exciting harmonic movements.

**Di Tanjong Katong, airnya biru,
Di situ tempatnya dara jelita;
Duduk sekampung, lagikan
rindu,
Kononlah pula nun jauh di mata.**

Pulau Pandan jauh ke tengah,
Gunung Daik bercabang tiga;
Hancur badan dikandung tanah,
Budi yang baik dikenang jua.

(Chorus)

Kalau ada jarum yang patah,
Jangan disimpan dalam peti;
Kalau ada silap sepatah,
Jangan disimpan di dalam hati.

(Chorus)

***At Tanjong Katong, the waters are
blue,
That is the place to find pretty
maidens;
We live in the same village, yet I
pine for you,
What more if you’re beyond my
eyes’ reach.***

*Pulau Pandan is far away in the
middle of the sea,
Mount Daik has three peaks;
The body crumbles in the earth’s
womb,
But good character is always
remembered.*

(Chorus)

*If there is a broken needle,
Don’t keep it in the wooden chest;
If there is a wound caused by words,
Don’t let it fester in your heart.*

(Chorus)

John Hughes (b. 1872): Calon Lân

Calon Lân (“A Pure Heart”), originally written as an uplifting poem, is a traditional hymn composed by the Welsh composer, John Hughes. Composed during the “golden age of Welsh non-conformity”, this hymn has recently soared in popularity since 2019, reaching a current all-time high in popularity worldwide. The piece has since been translated into more than six languages and can be heard in more than twenty countries world-wide, including Singapore! Calon Lân holds an important place in modern Welsh culture, especially in Welsh rugby games where the song can be heard echoing around stadiums.

Nid wy'n gofyn bywyd moethus,
Aur y byd na'i berlau mân:
Gofyn wyf am galon hapus,
Calon onest, calon lân.

*I don't ask for a luxurious life
the world's gold or its fine pearls,
I ask for a happy heart,
an honest heart, a pure heart.*

**Calon lân yn llawn daioni,
Tecach yw na'r lili dlos:
Dim ond calon lân all ganu
Canu'r dydd a chanu'r nos.**

***A pure heart full of goodness
Is fairer than the pretty lily,
None but a pure heart can sing,
Sing in the day and sing in the
night.***

Pe dymunwn olud bydol,
Hedyn buan ganddo sydd;
Golud calon lân, rinweddol,
Yn dwyn bythol elw fydd.

*If I wished for worldly wealth,
It would swiftly go to seed;
The riches of a virtuous, pure heart
Will bear eternal profit.*

(Cytgan)

Hwyr a bore fy nymuniad
Gwyd i'r nef ar edyn cân
Ar i Dduw, er mwyn fy Ngheidwad,
Roddi i mi galon lân.

(Cytgan)

(Chorus)

*Evening and morning, my wish
Rising to heaven on the wing of
song
For God, for the sake of my
Saviour,
To give me a pure heart.*

(Chorus)

Traditional Folk Tune: Hela'r Sgyfarnog

Hela'r Sgyfarnog ("Hunting the Hare") is a traditional Welsh folk tune originally inspired by or composed for the harp. Little information exists on its origin; however, the melody has been used in larger musical works tracing back to at least 1652. Having been passed down aurally through generations in the traditional folk way, this tune has likely deviated from its original melody. Today, the tune is often played by traditional folk instruments like the harp, fiddle and acoustic guitar, accompanying a traditional Welsh barn dance, or "Twmpath".

Traditional Folk Tune: Dacw 'Nghariad

Dacw 'Nghariad ("There's My Love") is a Welsh folk song that originates from an old poetry book titled the Hen Benillion (the Old Verses). Its first modern record was in 1908 after a woman named Cardiffian Mary Davies recalled hearing the tune as a child during a fair in Llangammach Wells in 1828. It had been sung to her by a man named David Evans who had been continuing the tradition of Y Bardd Coch (The Red Bard), a travelling bard and tailor

Dacw 'nghariad i lawr yn y berllan,
Tw rym di ro rym di radl didl dal
O na bawn i yno fy hunan,
Tw rym di ro rym di radl didl dal
Dacw'r tŷ, a dacw'r 'sgubor;
Dacw ddrws y beudy'n agor.

Ffaldi radl didl dal, ffaldi radl didl dal,
Tw rym di ro rym di radl didl dal.

Dacw'r dderwen wych ganghennog,
Tw rym di ro rym di radl didl dal
Golwg arni sydd dra serchog.
Tw rym di ro rym di radl didl dal
Mi arhosaf yn ei chysgod
Nes daw 'nghariad i 'ngyfarfod.

*There is my sweetheart down in the orchard,
(Tw rym di ro rym di radl didl dal)
Oh how I wish I were there myself,
(Tw rym di ro rym di radl didl dal)
There is the house and there is the barn;
There is the door of the cow house open.*

Ffaldi radl didl dal, ffaldi radl didl dal,
Tw rym di ro rym di radl didl dal.

(Cytgan)

Dacw'r delyn, dacw'r tannau;
Tw rym di ro rym di radl didl dal
Beth wyf gwell, heb neb i'w
chwarae?
Tw rym di ro rym di radl didl dal
Dacw'r feinwen hoenus fanwl;
Beth wyf well heb gael ei meddwl?

(Cytgan)

*There is the gallant, branching oak,
(Tw rym di ro rym di radl didl dal)
A vision, lovingly crowned.
(Tw rym di ro rym di radl didl dal)
I will wait in her shade
Until my love comes to meet me.*

(Refrain)

*There is the harp, there are her
strings (Tw rym di ro rym di radl didl
dal) What better am I, without
anyone to play her for? (Tw rym di
ro rym di radl didl dal) There's the
delicate fair one, exquisite and full
of life; What nearer am I, without
having her attention?*



YOUR ANNUAL ARTS FESTIVAL SUMMER 2026

PLAY! Festival returns bigger and better than ever, showcasing the very best at one of the UK's highly-ranked arts faculties, with events curated and performed by the staff and students of Royal Holloway.

7 - 12 June 2026

Royal Holloway
University of London
Egham, TW20 0EX

Free entry to all



**MORE INFORMATION
AND TO BOOK YOUR TICKETS
ROYALHOLLOWAY.AC.UK/
EVENTS**

