



Experience Through Photos: National Symphony Youth Orchestra Summer Camp 2023, Taiwan

written by Natalie Ngai, SNYO flautist
in August 2023

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Four members from the Singapore National Youth Orchestra (SNYO) comprising Claudia, Alex, Mi Yo and I, participated in a two-week long youth orchestra camp organised by the National Symphony Orchestra, Taiwan. The National Symphony Youth Orchestra (NSYO) Summer Camp was held between 14 to 26 July 2023, consisting of intensive rehearsals in the first week followed by the concert tour in 5 locations around Taiwan in the second week.

We first had to pass the audition in January this year, then upon successful entry to the NSYO camp, flew to Taiwan in July to start rehearsals. This was my first time going on an orchestra tour and it was also the first ever youth orchestra camp organised by the National Symphony Orchestra (also known as the Taiwan Philharmonic).

2023 Taiwan NSYO Concert Programme

National Symphony Youth Orchestra

Jun Märkl, conductor

Carolyn Widmann, violin

HOSOKAWA Woven Dreams

KORNGOLD Violin Concerto in D major, Op. 35

STRAVINSKY *The Firebird Suite* (1919 Version)

RESPIGHI Pines of Rome

20/7 Miaobei Art Center

21/7 Nantou Cultural Center

23/7 Taitung Art and Culture Center Auditorium

25/7 National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts (Weiwuying)

26/7 National Concert Hall

We learnt a lot about music from this orchestra camp and were honoured to get to play in such magnificent concert halls, and these photos are my highlights from the experience apart from the music.



The flautists I met and performed with at NSYO. :)



Some of the new friends I made at orchestra camp.



We also made friends with the five Japanese participants!



Renyi Lake.

The landscape is so different from Singapore because we can see the mountains!



We travelled everywhere by bus, in and out of concert halls and between hotels (except for one time when we took the train from Kaohsiung to Taitung).



We discovered the bamboo museum in Nantou and learned about all the things that can be made with bamboo! Here's Alex having a good time playing on the bamboo xylophone :D



Bonding time with the four of us from SNYO while walking along Banana Pier.



Alex and Claudia browsing the souvenirs in the warehouses at Banana Pier :)



Group tour at the National Palace Museum (Southern Branch). Our guided tour was only available in Mandarin so I helped the Japanese students from our camp translate what the audio guide was saying into English. :)



Even as musicians, we couldn't help but marvel at the National Concert Hall in Taipei and the National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts (Weiwuying).



The four SNYO members with the incredible maestro Jun Märkl and violin soloist Carolin Widmann.



Thank you cards ~~that we stayed up until 3am to write~~ that we wrote at the end of the trip to show gratitude to our camp counselors who took care of us every step of the way.

It was a great privilege to be able to be part of the orchestra, performing an excellent program alongside the most exceptional youth musicians in Taiwan. This experience was also one of meeting new people, learning about Taiwan's culture and making friends.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this trip so smooth and enjoyable, and an extra special thank you to SNYO for nominating us so that we could have the opportunity to experience being part of an orchestra tour!

Editor's Note: Natalie will be commencing full-time undergraduate studies in music later this year. We wish her all the best!