



ALYSSA KOK PRESENTS

# HOLY LAND REUNION CONCERT

CELEBRATING OUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF FRIENDSHIP  
2003 - 2023

## PIANO RECITAL BY ALYSSA KOK

WITH SPECIAL PRESENTATION FROM EMUNAH  
ISRAEL, ONE OF THE LARGEST HUMANITARIAN  
AID ORGANISATIONS SERVING THE PEOPLE OF  
ISRAEL, BY RUTH GUGGENHEIM

31ST AUGUST 2023, 7:30 PM

VOICES OF SINGAPORE CAPITOL STUDIOS  
13 STAMFORD ROAD, #B1-20/21, SINGAPORE  
178905

### SPECIALLY FOR:

- FRIENDS WHO HAVE LIVED AND TRAVELLED  
IN ISRAEL
- MEMBERS OF SHORESH ISRAEL TOURS
- ALL WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THE HOLY  
LAND

FREE ADMISSION | LIMITED SEATS!

PLEASE RESERVE HERE:



**FULL  
HOUSE!**

*Alyssa Kok*



**WORLD  
EMUNAH**



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## CONCERT PROGRAMME

OPENING SPEECH

DESMOND KOK

PIANO RECITAL (FIRST PART)

Franz Liszt: Hungarian Rhapsody No. 12 in C-sharp Minor S. 244  
Fryderyk Chopin: Andante spianato et Grande Polonaise brillante Op. 22  
Robert Schumann: Selections from Fantasiestücke Op. 12 - *Des Abends*,  
*Aufschwung*, *In der Nacht*, *Traumes Wirren*

ALYSSA KOK, PIANIST AND COMPOSER

PRESENTATION OF EMUNAH ISRAEL, LIVE FROM JERUSALEM

RUTH GUGGENHEIM, DIRECTOR OF INTERFAITH RELATIONS  
AT EMUNAH ISRAEL

PIANO RECITAL (SECOND PART WITH Q&A)

Fazil Say: Black Earth

ALYSSA KOK, PIANIST AND COMPOSER

Q&A SESSION AND CLOSING REMARKS

DESMOND KOK, ALYSSA KOK

Alyssa Kok: Singapore Fantasy

ALYSSA KOK, PIANIST AND COMPOSER

*Alyssa Kok*





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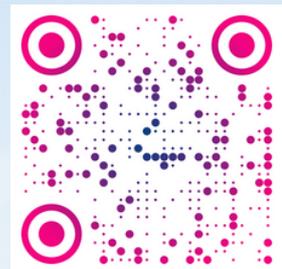


## ABOUT THE ARTIST

## ALYSSA KOK

Alyssa Kok, an award-winning Singaporean classical pianist and historical keyboardist, graduated with her Bachelor of Arts in piano performance in Salzburg, Austria at the age of 18 with full distinctions and recently, with her Master of Arts with distinction in Katowice, Poland at the age of 20. A winner of over 30 top prizes in international piano competitions, she has performed in concert extensively in Europe, North America, Israel and Asia and worked with several important orchestras. She is also versatile with early keyboard instruments including the fortepiano, harpsichord and clavichord and is currently learning the organ. As a budding composer, she premiered her first official composition in recital in Katowice, Poland. She has initiated charity projects through classical music in Israel, Singapore and New Zealand. She is fluent in English, German, Mandarin and Polish.

More information about Alyssa Kok at: [alyssakok.com](http://alyssakok.com)





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## REPERTOIRE OVERVIEW

### FRANZ LISZT: HUNGARIAN RHAPSODY NO. 12 IN C-SHARP MINOR S. 244

Franz Liszt (1811 - 1886) was a Hungarian virtuoso pianist and composer, one of the most prominent figures in the Romantic era of classical music.

Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsodies are known for their Hungarian folk melodies and influences of Hungarian gypsies, the Roma people. These works are known for their virtuosic piano writing, vivid characterizations of Hungarian culture, and richly ornamented style. His association with Carolyn zu Sayn-Wittgenstein, a Hungarian aristocrat and pianist who became a close companion and muse to him during the latter part of his life, was related to his composition of the Hungarian Rhapsodies. She inspired Liszt to explore and incorporate Hungarian folk music and themes into his compositions.

The 12th Rhapsody is based on three themes - the first grave and with pathos, the second airy and cheerful and the third rhythmic and dance-like.

## REPERTOIRE OVERVIEW

### FRYDERYK CHOPIN: ANDANTE SPIANATO ET GRANDE POLONAISE BRILLANTE OP. 22

Fryderyk Chopin (1810 - 1849) was a Polish composer and pianist, one of the most exceptional in the Romantic era, known for his exquisite piano compositions with deep emotional expression. The Andante spianato et Grande Polonaise brillante Op. 22 is a combination of two distinct sections: the "Andante spianato", a smooth, flowing and lyrical section in *belcanto* style, and the "Grande Polonaise Brillante", a patriotic and dazzling Polonaise (a nationalistic Polish dance in 3/4 time, important to Polish culture and heritage) with much figuration. It was written around 1830-31, in the style of the Viennese *stile brillant*. Chopin composed the Polonaise before he added the preceding Andante spianato, remarking to his friend Tytus Wojciechowski in a letter that it "gins but has no beginning". He also orchestrated the work, hence it is performed both solo and with orchestra.





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## REPERTOIRE OVERVIEW

### ROBERT SCHUMANN: FANTASIESTÜCKE OP. 12 (SELECTIONS)

Robert Schumann (1810 - 1856) was a German composer, pianist and music critique of the Romantic era, contemporary to Chopin and Liszt. Schumann's music is characterized by its emotional and intellectual depth and intuitive qualities. The *Fantasiestücke Op. 12* was composed in 1837 during a period of difficulty where he was emotionally separated from Clara Wieck, whom he was in love with for many years. It is a collection of eight pieces for solo piano, each having its own unique character and mood. As in his writings and other compositions, he shows his two alter-egos, Eusebius (quiet and thoughtful) and Florestan (fiery and passionate) in the eight pieces. *Des Abends* is an example of Eusebius and *Aufschwung* an example of Florestan. Sometimes, both characters are explored within the same piece, which is the case of *In der Nacht* and *Traumes Wirren*.

## REPERTOIRE OVERVIEW

### FAZIL SAY: BLACK EARTH

"Black Earth" is a contemporary piano composition by the Turkish pianist and composer Fazıl Say (born 1970). Fazıl Say is known for his innovative approach to music, blending classical styles with Turkish folk music and elements of jazz and improvisation. "Black Earth" was composed in 1997 and is notable for its innovative use of extended techniques on the piano, including playing directly on the piano strings with fingers and palms, creating a resonant and percussive sound called the "baglama" effect.

These techniques contribute to the atmospheric and exotic quality of the composition. It is one of his most famous and frequently performed works.





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## REPERTOIRE OVERVIEW

### ALYSSA KOK: SINGAPORE FANTASY

On the occasion of Singapore's 58th birthday, Alyssa Kok debuted as a composer of classical music with the Singapore Fantasy for solo piano, her first official composition, lasting about 15 minutes. The piece is in the form of the 19th-century fantasy often based on operatic themes and performed in salon recitals by virtuoso composer-pianists such as Franz Liszt, Sigismund Thalberg etc. In addition to the pervading "SG 58" motive (lit. "Es-G-dominant-tonic", translated as E-flat, G, B-flat, E-flat), the work contains three popular Singaporean folk tunes as its themes, namely *Rasa Sayang*, *Di Tanjong Katong* and *Chan Mali Chan*. After the introduction of each theme appear thematic variations and modifications in rapid succession, each having a different musical style originating from different countries. The work was first premiered in public on the 6th of August 2023 in recital in Katowice, Poland and was received with a standing ovation.





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## ABOUT THE HOST

## DESMOND KOK

Desmond Kok is deeply interested in the past. He works full-time in engineering management, but his passion lies in studying ancient history.

Desmond has spent years working in various countries beyond Singapore, which gained him much experiences and insights. He freelances as a history teacher and does yearly educational history trips since 2009. In his spare time, he enjoys reading, hiking, practices kickboxing and picking up new languages.



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## ABOUT THE CHARITY

## EMUNAH

EMUNAH (which means "faith" in Hebrew) walks the path of life side-by-side with the most vulnerable and at-risk people in Israel. From birth through golden age, EMUNAH uses the power of "faith" and Jewish values to provide service that will guide, support and empower children, women and families towards a better future. EMUNAH is one of Israel's leading social service and humanitarian aid NGO's. Established in 1935 to provide emergency housing and care for Jewish refugee children from Europe and Arab countries, EMUNAH has grown into a diverse network of over 160 programs including: child care centers; residential youth villages and homes; schools; trauma counselling centers and, family advocacy services. EMUNAH is the proud recipient of the "Israel Prize" awarded by the Israel Government in recognition for our "Impact on the people and society of Israel".

Support EMUNAH Israel by donating at:  
[emunahangels.org/donate](https://emunahangels.org/donate)

If you are a business or individual who would like to support EMUNAH further, please contact Ruth Guggenheim at:  
[ruth@worldemunah.org](mailto:ruth@worldemunah.org)



*Alyssa Kok*



WORLD  
EMUNAH



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## ABOUT THE GUEST SPEAKER

## RUTH GUGGENHEIM

Ruth has worked in the Jewish Communal Field for over 40 years. Whether as a religious school teacher, an agency Director in the Jewish Federation field or, as an "Outreach Worker" engaging individuals on their unique journey and relationship with God, Ruth has always felt that her work on behalf of the Jewish people was guided by the Hand of God. Ruth is the mother of three adult children and the proud grandmother of six grandchildren. In 2016, Ruth made Aliyah to Israel from Baltimore, Maryland to continue her spiritual journey and to be living God's prophecies for the Jewish people in the Holy Land. Now, as the newly appointed Director of Interfaith Relationships for EMUNAH Israel, another exciting opportunity is opening up, one where her knowledge and experience can help build bridges and relationships between Jews and Christians, healing the pain and rift that has existed between the two communities for over 2,000 years.



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## JOIN ALYSSA KOK FOR ANOTHER CONCERT!

### BELLE NUIT D'AMOUR

Piano recital with romantic music, specially for couples  
Dedicated to spreading awareness of Emunah Israel

3 September 2023, 6:00 pm  
MusiKinder ArtSkool (Recital Room)  
More info at [alyssakok.com](http://alyssakok.com) - Events

### PIANO MASTERCLASS

Piano Masterclass by Alyssa Kok, open to public

26 - 27 August and 3 September 2023  
MusiKinder ArtSkool (Recital Room)  
More info at [alyssakok.com](http://alyssakok.com) - Events

### ALYSSA KOK PLAYS CHOPIN

Piano recital featuring music by Fryderyk Chopin for the Polish Embassy in Singapore

21 October 2023, 7:30 pm  
Esplanade Recital Studio  
More info and tickets coming soon at [alyssakok.com](http://alyssakok.com) - Events

### PHILOSOPHY IN MUSIC

Piano recital with the theme of philosophy in music  
Premiere of Alyssa Kok's new composition

24 October 2023, 7:30 pm  
Voices of Singapore Capitol Studios  
More info at [alyssakok.com](http://alyssakok.com) - Events

### COMPASSION: BRINGING LIGHT INTO DARKNESS

Piano charity recital featuring solo works as well as duets for piano and cello for LUTHERAN COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES (LCCS)

27 OCTOBER 2023, 7.30 PM  
10Square Auditorium @ Orchard Central  
More info and tickets at  
<https://form.jotform.com/SGLCCS/piano-recitalCharityEvent>  
Each ticket is \$180 (eligible for tax deduction relief)

