



## **Mr Toh Ban Sheng**

Artistic Director, Conductor, Composer, Editor,  
International Adjudicator & Vocal Coach  
Founder of Resonance Of Singapore Ltd.

Toh is Singapore's homegrown conductor that paves the road less travelled. From a physicist to a self-taught musician to one of the most awarded conductors with seven *Conductor's Prizes* in Europe, he has been invited to adjudicate, conduct, or teach in some 25 countries. Known for his artistry, he is one of few who has also judged in international choral conducting and choral composition competitions.

Starting out essentially as a self-taught musician, the former Physics teacher led his neighbourhood school choir to clinch Gold against choirs in the Choral Excellence Programme in 1997. At the heel of winning **Choir of the Year** twice in a row, he obtained two master's degrees in Choral Conducting and Voice from the USA with the support of a **National Arts Council Bursary**. Toh has since been recognized as an eminent conductor and educator with an illustrious track record, having garnered eight Grands Prix, numerous Category Champions and Jury Prizes, and some 70 gold awards. In recognition of his artistic achievements and contributions, Toh was conferred the **Young Artist Award** (2006) by the National Arts Council and the **Honorary Member (2016)** by the Choral Directors Association of Singapore.

Over three decades of career, Toh has constantly flown Singapore's flag high and garnered respect for Singapore in the choral world. With Raffles Singers, he was the only Singaporean in 26 years invited to perform at the **11<sup>th</sup> World Symposium on Choral Music**, Spain. As the founding member of the **International Choral Conductors Federation (ICCF)**, he was appointed the **ICCF Continental Ambassador of Asia** in 2022. Since assuming Artistic Directorship, the annual **International Choral Festival Orientale Concentus** has grown larger and more established than ever before. "**Toh Ban Sheng Choral Series**" with Earthsongs Music Publication (USA), a first for Asian outside USA, was launched in 2012. He has also written for the **International Choral Bulletin** and had his music published in Europe.

At home, his biography "**The Accidental Conductor**", was published in 2010 to inspire the young to pursue their dreams. Besides having served as Music Specialist and lecturers, he has also mentored teachers under the NAC-STAR Artist-Mentor Scheme. His work as a Chorus Master for Mahler Symphony Nr. 2 and Beethoven Symphony Nr. 9 has won him rave reviews by the Straits Times. Among other notable appointments, he conducted the 800-strong **National Day Parade Combined Choir** at the National Stadium in 1999.

To build a stronger Singapore through music, he founded in 2022 **Resonance of Singapore Ltd.**, the first non-profit organisation helmed by professional ensemble. He strives to uphold the choral excellence in Singapore and inspire the next generation through a myriad of initiated projects, from producing documentary **Choral Miracle of Singapore** for posterity to organising the inaugural **Choral Composers' Seminar** (Singapore) and **Singapore International Choral Composition Competition**. For many years now, he has benefited the choral community here through various workshops and seminars with international maestros. Despite his schedule, he still finds time to mentor young conductors and singers.