

**Journalist / Critic:** Elizabeth Silsbury

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## Celebrazione

### MUSIC

**Who:** Adelaide Youth Orchestra  
**Where:** Adelaide Town Hall, Sunday  
**Reviewer:** Elizabeth Silsbury

THE House Full sign went up early. Three orchestras, comprising around 200 players, including a number of former members, played under four different conductors.

Celebration indeed, for 10 years of devoted service by musicians and administrators, parents and grandparents, fired by the common cause of giving children the opportunity to discover the unmatched joy of playing good music together in an orchestra.

First, the foundations. Conductors Martin Butler, Joanna Drimatis and Philip Paine balanced challenges and rewards for Adelaide Youth Strings and Adelaide Youth Sinfonia, pushing their charges just about as far as they could go.

The Sinfonia rose heroically to the syncopatory hurdles of Khachaturian's *Sabre Dance*, earning Paine a special medal.

A riotous welcome greeted cellist Pei-San Ng, returning to the city and the orchestra where his stellar career began.

Principal cello with AdYO in 1991, he now sits in the same chair with the Singapore Symphony.

Soloist, conductor Keith Crellin (friend and mentor from way back when) and AdYO were as one voice in Tchaikovsky's *Variations on a Rococo Theme Op 33*.

Variety was the essence. Playful, lyrical, sad, triumphant and more, with many tiny nuances of phrasing and dynamics – hardly a bar went by without a little flash of pleasure.

No formal handshake after the final flourish; a hearty hug for Ng and Crellin. All AdYO would have liked to join in. So would we.

Respighi's *Pines of Rome*, a reprise from the 1991 program, could have been an anti-climax. Not so.

Crellin and AdYO maintained the Tchaikovsky fire, the organ thundered, the brass blared on stage and in the gallery – surround sound and thrills galore.

Happy birthday, AdYO. Here's to many more.



**JOY:** Solo cellist Pei-San Ng, based in Singapore, with trumpeters Alistair Price and Rachel Downey.

Picture: DEAN MARTIN