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LIFE! REVIEW

Korean Ensemble TIMF presents new music with poise

By Marc Rochester

ENSEMBLE TIMF - Yong Siew Toh Conservatory Orchestra Hall - Friday, April 13

Five members of the Korean-based Ensemble TIMF were in town on Friday to present a programme of new music by Japanese and Korean composers as well as by composition students of the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory.

They handled with remarkable poise all those specialist demands of new music - unconventional playing techniques (which included vocalisations in Mu-Seoh Kim's evocative *Man Jang* and a prepared piano in Ji Young Kang's hugely entertaining *Schuplatter*), pointillist pricks of sound seemingly emerging at random (plenty of those in Xu Weiwei's *Towards*) and almost frightening bursts of frenetic virtuosity (as in Isang Yun's *Pezzo Fantasioso* and Chow Jun Yan's assured *When Stillness Meets Motion*).

The best piece, for my money, was second-year student Joshua Pangilinan's *Dumagat Fantasy* inspired by the tribespeople of his native Philippines.

A beautifully crafted and wholly coherent piece of writing which showed a keen understanding of instrumental colour, it deserves many more performances.

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