

SSO Christmas Concert 2026: Nutcracker and Gloria from S$48

Description

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The SSO Christmas Concert 2026 is the one Singapore classical date that works for people who normally avoid classical. The Singapore Symphony Orchestra plays at Esplanade Concert Hall on Friday 11 and Saturday 12 December 2026, both at 7.30pm, with tickets from S$48. The programme pairs Tchaikovskyâ??s *The Nutcracker* with John Rutterâ??s *Gloria*, then ends on carols you will know.



Source: Singapore Symphony Orchestra

SSO Christmas Concert 2026: what is on the programme

The first half is selections from *The Nutcracker*, including the complete Act 2, with a script by Theophilus Kwek and narration by Denise Tan. That means the Sugar Plum Fairy and the other dances in order, with a storyteller guiding the way. It is a good fit for children who can sit still for a while.

After a 20-minute intermission comes Rutterâ??s *Gloria*, which is an SSO premiere. The second half then moves to Christmas favourites:

- *A Christmas Cracker* by Thomas Hewitt Jones

- *Angelsâ?? Carol* by John Rutter
- *Maryâ??s Boy Child*, arranged by Paul Bateman
- *O Holy Night*, arranged by Darius Battiwalla
- *Joy to the World* and *Winter Wonderland*, both arranged by Paul Bateman

Total running time is 1 hour 45 minutes including the interval. With a 7.30pm start, you will be out by about 9.15pm, early enough for supper around Marina Bay or a late bus home. Both nights carry the same programme, so pick whichever fits your calendar.



Source: Singapore Symphony Orchestra

Is it worth it for first-timers?

If you have never been to a symphony concert, this is a kind entry point. The pieces are familiar, the narration makes the Nutcracker story easy to follow, and the carols at the end invite you to hum along. Cat 6 at S$48 is the lobang for budget-minded families, and students and seniors can bring that down further with the 25% concession.

Who is performing

NathanaÃ«l Iselin conducts the orchestra. He is joined by the Singapore Symphony Chorus, Youth Choir and Childrenâ??s Choir, prepared by choral director Eudenice Palaruan and choirmaster Wong Lai Foon. Guest choristers Gao Mei Gui and Joey Tay also appear.



Source: Singapore Symphony Orchestra

Ticket prices and concessions

There are six price categories for each night, and the SSO lists them as follows.

Category	Price
Cat 1	S$228
Cat 2	S$168
Cat 3	S$108
Cat 4	S$88
Cat 5	S$68
Cat 6	S$48

Prices exclude SISTIC booking fees of S$4 for tickets priced S$40.01 to S$50, S$5 above S$50 and S$6 above S$70. Seniors aged 55 and above, NSFs, persons with disabilities and full-time students get 25% off Cat 5 and Cat 6, with proof checked at entry. Groups of 20 or more get 20% off, and Gold Friends and Friends Season Pass holders get 10% with a promo code.

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Esplanade also accepts SG Culture Pass credits at checkout. Book through the SSO ticketing page. Check seat availability there before you plan the evening, as I could not see live seat maps.

Before you go

The SSO recommends the concert for ages 5 and above, and infants-in-arms and toddlers are not admitted. Arrive 15 minutes early, because latecomers are only seated at a suitable pause or at the interval. Photos and recordings are not allowed during the music, though you can snap during bows with the flash off.

Esplanade Concert Hall is at 1 Esplanade Drive, a short walk from Esplanade MRT (CC3) and Promenade MRT (CC4/DT15). Cannot make it in person? The SSO says the concert will be streamed live on its YouTube channel and on Mediacorpâ??s meWatch.

Looking for more festive plans? See our guide to Voices Festival of Song at Esplanade, or the Amex Love Dining Christmas takeaway deals for the dinner afterwards.

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