



STAR-POST (MUSIC)

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EVERY MUSIC TEACHER A LEADER

Mrs Tan-Chua Siew Ling
Programme Director &
Master Teacher (Music)



Have you ever heard the story of *The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig* by Eugene Trivizas?

Once upon a time, there were three little wolves who had to go out into the world to build a house for themselves. They were told to beware of the big bad pig. One day, they met a kangaroo who gave them some bricks and they built a house of bricks. The very next day, the big bad pig came along and knocked on the door. When the wolves refused to let him in, he went to fetch a sledgehammer and knocked the house down. The wolves managed to escape before the bricks crumbled.

The wolves decided to build a stronger house and acquired some concrete from a beaver, with which they built a house of concrete. Unfortunately, the big bad pig came, fetched his pneumatic drill and smashed the house down. Once again, the three wolves managed to escape, trembling with fear.

The wolves decided to build an even stronger house. This new house was their strongest yet, with barbed wires, iron bars, armour plates and heavy metal padlocks they received from a rhinoceros. They felt absolutely safe. However, the big bad pig came yet again, brought some dynamite and blew up the house. Thankfully, the three wolves managed to escape, albeit with their tails scorched.

The wolves decided that something must be wrong with their building materials and began to try something different. They built a house with flowers they received from a flamingo. It was a rather fragile house and it swayed in the wind but it was most beautiful. The next day, the big bad pig came and wanted to blow the house down. But as he took a deep breath, he smelled the soft scent of the flowers and began sniffing the fragrant scent instead. His heart grew tender and he decided to become a big good pig. The wolves realised that the pig had changed and invited him into the house. They all lived happily ever after.



Now, what has this story got to do with teacher leadership?

First, there was the perseverance and innovation of the wolves. There was a constant drive to think critically and improve on their building design, and to draw from others' help. Second, it was also about thinking from the opposite perspective, and not necessarily having the most powerful resources to be successful. Third, it is about humanity, creating a beautiful masterpiece, loving and projecting light onto others.

In our own classes and our work, we might encounter a "big bad pig" that seeks to destroy and presents challenges. However, collaboratively, we could design and create different innovative solutions and lead change.

This year, we welcome a total of 29 Secondary and 57 Primary STAR Champions (Music) appointed by their Superintendents to lead their respective cluster music teachers. We also have 14 Music teacher-researchers appointed to conduct arts pedagogical research, with their findings to be published and shared with our fraternity. 18 of our experienced teachers have also opened their classes to Beginning Teachers (BTs) so that BTs have the opportunity to gain new insights into routines and scaffolding in Music lessons. We are also glad that teachers have stepped forward and offered to lead Communities of Practice and as STAR Associates. In various formal and informal capacities, each of us can *lead, care and inspire* change, and collectively we can grow as a fraternity.

VISION FOR THE SINGAPORE TEACHING SERVICE
SINGAPORE TEACHERS: LEAD. CARE. INSPIRE.



A PERSPECTIVE ON TEACHER- LEADERSHIP

Ms Lim Meihuan Joyce
Assistant Subject
Head Aesthetics
Pasir Ris Crest
Secondary School

When I was first asked to write about my experiences as a teacher-leader, I was very hesitant as I identified myself mainly as a teacher – but as a teacher-leader? Never crossed my mind. Probably I viewed ‘leader’ with a narrow understanding, reserved for the very experienced and highly respected teachers.

However, I became more open to that thought as I reflected about the work I do and also of the teachers whom I work with in the East Zone Centre of Excellence for the Creative Arts (EZCOECA) – Music Satellite Committee and in the STAR Champions programme. I realised we are all indeed teacher-leaders in our own small ways, championing our hopes for the students we teach, coming together to join forces and spurring each other on. After all, isn’t that what we all hope to achieve as teachers? To impact our students and to reach out to others in our teaching community, so that they will in turn carry on the good work and impact more students.

Here are two areas of work and interaction with other music teachers that have inspired me to lead in my own small way and, in return, helped me learn.

East Zone Centre of Excellence for the Creative Arts – Music Satellite

Led by Mrs Kimberley Sng (Anglican High School) and I, we work with a dedicated team of 13 teachers in the East Zone, organising and conducting programmes for Primary and Secondary students and teachers. Some events are:

- Factors that helped as BT...
- Support from Teacher Mentor
 - Lesson observations
 - Informal pre- and/or post-lesson discussion
 - Shadowing
 - Working with Like-minded Music Teachers
 - Planning lessons together



ABOVE RIGHT:
EZ COECA –
Music Satellite
Working Committee
(Not in picture:
Mrs Kimberley Sng)

- 1 EZ Music Warriors, a station-game format competition for Primary students.
- 2 EZ Music Competition with solo piano, voice, violin, and ensemble categories, alternating between Primary and Secondary each year.
- 3 EZ 'O' Level Music Special Programmes with composition and Asian Music workshops, music activities, and a Values-in-Action (VIA) component, for 'O' Level Music students in the East Zone.
- 4 EZ N(T) Music Special Programme with workshops and activities for N(T) Music students.
- 5 EZ Music Teacher Sharing Session for Secondary teachers.

Through these programmes, students have the opportunity to learn and to showcase their abilities. Teachers also get to work collaboratively in planning and organising events. We are motivated to continue this good work as we remember and are grateful for the work started by our predecessors who were themselves teacher-leaders, who inspired us to be teacher-leaders within our own capacity and to continue carrying the torch for student learning.

STAR Champions Programme

My experience in the STAR Champions programme last year was fruitful. Before conducting a session for our cluster teachers, we first attended workshops and lesson demonstrations, engaged in discussions, and submitted a video lesson for feedback. I was most touched when I received feedback and practical suggestions on my video lesson. It was useful in developing my understanding of student centricity as it made me reflect on my teaching approaches and learn to be a better music teacher.

I have learnt not to be daunted but to embrace being a teacher-leader within my own capacity. Having said that, I am also convinced that a teacher-leader's work is not just the lonely work of one teacher but the collective efforts of teacher-leaders, which has the potential to cascade to and impact even more students, allowing them to have a meaningful learning experience in the arts.



THE ROLE OF A MASTER TEACHER

Have you ever wondered about the roles and responsibilities of a Master Teacher in Music?

A work week for our newly-appointed Master Teacher in Music, Mdm Suriati Suradi, involves the coaching of untrained music teachers in the Music Teacher Practitioner Programme, mentoring and guiding of beginning music teachers, and leading music teachers and key personnel on music pedagogies.

As a pedagogical leader, a Master Teacher builds the quality of music teaching and learning across schools. The MTT models and champions the way for other music teachers in the fraternity by engaging in the professional development of other music teachers.

If you are interested to find out more about the Teaching Track and details on the roles and responsibilities of a Master Teacher, visit HR Online at http://uat.intranet.moe.gov.sg/hr_online/EO/careerDevelopment/careerPathway/TeachingFields.htm



STAR IN-PLACE PROGRAMME for Aspiring Music Master Teachers

STAR hosted personalised clinic sessions in February to provide support to nominated Senior Teachers and Lead Teachers in Music. Our Master Teachers interacted with the teachers and guided them individually to build their understanding of the expectations for arts teacher-leaders. The next IN-Place session is scheduled on 4 Aug 2014. Registration will be invited in May, through School Staff Developers. If you would like to have a conversation on your career aspirations on the Teaching Track, you may also contact our Master Teachers in Music Mrs Tan-Chua Siew Ling, Mrs Li Yen See or Mdm Suriati Suradi.

WHAT'S ON AT STAR

fa la (rhythmic pattern)
colour (melodic line)



Student-Centric Music Lessons: The Role Of Formative Assessment

Our Secondary Music STAR Champions came together in February to discuss the role of formative assessment in music lessons. They examined questioning techniques and practised strategies that facilitate assessment for learning. Our teacher-leaders deepened their enduring understanding of the symbiotic partnership between teachers and students in the music process. We look forward to their leadership at their cluster music teachers' workshops.

CLUSTER	STAR CHAMPION	SCHOOL
N1	Teoh Su-Mei Jeanette	CHIJ St Joseph's Convent
N2	Ho Yam Chiew	Sembawang Secondary School
N3	Sim Kok Heng	Edgefield Secondary School
N4	Eunice Chua	Montfort Secondary School
N4	Cindy Chia Pei Shan	Punggol Secondary School
N5	Ooi Ming Min Bridget	Woodlands Secondary School
N6	Chong Xiu Min	Orchid Park Secondary School
N7	Anita Mansor-Long	Fuchun Secondary School
E1	Lim Mei Huan Joyce	Pasir Ris Crest Secondary School
E3	Clara Sng	East Spring Secondary School
E4	Teh Jane Khim	St Anthony's Canossian Secondary School
E5	Feng Yingyi	Broadrick Secondary School
E6	Leong Su Juen	Pasir Ris Secondary School
E7	Sim Kim Seng	CHIJ Katong Convent
W1	Serene Ng	Shuqun Secondary School
W2	Chong Hui'en	Hillgrove Secondary School
W3	Cindy Goh Kiah Ling	Pioneer Secondary School
W4	Liau Yanya	Hua Yi Secondary School
W5	Ana Marie Cardenas Palma	Bukit Panjang Government High School
W6	Chia Hui'En	Fajar Secondary School
W7	Clara Teo Phin-Phin	Fuhua Secondary School
W8	Rebecca Ng	Regent Secondary School
S1	Tang Suyun	Mayflower Secondary School
S2	Eugene Lim	Henderson Secondary School
S3	Betty Chen	First Toa Payoh Secondary School
S4	Tan Teing Im	Queenstown Secondary School
S5	Poon Chong Cheah	Bendemeer Secondary School
S6	Tham Chuan Chuan	St Margaret's Secondary School
S7	Adeline Tan Li Jen	Bishan Park Secondary School

Our Primary Star Champions will be featured in the April edition of STAR-POST (Music).

WHAT'S ON AT STAR



Dalcroze Eurhythmics – Learning By Experiencing

In Dalcroze eurhythmics, students are given the opportunity to experience music in their whole being. There is potential for students to go beyond theoretical knowledge of music concepts in such an approach. They develop deeper and enduring understanding. Our primary music teachers and 'O' Level music teachers learnt about eurhythmics and solfège from Dalcroze pedagogue John R. Stevenson. They also developed keyboard improvisation skills to implement the Dalcroze approach in their classrooms. Teacher participants' experience at the workshops and demonstration classes led them to rethink their approach to student-centric music lessons. We share some of their thoughts here:

“Enjoyable, engaging, hands-on.”

“Eye-opening because of the approach towards harmony and analysis.”

“Helped me to see the effectiveness of experiencing the music before theory.”



“Practical sessions were a rare opportunity to develop musicianship, using body movement to translate into piano playing. Great workout – mind, body, soul!”

“Highly engaging and experiential.”

“Helped me to think more deeply about the conventional music elements and to trust natural locomotives in music interpretation.”

“Microteaching allowed us to apply what we've learnt.”

UPCOMING PROGRAMMES

MILESTONE PROGRAMMES	TITLE OF PROGRAMMES	DETAILS	PARTICIPANTS
<p>Key mandatory programmes at key stages of the teaching career to achieve professional renewal, reinvention and positive transformation in teaching beliefs and practices.</p>	Beginning Teachers Support Programme – Learning Journey	End Feb – Apr 2014	Beginning Teachers (2013 graduands)
	Teaching Living Legends (Teaching Local Music Traditions) *New*	2 – 4 and 8 – 9 Jul 2014 <i>Application will commence soon</i>	CS1, 2 and 3 Primary and Secondary Music Teachers
TEACHER-LEADERSHIP PROGRAMMES	TITLE OF PROGRAMMES	DETAILS	PARTICIPANTS
<p>Programmes to build the capacity of our music teacher-leaders.</p>	ST Programme Workshop	3 – 5 Mar 2014	Senior Teachers
	STAR Champions (Pri) Workshop	11 – 12 Mar 2014 (South and East cluster schools) 13 – 14 Mar 2014 (North and West cluster schools)	Primary STAR Champions
SUPPORTING PROGRAMMES	TITLE OF PROGRAMMES	DETAILS	PARTICIPANTS
<p>Programmes to provide new areas of learning and to broaden perspectives.</p>	Talk on IP Matters <i>OPAL Application Link:</i> http://central.opal.moe.edu.sg/events&func=event_view&rid=100072	6 March 2014, 3 to 5pm	Music Teachers / AEDs
EVENTS	TITLE OF PROGRAMMES	DETAILS	PARTICIPANTS
	Teachers' Concert – Afternoon Soirée	30 Apr 2014 If you are interested to put up a performance at this event, do email Lennie_Chua@moe.gov.sg	Music Teachers / AEDs CoPs
	TITLE OF PROGRAMMES	DATE	
Teachers' Concert at Esplanade Library	STAR is looking into organising a public concert at the Esplanade Library in May. If you would like to put up an item, please contact Lennie at Lennie_Chua@moe.gov.sg	<p>COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE (COP) Programmes that are premised on collaboration and sharing to collectively improve music skills and/or teaching practices.</p>	
TITLE OF PROGRAMMES	DATE		
Orff CoP (Primary & Secondary)	7 May 2014 for teachers who have attended any Orff milestone programmes. If you are interested to attend any Orff CoP, do email Lennie_Chua@moe.gov.sg		

RESOURCES

The PAM subjects of PE, Art and Music are natural platforms for developing students in their 21st century competencies. In the February 2014 issue of *i.d.e.a.²*, a newsletter produced by the Academy of Singapore Teachers, Hanif Abdul Rahman (Master Teacher at PESTA), Lim Kok Boon (Programme Director at STAR) and Tan-Chua Siew Ling (Programme Director and Master Teacher at STAR) shared their insights on [Nurturing 21CC through PE, Art and Music](#) (Requires OPAL password to access).

ARTIST-MENTOR SCHEME

Would your school like to embark on the Artist-Mentor Scheme (AMS) in Semester Two this year? Details of the AMS are available on the MOE Notification [PA/18/13](#) (only accessible on MOE Intranet). We are also conducting an AMS Clarification Session on **3 Apr 2014** from **3.30 to 5.00pm** at the **STAR Recital Studio** (Blk K Performing Arts Centre Level 3). If you would like to attend this session, please complete the Google Form available on [this link](#).

CATCH A CONCERT!

SSO @ Gardens by the Bay and SSO @ Tampines

SAT 8 MAR 2014, 6.30PM
THE MEADOW AT GARDENS BY THE BAY
FREE ADMISSION

SUN 9 MAR 2014, 6PM
OPEN FIELD BESIDE TAMPINES MRT
FREE ADMISSION

Conductor Joshua Tan leads the Singapore Symphony Orchestra (SSO) as they bring you familiar favourites from the musical *The Sound of Music* and composers Shostakovich and Gershwin.

Visit the SSO website at <http://www.sso.org.sg/> for more details.

Russian Colours!

WED 19 MAR 2014, 8PM
ESPLANADE RECITAL STUDIO
TICKETS AT \$32 FOR ADULTS AND \$20 FOR STUDENTS

Singapore violinist Tee Khoon Tang, recipient of the National Arts Council Violin Loan Scheme, performs on her Guarneri with critically-acclaimed pianist Sam Haywood in a programme that brings you Prokofiev, Tchaikovsky, Stravinsky, Isserlis and Rachmaninoff.

* This programme is eligible for the Tote Board Arts Grant subsidy

SYCO & SCO Annual Concert: Dauntless Spirit 2014

SAT 22 MAR 2014, 8PM
SINGAPORE CONFERENCE HALL

The Singapore Youth Chinese Orchestra showcases the talent of its young musicians in a combined performance with the Singapore Chinese Orchestra. Details are available on the following website: <http://www.sco.com.sg/performances/syco-sco-annual-concert-dauntless-spirit-2014/>

天冷就回来 If There're Seasons

3 APR TO 20 APR 2014, 8PM FROM TUES TO SAT AND
2.30PM ON SAT & SUN
DRAMA CENTRE THEATRE

The Theatre Practice presents the musical 天冷就回来. Presented in Chinese with English subtitles, the musical weaves together many of Liang Wern Fook's *Xinyao* songs to bring you through a story about friendship. Visit The Theatre Practice's website at <http://en.practice.org.sg/> for more details.

* This programme is eligible for the Tote Board Arts Grant subsidy

