

STAR-Post (Music)

September 2012



September is always a special month for teachers. This is the time where students express their appreciation to their teachers for being a part of their education journey, shaping their beliefs and impacting their lives.

As Music teachers, we play a crucial role in nurturing our students' creativity, stimulating their curiosities and engaging their joy in music.

Through us, they discover the wonder of musics from lands which they may never have encountered on their own. Through us, they learn how musicians listen to and respect one another in music making. Through us, they experience the joy of musical expression. And we exude such confidence and joy as music teachers because we were similarly impacted by our own teachers.

So for this Teachers' Day Special issue, we have invited you to share with us about the music teachers who have inspired you to also take up this noble endeavour, and what keeps you going when the going gets tough. We would like to thank you for your stories and we are sharing a few in this issue. We wish you an enjoyable Teachers' Day on 7 September!

Tributes to Our Music Teachers...

Ms Jessie Ho-Tan was my band instructor (now Senior Music Specialist) during my secondary school days. Through her warm personality, great passion and dedication in music, I was inspired to pursue teaching as a career. I remember when we were preparing for our SYF Central Judging, she was firm with us in how we executed each phrase of the musical composition in her unique soft-spoken manner. I do not remember her having to raise her voice at all just to get the band to perform up to her expectations. Thank you, Ms Jessie Ho, for sharing your love for music with all of us.

Ms Julie Lim Joo Leng
Hong Wen Sch

I had the beautiful Ms Leong Sau Ling (now Principal of Barker Road Methodist Kindergarten) who sang with such an ethereal voice...and made choir sessions so alive with songs from musicals! I learnt Music has Beauty.

I remember Ms June Thomas with her structured Kodaly music lessons and recorder-playing. I learnt Music has Structure.

I remember Ms Yap Foon Lyn (now VP of MGS) who was strict with her handbells techniques, whose ears could pick out the slightest bell clash. I learnt Music is a Discipline.

I remember Ms Grace Ng (now Deputy Director of Guidance Branch) who gave me a chance to play for chapel weekly, who wrote about my musical abilities on my graduating testimonial. I learnt Music is a talent which can be used to bless others.

Today, I am a Music teacher. I sing, I teach with structure...I develop my pupils' aesthetic talents and encourage them to bless others.

Mrs Sarah Lee-Koh,
STAR Champion,
Holy Innocents' Pr Sch

My Music lessons in secondary school provided an avenue for us to showcase our skills in the keyboard-laboratory. Ms Charmaine Chiang did a great job in engaging everyone, not only those who can read and play notes.

Syahrluzam
Seng Kang Sec Sch

I have a Chinese Language teacher, Mrs Lee, who taught me music when I was in Primary School. It was in the 70's and I think I was very lucky to have a trained music teacher who was passionate about music. She was a very firm teacher who expected us to play the recorder and keyboard well. It was from her that I picked up my recording playing skills. Till now, I am very grateful that she has equipped me with this skill and I am able to continue to pass on to the future generations.

Lim Hwee Sian, Senior
Teacher (Music), Cedar Girls'
Sec Sch

I remember my primary school music teacher, Mdm Yuen, as one who is always so gentle. She has such a sweet singing voice and she plays the recorder very well! She lit up that musical spark in me and this spark has never gone out since. Then as I went on to the Music Elective Programme in secondary school, my teachers, Ms Tan, Ms Oh and Ms Sim fanned this spark and it became a flame! Looking back, music classes in school were the most enjoyable of all. I knew that there was nothing else that I'd ever want to be. Thank you, teachers!

Jasmine Eng,
Seng Kang Pri Sch

...the joy of seeing these students, being given the opportunity to express their feelings through music. Helping students discover that music goes beyond the school walls and one can develop a sense of social responsibility because he or she cares.

Pereira Erica Stella
Townsville Pri Sch

The sparkle in the eyes and smiles in the faces of my pupils and simple words like "I like music lessons" spurs me on.

Chen Yingqing,
Pioneer Pri Sch

Being passionate about what I do is the key not only to being more successful in my work, but also to feeling happy. I look forward to my working day when I wake up in the morning and I approach my work with a completely different attitude. Different challenges/situations each day makes teaching even more exciting. ;)

Eudora Tan
Tampines Sec Sch

What Keeps Us Going...

The joyous refrain of children singing the songs and repeating the dance and actions just learnt keeps me smiling! Knowing that helps me to source for new and different things to teach the children each time.

Adeline Ang
Clementi Pri Sch

Grace Ang,
Farrer Park
Pri Sch

Jane Cheng
Seng Kang Sec Sch

The joy that pupils have on their faces!

As long as I am having fun in my own music lesson, that's what keeps me going.

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What's On at STAR



Bali Learning Journey

Teachers who are going on the Bali Learning Journey began their journey with a meeting-and-workshop with Thomas Manhart, a Gamelan expert, on 15 Aug 2012. The group had great fun learning *Lancaran Ricik Ricik*.



Non-formal Music Teaching Workshop and Open Class Demonstrations by Paul Griffiths, 30 Jul – 3 Aug 12

Invited music teachers attended workshops and open-class demonstrations on non-formal music teaching, a pedagogical approach where the teacher draws out musical ideas from students, creating a class music composition collaboratively.





An Afternoon Tea with STAR Champions, 23 Aug 12

Our STAR Champions spent a rejuvenating and inspiring afternoon, sharing their Professional Development journeys and learning with fellow STAR Champions.

**Supporting Programmes:
Teachers' Choir;
Singing for Primary
Music Teachers;
and Ukulele
Workshops**
August is another busy month at STAR! Many of our Supporting Programmes are on-going.



Special Projects

Bali Learning Journey (18 - 24 Nov 2012)

A group of Music teachers will be going on an exciting Learning Journey (LJ) to Bali come November! The groundbreaking music LJ aims to provide the opportunities for teachers to:

- Gain fresh perspectives on music pedagogies and practices through experiencing the learning of a Southeast Asian Music tradition
- Gain a deeper understanding of Balinese music genres and its cultural and musical context

After the trip, the teachers will come together and create lesson exemplars and resources for the teaching of gamelan at primary, secondary, and 'O' levels, which will be shared in due course. Watch this space! ☺

Conducting Workshop (1 Nov 2012)

Interested to learn more tips and techniques on conducting? Join us for a Conducting workshop to find out more!

Date: Thurs 1 Nov 2012
Time: 10am – 1pm
Venue: Crescent Girls' School

Please feel free to contact Ms Tan Bee Ngoh (Tan_Bee_Ngoh@moe.gov.sg) for more details.

S/N	Title of Workshops	Details	Remarks
1	World Music Pedagogies with Prof Patricia Campbell	12 September (p.m.) and 13 September (a.m.) (Pri School)	For teacher-leaders (By invitation only)
		13 September (p.m.) and 14 September (a.m.) (Sec School)	
		*19 September (class will be opened when 12 – 14 September sessions are fully subscribed) (Pri/Sec)	

Milestone Programmes

S/N	Title of Programmes	Details	Updates
2	Music Teacher Practitioner Programme – 3 rd Intake	July – November 2012	On-going
5	Beginning Teachers (BT) Support Programme (Pri & Sec Sch)	3 September 2012 0830 h – 1300 h STAR	For 2012 BTs (Pri & Sec Sch) Session 2

Supporting Programmes



Primary School Teachers

S/N	Title of Workshops	Details	Course Code	Status
1	Singing for Primary School Music Teachers	31 July 7, 14 and 21 Aug	21152	Fully subscribed!
2	Ukulele Playing	7, 14, 21 and 28 Aug	21270	
3	Introduction to Music Analysis I*	From 17 Aug to 9 Nov, 24 hours Every Fri, 2 hours	20635	On-going
4	Basic Music Writing Skills I*	From 17 Aug to 9 Nov, 18 hours Every Fri, 1.5 hours	20634	On-going

Secondary and JC Teachers

S/N	Title of Workshops	Details	Course Code	Status
1	Introduction to Twentieth Century Music	From 16 Aug to 8 Nov, 36 hours Every Thurs, 3 hours	21218	On-going
2	Introduction to Music Analysis I	From 17 Aug to 9 Nov, 24 hours Every Fri, 2 hours	20635	On-going
3	Basic Music Writing Skills I	From 17 Aug to 9 Nov, 18 hours Every Fri, 1.5 hours	20634	On-going
4	Introductions to Set Theory	From 6 Sept to 27 Sept, 12 hours Every Thurs, 3 hours	21286	Application through TR AISI

Communities of Practice (CoP) for Everyone!

S/N	Name of CoP	Date
1	Kodaly CoP	28 Sept 2012, 3:00 to 5:30 pm Meeting Point: STAR @ Malan Road Please contact Suriati for details: Suriati Suradi@moe.gov.sg
2	Teachers' Choir	Kodaly-based Teachers' Choir started in August (every Tuesdays, 4:00 to 6:00pm) Please contact Ms Tan for details: Tan Bee Ngoh@moe.gov.sg

Call us or drop us an email if you would like to lead or start a CoP!

Arts Education Conference 2013 - Call for Papers! For more details, please refer to <http://www.arts2013.sg/>

What's On at the Arts Scene?

[Pesta Raya - Malay Festival of Arts @ the Esplanade](#)

The annual Pesta Raya festival, held during Singapore's Hari Raya Puasa, celebrates Malay arts by Malay artists from Southeast Asia and around the world. Comprising both ticketed and free performances, the festival features an exciting line-up of some of the best traditional and contemporary Malay artists presenting vibrant works of dance, theatre and music. More details here: <http://www.pestaraya.com/2012/index.html>

7 – 16 Sep 2012, Various venues at The Esplanade

[Moonfest - A Mid-Autumn Celebration@ the Esplanade](#)

Launched in 2005, Moonfest - A Mid Autumn Celebration is an annual Chinese arts festival held in celebration of the mid-autumn festival, Chinese artists and traditional art forms. Through traditional Chinese performances, workshops and talks, it seeks to inspire and expose audiences to the intricacies of Chinese language, arts and culture. Highlights of the festival include Chinese opera, ensemble performances, puppetry, dance and the popular lantern walkabout. More details here: <http://www.moonfest.com.sg/>

28 – 30 Sep 2012, Various venues at The Esplanade

[Chinese Chamber Music Strings Harmony 弦韵双胡. In collaboration with Singapore Chinese Orchestra](#)

The husband-and-wife pair of Singapore Chinese Orchestra, Tian Xiao and Gu Huai Yan will showcase their incomparable skills playing erhu classics including *Reflection of the Moon on Erquan*, *Erhu Rhapsody No. 3*, *Hymn of Idleness*, and the specially rearranged Hungarian folk dance, *Czardas*!

5 Sep 2012, Esplanade Recital Studio, 7.30pm

Just for Laughs

Sometimes, students do give the funniest answers...enjoy some of them below! ☺

What is the highest frequency noise that a human can register?

Mariah Carey.



What is a vibration?

There are good vibrations and bad vibrations. Good vibrations were discovered in the 1960s

Name the wife of Orpheus, whom he attempted to save from the underworld.

Mrs Orpheus

<http://www.sciencedump.com>



Happy Teachers' Day
From all of us at
STAR!