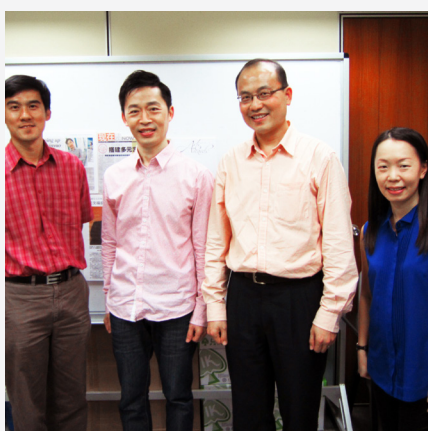




STAR-POST (MUSIC)

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IDENTITY AND MUSIC IN SINGAPORE

Mrs Joanne Yeo
Programme Manager
(Music)

How do we define Singaporean music or music in Singapore? Do Singaporean music and music in Singapore mean the same thing?

As a young nation turning 49 this year, as a multi-cultural nation and a global city, how do we define our music and what do we define to be our music?

Yet despite our relative youth, has the definition of music in Singapore or Singaporean music remained static? Does it continue to evolve? What music will live on into our future history? Should we preserve music traditions in Singapore or encourage its evolution and growth?

As much as our society is an exciting melting-pot of cultures, there is complexity and diversity of identities when we discuss music in Singapore. There is individual identity, cultural identity, community identity, national identity, the list goes on; yet an individual's identity is influenced by his community, his nation and the larger world. So it is with music and Identity in Singapore. Can we clearly define what is our music? Do we *have* to define what is our music? Can we even call it our music?

As a Singapore music educator, I often ponder over the questions surrounding music and Identity. In my view, there is no one single-dimensional answer to these questions but I am clear about one thing – that it is crucial for my students to explore and build understanding of music in the Singapore context. And perhaps as global citizens in the 21st century, what we need to bring to our students in the music classroom isn't clear definitions but expansion of their perspectives. Divergence rather than convergence can be healthy.



We believe that a distinctive Singapore voice resides in the living legends of music practitioners today. STAR has engendered the start of an exciting teacher resource, designed for our Singapore music teachers to deepen their approach to teaching Singapore music. This applied learning resource is targeted for the general music classroom teacher.

Starting 2013, STAR Music Master Teachers (MTTs) and Music Programme Managers (PMs) have been conducting field work research into the living music traditions in Singapore.

We have been learning at workshops and dialogue sessions with various arts practitioners, conducting interviews with pioneers in various music genres, designing and trialling lessons with colleagues at the Arts Education Branch (AEB) and our STAR Associate teachers, and been in conversation with our partners at the National Library Board (NLB) and the National Arts Council (NAC). These have guided STAR's design of a unique professional development curriculum for teaching living music traditions in Singapore and to support schools in the implementation of the revised syllabus for General Music from 2015.

Our curriculum, entitled **Teaching Living Legends**, distinctively develops participants in their music **practice, pedagogy** and **perspective**.

Catch our July launching teaching seminar: the music content will include *Dikir Barat*, Indian Orchestra, Malay Rhythms, the National Anthem and Singapore Songs, Singapore Composers and *Xinyao*. To further support our teachers in applying their learning, a pedagogical resource kit will also be made available to participants at the seminar, rich with pedagogical ideas and multimedia resources.

We welcome our fraternity of music teachers to explore the diversity and complexity of perspectives surrounding Identity and music in Singapore. The STAR milestone programme *Teaching Living Legends* will be held on 2-4 and 8-9 July 2014. Application and course details will be sent through Vice-Principals and School Staff Developers in mid-April. See you there!



SEEDING IN SILENCE

Kelly Tang, PhD,
Dean, Arts
School Of The Arts,
Singapore

Our guest writer for this issue is Dr Kelly Tang, Dean of Arts at the School of the Arts (SOTA) Singapore, local composer and Cultural Medallion holder. Here, he shares his views on Singaporean music.

Any discussion of “the music of Singapore” draws at once a bewildering crossfire of sharply contrasting and paradoxical responses. But to me, there is no place more fertile, inspiring and exciting to compose music than Singapore.

Perhaps the place where we grow up resonates richly with who we are, so we can flow naturally with its rhythm and draw abundantly from the intrinsic life, character and energy of its culture. While some cultures rest luxuriantly upon rich and long-standing musical traditions, we peer at Singapore’s musical origins and there seems only to be a silent void.

But to the fertile imagination, empty space becomes a powerful vacuum that calls forth artistic innovation. Being suspended in such a space engenders a heightened sense of artistic dynamism and agility. With no rigid framework to rein us in, it leaves only the impetus to push forward always to discover fresh directions. From Singapore’s dynamic confluence of cultures emerges a lively musical interplay that is never cast in stone or locked in fixed patterns. It becomes a wellspring of infinite creative possibility. Starting from nothing provides capacity to aspire to everything.

Artistry is never about being better than someone else. It is about the journey to find ourselves. Playing desperate games of catch up with others never works, because that would be playing their game, not ours.

So where is Singaporean music really at? It is where we are at: both you and I. Only when we search deep within ourselves can we find music that says something important to the world.



WHAT'S ON AT STAR

Making Thinking Visible In Music Learning

As educators, how often do we find ourselves wishing we could know what is going on in our learners' minds? Our Primary STAR Champions returned to the Academy for conversations on student-centric music lessons in March. The main focus was the role of formative assessment in facilitating student learning. In tandem, our STAR Champions explored the use of visible thinking routines as presented in *Making Thinking Visible* by Ritchhart, Church and Morrison¹. The exploration and learning will continue as they uncover their students' learning back in school and guide their cluster teachers in doing the same.

Look out for your cluster STAR Champions for the primary level:

CLUSTER	STAR CHAMPION	SCHOOL
N1	Ng Jing Fen Brenda Quah Hui Ling	Rivervale Pri Sch Xinmin Pri Sch
N2	Liew Siim Wii Cindy Heng	Xishan Pri Sch Northland Pri Sch
N3	Loi Wei Ling Jessica Chaw	Edgefield Pri Sch Edgefield Pri Sch
N4	Chua Siew Lin Stephanie	Nan Chiau Pri Sch
N5	Tan Siok Cheng Koon Wai Hang	Innova Pri Sch Admiralty Pri Sch
N6	Wang Junxian Lim Gek Hia Gracia	Yishun Pri Sch Anderson Pri Sch
N7	Lydia Tee Ai Leen Ameerah Sharainee Zain	Si Ling Pri Sch Si Ling Pri Sch
S1	Katherine Farook Amanda Loh Li Hui	Ang Mo Kio Pri Sch Xinghua Pri Sch
S2	Teresa Marie Lee Dan Lin Leong Sek Kee	Fairfield Methodist Sch (Pri) Queenstown Pri Sch
S3	Jillianne Chew Soh Ai Ling Stephanie	Anglo-Chinese Pri Sch CHIJ Pri Toa Payoh
S4	Goh Wan Yu	River Valley Pri Sch

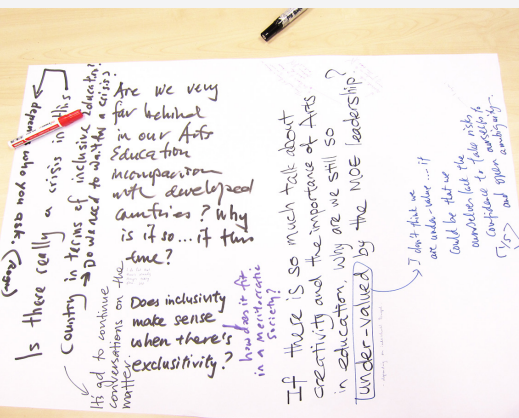
1. Ritchhart, R., Church, M., & Morrison, K. (2011) *Making Thinking Visible: How to Promote Engagement, Understanding, and Independence for All Learners*. United States of America: Jossey-Bass.



CLUSTER	STAR CHAMPION	SCHOOL
S5	Chia Ling Fang Angela Loh Lin Li	St Andrew's Junior Sch Anglo-Chinese Sch (Junior)
S6	Emily Chew Millie Choo Poh Hong	CHIJ Our Lady of the Nativity Cedar Pri Sch
S7	Sharon Ng Rebekah Sim	Guangyang Pri Sch Catholic High Sch (Pri)
E1	Eileen Bay Kim Hwa Melody Kwek Yee Ping	Poi Ching Sch Punggol View Pri Sch
E2	Murugesu s/o Samarasan Wong Sze Yeun Sarah	East View Pri Sch Junyuan Pri Sch
E3	Bridgette Teh Ng Kay Gek	Chongzheng Pri Sch Griffiths Pri Sch
E4	Michelle Kim d/o Sivarajasingham Catherine Lim	Damai Pri Sch St Anthony's Canossian Pri Sch
E5	Leu Yifang Tan Hui Fen Rachel	Haig Girls' Sch Geylang Methodist Pri Sch
E6	Woo Wai Mun Marianne Tabitha Chew Ci Ren Trina Pook	White Sands Pri Sch Park View Pri Sch White Sands Pri Sch
E7	Ray Aziz Chow Shu Yin Melissa	Opera Estate Pri Sch Ngee Ann Pri Sch
W1	Tan Seng Thye Tan Kim Keat	Yuhua Pri Sch Clementi Pri Sch
W2	Chang Mei Cheng Charmaine Sng	Yew Tee Pri Sch De La Salle Sch
W3	Chan Mei Yin Irene Adela Josephine	West Grove Pri Sch Juying Pri Sch
W4	Chan Yu Ling Josephine Sharon Tan Ken-Min Dawn Chan Wee Teng	Bukit View Pri Sch Keming Pri Sch Dazhong Pri Sch
W5	Tan Jiak Shiang Mavis Loo Teng Kiat	Nanyang Pri Sch Zhenghua Pri Sch
W7	Lee Chiak Ling Le Ai Ling	Shuqun Pri Sch Jurong Pri Sch
W8	Soh Fang Ying Lee Xiu Min, Neda	Bukit Panjang Pri Sch Corporation Pri Sch

The list of STAR Champions for the secondary level was given in the March 2014 issue of STAR-Post (Music).

WHAT'S ON AT STAR



A Reflective Culture In Teacher-Leadership

A fresh Class of 2014 Art and Music Senior Teachers (STs) embarked on their journey of professional renewal in this year's STAR Senior Teacher Programme. STAR collaborates with the Victoria Institute, led by Professor Roger Slee, Claire Brown and Micheál McCarthy. Together with staff at STAR, the many conversations on curriculum, pedagogy, teacher-leadership and mentorship engendered deep reflection about teacher agency in our STs. We wish them a deeper understanding as they continue with their study trip, industry attachment and curriculum project assignments to make thinking visible in the arts classroom. We are in for exciting times!



UPCOMING PROGRAMMES

MILESTONE PROGRAMMES

Key mandatory programmes at key stages of the teaching career to achieve professional renewal, reinvention and positive transformation in teaching beliefs and practices.

TITLE OF PROGRAMMES	DETAILS	PARTICIPANTS
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 commences mid-April Details will be sent to VPs and SSDs</i>	CS1, 2 and 3 Primary and Secondary Music Teachers

UPSKILLING PROGRAMMES

Programmes to help teachers become qualified music teachers or upgrade teachers in preparation for taking on additional responsibilities.

TITLE OF PROGRAMMES	DETAILS	PARTICIPANTS
Music Teachers Practitioner Programme (MTPP) – 7 th Intake	Jul – Nov 2014	Primary Music Teachers (By school nomination)
Advanced Diploma in Primary Music Education – 8 th Intake	Jan – May 2015	CS3 Primary Music Teachers or teachers who have completed the MTPP (By school nomination)

TEACHER-LEADERSHIP PROGRAMMES

Programmes to build the capacity of our music teacher-leaders.

TITLE OF PROGRAMMES	DETAILS	PARTICIPANTS
STAR Champions (Pri) Session	2 May 2014	Primary STAR Champions
STAR Champions (Sec) Session	9 May 2014	Secondary STAR Champions

SUPPORTING PROGRAMMES

Programmes to provide new areas of learning and to broaden perspectives.

TITLE OF PROGRAMMES	DETAILS	PARTICIPANTS
Guest Lecture by Prof Kenneth Hamilton (Dean (International), College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and Professor of Music, Cardiff University) <i>Musical Interpretation in Theory and Practice: The Art of Performance for Teachers and Students</i>	25 Apr 2014 3pm to 5pm STAR Recital Studio Blk K Level 3 2 Malan Road	Music Teachers / AEDs Click Here to Register
Workshop by Dr Eddy Chong <i>Teaching Schubert's "Unfinished" Symphony: A perception-based UbD approach</i>	6 May 2014 Class I: 9.30am to 12.30pm Class II: 2.30pm to 5.30pm STAR Recital Studio Blk K Level 3 2 Malan Road	O Level Music and MEP Teachers teaching the Schubert prescribed work

UPCOMING PROGRAMMES

AST TEACHER-LED WORKSHOPS

Workshops conducted by teachers for teachers, this platform provides opportunities for teachers to engage in professional exchange of pedagogical content knowledge.

TITLE OF PROGRAMMES	DETAILS	PARTICIPANTS
Designing Student-Centric Music Lesson using Song Expansion TRAISI Code: 21367	10 Apr 2014 Main Facilitator: Goh Tiang Ai, Juying Primary School	Primary Music Teachers
Using P1 and P2 STELLAR Songs to Teach Musical Concepts TRAISI Code: 21098	24 Apr 2014 Main Facilitator: N Gowri, Canossa Convent Primary School	Primary Music Teachers

COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE (COP)

Programmes that are premised on collaboration and sharing to collectively improve music skills and/or teaching practices.

TITLE OF PROGRAMMES	DATE
Orff CoP (Primary & Secondary)	7 May 2014 3pm to 5pm Hong Wen School 30 Towner Road, Singapore 327829 For teachers who have attended any Orff milestone programme. Click Here to Register

EVENTS

Come join us at these concerts and support our fellow music educators!

TITLE OF PROGRAMMES	DETAILS	PARTICIPANTS
Teachers' Concert – <i>Afternoon Soirée</i>	30 Apr 2014 at STAR Performing Arts Centre (Blk K, AST, 2 Malan Road)	Music Teachers / AEDs CoPs
Teachers' Concert at Library@Esplanade – <i>Friends in Concert</i>	17 May 2014 1pm to 2pm at the Library@Esplanade, 3rd level of The Esplanade	Music Teachers / AEDs

IN THE ARTS SCENE

Keep in touch with the
arts scene in Singapore!

A Tapestry of Sacred Music

FRI 25 APR TO SUN 27 APR 2014
ESPLANADE THEATRES ON THE BAY

The annual festival returns with sacred music from around the world. Details are available on the [Esplanade website](#).

Sing Along with Eric Moo @ Hwa Chong

SAT 26 APR 2014, 7.30PM
HWA CHONG INSTITUTION SCHOOL FIELD

Singer-songwriter Eric Moo, along with other Hwa Chong alumni, presents Xinyao favourites. The evening will conclude with an audience sing-along session. Tickets are available from [SISTIC](#).

SSO Concerts for Children: Come Meet Mozart!

SAT 31 MAY 2014, 11.00AM AND 1.00PM
UNIVERSITY CULTURAL CENTRE

Conductor Jason Lai turns chat-show host in this concert specially designed to introduce children to Mozart. Tickets are available from [SISTIC](#).

Esplanade Community & Engagement Programmes

Are you looking to organise meaningful arts learning journeys for your colleagues and students? Did you know that the Esplanade conducts [guided tours](#) for educators and [learning trails](#) for students? Find out more on their [webpage](#).

