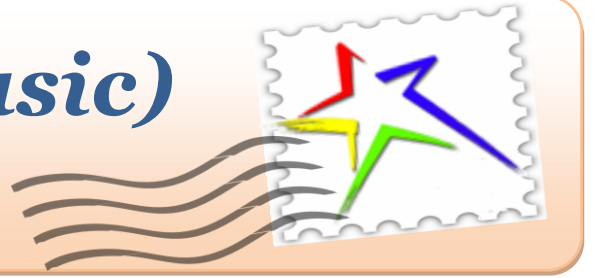


STAR-Post (Music)

October 2012



Childrens' Day Special Issue

Children's Singing: Natural and Nurtured by Teachers

Guest Editorial: Professor Patricia Shehan Campbell



Children: how songfully musical they are! From birth forward, they sing as they also dance: regularly and rhythmically. Especially when encouraged, the songs flow from them from their infancy onward, and their tunefulness can astonish parents and teachers alike. Listen to the children, and we hear traditional songs of the generations, of recent mediated influences, and of their own creative expression.

Children sing because they must, because singing is a primal action, a human need. They go on singing when they are supported by teachers, family, and peers, when they are taught new tunes in school classes, when they work out how natural it is to “make a new song” of their own imagination, when they are led to find beauty in the sounding of a simple melody. And so we hear children singing songs like “Feng Yang Song” (Chinese), “Chan Mali Chan” (Malay), “Oru Kallu” (Tamil-Indian), alongside widely known traditional songs of the English language such as “Skip to My Lou”, “Liza Jane”, “The Noble Duke of York”, and “This Land is Your Land”.

We who teach children know that singing is a key component in a sequential programme of musical study. We value the expressive activity of singing itself, and so we strive for the cultivation of children's voices for greater resonance and range. We recognise that singing is a skill that requires practice, and so we build into our lessons directed listening, frequent live modeling (by us, as their “resident singers”), and plenty of repetition. We know that their melodic and rhythmic accuracy develops over time, and with practice. Because singing is a primary part of children's physical, emotional, and social selves, we provide ample opportunities for children to sing their way to a more holistic development.

Singing is an important core musical experience, a very personal expression and yet one that is also beautiful in its shared and collective experience. As children attain their wholeness of being, developing as their singing capacity from a very young age all the way into their adolescence, the songful experiences are some of the brightest and most shining parts of their mosaic selves. It is children's nature to sing, even as it is our responsibility of teachers to nurture their singing capacities.

For discussion of children's musical ways, including their penchant for singing, see works like Chee Hoo Lum and Peter Whiteman's [Musical Childhoods of Asia and the Pacific](#), Kathryn Marsh's [The Musical Playground](#), Patricia Shehan Campbell's [Songs in Their Heads](#), and [The Oxford Handbook of Children's Musical Cultures](#), edited by Patricia Shehan Campbell and Trevor Wiggins and available by January 2013.

What's On at STAR



Visiting Fellow: Professor Patricia Shehan Campbell

STAR was privileged to have hosted Professor Patricia Campbell, University of Washington as a Visiting Fellow. During her brief two-week stay in Singapore, Prof Campbell led workshops on World Music Pedagogy, conducted music lessons at Edgefield Primary and Punggol Secondary. The sessions were well-received and fruitful discussions were held after each of the open demonstration classes.



Beginners' Teacher Programme, Session #2 (Mon 3 Sep 2012)

The session was well-attended by the 40 Primary and Secondary Beginning Teachers. The teachers had an overview of Assessment conducted by AEB and had a good time sharing with their STAR Associates (Mentors) and colleagues, about their first term in schools!

Milestone Programmes

Kodály Approach for Student-Centred Music Lessons (26 Nov -1 Dec 12)

Date: 26 Nov – 1 Dec 2012 (Mon-Sat)

Time: 9.00 – 5.00pm [Diagnostic tests will be conducted on 26 Nov at 8.00am]

Venue: Blk K, STAR Performing Arts Centre, 2 Malan Road

Levels:

- Primary Level – for CS1-3 Music teachers
- Secondary Level –for CS1-2 Music teachers
- Primary/Secondary (Advance) Level –for teachers who have attended Kodaly courses previously

[Download your application forms here!](#)

This course focuses on **applying the Kodály method in the context of a student-centred music lessons.**

Adapted from the two-week "Kodaly Method in Music Education" programme, this 6-day course aims to:

- develop participants' understanding of the practical application of Zoltán Kodály's educational philosophy in the primary and secondary music classroom
- introduce vocal-based music education aiming at young people's comprehensive musical and personal development including musical skills, memory, concentration, listening skills, self-expression, creativity, confidence, self-esteem and social skills
- build on participants' musical repertory using the resource kit "Engaging with Songs" and other age-appropriate musical materials
- develop participants' musicianship and vocal skills

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

Primary School Teachers

S/N	Title of Programmes	Details	Updates
2	Music Teacher Practitioner Programme – 3 rd Intake	July – November 2012	On-going

Teacher-Leaders' Programme

Celebración

We look forward to celebrating our afternoon with STAR Associates and Champions on their professional development journey.

Date: Monday 29 October 2012
Time: 1430 hours to 1800 hours (Registration starts at 1400 hours)
Venue: Theatrette, Blk J, 2 Malan Road, Singapore 109433
Guest-of-honour: Mdm Liew Wei Li, Director of Student Development Curriculum Division

Supporting Programmes



Conducting Workshop (1 Nov 2012)

We are privileged to have Ms Wang Ya-Hui, who has 20 years of experience conducting youths and professional world class orchestras such as the Chicago and Royal Danish orchestras. For the session, Ms Wang would focus on basic conducting patterns (what to do with the body and the left hand!), understanding scores and leading musicians in the ensemble. [More details of her session here!](#)

We would also like to place a special thank you to Crescent Girls' School for offering their Symphonic Band as a working band for this workshop! ☺

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. [Download your application form here!](#)

Primary School Teachers

S/N	Title of Workshops	Details	Course Code	Status
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

Communities of Practice (CoP) for Everyone!

S/N	Name of CoP	Date
1	Teachers' Choir	Kodaly-based Teachers' Choir (every Tuesdays, 4:00 to 6:00pm) Please contact Ms Tan for details: Tan_Bee_Ngoh@moe.gov.sg

Arts Education Conference 2013 - Call for Papers!

For more details, please refer to <http://www.arts2013.sg/>

What's On at the Arts Scene?

[The Singapore Symphony Orchestra: In the Country with Okko Kamu](#)

Composed over two summers in the delightful rural village of Heiligenstadt, Beethoven's cheery *Pastoral Symphony* could not be any more different from its predecessor, the dramatic *Fifth Symphony*. Esteemed Finnish maestro Okko Kamu will perform this popular work with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra at the Esplanade Concert Hall on October 25. In the first half of this programme, opens with Leong Yoon Pin's *The Phoenix's Nirvana* and the American pianist Nicholas Angelich returns to join the SSO for Prokofiev's *Third Concerto*.

Thursday 25 Oct 2012, Esplanade Concert Hall

[Kongero \(Sweden\)](#)

The singers of Kongero certainly live up to their motto; with their tight harmonies, inciting rhythms and the clarity of their beautiful voices, along with their confidence, technical skills, irresistible playfulness and brilliant arrangements, the group creates a unique sound that draws traditional Swedish music out from the past into the present. More details here:

Monday 29 Oct 2012, Concourse@ The Esplanade, 7.15pm & 8.15pm

[The Performer's Voice 2nd Symposium](#)

From the 25th – 28th of October, the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, National University of Singapore will host the second Performer's Voice Symposium, Horizons Crossing Boundaries. More details here: <http://theperformersvoice.org/>

Thursday 25 to Sunday 28 Oct 2012, Yong Siew Toh Conservatory

[Dig Deep in Community Arts! A Programme Planning & Evaluation Workshop with Dr Peter O'Connor](#)

A 5-session workshop that invites community arts practitioners to dig deeper into their practice. This hands-on workshop prepares practitioners with practical tips and tools to design more meaningful programmes. Participants will also be introduced to ways that art-making itself is research that can generate tangible findings to demonstrate how their programmes have made a real difference in the communities they work with. More details here: <http://www.digdeepworkshop.eventbrite.com>

Monday 19 to Wednesday 28 Nov 2012, Goodman Arts Centre

[Musiclearninglive! Asia](#)

Musiclearninglive! Asia is open to everyone with a passion for music education. It is part conference, part networking, part commissioned, partly crowd-sourced and promises to be highly participative and deeply reflective. More details at: <http://musiclearninglive.asia/>.

23 – 26 October 2013 (Next Year!)

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