

STAR-POST (Music)

March
2012

Dear Colleagues,

Does practice makes perfect?

Music is a practice-based discipline. As music teachers, in addition to classroom teaching, some of us also advise our students on how to optimise the practice time for their instruments. The adage is, "practice makes perfect". Or does it?

How about seeing practice from another perspective: 'Amateurs practise until they get it right; professionals practise until they never get it wrong.' Like a professional tennis player who needs to constantly keep his level of fitness, so must musicians continue to keep their instrumental skills sharp too. How do we help our students keep practising at the heart of their daily routine?

For a start, we could help students set challenging and yet attainable goals, organising their practice sessions to reach these personal goals. But does it mean that more practice sessions they have, the faster one could reach the goals?

Gary Marcus, a cognitive psychologist at New York University, in his book *Guitar Zero: The New Musician and the Science of Learning* mentions the importance of doing practice right – ***deliberate practice***. It is about self-evaluating and focusing on one's weaknesses. Studies show that practice aimed at remedying weaknesses will enable one to efficiently reach a new level of better expertise than endless hours of daily practice and repeating what one already knows.

Another cognitive psychologist Anders Ericsson's echoes the same view. Deliberate practice requires focusing inventing new ways to root out errors. At the end of the day,

"It's not how much you practice but whether you're quick to fix your errors that leads to mastery."

- Ericsson in *The role of deliberate practice in the acquisition of expert performance* (1993)

Wishing your students good success with practice!

STAR (Music) Team

Source: <http://ideas.time.com/2012/01/25/the-myth-of-practice-makes-perfect/>

To subscribe to **STAR-POST (Music)**, please contact:

Mrs Li Yen See, Programme Manager **Chan_Yen_See@moe.gov.sg, Tel: 6664 1499**

Mdm Suriati Bte Suradi, Programme Manager **Suriati_Suradi@moe.gov.sg, Tel: 6664 1498**

Mdm Ho Hui Ping, Programme Manager **Ho_Hui_Ping@moe.gov.sg, Tel: 6664 1493**

Dr Wong Joon Hwang, Programme Manager **Wong_Joon_Hwang@moe.gov.sg, Tel: 6664 1494**

The Orff workshop has given me lots of ideas on how I can teach musical concepts through songs, movements, dance and most importantly, fun. I am so excited to bring these ideas into my music classes! – Benjamin Yeo, ACS (Indep)



Balinese Gamelan Workshop which started on 24 Feb 12



It was a lot learned in just 5 days. Though we were tired out, but it was great fun and wonderful company! – Lennie Chua, Hillgrove Sec

Teachers at Orff Approach to Music Education (Secondary), 20 – 24 Feb 2012



Our teachers from the Music Teacher Practitioner Programme hard at work to prepare for their upcoming Graduation Concert on **Fri 9 Mar 2012, 3.30pm at Bik K, STAR Recital Room. Come join us!**



A Gathering of Music STAR Associates (Mentors) and STAR Associates (CoP) on 5 Feb and 22 Feb respectively

**Here're snapshots of what STAR and our teachers have been participating in Term 1!
More details can be found on our Facebook Group: Musicators!**

Piano Music: A Performance-Lecture by Dr Kenneth Hamilton



It is said that there is no other electric or acoustic instrument which can match the piano and its expressive range. Indeed, the ubiquitous piano, or the *pianoforte*, as it was first known, has come a long way when first invented as an attempt to broaden the dynamic range of the harpsichord.

Whether you're a pianist, or one who simply enjoys piano music, come and listen to more fascinating insights about this instrument. We are pleased to have the renowned and witty Scottish pianist, Dr Kenneth Hamilton from University of Birmingham to share with us changes in the musical styles and writings for the piano:

[More details here](#)

Date: Wednesday, 4th April
Time: 3 – 5pm
Venue: Recital Room @ STAR!
[Download Application Form Here](#)

“As a concert pianist I regularly play music from the time of J.S. Bach to the present day, with an emphasis on the rarer Romantic repertoire. As a scholar, I am particularly engaged by the surprisingly colourful history of music in performance, and the ever-fascinating output of Liszt, Chopin and Wagner.”

– Dr Kenneth Hamilton, University of Birmingham

Source: <http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/music/hamilton-kenneth.aspx>

Milestone Programmes

S/N	Title of Programmes	Details	Updates
1	Orff Method in Music Education (Primary Sch) Open to all CS1 or CS2 Primary Music teachers	25, 26, 27, 30 April and 2 May 8.30am to 5.30pm @ STAR (About 40 hours)	More details through your email in March 2012
2	Music Teacher Practitioner Programme – 2nd Intake	September 2011– March 2012 (About 100 hours)	On -going! Afternoon Soirée Fri 9 Mar, 3.30pm @ STAR B1k K
3	Music Teacher Practitioner Programme – 3rd Intake	September 2012 – March 2013 (About 100 hours)	Registration opens in mid-April. More details via your email.
4	Advanced Diploma in Music Education for Primary Schools – 3rd Intake	Tentative date August - November 2012 (4 months full-time in-service course)	Nomination in March. Audition in April. More details via your email.

Supporting Programmes



MOE-NAC Master Artist Series:

An Afternoon with Dick Lee

23 Mar 2012, 3pm

Yong Siew Toh Conservatory Concert Hall

[More details here](#)

Have you sent in your application form yet?

[Click here to Reserve Your Seat!](#)

Hurry! Don't miss the chance to meet this multi-talented singer-songwriter and Cultural Medallion Recipient!

Primary School Teachers

S/N	Title of Workshops	Details	Course Code	Status
1	Guitar Playing Stage 2 (Beginners)	10, 17 and 24 Feb, 2 Mar, 3pm to 5.30pm	21186	On-going
3	Song writing in Pop music style	TBC	21184	Postponed to Semester 2

Secondary and JC Teachers

S/N	Title of Workshops	Details	Course Code	Status
1	Guitar Playing Stage 2 (Beginners)	10, 17 and 24 Feb, 2 Mar; 3 – 5.30pm	21186	On-going
2	Basic Music Writing Skills II	13 Jan – 13 Apr (every Fri); 2 – 3:30pm	20634	On-going
3	Introduction to Music Analysis II	13 Jan – 13 Apr (every Fri); 3:30 – 5:30pm	20635	On-going
4	Prescribed Work for 'O' level music teachers	28 Feb, 2.30-5.30pm 6 Mar, 2 – 5pm	21196	On-going
5	O' Level Music Teachers Sharing Session	Tuesday 27 Mar 3.00 pm MOE Music Room	NA	Conducted by Arts Education Branch
6	'A' Level Music Teachers Sharing Session	Thursday 29 March 2012 3.00 pm MOE Music Room	NA	Conducted by Arts Education Branch



Communities of Practice (CoP) for Everyone!

Meeting Point: STAR @ Malan Road

S/N	Name of CoP	Date	Updates
1	Pop Band (Playing in a pop band to get in touch with music practice; participants should be able to play an instrument)	To continue in Semester 2 2012	
2	Orff CoP	1 March 2012 3 pm to 5 pm	Journey Embarked!
3	Kodaly CoP	26 March 2012 3 pm to 5 pm	

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

What's on the Arts Scene



- Voices as One by Cedar Girls' Choir**
Join the Cedar Girls' Choral Excellence Choir as they present songs of traditional folk, jazz, contemporary, madrigals and opera arias.
Thurs 29 March 2012, 7.30pm, Esplanade Concert Hall
- On the Gamelan Express by Gamelan Asmaradana (Tote Board Grant Subsidy)**
This performance will take students on a musical journey starting from Singapore to various parts of the Malay Archipelago. They will be immersed in Javanese, Balinese and Sudanese styles of gamelan used in the palace, during processions, celebrations and festivals as well as dance and wayang kulit performances.
Tues 27 – Thurs 29 March 2012, 3pm or 4:45pm, Esplanade Recital Studio
- Mosaic Music Festival**
Music-makers in old-world tango, straight-ahead jazz, fusion-funk, math-rock, R&B, folk-pop, gypsy jazz, pop-rock, electronica and other genres.
9 to 18 March 2012, the Esplanade
- Concerts for Children: Peter and the Wolf by Singapore Symphony Orchestra**
Prokofiev's delightful symphonic fairytale *Peter and the Wolf* recounts how young Peter sets off into the woods against his grandfather's advice, encounters a run in with a wolf, and eventually emerges victorious - with a little help from his friends.
Sat, 17 Mar 12, 11.00am, Sat, 17 Mar 12, 1.00pm at Republic Polytechnic