



STAR-POST (Music)

Dear Colleagues,

We lead, care and inspire!

September is a month beginning with the celebration of Teachers' Day. Please allow us to share with you two quotations¹ below.

"The teacher who most inspired me was Edred Wright, director of music at the King's School, Canterbury. His great gift was being able to inspire children (like me) who weren't necessarily musically gifted... With Mr Wright it was never about improving the reputation of the school. It was just his intense love of music. What that man taught me aged 14 has enriched my entire life." **Michael Morpurgo, Author, poet, playwright**

"Many of my best teachers taught music. I was never going to be a professional musician, but that didn't matter – to have a teacher who took an interest in me, and shared their passion was hugely valuable." **Shami Chakrabarti, Director of Liberty, the National Council for Civil Liberties**

For me, doing the PGDE was on route to taking the Educational Psychology masters. But obviously, it did not quite turn out this way. In my first teaching practice, observing my teacher mentor/supervisor in the classroom became a phenomenal experience the least. What I saw, experienced and digested that day made me realise that music teaching was about giving the children something to express themselves with and experience more depth as a person. It may seem cliché but it is through us that our children will develop more compassion, gentleness, love, identity and a greater appreciation of life. Hence, till today, I am still a music TEACHER!

- Li Yen See, STAR



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¹ <http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2010/jan/19/teacher-inspired-me>

Programmes At A Glance (TRAISI):

Primary School Teachers

S/N	Title of Workshops	Details	Course Code	Status
1	Pedagogy in Pop Music	12, 19, 26 Sept, 3 Oct 4 sessions, 10 hours	21162-00002	FULL Venue @ Blk K, Level 1
2	Guitar Playing Stage 2 (Beginners)	4, 11, 18 and 25 Nov, 10 hours	21186	Registration via Traisi from 19 September
3	Kodaly workshop (Intermediate level)	21Nov to 2 Dec 10 full days, Monday to Friday	NA	Details – out soon!

Secondary and JC Teachers

S/N	Title of Workshops	Details	Course Code	Status
2	Introduction to 20th Century Music	11 Aug – 3 Nov 12 Sessions, 36 hours	21218	Open for Traisi registration
3	Basic Music Writing Skills	12 Aug – 4 Nov 12 Sessions, 18 hours	20634	Open for Traisi registration
4	Introduction to Musical Analysis	12 Aug – 4 Nov 12 Sessions, 24 hours	20635	Open for Traisi registration
5	Teaching Music as an O level Exam subject	1 Aug – 31 Oct 12 Sessions, 24 hours	20411	Course started

Milestone Programmes

Teacher Practitioner Programme

S/N	Title of COP	Starting from...	Updates
1	Music Teacher Practitioner Programme – 1st intake	May 2011 – September 2011, (About 100 hours)	Graduation Recital 5 September, 3pm @ Malan Road, Performing Arts Centre
2	Music Teacher Practitioner Programme – 2nd Intake	September 2011– March 2012 (About 100 hours)	FULL
3	Orff Approach in Music Education	14, 15 16, 19 and 20 September, 8.30am to 5.30pm @ STAR, (About 35 hours)	FULL



Launch of STAR Website and Official Facebook Page

STAR is now launched online! **STAR website** <http://www.star.moe.edu.sg/>

- Online calendar of our programmes at STAR
- Links to useful resources for Music teachers

Be **in touch** with the latest buzz at STAR! Join the newsfeed of **STAR's Official Facebook Page:** <http://www.facebook.com/pages/STAR-Singapore/135514779864688>.

- Receive the latest, including real-time updates on what's happening at STAR!

Join our **Facebook Group Musicators!** <http://www.facebook.com/groups/Musicators/>

- Online lounge where you could glean professional teaching insights from colleagues
- Share issues, empathize, understand and seek advice and professional support from group members.

STAR will be conducting **an online survey** for all music teachers on music teaching.

- Aims to better understand about your music teaching experiences, triumphs and proud moments, and areas where you would like more professional development guidance that STAR could look into.
- This survey will be on **Facebook**, on **Musicators!** soon

Keep your eyes (and ears) peeled! **And Get Yourself Heard!** ☺

Communities of Practice (CoP) for Everyone!

Meeting Point: STAR @ Malan Road



S/N	Name of COP	Date	Updates
1	Singing (Singing in an ensemble or choir to improve sight-singing and vocal abilities)	5 Aug, 12, Aug, 15 Aug and 22 Aug. 3pm to 5.30pm	Performed on 5 Sept, 3pm @ Malan Road, Performing Arts Centre
2	Pop Band (Playing in a pop band to get in touch with music practice; participants should be able to play an instrument)	11 Aug, 18 Aug and 25 Aug, 3pm to 5.30pm	Performed on 5 Sept, 3pm @ Malan Road, Performing Arts Centre

Call us if you would like to lead or start a COP. You could drop us a mail too!

For our STAR Champions, STAR Associates and Teacher Leaders

Round Table Discussion for Music Teacher-leaders (early November)

Learning Journey to Nova Scotia (Canada) (23 October to 29 October)
(by nomination only)

New Zealand Study Trip (5 November to 12 November)
(by nomination only)

Tip of the Month

This month, we introduced the *Orff Approach to Music Education* as one of the specialised music pedagogies for the classroom. The Orff approach is about engaging pupils through improvisation, play and movement. It was introduced by Carl Orff (1895-1982) whose ideal about music education was "experience first, then intellectualize".

One simple improvisation strategy is to use "Call and Response". The teacher can play or sing a passage and his/her students "answer" the phrase. They could respond in different variations: echoing the same phrase back; echoing the same phrase at a higher or lower pitch or altering a few of the notes; or singing/playing something entirely different. The children could take turns with their response. This encourages children to develop their ears and ability to improvise. It's fun too!

What's on the Arts Scene:

- **CDIME (Cultural Diversity in Music Education) Conference**
4th to 6th January, 2012. **Registration is open!**
<http://www.unesco-care.nie.edu.sg/events/cultural-diversity-music-education-conference-cdime-11>
- **30th International Society for Music Education (ISME) World Conference 2012** Call for Papers and Performers!
http://www.isme.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=43&Itemid=26
- **Esplanade: Moonfest - A Mid-Autumn Celebration**, 6 to 11 September 2011
<http://www.moonfest.com.sg/2011/index.html>
- **NAFA Symposium**, 19 to 21 September, will featured Lecture-Demonstration: *Transforming Tradition - The Role of Research in Creating "Wayang Sampur-na"* by Garrett Kam <http://newasianimagination.nafa.edu.sg/edm3/index.html>

