



## STAR-POST (Music)

Dear Colleagues,

### **Semoga Bahagia: Singapore Children's Day, 50 Years On**

We celebrate Singapore's 50<sup>th</sup> Children's Day this October! Singapore's first ever Children's Day celebration in our schools took place on Monday, 23 October 1961. This day was in keeping with the United Nation's Children's Day, which was then, designated on 22 October. As it fell on a Sunday that year, our schools celebrated on the following day.

According to the Straits Times, 4 August 1961, 37,000 children would be celebrating the day with a Children's Day song. The song, composed by Zubir Said for the occasion, would be sung during school assembly. After the singing of the Children's Day song, principals would deliver a special message from the then Minister for Education, Mr Yong Nyuk Lin. It was suggested that schools present awards to their pupils for acts of gallantry and outstanding achievements and organised concerts, talentime, debates or film shows on that day.

50 years on today, while our celebration formats have changed, the evergreen *Semoga Bahagia* remains a focal point in many of our celebrations, giving the day its symbolic significance and tradition. The song's lyrics, focusing on personal values, still ring true and relevant today, perhaps even more so in today's environment (see translation here: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Semoga\\_Bahagia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Semoga_Bahagia)). It is amazing to see how music can 'embody' and pass down the meanings of special occasions like this one.

While we are busy preparing for the celebrations, let us remember the reason for the day, the meaning of the song. We share with you a quote from the United Nations, the originator of this special day dedicated to all children around the world:

*We were all children once. And we all share the desire for the well-being of our children, which has always been and will continue to be the most universally cherished aspiration of humankind.* -- from We the Children: End-decade review of the follow-up to the World Summit for Children, Report of the Secretary-General (2001)

We leave you with an acoustic guitar arrangement of *Semoga Bahagia*, sung by our talented fellow educator, Noorhaqmal Mohamed Noor:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tEMHzBPEgds&feature=related>

Enjoy the song. Enjoy Children's Day.

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

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## *Programmes At A Glance (TRAISI):*

### *Primary School Teachers*

S/N	Title of Workshops	Details	Course Code	Status
1	<b>Guitar Playing Stage 2 (Beginners)</b>	4, 11, 18 and 25 Nov, 10 hours	21186	<b>Registration via Traisi : closing soon!</b>
2	<b>Kodaly workshop (Intermediate level)</b>	21Nov to 3 Dec 10 full days, Monday to Saturday	NA	<b>FULL</b>

### *Secondary and JC Teachers*

S/N	Title of Workshops	Details	Course Code	Status
1	<b>Guitar Playing Stage 2 (Beginners)</b>	4, 11, 18 and 25 Nov, 10 hours	21186	<b>Registration via Traisi: closing soon!</b>
2	<b>Introduction to 20<sup>th</sup> Century Music</b>	11 Aug – 3 Nov 12 Sessions, 36 hours	21218	<b>Course started</b>
3	<b>Basic Music Writing Skills</b>	12 Aug – 4 Nov 12 Sessions, 18 hours	20634	<b>Course started</b>
4	<b>Introduction to Musical Analysis</b>	12 Aug – 4 Nov 12 Sessions, 24 hours	20635	<b>Course started</b>
5	<b>Teaching Music as an O level Exam subject</b>	1 Aug – 31 Oct 12 Sessions, 24 hours	20411	<b>Course started</b>



## *Milestone Programmes*

### *Teacher Practitioner Programme*

S/N	Title of COP	Starting from...	Updates
1	<b>Music Teacher Practitioner Programme – 2<sup>nd</sup> Intake</b>	<b>September 2011– March 2012</b> (About 100 hours)	<b>FULL and on going</b>



## Thank You for Your Feedback!

Thank you to all who have taken the time and effort to respond to the online survey on music teachers' professional development needs! We're now looking into the analysis and will be sharing our broad findings on STARPost Music later. Again, keep your eyes (and ears) peeled!



Online News Feed:

**STAR website** <http://www.star.moe.edu.sg/>

- Online calendar of our programmes at STAR
- Links to useful resources for Music teachers, including the back issue of STAR Post September (check link)

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.

## Communities of Practice (CoP) for Everyone!

**Meeting Point: STAR @ Malan Road**



S/N	Name of COP	Date	Updates
1	<b>Singing</b> (Singing in an ensemble or choir to improve sight-singing and vocal abilities)	2 sessions in November, 4 Nov and 11 Nov, 3pm to 5pm	<b>Come join us!</b>
2	<b>Pop Band</b> (Playing in a pop band to get in touch with music practice; participants should be able to play an instrument)	2 sessions in November.	<b>Details out soon</b>

**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)

## **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>
- **30<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.isme.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=43&Itemid=26)
- **Esplanade: Mozart Madness**, 1 Nov, 7.30pm, Concert Hall  
[http://www.esplanade.com/whats\\_on/programme\\_info/mozart\\_madness/index.jsp](http://www.esplanade.com/whats_on/programme_info/mozart_madness/index.jsp)
- **Ethno-Sounds: Asia**, 28 Oct to 30 Oct, Esplanade Outdoor Theatre  
King's College of Thailand Luk Thung Ensemble, Sundanese Gamelan Ensemble & Institut Teknologi Bandung Folk Ensemble  
[http://www.esplanade.com/whats\\_on/programme\\_info/otw\\_ethno\\_sounds\\_asia/index.jsp](http://www.esplanade.com/whats_on/programme_info/otw_ethno_sounds_asia/index.jsp)

## **Just for Laughs!**

In conjunction with Children's Day, here are some kids' riddles that we'd like to share with you. Keep smiling, friends!

**Q: Why did the girl sit on the ladder to sing?**

A: She wanted to reach the high notes!

**Q: What type of music are balloons scared of?**

A: Pop music!

**Q: Why couldn't the athlete listen to her music?**

A: Because she broke the record!

Source: <http://www.ducksters.com/jokesforkids/music.php>