

## STAR-POST (Music)



Although it may irritate the teacher, one of the most intelligent questions a student can ask is, 'Why do we have to do this?'— Dr Robert Sylwester

### **What brain research says for a student-centred approach to music learning**

Neuroscience research and new discoveries about how the human brain learns have led us to new understandings about music and learning.

According to Ratey (2002), the dendrites of our brain cells only grow when the brain is actively engaged and the neuron-networks formed in our brains only stay connected when they are used repeatedly. What this means is that allowing active learner engagement where our students do more active and creative music making, collaborative learning, their own decision-making in the artistic processes and reflecting will optimize such development of the neuron-networks. Nurturing these 'neuron-networks' help our students to become successful learners in a student-centered music classroom.

We all know that the cerebral cortex is largely responsible for higher brain functions, including thought, reasoning, and memory. It was found that there is more wiring in the brain leading from the amygdala (the part of the brain that is connected to one's emotional/affective behaviors and feelings) to the cerebral cortex than the other way. What it means to us as educators is that facilitating pleasurable and positive musical experiences can positively influence the students' meta-cognition. As Zull (2002) aptly puts it, **'Emotion is the mortar that holds learning together'**.

Creating a conducive arts learning environment enables the students to feel safe and confident, thus allowing learning to be increased greatly. A student-centered environment that provides choices and empowering students to make decisions in the arts processes, learning goals and criteria of success, signifies a radical change in the way we teach music in the classroom. The question is - 'Are our students ready for it?' Even if they are not yet, as teachers, we ourselves must realise that 'knowing has shifted from being able to remember and repeat information to being able to find and use it' (Nobel laureate Herbert Simon, 1978).

References: Zull, James (2002). *The Art of Changing the Brain*. Sterling, VA: Stylus  
Ratey, John (2001). *A User's Guide to the Brain*. New York, NY: Pantheon Books.  
<http://learnercenteredteaching.wordpress.com/about/>

### **STAR (Music) Team**

To subscribe to **STAR-POST (Music)**, please contact:  
Mrs Li Yen See, Programme Manager [Chan\\_Yen\\_See@moe.gov.sg](mailto:Chan_Yen_See@moe.gov.sg), Tel: 6664 1499  
Mdm Suriati Bte Suradi, Programme Manager [Suriati\\_Suradi@moe.gov.sg](mailto:Suriati_Suradi@moe.gov.sg), Tel: 6664 1498  
Mdm Ho Hui Ping, Programme Manager [Ho\\_Hui\\_Ping@moe.gov.sg](mailto:Ho_Hui_Ping@moe.gov.sg), Tel: 6664 1493  
Dr Wong Joon Hwang, Programme Manager [Wong\\_Joon\\_Hwang@moe.gov.sg](mailto:Wong_Joon_Hwang@moe.gov.sg), Tel: 6664 1494



**STAR Champion Cluster Music Workshops started with a blast with N1, E6 and W3 leading the way! Have you signed up for your cluster's STAR Champion Cluster Music Workshop? Find out who your STAR Champions in your clusters are on Pg 3!**



**Our primary and secondary teachers participated in 10-day Kodály Workshops conducted by Franz-Liszt Kodaly institute.**



**Our Secondary STAR Associates (Pedagogy) participated in a workshop on informal music learning and non-formal music teaching, conducted by David Price from the UK**

**Defining factors**

- Entitlement
- Relevance
- Empowerment
- Hands-on
- Personalised, collaborative, creative
- Aural learning
- Sustainability of musical experience



## ***STAR Champions Cluster workshop: Student-centered music lessons***

- **Workshop Objectives:**

(a) Experience and understand the approach to student-centric music lessons;  
 (b) Network with music teachers within the Cluster and collaborate with peers to explore and discuss student centered ideas in the music lessons.

- **It is all happening in your own Cluster!** Get in touch with your Cluster Music STAR Champion(s). ***See you at the workshops!***

### **Who are the Music STAR Champions in your Cluster?**

<b>Cluster</b>	<b>Name of STAR Champion</b>	<b>School</b>
<a href="#">N1</a>	Miss Ng Jing Fen Brenda Ms Quah Hui Ling	Rivervale Primary School Xinmin Primary School
<a href="#">N3</a>	Ms Loi Wei Ling	Edgefield Primary School
<a href="#">N4</a>	Mdm Tay Chor Lin	Montfort Junior School
<a href="#">N5</a>	Ms Tan Siok Cheng	Innova Primary School
<a href="#">N6</a>	Mdm Yang Xiaojing Mr Wang Junxian	Mayflower Primary School Yishun Primary School
<a href="#">N7</a>	Miss Tee Ai Leen Lydia	Si Ling Primary School
<a href="#">S1</a>	Ms Sarah Lee-Koh Hui Khoon	Holy Innocents' Primary School
<a href="#">S2</a>	Mr Goh Zensen Mdm Tan Mei Shi Jessica	Blangah Rise Primary School Fairfield Methodist Primary School
<a href="#">S3</a>	Mrs Gomathi Ravindra Mdm Jillianne Chew	Anglo-Chinese School (Primary)
<a href="#">S4</a>	Madam Chan Wee Teng Dawn Ms Sheryl Sim	Radin Mas Primary School River Valley Primary School
<a href="#">S5</a>	Mrs Angela Lim	St Andrew's Junior School
<a href="#">S6</a>	Ms Wendy Chan Mrs Jacqueline Tey (Ng Pei Sze)	Cedar Primary School St.Gabriel's Primary School
<a href="#">S7</a>	Mrs Sharon Ng Mdm Neo Guat Theng Angela	Guangyang Pri School Catholic High School (Primary)
<a href="#">E1</a>	Ms Eileen Bay Khim Hwa Ms Lee Yann Shin Margaret	Poi Ching School Elias Park Primary School
<a href="#">E2</a>	Mr Murugesu Samarasan Ms Wong Sze Yeun Sarah	East View Primary School Junyuan Primary School
<a href="#">E3</a>	Mrs Bridgette Teh	Chongzheng Primary School
<a href="#">E4</a>	Mr Soh Yang Yit Bernard Ms Lai Hui Ming	Telok Kurau Primary School Changkat Primary School
<a href="#">E5</a>	Ms Leu Yifang	Haig Girls' School

<b>Cluster</b>	<b>Name of STAR Champion</b>	<b>School</b>
<a href="#">E6</a>	Mdm Trina Pook Sim Nar Ms Woo Wai Mun Marianne	White Sands Primary School
<a href="#">E7</a>	Mr Ray Aziz Ms Chow Shu Yin Melissa	Opera Estate Primary School Ngee Ann Primary School
<a href="#">W1</a>	Miss Chua Yu Gek Eunice Mr Tan Seng Thye	Henry Park Primary School Yuhua Primary School
<a href="#">W2</a>	Mdm Chang Mei Cheng Ms Charmaine Sng	Yew Tee Primary School De La Salle School
<a href="#">W3</a>	Mdm Chan Mei Yin Irene Mr Muhammad Dzuhri Bin Juniwan	West Grove Primary School Corporation Primary School
<a href="#">W4</a>	Ms Josephine Chan Mdm Sharon Tan Ken-Min	Bukit view Primary School Keming Primary School
<a href="#">W5</a>	Ms Soh Fang Ying Ms Tan Jiak Shiang Mavis	Bukit Panjang Primary School Nanyang Primary School
<a href="#">W7</a>	Miss Lee Ai Ling Mdm Lee Chiak Ling	Jurong Primary School Shuqun Primary School

## ***Milestone Programmes***

<b>S/N</b>	<b>Title of Programmes</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Updates</b>
1	<a href="#">Kodaly Method in Music Education (Pri &amp; Sec Sch)</a>	18 – 29 June 2012 8.30 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. @ STAR (About 80 hours)	<b>Completed</b>
2	<a href="#">Music Teacher Practitioner Programme – 3<sup>rd</sup> Intake</a>	3, 4 and 18 July 2012 8.30am to 5.30pm @ STAR	<b>Starting soon!</b>
3	<a href="#">Dalcroze Approach in Music Education (Pri Sch)</a>	9, 10, 11 July, 8.30am to 5.30pm @ STAR, Blk K, Level 3	<b>Fully subscribed!</b>
4	<a href="#">Dalcroze Approach in Music Education (Sec Sch)</a>	12, 13 July, 8.30am to 5.30pm @ STAR, Blk K, Level 3	<b>Almost full!</b>
5	<a href="#">Beginning Teachers (BT) Support Programme (Sec Sch)</a>	24 July, 3pm to 6 pm @ STAR, Blk K, Level 3	<b>For 2012 BTs (Sec Sch)</b>
6	<a href="#">Beginning Teachers (BT) Support Programme (Pri Sch)</a>	27 July, 3pm to 6 pm @ STAR, Blk K, Level 3	<b>For 2012 BTs (Pri Sch)</b>

## Supporting Programmes



### Primary School Teachers

S/N	Title of Workshops	Details	Course Code	Status
1	<a href="#">Singing for Primary School Music Teachers</a>	31 July 7, 14 and 21 Aug	21152	Application through TRAI SI - Closing soon!
2	<a href="#">Ukulele Playing</a>	7, 14, 21 and 28 Aug	21270	
5	<a href="#">Introduction to Music Analysis I*</a>	From 17 Aug to 9 Nov, 24 hours Every Fri, 2 hours	20635	Application through TRAI SI
6	<a href="#">Basic Music Writing Skills I*</a>	From 17 Aug to 9 Nov, 18 hours Every Fri, 1.5 hours	20634	Application through TRAI SI

### Secondary and JC Teachers

S/N	Title of Workshops	Details	Course Code	Status
1	<a href="#">Ukulele Playing</a>	7, 14, 21 and 28 Aug	21270	Application through TRAI SI - Closing soon!
2	<a href="#">Prescribed Source Material for 'O' Levels: Jiangnan Sizhu</a>	16 July AM Session (3 hrs) or PM Session (3 hrs)	21195	Application Closed
3	<a href="#">Introduction to Twentieth Century Music</a>	From 16 Aug to 8 Nov, 36 hours Every Thurs, 3 hours	21218	Application through TRAI SI
4	<a href="#">Teaching Music as an O- Level Exam Subject</a>	From 6 Aug to 5 Nov 24 hours Every Mon, 2 hours	20411	Application through TRAI SI
5	<a href="#">Introduction to Music Analysis I</a>	From 17 Aug to 9 Nov, 24 hours Every Fri, 2 hours	20635	Application through TRAI SI
6	<a href="#">Basic Music Writing Skills I</a>	From 17 Aug to 9 Nov, 18 hours Every Fri, 1.5 hours	20634	Application through TRAI SI
7	<a href="#">Introductions to Set Theory</a>	From 6 Sept to 27 Sept, 12 hours Every Thurs, 3 hours	21286	Application through TRAI SI

### Special Piloting Project

S/N	Title of Workshops	Details	Remarks
1	<a href="#">Non-formal Teaching: Workshop Leading and Group Composition</a>	30 -31 July	By invitation only

## Communities of Practice (CoP) for Everyone!

S/N	Name of CoP	Date
1	<b>Kodaly CoP</b>	28 Sept 2012, 3:00 to 5:30 pm Meeting Point: STAR @ Malan Road Please contact Suriati for details: <a href="mailto:Suriati_Suradi@moe.gov.sg">Suriati_Suradi@moe.gov.sg</a>  <b>Kodaly Singing Sessions</b> will start in August Please contact Ms Tan for details: <a href="mailto:Tan_Bee_Ngoh@moe.gov.sg">Tan_Bee_Ngoh@moe.gov.sg</a>
2	<b>Orff CoP</b>	24 Aug 2012, 3:00 to 5:30 pm Meeting Point: STAR @ Malan Road  Please contact Ms Tan for details: <a href="mailto:Tan_Bee_Ngoh@moe.gov.sg">Tan_Bee_Ngoh@moe.gov.sg</a>
3	<b>N(T) Music</b>	<b>Please contact Mrs. Rebecca Loke for details</b> <a href="mailto:rebecca_loke@moe.edu.sg">rebecca_loke@moe.edu.sg</a>
4	<b>Pop Band</b>	<b>Starting in August 2012</b>

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

**Arts Education Conference 2013 - Call for Papers!** For more details, please refer to <http://www.arts2013.sg/>

## What's on the Arts Scene



- **[LIGHT and Quiet Dreams: Concert by Raffles Institution 2012 Year 6 MEP Class](#)**  
Join the Raffles Institution's 2012 Year 6 MEP Class and their specially invited guests for an evening of eclectic repertoire, ranging from Bartok, Barakatt to Bolling!  
Tickets at \$10 and \$25. Call / Sms 9820 8696 for details.  
*4 July 2012, Wed, 7.30 pm, Esplanade Recital Studio*
- **[Arts in Education Forum by SOTA](#)**  
The Arts in Education Forum (AEF) aims to deepen understanding of the importance of arts in education and to explore pedagogies for the twenty-first century, by bringing together the community of educators, practitioners and thinkers in the field of the arts and beyond. This year's theme is Arts in Education: Teaching and Learning through the Arts – Shaping and Impacting Society  
*5-6 July 2012, Thurs – Fri , SOTA*

- **Vagabond Rock by SOTA Music Faculty**

Join SOTA Music Faculty members for an exhilarating night of music. Together with guest violinist, Loh Jun Hong, the concert will present works of Weber, Martinu, Christina Tan, John Lewis, Susanne Wurmnest and Steve Reich. [Click Here to register](#). Please contact Tel: +65 6338 9663, Email: enquiries@sota.edu.sg

13 July 2012, Fri, 7.30 pm, SOTA Concert Hall

- **Don't Stop Believing! SLO Children's Choir in Concert**

Join the Singapore Lyric Opera Children's Choir for an inspiring evening of songs and stories from our youth. Featuring folk songs from Asia, Europe and North America, the concert will include songs like Ikan Kekek and Humpty Dumpty; newly commissioned songs by local composers Dr Kelly Tang and Dr Goh Toh Chai and an arrangement of Dr Liang Wen Fu's xinyao. This concert is eligible for Tote Board Grant.

13 July 2012, Fri, 7.30 pm, Esplanade Concert Hall

- **TRACES: Essence of Existence**

The Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan Dance Troupe presents its 10<sup>th</sup> biennial dance performance this year! Repertoire includes choreography inspired by the styles of traditional ethnic minority groups, infused with a modernised perspective. Chinese classical dance pieces will also be showcased. Tickets at \$22 or \$18.

15 July 2012, Sun, 3pm or 8 pm, University Cultural Centre, NUS

- **Music Elective Programme Concert: 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations**

The Music Elective Programme celebrates 30 years this year with a concert at the Esplanade! Concert programme includes favourites like Saint-Saëns' Carnival of Animals and Singapore Premiere of Leong Yoon Pin's Celestial Peach Garden for mixed ensembles. There is also a fringe event at Library@Esplanade on Sat 14 Jul 1.30pm where MEP students will share their learning experiences in the Programme. Please send your ticket requests to Mdm Tan Ee Sin at tan\_ee\_sin@moe.gov.sg.

18 July 2012, Wed, 7.30 pm, Esplanade Concert Hall

- **Singapore! A Musical Celebration**

Celebrate Singapore's vibrant musical heritage with the Singapore Wind Symphony and special guests Vocaluptuous, through a journey of your favourite national songs! Premiering music from their "Songs of Singapore" project, treat yourself to familiar favourites of "Home", "Stand Up for Singapore", "Di Tanjong Katong", which have been given fresh spins by our very own local composers. Tickets at \$15 from [www.sistic.com.sg](http://www.sistic.com.sg)

21 July 2012, Sat, 3pm, Esplanade Concert Hall