

STAR-POST (Music)

April
2012

Dear Colleagues,

How is Singaporean identity embodied through Music? A Reflection Inspired by Dick Lee

What sparked off the question was an inspiring session by Dick Lee, who inaugurated the MOE-NAC Master Artist Series. These sessions, presented by Cultural Medallion recipients, aim to broaden our perspectives of Music education and practice, and serve as a source of inspiration for the musician in us.



And inspired us he did. Being a highly reflective musician, Dick journeyed into defining a Singaporean identity through his music. He fused Malay, Chinese, and Indian musical elements with pop (e.g. *Mustapha*, *Lover's Tears*), pioneering a style of Asian pop much sought by the Japanese music industry. He emphasized that it was **not** the instruments – “anyone could write that”. His ‘Singaporeanness’ came from how he weaved the spirit and soul of these sounds to make it his own. Now, in his words, Dick’s music embodies the ‘bittersweet quality of our local folklores’, and that instead of writing for the *erhu*, the ‘*erhu* now lives in me!’

How is Music powerful in identity building?

Simply put, identity is a sense of belonging. Constructing an identity is very much **a process**, an ‘active engagement’ (Woodward 2000:6) – exactly like that of a musical *journey*. Music making is special as it could only happen *in* and *through* time. It is *lived* like ‘an on going tuning process in which the self is experienced as an identity in the making’ (Stubley 1998: 98; as cited in Bowman 2002: 76). Thus, it is arguable that identity-construction and music-making processes are very similar in nature. Therein lies the power of Music in engendering our students’ cultural and national identities.

How do we engage our students in developing our cultural and national identities?

When asked the above question, Dick Lee had this advice: let students begin with **imitating music that they enjoy through listening and performing**. He began by emulating the musical styles of ‘his heroes’, such as Joni Mitchell. The learning process helped him gain *an understanding of a wide range of musical styles and genres*, which became fertile grounds from which to develop his own identity.

Building students’ confidence to express their ideas are decisive first steps we could take as music teachers to create a student-centred music environment. A uniquely Singaporean identity through music evolves as we journey and work with our students to develop our collective cultural voices and identities musically.

STAR (Music) Team

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**



**Music STAR Champions Workshop
(Primary) 27 – 28 Feb, 1 – 2 Mar 2012**

Our Music STAR Champions from Primary schools came together in a workshop to investigate what Student-Centred Music Education is about. After two days of intensive musical experiences and discussions, they distilled a set of principles of Student-Centred Music Education to guide our Music lessons!



"We were actively participating in music-making activities during the workshop – that reflects how a student-centred music classroom should be!" – Ai Ling, STAR Champion from Jurong Primary School



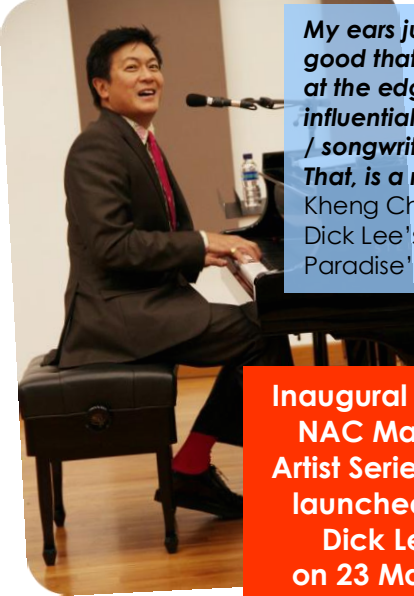
**Orff
Community of
Practice
kicked off on
1 Mar 12**



Give us a buzz (see pg 1 for our contact) if you would like to learn about applying Orff ideas in your classrooms!



**Afternoon Soirée
presented by MTPP
Graduands and
Gamelan Ensemble
on 9 Mar 12**



My ears just couldn't believe it. It was so good that I had goose bumps, and was at the edge of my seat. He is one influential and aspiring performer / singer / songwriter / composer, and he is local. That, is a rare gem. – Abdul Hakim, Kheng Cheng School, after listening to Dick Lee's live rendition of 'Fried Rice Paradise' and 'Home'

Inaugural MOE-NAC Master Artist Series was launched by Dick Lee on 23 Mar 12



Milestone Programmes

S/N	Title of Programmes	Details	Updates
1	Orff Approach in Music Education (Pri Sch)	25, 26, 27, 30 April and 2 May, 8.30am to 5.30pm @ STAR, Blk K, Level 2	Fully subscribed!
2	Kodaly Method in Music Education (Pri & Sec Sch)	18 – 29 June 2012 8.30 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. @ STAR (About 80 hours)	Primary Sch (Intermediate Level) - Fully subscribed! Primary Sch (Advanced Level) - 5 places remaining Secondary Sch (Intermediate Level) - 5 places remaining
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 dates August - November 2012 (4 months full-time in-service course at NIE)	Application closed
5	When Mentors Meet Mentees * (for Beginning Teachers)	13 Apr 2012, 3 – 5:40pm @ STAR, Blk K, Level 3 Recital Studio	Details via email
6	Dalcroze Approach in Music Education (Pri Sch)	9, 10, 11 July, 8.30am to 5.30pm @ STAR, Blk K, Level 3 Recital Studio	Details via email in mid-May
7	Dalcroze Approach in Music Education (Sec Sch)	12, 13 July, 8.30am to 5.30pm @ STAR, Blk K, Level 3 Recital Studio	Details via email in mid-May

*Part of the Beginning Teachers' programme to support teachers in their initial teaching years. It provides a networking opportunity for Beginning Teachers to meet STAR Associate(s) who will be mentoring them.

Supporting Programmes

Primary School Teachers

S/N	Title of Workshops	Details	Course Code	Status
1	Singing for Primary School Music Teachers	31 Jul, 7, 14 and 21 Aug, 3 – 5.30pm @ STAR, Blk K, Level 2 Ensemble Studio	21152	Application through TR AISI in late June
2	Ukulele Playing	In Semester 2: August	TBC	
3	An Overview of Romantic Symphonies by Dr Kenneth Hamilton	04 Apr, 4:45 - 6.00pm @ STAR, Blk K, Level 3 Recital Studio	NA	Ready to launch

Secondary and JC Teachers

S/N	Title of Workshops	Details	Course	Status
-----	--------------------	---------	--------	--------

			Code	
1	<u>Basic Music Writing Skills II</u>	13 Jan – 13 Apr (every Fri); 2 – 3:30pm	20634	On-going
2	<u>Introduction to Music Analysis II</u>	13 Jan – 13 Apr (every Fri); 3:30 – 5:30pm	20635	On-going
3	<u>Ukulele Playing</u>	In Semester 2: August	TBC	Application through TR AISI in late June
4	<u>Prescribed Source Material for 'O' Levels: Jiangnan Sizhu</u>	16 July AM Session: 10am – 12pm OR PM Session: 3 – 5pm	21195	Application through TR AISI in mid-May



Communities of Practice (CoP) for Everyone!

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 Meeting Point: STAR @ Malan Road	Details in Semester 2
2	Kodaly CoP	16 April 2012, 3:00 to 5:00 pm Meeting Point: STAR @ Malan Road	
3	Orff CoP	24 Aug 2012, 3:00 to 5:00 pm Meeting Point: STAR @ Malan Road	
4	N(T) Music	Please contact Mrs. Rebecca Loke for details rebecca_loke@moe.edu.sg	

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

What's on the Arts Scene



- **Mebarung: An Evening of Balinese Music and Dance**
Enjoy an evening of Balinese music and dance with two of Singapore's finest Balinese gamelan Orchestras Gamelan Gita Buana and Gamelan SingaMurti. There will also be guest artists from Bali. FREE Admission!
Email niky@gamelan-asmaradana.com or tyconstant@nus.edu.sg for details
Tues 3 April 2012, 7.30pm, Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music Orchestral Hall
- **The RETURN of the Mad Chinaman 疯狂中国人-后传**
The RETURN of the Mad Chinaman will showcase his music journey in Japan with songs such as Sukiyaki and Bengawan Solo; his musicals with songs such as Love is Eternal from the musical Snow Wolf Lake ; and his return to Singapore with his well-known local musical Fried Rice Paradise.
Thurs 5 Apr to Fri 6 Apr 2012, Thu & Fri, 8pm Singapore Conference Hall
- **ROAM: From Resighi to Russia: A Concert by RI's Top Musical Ensembles**
Whether your taste is for lush orchestral symphonies or the ebullient modern soundscapes, 'Roam' brings together for you some of the most striking music written. In the first part of the concert be transported across a wide variety of musical forms and worlds by our ensembles, and in the second, indulge yourselves in RI Symphony Orchestra's rendition of Aram Khachaturian's cinematic 'Spartacus'.
Email Ms Tan Yan Ling at artsadmin@ri.edu.sg or Fax: +65 6353 8357 for enquiries
Sat 7 April 2012, 7.30pm, School of the Arts Concert Hall
- **Conservatory Orchestra Series: Scottish Light & Russian Darkness**
With Conductor Mark Wigglesworth: Shostakovich's ebullient Festive Overture, Bruch's evocative Scottish Fantasy and Tchaikovsky's most intense and heartfelt works, his final Sixth Symphony.
Wed 12 April 2012, 7.30pm, Esplanade Concert Hall
- **Bitesize: Appreciating World Music by Joyce To**
What is world music? What kinds of music are considered to be world music? Participants will gain more insights about the various music genres, its origins and the types of music used around the world for various occasions, how to recognise rhythms and how different sounds are created. There will be hands-on opportunities to create your own music using instruments such as the African "talking drums", the Hawaiian ipu, South American tribal rattles and more.
Sun 22 April 2012, 2.00pm, Esplanade Rehearsal Studio
- **Singapore Symphony Orchestra : Pictures at an Exhibition**
Lü Jia conductor and Alexander Souptel solo violinist: GLAZUNOV - Violin Concerto in A minor, Op. 82. Other works - DVOŘÁK - Carnival Overture and MUSSORGSKY - Pictures at an Exhibition.
Sat 28 April 2012, 7.30pm, Esplanade Concert Hall