

SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL CHORAL FESTIVAL 2014



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CONTENT

Message From The Festival Director Message From The Artistic Director

2
3

Voice of Glory HKBP
Johor Bahru Chamber Choir

38
38

Organisers' Profile (SourceWerkz) Organisers' Profile (Rave Group)

4
5

Ching-Yun Choir
Taizhou Aiyue Children's Choir

39
39

Festival Programme Competition Schedule

6-7

Concord Primary School Choir
Sweet 13 Choir Club

40
40

Choral Advice From Our Experts Around the World

Dr. Katherine Wallace
Chen Yun-Hung
Dr. Eugene Rogers

9-10
11
12

The Children Chorus of Guangzhou Opera House
Pei Chun Public School Choir

42
42

Artistic Panel and Adjudicator Profile

Festival Director Profile

Lim Ai Hooi

14

East Spring Chorale
Zhonghua Secondary School Choir

44
44

Artistic Director Profile

Jennifer Tham

15

Fairfield Choir
Queensway Secondary School Choir

45
45

Artistic Panel Profile

Chen Yun-Hung
Jonathan Velasco
Mark O'Leary

16
17
18

Anderson Choir
Xinmin Chorale

46
46

Adjudicator Profile

Nelson Kwei
Toh Ban Sheng
Susanna Saw
Dr. Katherine Wallace
Indra Listiyanto

19
20
21
22
23

Ming-Ho Riverside Choir
Solo Cantabile Cantora

47
47

Guest Adjudicator Profile

Lee Yuk Chuan

24

Shunde Beijiao Children's Chorus
Beatty Secondary School Choir

50
50

Guest Choirs' Profile

ONE Chamber Choir
SYC Ensemble Singers
NUS Choir
Amoris Singers
Project All-Sing by the ACJC Alumni Choir

26
27
28
29
30

Paya Lebar Methodist Girls' School (Secondary) Choir
Macau Youth Choir

51
51

Methodist Girls' School Choir
The Junyuan Choir

52
52

Participating Choirs' Profile

Harmonix Youth Choir
Student Choir of UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya

32
32

Bedok South Secondary School Choir
Global Pretasi School Choir

53
53

National Junior College Choir
Pancasila University Choir

33
33

Phoenix Singers
双溪威俱乐部合唱团 (Sungei Way Club)

54
54

NUS High School Choir
Nanyang Technological University CAC Choir

34
34

Bosowa International School Choir
Assumption English School Choir

55
55

Van Lith Choir
The Female Choir of Guangdong Education University

35
35

China's Hainan Philharmonic Woman's Chorus
Paduan Suara El-Shaddai USU

36
36

The Hsinchu Philharmonic Chorus
Vox Glorify Choir

37
37

Acknowledgements

56



“Music is a beautiful creation of the heavens. It is about community, you and me. It is love, neither selfish nor self-centered. Music brings reconciliation and healing, peace and joy.”

– Ms Lim Ai Hooi

MESSAGE FROM THE FESTIVAL DIRECTOR

Dear Conductors, Choristers and fellow choral enthusiasts,

I am very humbled by the overwhelming response for the 1st Singapore International Choral Festival 2014 held from 21 – 24 August.

The modern and bustling city state of Singapore hosts the inaugural festival that is designed as a platform for choirs of all ages to immerse in the vast cultural richness of the international choral scene as well as forge friendships and exchange ideas amongst fellow choral enthusiasts. Over the period of the festival, the participating choirs will add vibrancy to the local music scene and inspire even greater participation in the arts.

Under the artistic direction of Singapore Cultural Medallion recipient Ms Jennifer Tham of Singapore, this festival brings together an international panel of choral clinicians to lend their experience and guidance to the participants. We have Ms Chen Yun-Hung (Taiwan), Mr Jonathan Velasco (Philippines) and Mr Mark O'Leary (Australia) as part of the artistic panel as well as local maestros Mr Nelson Kwei and Mr Toh Ban Sheng on the jury. Post-registration, our jury panel was further expanded to include Dr Katherine Wallace (Singapore), Ms Susanna Saw (Malaysia) as well as Mr Indra Listiyanto (Indonesia).

I would like to give a very warm welcome to all our judges, participating choirs and their supporters and hope you will have an enriching choral journey over the next four days in Singapore.

Let's make music, together.

Ms Lim Ai Hooi

Festival Director

1st Singapore International Choral Festival



Photo credit : NAC

MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Every choir is a symbol of hope, a celebration of humanity. Something wondrous takes place when people come together to sing: they learn to connect with one another in all their messy human-ness; they learn to trust, themselves, and everyone else; they learn to accept that they can only be Right, together. Together, they can do anything.

Every choir is on this journey of discovery. The choirs growing up in our schools, our young meritocratic societies, are still defining themselves and what it means to be a “good” choir. Festivals and competitions are a big part of the Asian choir's story; results and awards, indicators of our progress. “Gold” signifies success, some choirs achieve it early, other choirs later in their lives, and for some, it remains elusive.

Every choir that perseveres has already won. In the age of distraction and the virtual choir, when largish groups of people gather in song, there needs be an Occasion. And there is.

Welcome to the 1st Singapore International Choral Festival.

Jennifer Tham

Artistic Director

1st Singapore International Choral Festival

ORGANISERS' PROFILE



Driven by a common passion in music and a heart for the community around us, SourceWerkz was set up under the direction of Ms Lim Ai Hooi together with choral director Mr Yong Chee Foon and two other choral enthusiasts in 2011 with the aim of providing quality music and choral education.

In association with Rave Group PL, we launched our first event, the Winter Choral Festival™ in Hong Kong Disneyland that features a festival helmed by an international panel of judges. More importantly, the festival provided numerous learning and performance opportunities for participants via choral workshops with our judges and the Disney Performing Arts program, where choirs performed in Hong Kong Disneyland and attended a special workshop by the Music Director of Hong Kong Disneyland. The festival, currently in its fifth iteration, gave our participants a unique, multi-faceted experience of a lifetime.

Since 2012, we collaborated with Dr. Paulo Lourenço to organise the annual Portuguese Summer Choral Festival with the support of EGEAC – a Lisbon municipality enterprise whose vision is to enhance and stimulate the arts and culture of the city of Lisbon. The festival is part of the annual Festas de Lisboa festivities, which attracts tourists from around the world, providing the perfect platform for our participating choirs to reach out to an international audience. One of the highlights of the festival is the outreach performances at the various historical and cultural landmarks around Belém, including the UNESCO Heritage site, the Jerónimos Monastery. Invited guest choirs from around the world including the alumni of the World Youth Choir, singers from the University of Michigan, New Israeli Voices from Israel, Ars Nova from Hungary, Polish National Youth Choir and ONE Chamber Choir from Singapore provided different singing styles, repertoire, culture and perspectives to the festival, making it a truly enriching experience for our participants.

Over the past three years, we have also brought clinicians into Singapore to work with our local choirs. These clinicians include Dr. Paulo Lourenço from Portugal, Mrs Angie Johnson from the United States, Mr Werner Pfaff from Germany and Mr Kari Ala-Pöllänen from Finland. We will continue to bring in suitable clinicians as they bring with them fresh ideas and perspectives into Singapore's choral scene.

Always looking for opportunities to spread the message of love, peace and unity through choral music, we have conceptualised and are the organisers of the 1st Singapore International Choral Festival held from 21 – 24 August 2014. With 49 choirs and over 2200 participants, we are truly humbled by the response of this inaugural festival and are looking to cement this event as a milestone in the Singapore choral and arts calendar.

ORGANISERS' PROFILE



Rave Group Pte Ltd, an events and destination company, incorporated in 2004 with excellent support from its industry partners, to tailor each fully-integrated programme specifically to our client's objectives and desire results.

We "LIVE TO INSPIRE" represents our commitment in providing services and experiences based on inspirations that enrich life journeys - enhancing academic knowledge advancement.

We aim to inspire our clients and to broaden their horizons. Through relevance, collaboration, innovation and development, we Live to Inspire. It is by this commitment combined with tremendous passion that we promise you a unique experience in a lifetime.

Since 2009, Rave Group produced the Winter Band Festival™, Winter Choral Festival™, Asia Youth Dance™ and the Winter Chinese Orchestra Festival™ which has brought together more than 8,000 youth performers through the years.

Since 2008, as the event secretariat appointed by the Wind Bands Association of Singapore, we successfully managed three Singapore International Band Festivals that attracted more than 70 participating ensembles in 2012 from Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Thailand and China. In the same year, we are appointed by the Band Directors' Association (Singapore) as their event secretariat for the 17th Conference of the Asia Pacific Band Directors' Association participated by more than 2,000 musicians from the Asia Pacific region attending workshops, meetings and performances throughout the week.

FESTIVAL PROGRAMME COMPETITION SCHEDULE

21 August
Thursday
Opening Concert
The Star Performing
Arts Centre

1930h
The Amoris Singers
The Phoenix Singers (Malaysia)
Project All Sing by ACJC Alumni Choir
CCC Kei Wan Primary School Choir (Hong Kong)
ONE Chamber Choir and SYC Ensemble Singers
NUSChoir

The 1st Singapore International Choral Festival Opening Concert marks the start of the inaugural choral festival in Singapore. Featuring our very own local young adult choirs as well as two guest participating choirs from the festival, this concert brings together all participating choirs and guests at The Star Theatre, The Star Performing Arts Centre to join in a night of choral artistry and song.

22 August
Friday
Competition
SCO Concert Hall

Category B2 – Mixed Voices 25 years and below
1600h Harmonix Youth Choir
1615h Student Choir of UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya
1630h National Junior College Choir
1645h Pancasila University Choir
1700h NUS High School Choir
1715h Nanyang Technological University Cultural Activities Club Choir
1730h Van Lith Choir

Category A3 – Equal Voices 25 years and below
1745h The Female Choir of Guangdong Education University

Category A4 – Equal Voices Open
1805h China's Hainan Philharmonic Woman's Chorus

Category B3 – Mixed Voices Open
2000h Paduan Suara El-Shaddai USU
2015h The Hsinchu Philharmonic Chorus
2030h VOX Glorify Choir
2045h Voice of Glory HKBP
2100h Johor Bahru Chamber Choir
2115h Ching-Yun Choir

23 August
Saturday
Competition
SCO Concert Hall

Category A2 – Equal Voices 16 years and below
0930h Ming-Ho Riverside Choir
0945h Solo Cantabile Cantora
1000h Purwa Caraka Music Studio Children Choir
1015h CHIJ St. Theresa's Convent Choir
1030h Balestier Hill Secondary School Choir
1045h St. Margaret's Secondary School Choir
1100h Shunde Beijiao Children's Chorus
1115h Beatty Secondary School Choir
1300h Paya Lebar Methodist Girls' School (Secondary) Choir
1315h Macau Youth Choir
1330h Methodist Girls' School Choir
1345h The Junyuan Choir
1400h Bedok South Secondary School Choir
1415h Global Pretasi School Choir

FESTIVAL PROGRAMME & COMPETITION SCHEDULE

23 August
Saturday
Competition
SCO Concert Hall

Category D – Jubilee
1430h Phoenix Singers
1450h 双溪威俱乐部合唱团 (Sungei Way Club)

Category C – Folklore
1530h Bosowa International School Choir
1550h Assumption English School Choir
1610h Purwa Caraka Music Studio Children Choir
1630h Student Choir of UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya
1650h The Female Choir of Guangdong Education University
1710h Solo Cantabile Cantora
1730h Pancasila University Choir
1750h Ming-Ho Riverside Choir
1810h China's Hainan Philharmonic Woman's Chorus
2000h Global Pretasi School Choir
2020h The Hsinchu Philharmonic Chorus
2040h Voice of Glory HKBP
2100h Paduan Suara El-Shaddai USU
2120h Ching-Yun Choir
2140h Van Lith Choir

Competition
Victoria Concert Hall

Category A1 – Equal Voices 12 years and below
1400h Taizhou Aiyue Children's Choir
1415h Concord Primary School Choir
1430h Sweet 13 Choir Club
1445h SJKC Kung Man Choir
1500h Endeavour Primary School Choir
1515h The Children Chorus of Guangzhou Opera House
1600h Pei Chun Public School Choir
1615h CCC Kei Wan Primary School Choir
1630h CHIJ Our Lady Queen of Peace Choir

Category B1 – Mixed Voices 16 years and below
1830h East Spring Chorale
1845h Zhonghua Secondary School Choir
1900h Fairfield Choir
1915h Queensway Secondary School Choir
1930h Anderson Choir
1945h Xinmin Chorale

Outreach Performance
Sentosa Island

Merlion Park
Wings of Time Concourse
Vivo Concourse

24 August
Sunday
Outreach Performance
Sentosa Island

Merlion Park
Wings of Time Concourse
Vivo Concourse

Closing Ceremony
Esplanade Concert Hall

1930h Closing Concert and Grand Prix Round
Award Presentation
Guest of Honour Ms Kathy Lai
CEO, National Arts Council, Singapore

Choral Advice From Our Experts Around the World



Dr. Katherine Wallace

Assistant Professor
Yong Siew Toh
Conservatory of Music,
Singapore

Some Thoughts on Choral Blend

One of the trickiest aspects of shaping choral excellence is the idea of choral blend. Unless you have the liberty during auditions to select like voices with a particular choral sound in mind (ie. a "Scandinavian" or "Early Music" sound), like almost all choral directors you will be faced with the challenge of blending diverse voices into a homogeneous sonority. This aspect of choral training became particularly challenging for me when I was asked to lead an international, university-level chamber choir which included voice majors (some of them training in operatic style), non-voice music majors (perhaps brilliant on piano or violin, but with no singing experience), and non-music majors (most of whom had some choral experience). As you can imagine, the diversity of tone colour, volume control, and even vowel formation, was immense. My time spent working with this type of choir have yielded a few insights into producing a more blended choral sound.

The main challenges to good choral blend include a diversity of tone colour, volume and strength, vowel formation, intonation, and rhythmic precision. While a few specific challenges (volume control, excessive vibrato, or monotone singing) may require individual attention, and are best dealt with in a private setting, these can all be addressed through warm-ups, during the rehearsal, and through standing formation. But above all, good choral blend is best achieved by fostering intentional listening.

Warm-ups which teach healthy vocal production, clarity of diction (consonants), unified vowel formation, vocal flexibility, and rhythmic precision are integral to the choral rehearsal. Take full advantage of your warm-up time to teach voice production (well-supported head voice), volume control, and vowel formation. There are many books, articles and online examples of effective warm-ups which address these aspects of choral singing. Make sure your singers know why they are singing a particular exercise (ie. it will help them find their head voice, produce an open, full tone, provide continuity throughout the range, etc.); don't be afraid to draw attention to the mechanics or the importance of unified tone colour or vowel formation, particularly as it relates to choral blend. For instance, when teaching vowel formation, I like to ask two singers to sing the same long tone, one on "ah" and one on "ee"; then have them sing the pitch again, both on "ee"—the choir will be able to hear the beating in the first example, and the purity of the second. This often encourages singers to be more intentional about their vowels. Of course, repertoire may dictate specific changes to tone colour, brightness of vowels, or use of vibrato. The opening of Knut Nystedt's "O Crux," with its transparent, continuous line, triple-piano dynamic, and subtly-changing tone clusters, requires a purer sound, while Brahms' "Warum ist das licht gegeben" needs darker vowels, and a spacious, warm tone. These can be taught within rehearsals, as can rhythmic precision, balance, and diction (I advocate the use of count singing, à la the great Robert Shaw, in combination with rhythmic entrainment, to enhance accuracy of rhythm, tempo and general 'togetherness').

Beyond standing position, warm-ups, and in-rehearsal exercises, the most important thing you can do as a conductor to achieve a good choral blend is to foster intentional listening. First of all, I do not ask my choristers to blend, or to alter their tone or voice production (perhaps this is a lingering scar from one early music director who asked all of us sopranos to sound like boys); rather I encourage each singer to sing as naturally and comfortably as possible, and I ask them to LISTEN. Listening is, I have found, the key to almost all choral problems—intonation, ensemble, and blend. Unfortunately, in our modern sound-blasted world (ie. Singapore!), we have been trained to tune-out extraneous noise, music, or conversations (especially our parents or spouse); we have lost the art of intentional listening. But this can be re-learned.

I challenge you to take a walk through one of Singapore's many nature reserves in the early morning, and listen intentionally to birdsong (you may hear up to 72 different species in one morning!) Can you differentiate between calls—which birds whistle, tweet, chatter, or cluck? What pitches do you hear? What 'vowels' and 'consonants'? What other sounds do you hear—wind, leaves, rushes, water? If you favour a more urban experience, stand on the corner of Orchard and Scotts and just listen. Try to identify what you are hearing—languages, vehicles (heavier & lighter ones), advertisements, street music, construction tools . . . What 'harmony' is this making?

In the rehearsal setting it is important to remind singers to listen intentionally, through verbal instruction, and sometimes simply by pointing to your ear. But even here, there are so many sounds happening at once, that often singers do not know what to listen for. They should, in fact, be listening to everyone except themselves—in that way they will, in fact, hear their own voice in relation to the other voices, the choral sound, and the harmony. To foster intentional listening, directors can help singers identify specific harmonic, rhythmic, or contrapuntal relationships (ie. 'in measure 24, altos should tune to the basses' or 'see how the melody is passed from tenors to sopranos in measure 30?'). While reading or rehearsing a specific voice part, occasionally have the other voices sing along (in their own octave); this will help them listen for and recognize the other parts while singing their own. A review of intervals, sol-fege or voice leading (ie. music theory!) is not out of place in a choral rehearsal if it helps singers to hear the relationship between their part and another. Quiz choristers as to how their pitch functions in the chord (are they singing the root, the third, a second?) or what interval they just sang (a descending minor sixth?) to help them hear and produce perfect intonation. Listening is a mental exercise—understanding what they hear will help singers listen with their minds. Secondly, listening is a physical exercise. When singers are tired, hungry, bored, or distracted, they become unaware of the physicality of singing, and stop listening intentionally (I remember coming to the second last movement in the Mozart Requiem, on the 5th day of a long run of performances, and suddenly 'waking up' and thinking are we at this movement already? I had been singing all along, but certainly not listening!). Give singers physical activities to focus their minds and ears on the music. For instance, my tenors had to sing a cantus firmus which repeated the same pitch for 12 measures, and invariably they went flat—but they couldn't seem to hear it. In rehearsal, I had them hold their right arms straight out in front of them as they sang. As long as their arm pointed forward and still, they were listening for the continuity of the tone and their pitch remained true. Another 'trick' is to let singers face each other (turn, or stand in a circle) while they sing. If their eyes are focused on others' singing, their ears will be also. When they know the piece by heart, standing

in a circle facing outwards and lightly touching hands will compel singers to listen to those on either side and behind them. Whenever possible sing without music: too often singers are buried in the score, and the sense of sight supersedes the sense of hearing (especially in our literate society). Teach some of your repertoire orally, rather than through sight-reading, to enhance a choir's intentional listening. Of course dancing helps a choir listen with their body to the beat (especially useful for a triple meter piece). Just changing up the choir's physical arrangement in a rehearsal will help wake up the body, and therefore enhance the physical aspect of listening. Standing in mixed formation puts added pressure on individuals in regard to accurate intonation, thus they begin to listen more intently.

Intentional listening will increase the physical and mental stamina of your choir, producing a more homogenous blend and a tighter ensemble. It addresses issues of rhythmic ensemble, intonation, and tone colour (intentional listening can help a singer with excessive vibrato find the tonal center of her sound-wave, and focus it more tightly, so a clearer, more blendable tone is produced – asking singers to 'sing through their neighbour's voice' compels them to listen, and also subtly changes their own tone colour). Ultimately, I ask my choir members to imagine the most beautiful sound for their section, and the ideal sound for the choir, and to 'listen' for that sound as they sing. When singers listen intentionally, they will unconsciously make adjustments in volume and voice production in order to achieve that ideal sound, and you will have come a long way toward achieving good choral blend.

For Further Reading:

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Chen Yun-Hung

CEO/Artistic Director of
Taiwan Choral Music
Center

How Conductors Should Rehearse New Choral Pieces

A key to a successful rehearsal is how a conductor rehearses a new choral piece. In this article, I would like to share some pointers, which should help younger conductors to do so more effectively:

Share the background of the song with your members:

- Introduce the composer's biography so that your members understand the background and style of the composer;
- Provide additional information on the song's background and music features so that members have a deeper understanding of the piece; and
- Analyze the song structure.

Let your members see the big picture:

- Using sight-singing and let your members sing through the entire piece in the stated tempo. If your members are not good at sight-singing, get a pianist to play the song, while your members listen or hum along. You can also play a recording of the song, so that your members have an overall view of the song.

Working on Details:

- Work on the pitch and rhythm of the song in sections. The tempo can be slower for practice, but more importantly, ensure that members get the pitch and rhythm correct. For more difficult passages, do not expect to master it at one go. Instead, take note of the difficult passages and return to it in future rehearsals; and
- Practise pronouncing the lyrics and familiarise members with the phrases, and the meaning of the lyrics. Let your members first recite the lyrics, then add in the music. This should help them better understand the song's meaning and expression.

Song Interpretation:

Work on the interpretation of the song from a macro to micro view. First, work on the overall interpretation of the song, followed by working on the interpretation of each musical passage, and finally on the interpretation of each musical line. There is no end to music interpretation, but do not go into detail before the members are familiar with the song as it will often be detrimental to mastering the song.

Rehearsing a new song is like building a house:

The location of the house and its surroundings – Background of the song

The materials used to build the house – Features of the song

Layout of the house – Music structure

How the rooms are located to each other – Relation between each musical paragraph

Interior design – Interpretation of the song

Furnishing – Detailed interpretation

Perhaps we can also think of other analogies that can relate to learning a new song.



Dr. Eugene Rogers

Associate Director of
Choirs and Assistant
Professor of Conducting
University of Michigan,
USA

Choral Music in the United States

Earlier this year I was asked by Chorus America to participate in an article pertaining to the state of choral music in the United States – “Trendspotting: What’s On the Horizon for Choruses.” Despite the fact that the article was geared towards choruses in the US, I believe there are many overarching themes which all choirs around the world have to consider in the 21st century.

With over one million people participating in choirs throughout the United States, the rise of a cappella ensembles on College and University campuses, new semi-professional and professional choirs increasing regularly, and the wave of new popular shows like “The Voice”, “American Idol” and “America’s Got Talent”, it is shocking that we are still seeing an increasing number of school programs being eliminated everyday. One can’t help but wonder where is the future of music headed (specifically choral music in this instance)? Will we have an audience and/or will we still be relevant to this lightning-speed changing culture?

Several of my colleagues and I took on the challenge of answering several questions that attempt to get at the ‘heart of the matter’ which forced us to evaluate and reconsider our artistic and technological choices. Questions like “How can we continue to elevate awareness of, and appreciation for, choral music?”; “What opportunities do choruses need to take advantage of in order to be successful in the future?”; “What role does commissioning and nurturing the next generation of composers play in the development of choral music?”; “What shifts have choruses made in the kinds of music they are choosing to perform? Which new programming trends will we continue to see more of?”, “Despite the elimination of school programs around the country [US] - how are you seeing this play out in your communities, and how can choruses help combat this problem?”, “How is technology impacting the choral field?”

The panel of leaders (arts administrators, conductors, and composers) took on the challenge to discuss and ponder the answers to these questions –some which have no definite answers, but vary depending on the community, the type of ensemble, and their comfort with the changes. Regardless of one’s specific answers, these are excellent questions to ponder as we go forth in our field. For many of us, we would not be the person that we have become, nor travelled to such unique and exotic places, nor have met some of our closest friends, partners and spouses if it hadn’t been for choral music. I challenge every choral conductor, singer and enthusiast to ask yourself these questions, but more importantly, work to make this great art form even stronger, more relevant, consistently sublime and vibrant in your own community. If each of us took on this challenge, I believe that singers would be beating down our doors and standing in long lines to have what we all know is a life changing experience.

May this 1st Singapore Choral Festival remind you and all of your colleagues of the ever importance of choral music and the people behind such great beauty. Have a great festival!!

Artistic Panel & Adjudicator Profile



LIM AI HOOI

Singapore

Lim Ai Hooi is a highly recognised and respected conductor and educator in the Singapore and international choral scene. Among the numerous accolades she has received, the most notable are in leading the Hwa Chong Institution Choir to emerge Champion in the Mixed Choir category at the 5th World Choir Games 2008, achieving the title Absolute Winner (top choir across categories) at the Festival of Songs Olomouc, and the Prix du public (Public prize) at the 2010 Florilège vocal de Tour.

Ai Hooi's philosophy for choral music and teaching stems from her view that a fulfilling musical journey is one that is filled with sincerity, love and excellence. She uses the creation of music as a platform to share and infuse her values and beliefs in her singers, and inspires them to use the beauty of music to craft experiences that touch the hearts of the audience.

Ai Hooi actively contributes to the growth of the local choral scene, through nurturing younger choral conductors and choristers. On top of conducting several local secondary and junior college choirs, Ai Hooi established ONE Chamber Choir, a young adult choir. ONE entered into a partnership with the Song Lovers Choral Society in 2010 (formerly known as Lee Howe Choral Society), to form its youth wing. Since its establishment, ONE has presented unique experiences to its audiences through challenging conventional choral performances and exploring new dimensions to choral delivery under the artistic leadership and vision of Ai Hooi.

Ai Hooi also co-founded Sourcewerkz PL to further her calling to teach, touch and transform the larger choral community and its audience. To date, Sourcewerkz has organised the Winter Choral Festival in Hong Kong since 2010 and the Portuguese Summer Choral Festival since 2012, as well as various workshops with international choral clinicians. She is also the festival director of the 1st Singapore International Choral Festival to be held in Singapore in August.

Festival Director

Artistic Director, SourceWerkz
Artistic Director, ONE Chamber Choir



Photo Credit : NAC

Artistic Director

Artistic Director,
SYC Ensemble Singers

JENNIFER THAM

Singapore

A professional choir director, Jennifer is best known for her work with the Singapore Youth Choir (now the SYC Ensemble Singers), which she has directed since 1986. Her training as a composer at the Simon Fraser University (Vancouver, Canada) has led her to explore and re-define the choral idiom through her work with the SYC and in the Singapore school choir scene. In her hands, the SYC has earned a reputation for being the composer's choir, malleable to the demands of contemporary choral music, as well as won several prizes and awards.

Jennifer is also Artistic Director of the Young Musicians' Society (YMS), which runs the First Aid for Choirs and Conductors workshop series as well as the Kodaly Seminar Asia for music pedagogues and choir conductors in collaboration with the Kodaly Institute of the Liszt Academy of Music (Budapest, Hungary). The Society also houses the Magnetic Band, the contemporary music ensemble responsible for premiering the work of modern music icons, and engaging both professional and amateur musician in growing music more organic to our soil.

Jennifer was Artistic Director of the Asia South Pacific Symposium on Choral Music (Singapore, 2001) and on the Artistic Committee for the 7th World Symposium on Choral Music (Kyoto, 2005). An elected Board member of the International Federation for Choral Music, Jennifer helps coordinate the Asia Pacific Working Committee as well as the Asia Pacific Youth Choir.

Jennifer has chaired and spoken on panels at conferences in Singapore, Sweden, Estonia and Denmark, and was principal lecturer at the 2008 Lithuanian Conductors Summer Academy, hosted by the Lithuanian Choral Union and the Ministry of Culture. She has taught choral conducting at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts and given workshops and short courses to conductors at home, in Japan and Indonesia. She is on faculty at the Kodaly Seminar Asia where she teaches conducting and leads the Morning Sing. Last year, she presented lectures and reading sessions on Singapore choral history and music at symposia in Croatia and USA; and on international youth projects in China.

Jennifer has been on competition juries in Austria, Germany, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, China and Indonesia; and represents Singapore on the World Choir Council. She recently served on jury at the 7th World Choir Games (Cincinnati, USA) and the 11th China International Choral Festival (Beijing, China).

Jennifer is an inaugural recipient of Young Artist (Music) Award, given by the National Arts Council (NAC) and serves on various advisory panels for the NAC and the Ministry of Education, Singapore. In 2011, she was awarded for "Artistic Excellence" by the Composers and Authors Society of Singapore. Most recently, she was conferred the Cultural Medallion, the nation's highest arts accolade, by the President, Republic of Singapore, for her contribution in shaping Singapore's cultural landscape.



Artistic Panel

Artistic Director,
Taipei Chamber Singers

CHEN YUN-HUNG

Taiwan

Selected by "Who is Who in Choral Music, 2007," Chen Yun-Hung has led her choirs to participate in many international competitions and won many prizes. Among her accolades include the Second Prize in "The 42nd Guido D'Arrezzo International Choir Competition" and Grand Prize in "The 36th C.A.Seghizzi International Choir Competition" in Italy. She also won the first Prize in "The 4th International Johannes Brahms Choral Competition" in Germany, and the Grand Prize in "The 22nd Béla Bartók International Choral Competition" in Hungary. Apart from these many achievements on the international stage, she has also won the best conductor prize on numerous occasions.

In 2010, her choir the Taipei Chamber Singers produced the CD "Utmost Utterance of The Time - A Tribute to Contemporary Choral Music" which won the Best Concert Award during the 21st Golden Melody Awards. Recently, Chen has travelled extensively with various choirs to many international performances and frequently been invited to be an adjudicator for many choral competitions worldwide.



Artistic Panel

Conductor, Ateneo Chamber
Singers

JONATHAN VELASCO

Philippines

Jonathan Velasco is a much sought after choral conductor, clinician and adjudicator in the world today. He studied at the University of the Philippines College of Music and at the Berliner Kirchenmusikshule in Germany. He was a member and assistant conductor of the World Youth Choir, and for the 1996 summer session became its first Asian conductor.

Velasco regularly holds choral clinics and workshops in the Philippines and all over the world. Together with his choirs, he has won first prizes in choral competitions in Maribor (Slovenia), Cork (Ireland), Marktoberdorf (Germany), and Tolosa (Spain). He has also been a member of the jury in prestigious choral competitions in Europe and Asia. He currently conducts the Ateneo Chamber Singers.

Velasco is an adviser to the board of the International Federation for Choral Music, and is the Philippine representative to the World Choir Council. He was a member of the Artistic Committee of the Polyfolia Festival in Normandy, France, from 2005 to 2012. In 2008, he was elected the first President of the newly formed Philippine Choral Directors Association.



Artistic Panel

Director, Young Voices of Melbourne

MARK O'LEARY

Australia

Mark O'Leary is one of Australia's most active choral conductors, widely respected for his work with Young Voices of Melbourne which he founded in 1990 following a Churchill Fellowship study tour of outstanding children's choirs around the world. With Young Voices Mark has produced nine CD recordings, toured all states and territories of Australia and made eight international tours to Europe, South Africa, North America, Asia and Samoa. Mark is also the conductor of Exaudi Youth Choir and Principal Guest Conductor of Gondwana Voices, Australia's national children's choir. He has worked regularly with Gondwana Voices since its first season in 1997, conducting the choir on three CDs and three international tours.

Mark has special interests in Kodaly teaching techniques, the development of excellence in children's choirs and Australian choral music. He presents many workshops each year on choral music education throughout Australia, and is the Victorian Branch President of the Kodaly Music Education Institute of Australia providing courses, workshops and events for Australian music teachers. Mark publishes Australian choral music for young choirs in the Young Voices of Melbourne Choral Series and his arrangements are performed all around the world. He is also the author of the Sight Singing School books and web site, and is a regular guest conductor at choral festivals around Australia.



Adjudicator

Choral Director

NELSON KWEI

Singapore

Nelson Kwei, the premier choral director of Singapore, is an international acclaimed conductor, conservatorium lecturer, editorial advisor, international adjudicator, music arranger and vocal clinician in the music scene. He is a Fellow from the London College of Music, has a Licentiate in singing from the Guildhall School of Music and Advance Post-Graduate in Choral Conducting from the Royal Academy of Music (London). In 2013, Nelson was elected to receive the Associateship from the Royal Academy of Music for his outstanding achievements in choral music.

In 1993, Nelson was honoured with the "National Youth Service Award", the highest Youth Award in Singapore, in recognition of his significant contribution in the field of choral art. In 1999, he was awarded with the "Culture Award" by the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry and in 2001, the Rotary Club honoured him as the "Ambassador of the Arts" for Singapore. In 2011, COMPASS Singapore has awarded Nelson with the prestigious "Meritorious Award" in view of his outstanding artistic achievement and contribution to the nation.

On the international level, Nelson won the prestigious "Outstanding Choral Director Award" two years in a row at the International Choral Competition in Germany, 1998 & 1999 and also the "Best Conductor Award" at the Petr Eben International Choral Competition 2002 & 2004 in Prague. Between 2006 and 2008, he has led his choirs to 8 Gold Medals including 3 Choir Olympic Champions in the World Choir Games held in Bremen, Germany & Xiamen, China. His choir was also the first Asian choir to win the Grand Prize & Audience Prize at the prestigious Concorso Corale Internazionale held in Riva Del Garda, Italy. In 2008, he was also conferred the "Conductor Prize" in the 10th edition of the internationally-acclaimed choral competition. In 2012, Nelson was once again presented with his 6th conducting prize in the 28th Franz-Schubert Choir Competition held in Vienna, Austria where he led Victoria Junior College Choir to attain 4 Gold awards and 2 Category Champion prizes.

Presently, he is an executive member of the National Arts Council's Advisory Board for Choral Development in Singapore and the NAC external assessor for music. Internationally, he is the First Vice-Chairman of the Asian Youth Choir Council, an international federation for choirs & conductors, as well as the Artistic Director of "A Voyage of Songs" and "Asia Canatae", both are prominent international choral competitions and "Jubilate, Festival of Choirs". Nelson is also invited as both clinician and adjudicator in many top international choral festivals and competitions including the World Choir Games Series. Currently, he is the Conductor of 9 schools, colleges, university and semi-professional choirs in Singapore that has won numerous national and international accolades.



Adjudicator

Choral Director and Editor

TOH BAN SHENG

Singapore

Starting out essentially as a self-taught musician, the former Physics teacher, completed double master degrees in Choral Conducting and Voice from the USA with the support of National Arts Council Bursary. Toh has since been recognized as a prominent music educator with a lustrous track record, garnering more than 60 gold awards at international and national competitions.

An active member in international choral scene with his choirs, Toh has been a jury member and clinician in Europe, and has written for International Choral Bulletin. Having won 23 champions, 19 special jury prizes and standing ovations with his choirs in Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, and Slovakia, he has been honoured with Conductor's Prizes seven times. To date, he has brought his conducting work to many major cities such as London, Paris and Vienna.

At home, Toh has twice won with his choirs the highest national accolade of Best Choir of the Year Award. He has also served as a Music Specialist with the Ministry of Education. Among many other appointments received, in 1999, he conducted the 800-strong National Day Parade Combined Choir at the national stadium on live telecast. In recognition of his artistic achievements and contributions in the Singapore music arena, Toh was conferred in 2006 the Young Artist Award by the National Arts Council.

He currently directs choirs in Catholic Junior College (since 2006), Crescent Girls' School (2012), Dunman Secondary School (1994), Raffles Institution (year 1-4 since 2003) and Raffles Institution Junior College (since 1998), St Joseph's Institution (since 2009), and Amoris Singers (since 2011).

Toh is married with a daughter. His self-titled book "The Accidental Conductor" was published in 2010. The Choral Series under his name with Earthsongs Music Publication was launched in 2012.



Adjudicator

Music Director, Young Choral Academy

SUSANNA SAW

Malaysia

Susanna Saw is a graduate of the Melba Memorial Conservatorium of Music, Australia. She was the choir teacher for The Australian Boys Choir Institute 1996-1998, and obtained her Australian Kodaly Certificate in Music Education in 2001. Since her return to Malaysia, she has founded The Young Kuala Lumpur Singers and The Kuala Lumpur Children's Choir. Currently a lecturer and choir director at the Faculty of Music at the University of Malaya and Malaysian Institute of Art (MIA). She conducts the MIA Ladies Chorus, which has won many Gold Medals from various international competitions. These achievements include becoming Champion of the Female Chamber Category at the 6th World Choir Games in Shaoxing, China 2010, and at the 2nd Vietnam International Choir Competition, 2012. Susanna is founder of the Malaysian Choral Eisteddfod (formerly known as Young Singers Choral Festival) in 2003, an annual young musicians' event in Malaysia dedicated to the increase of choral knowledge through various invited choir tutors from overseas.

In 2007, Susanna established the Young Choral Academy in Kuala Lumpur, a venue for choral lovers to learn more about choral music and a platform for young Malaysian composers and arrangers to compose more choral works. She helped to bring in the Kodaly Training Course to Malaysia to improve the local standards of classroom music teaching. Since 2007, Susanna has been invited by the Interkultur Foundation, Germany, to be a member of the Jury for the Asian Choir Games and World Choir Games (Indonesia 2007 & 2013, Austria 2008, Korea 2009, China 2010, Vietnam 2011, United States 2012, Japan 2012 and Latvia 2014). She has been appointed Choir Olympic Council Member of the Foundation, and has presented workshops on Malaysian Music in Vietnam 2008 and 2010, Austria 2009, Croatia 2010, and Australia 2011 and 2014. Susanna is also a member of the Asia-Pacific Choral Summit, International Federation of Choral Music (IFCM) and the International Kodaly Society.



DR. KATHERINE WALLACE

Singapore

Dr. Katherine Wallace is an active scholar, choral director, singer, and vocal clinician, specializing in early and modern music. With choral singing her most enduring musical passion, Katherine has directed church, community, children's, university, and professional choirs for almost 30 years, including acting as artistic director of the Houston-based Renaissance choir Piping Rock Singers (2003-2006) and the Canadian Medieval ensemble Trobairitz (1996-2002). Since moving to Singapore in 2006, Dr. Wallace has directed the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory Chamber Singers at the National University of Singapore, where she also lectures in music history. Before moving to Singapore, Katherine was a member of professional chamber choirs and ensembles in Canada and USA, working with such legendary choral artists as Eric Ericson, Agnes Grossmann, Tonu Kaljuste, Leonard Ratzlaff, Bo Holten, and Michel Marc Gervais. In Singapore, Dr. Wallace has served as artistic and music director for Carols by Candlelight 2008 and 2010, a Christmas extravaganza which reached an audience of over 4000 in Singapore's Fort Canning Park. She also conducted her first sing-along Messiah in Singapore in 2012.

With a voice that has been hailed as "mesmerizing" and "unfailingly lovely," Katherine has performed as soloist and with professional ensembles in England, Australia, Canada, Singapore, Hong Kong, and across the USA. The Canadian soprano has been soloist with and artistic director of professional early music ensembles (playing recorder and lute as well as singing), but is also noted as an interpreter of modern composition, having been compared to Jan DeGaetani and Cathy Berberian. Katherine has recorded for the Arktos, Castprey, and Ablaze labels.

Dr. Wallace holds a Ph.D. in Music and an M.A. in Comparative Studies from the University of Alberta, Canada, with ongoing research interests in music of the Renaissance, the intersection of music, art, and literature, and feminist musicology. Dr. Wallace has taught as a visiting lecturer at Rice University, the University of Houston, and the University of Alberta, and has published and presented on various topics, including the impact of choral singing on non-vocalists, in international journals, and at conferences in Beijing, Singapore, Sydney, Hobart, Vienna, Venice, Washington, and Los Angeles. Recent publications include: "Lessons in Music, Lessons in Love," in *Conjunctions: Body and Mind from Plato to Descartes*, Danijela Kambaskovic-Sawers, ed., Springer Press, 2014; "When Instrumentalists Sing," *International Journal of Music Education: Practice*, Feb 12, 2014 (online); "Mia Patrona e Signora – Political Intent and Female Music Patronage in Renaissance Italy," *Sun Yat-Sen Journal of Humanities*, 28 (2010): 49-61; and "Lorenzo Costa's Concert: A Fresh Look at a Familiar Portrait," *Music in Art: International Journal for Music Iconography*, xxxiii, no. 1-2 (2008): 52-67. Dr. Katherine Wallace is pleased to be a part of this historic event, the 1st Singapore International Choral Festival, and indulge her passion for choral singing once again.

Adjudicator

Assistant Professor at Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, National University of Singapore.



INDRA LISTIYANTO

Indonesia

Known and respected as an international choral conductor and adjudicator, he is often invited to participate in national and international choir competitions and festivals. He had led some leading choirs in Indonesia, include ITB Choir, Unpar Choir and Susvara Choir. He had served regularly as adjudicator in ITB Choral Festival and University of Parahyangan Choral Competition. He also served as an Artistic Director in The 1st ITB International Choral Competition and ITB National Choral Festival in 2010. In April and May 2005 he served as adjudicator and choral workshop presenter for the Singapore Youth Festival – Central Judging of Choirs.

Magnificat Choir was invited to perform in the International Church Music Festival, Bern, Switzerland in June 2005, under the direction of Sir David Willcocks and Paul Ledington Wright.

Mr. Listiyanto has been invited to present a workshop on Indonesian music in the Hawai'i International Choral Festival in Honolulu, Hawai'i in April 2006. In July 2006 he led the ITB Choir to the 4th World Choir Games (Choir Olympic) in Xiamen, China; and achieved 2 Gold Medals and 2 Silver Medals.

In July 2009 he led the ITB Choir to the 48th International Choral Competition "C.A. Seghizzi" in Gorizia, Italy and achieved : a Premio (winner) for one sub category of Musica Contemporanea ; Rank 2 in Folksong sub category - and The 3rd winner of Folksong and Gospel Category ; and Rank 4 in Monographic Polyphony - Contemporary Music. And accordingly he led ITB Choir in Europe Concert Tour through several cities and several countries : Czech, Italy, Spain, and French.

In September 2011, he led the ITB Choir to the International Choral Competition in Arezzo, Italy and succesfully achieved The 1st Winner trophy in Folksong category; and rank 3 in Periodic Poliphony (contemporary) category.

He started SVADITRA - Bandung Chamber Choir in 2012. And in August 2013 Svaditra had been invited as a guest choir to perform with Philippine Madrigal Singers in their 50 years anniversary concert in Manila. And organized by Cultural Center of Philippines to do a concert tour in several cities in Philippines.

In July 2014, his MAGNIFICAT Choir was chosen and invited to participate in the 19th International Choral Festival en Provence & Aveyron, French.

Adjudicator

Choral Conductor and Vocal Clinician



Guest Adjudicator

Conductor and Composer

LEE YUK CHUAN

Singapore

Mr Lee is a well-known conductor in Singapore. He began conducting choirs and orchestras since the 1950s when he was in his early twenties. His talents and skills in conducting choir and composing music were enhanced with the acquisition of qualifications in violin, singing and music theory from the Royal College of Music. He aims to dedicate his work to promoting choir, orchestra performances as well as local song compositions. His remarkable achievements in these fields have earned him the top position in the Choral Association (Singapore) and Association of Composers (Singapore).

Besides conducting, Mr Lee had, over the years, formed some choirs and orchestras. He was also heavily involved in preparing their concert programmes and widening their repertoires. He had led these choirs and orchestras appearing in national and major cultural events in Singapore and abroad. In 1998, he brought the Composers of Singapore Association for a series of concert performances in Beijing. In 2005, he led the combined choir of Singapore to perform the Yellow River series of songs in a few cities from Guangzhou to Yian Ann in mainland China.

Mr Lee is a prolific composer who has produced Western and Chinese orchestral works as well as songs for choir and soloist. One of his memorable works was Singapore's first full-length opera in Mandarin entitled "The Lady LingZhi" which has won accolades. He has also published three songbooks for circulation in Singapore, Malaysia and Taiwan.

As the president of two music associations, Mr Lee has initiated several major projects in the music calendar of Singapore such as "The Festival of Choirs" and "Asian Vocal Competition". He was conferred the outstanding Public Service Medal (PBM) by the Singapore President in year 2001. In year 2002, he received the "Meritorious Award" by the Composers and Authors Society of Singapore Ltd (COMPASS) and in year 2012, COMPASS presented him the "COMPASS Lifetime Achievement Award" for his valuable continuous contributions to the music scene of Singapore.

Guest Choirs' Profile

ONE Chamber Choir



Guest Choir Opening Ceremony

ONE is a young adult choir under the baton of Ms Lim Ai Hooi, one of the region's most prominent choral directors. Established in June 2009, ONE currently consists of 35 singers, all of whom are choral enthusiasts with rich choral performing experience. In September 2010, ONE entered a partnership with the Song Lovers Choral Society (SLCS), formerly known as Lee Howe Choral Society, to form the "youth wing" of SLCS. With a vision to bring a new dimension to choral performances, ONE's mission is to challenge conventional choral delivery to present a uniquely ONE experience. ONE hopes to engage, entertain and explore new themes and concepts with our audience in every performance.

In June 2012, ONE was invited as a guest choir for the first Portugal Summer Choral Festival, organized as part of the annual Festas de Lisboa event. Apart from performing Mozart's "Requiem" for the opening concert, ONE also performed at various landmarks in Lisbon, notably the UNESCO World Heritage site, the Mosteiro dos Jerónimos. In 2013, ONE took part in the Andrea O. Veneracion International Choral Festival in the Philippines and emerged first place in the Chamber Choir category.

In 2014, ONE Chamber Choir started a new annual concerts series where we explore new genres of music with overseas clinicians. Our first concert was titled "ONE with Werner Pfaff" and was held in March 2014 at The Chamber in The Old Parliament House. In it we explored a myriad of European romantic and German pieces with Maestro Pfaff from Germany.

Looking forward, the choir will feature at the Opening Ceremony of the 1st Singapore International Choral Festival and put up the annual 7byONE concert on the 13th and 20th September 2014 at The Chamber in The Old Parliament House.

SYC Ensemble Singers



Guest Choir Opening Ceremony

The SYC Ensemble Singers began life as the Singapore Youth Choir (SYC) in 1964. Considered a trailblazer and standard-bearer of choral music in Singapore, the SYC was the first local choir to win an international choral competition in 1974. It has also recorded and performed for state and national events from its inception, among which, the re-orchestrated national anthem of 2000. For its contribution to the arts in Singapore, the choir received the President's Charity and Excellence for Singapore awards in 1997 and 2000 respectively.

Renamed the SYC Ensemble Singers in 2004, the choir today is an adult chamber ensemble known for its diverse and adventurous programming, and its passion for promoting the work of living composers. Since its first commission in 1988 (思念 (Nostalgia)) by pioneer Singapore composer Leong Yoon Pin), choir has commissioned over fifty works, representing a cross section of both Singaporean and international choral composers. The choir's musical flexibility and dedication to bringing life to a composer's vision has won the choir admiration at home and abroad. The choir has received, and increasingly receives, new works written as gifts and dedications, validating it as a choir of choice for the performance and interpretation of contemporary choral music.

The SYC Ensemble Singers is led by Jennifer Tham.

Find out more about the SYC Ensemble Singers at www.syc.org.sg

NUSChoir



Guest Choir Opening Ceremony

Formed In 1980, The NUSChoir, a member of the NUS Centre For the Arts, comprises over 70 students and alumni from various NUS faculties who share a common passion for singing and choral music. The choir aims to promote choral music excellence within the campus, and to bring our music to audiences both local and foreign, by performing and competing in a wide spectrum of events throughout the years.

Every first quarter of the year, The NUSChoir stages its annual concert, Varsity Voices, performing an extensive repertoire of choral music, both old and new. This year's edition, themed Varsity Voices 2014: Pinnacle, showcased complex competition compositions alongside more lighthearted pieces.

In addition to Varsity Voices, the choir also performs for local audiences outside of NUS; the choir presents Christmas Carols every December at numerous hotels, high society clubs and shopping centres. In 2013, the NUSChoir shared the joy of Christmas with it's inaugural Christmas Concert, themed "Do You Hear the People Sing?". The repertoire included familiar Christmas tunes and a medley from the world-renowned musical, Les Misérables.

The choir also takes part in international competitions overseas as well and has garnered many awards, such as the Gold Award with Perfect Scores in Open Mixed and Jazz categories – Fiesta Choralis, Slovakia, 2010, Overall Champion with Perfect Scores – Grand Prix, Russia, 2008, amongst many accolades. Moreover, the choir emerged champions in three categories (Youth, Folk Song and Mixed Choirs) at the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod 2012 and were finalists in the Pavarotti Cup, competing for the title of 'Choir of the World'.

More recently, The NUSChoir participated in the World Choir Games, 2014 held in Riga, Latvia; the largest and widely regarded as one of the world's most prestigious choral competitions wherein the world's best choirs gather to showcase their choral excellence at the highest level. With great honour and much humility, The NUSChoir has successfully clinched three gold medals in three highly contested categories, namely: Musica Sacra (Sacred Music), Musica Contemporanea (Contemporary Music) and Folklore.

Under the baton of Prof. Nelson Kwei, Singapore's premier choral director, The NUSChoir continues to embark on its journey, expanding its repertoire to encompass even more diverse and challenging choral works.

Amoris Singers



Guest Choir Opening Ceremony

Amoris Singers was founded by Pastor Audrey Chung and Toh Ban Sheng on 26th July 2011, with the vision of sharing quality a cappella choral music with regional churches. The ministry was established with the goals to:

- 1) Raise the standards of choral music in Churches, and to minister to people through choral music;
- 2) Share God's love through music; and
- 3) Disciple a new generation of God's servants through choral music.

The ensemble has been kept at about twelve singers, who are choral conductors, music teachers and ex-singers from Choral Excellence Programme. With God's grace and provision, Amoris has since toured, performed and given workshops in Malaysia (2011, 2014), New Zealand (2012) and Indonesia (2013, 2014).

Project All Sing by the ACJC Alumni Choir



Guest Choir Opening Ceremony

On the special occasion of Singapore's inaugural SICF, a group of time-pressed but passionate singers have come together to present Project All Sing. United by a common love for music and life, Project All Sing seeks to make choral singing available to anyone who would like to participate in community choral singing of a high standard.

This evening, we are conducted by Mari Koistinen, a lecturer in Music at Kuopio Senior High (Kuopio, Finland). Mari graduated with a Masters of Philosophy in music education from the University of Jyväskylä, Finland, and has a Masters in Choral conducting at the Sibelius Academy (Helsinki, Finland). A highly sought after clinician, Mari has been invited to run many workshops and courses around the world, including at our very own School of the Arts (SOTA) and Singapore Teacher's Academy for the Arts (STAR). Mari has over 25 years of experience as a musician, where she conducted and adjudicated in many competitions all over Europe. In addition to the above, Mari is also currently serving as Vice-president of the Finnish Choral Directors Association since 2005.

Project All Sing is an initiative of the ACJC Alumni Choir. Formed in 1992 by graduates of the ACJC Choral Excellence Programme, the ACJC Alumni Choir has been an integral part of the College's choral heritage. The Commitment shown by the Alumni Choir through the years is fueled not only by their common love for singing, but also by the strong sense of camaraderie forged through shared pride and cherished experiences.

The ACJC Alumni Choir will continue to be built by those who have been touched by the power of music-making, inspired by a vision and belief that the tradition of the ACJC Choir is theirs to hold and continue.

Find out more about what we do at www.acjcchoir.sg

Participating Choirs' Profile

HARMONIX YOUTH CHOIR

SEKOLAH MENENGAH KEBANGSAAN DAMANSARA JAYA, MALAYSIA



Darrel Chan

Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Damansara Jaya formed its very own Choir and Music club as an extracurricular activity in 1984. The club was created to instill the appreciation and respect of music in the hearts of the pupils. In 2009, the name Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Damansara Jaya's Choir was changed to a much catchier name, Harmonix Youth Choir (HYC), a name still in use today. The choir has enrolment of 101 members as of the year 2014. Harmonix Youth Choir's collection of songs varies from patriotic, pop, jazz, choral, musical numbers, folk, as well as a handful of foreign songs. They also perform the choral music with uplifting choreography, thought out by their very own members.

Over the past years, Harmonix Youth Choir has strived to produce spectacular shows made possible with hard work and determination. In the year 2009, the choir was in the first place for the District Level Patriotic Choir Competition and 1st runner up for the State Level Patriotic Choir Competition. In 2010, Harmonix Youth Choir has managed to secure the first place in the Subang Parade Choir Competition as well as the Selangor Shines Choir Competition.

In 2011, the choir secured the title champions for the Subang Parade Choir Competition, ANZCA Music Festival, the State Level Patriotic Choir Competition and also the National Patriotic Choir Competition and 1st runner up for Selangor Shines Choir Competition. Also for the year 2012, the choir was placed as 2nd runner up in the Subang Parade Choir Competition. Harmonix Youth Choir won first place in the Selangor Shines Choir Competition National Edition and the State Level Patriotic Choir Competition. Also, the choir was the 1st runner up for the National Patriotic Choir Competition. In the year 2013, Harmonix Youth Choir participated in the Trinity College London's Ensemble and Choral Certificate exams and obtained a distinction.

NATIONAL JUNIOR COLLEGE CHOIR

NATIONAL JUNIOR COLLEGE, SINGAPORE



Teng Xiang Ting

The National Junior College Choir was established in 1969. Since then, the Choir has established its reputation as one of the finest school choirs in Singapore, being one of the selected schools in the Ministry of Education's Choral Excellence Programme that began in 1989.

The NJC Choir achieved success at the biennial Singapore Youth Festival Central Judging of Choirs by attaining mainly Gold, Gold with Honours and most recently, Distinction Awards.

It has also contributed actively to the community by recording and performing songs for National Day Parades and at significant events such as the inaugural Youth Olympic Games held in Singapore in 2010.

The NJC Choir has also competed and done well in international choral, with its most recent accolade being the attainment of the Gold Diploma in both the Youth and Superior categories at the 40th Festival of Songs in Olomouc, Czech Republic in 2012.

STUDENT CHOIR OF UIN SUNAN AMPEL SURABAYA

UIN SUNAN AMPEL SURABAYA, INDONESIA



M. Amin Lubis

Student Choir of State Islamic University Sunan Ampel Surabaya is the Student Activity Unit which was established on January 15, 1988. The beginning of the chorus of this stems from the choir formed from several faculties at the campus of the State Islamic University Sunan Ampel Surabaya, namely the Faculty of Tarbiyah, Syari'ah, Adab, Propagation, and Ushuluddin. Each of the faculty choir eventually merge into one from the suggestion of some officials in the State Islamic University Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Then all of those choirs formed became this choir which is directly under the auspices of the Central Office. In 2010, this choir has become one of the Student Activity Unit under the auspices of the Student Executive Council (DEMA) is directly under the supervision of Vice Chancellor-3(Student Affairs).

PANCASILA UNIVERSITY CHOIR

PANCASILA UNIVERSITY, INDONESIA



Gregorius Brian Hari Santosa

Pancasila University Choir is a Student Activity in Pancasila University which engaged in choir. Under the guidance of Hari Santosa, Pancasila University Choir has received numerous achievements including:

- 2014 Indonesia University's National Folklore Festival, Depok, Indonesia – 6th Prize
- 2013 Christmas Choir Festival, Epicentrum Walk, Jakarta, Indonesia – 2nd Prize, 3rd Prize, Favorite Award
- 2013 Christmas Choir Competition, Mall Ciputra Citraland, Jakarta, Indonesia – 2nd Prize
- 2013 Choir Competition Commemorating State-Defense Day, Department of Defense, Jakarta, Indonesia – 2nd Prize
- 2012 Festival Paduan Suara Universitas Tarumanegara, Indonesia – 1st Prize in Folklore Category, 3rd Prize in Anthem Category
- 2012 Grand Prix Pattaya, Thailand – Gold Medal in Folklore Category, Silver Medal in Mix Category

- Pancasila University Choir organized and participated in various events, including :
- Organized The 3rd Annual Concert titled "ESPLENDOR" at GoetheHaus Institute Germany, Jakarta 2013.
 - Organized Choir Festival For Highschools And Equals, Pancasila University, Jakarta 2013.
 - Participated in The Anniversary of Perusahaan Air Minum Indonesia (PERPAMSI), Jakarta 2013.
 - Participated in World's HIV/AIDS Day, Taman Mini Indonesia Indah, Jakarta 2013.
 - Participated in MNC TV's Pahlawan Untuk Indonesia, Jakarta, 2013.
 - Participated in Notary Seminar, Grand Sahid Hotel, Jakarta 2014

NUS High School Choir

NUS HIGH SCHOOL OF MATH AND SCIENCE, SINGAPORE



Lim Huimin

The NUS High School Choir (The High School Choir) is a group of highly dedicated members who actively participate in singing both in and out of choir practice. From its inception in 2005, The NUS High School Choir has been scaling new heights, participating in various school and external events.

Vision for 2014: A family of disciplined NUS High Choristers taking initiative and ownership of our singing. The NUS High School Choir embraces values of discipline, teamwork and commitment within our group. We strive to achieve success both in performance and in attitude, through spontaneity and self-directed training.

As of 2014, the NUS High School Choir has 30 members, led by our conductor Ms Lim Hui Min, and Teacher-in-charge Ms Mariko Gomez

Notable Achievements
SYF 2011 JC Category – Bronze
Music in the City – 2012, 2013
Biennale performance – SIMC
Biennale performance – Performing Arts Concert

NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY CULTURAL ACTIVITIES CLUB CHOIR

NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY, SINGAPORE



Nicholas Tham
Wen Loong

NTU CAC Choir was set up in 1989 with the purpose of promoting choral awareness within the university. Since then we have held annual concerts, performed several world premieres of choral pieces, performed for ministers and participated in a number of choral competition.

In June 2013, the Choir participated in the 4th International Krakow Choir Festival, the largest international choir festival in Poland. This event featured 26 choirs from around the world. Under the directorship of our resident conductor, Mr Yong Chee Foon, NTU CAC Choir stood strong on the international front and clinched the First Prize for the Folklore Category alongside a Second Prize for the Mixed Choirs Category. Mr Yong was also awarded a Distinction for Conductor award.

VAN LITH CHOIR

PANGUDI LUHUR VAN LITH SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL, INDONESIA



Pangudi Luhur Van Lith Senior High School, is a school established in 1991, in a small town located at the foot of Mount Merapi, Muntilan, Central Java-Indonesia. The school requires all students to live in dormitories. The education system and school curriculum is quite different than usual; we can see that by the presence of compulsory distinctive programmes in our school, such as catechesis, Nationality Knowledge, Academy Plenary, Live-in, Home stay, and many others. All these activities aimed for purposes that are in line with our school's vision and mission.

Van Lith Choir is also one of the activities that supports the school's vision and mission. This choir is trained by Mr. Heru Kuswantoro and Mrs. Suken. The choir has entered various choir competitions, such as; Karisidenan Kedu Choir Competition and District Level Magelang Choir Competition (1st winner), we have also performed in several national multilevel events. In 2012 Van Lith Choir has participated in the 1st Karangturi Choir Game (Semarang-Indonesia). Last September of 2013 was our second participation in the Karangturi Choir Games and managed to bring home a trophy for 3rd place.

FEMALE CHOIR OF GUANGDONG EDUCATION UNIVERSITY

GUANGDONG EDUCATION UNIVERSITY, CHINA



Ling Yan Huang

The Female Choir of The 2nd Normal College of Guangdong is made up of a group of young and energetic college students. Some members come from the school of musical theatre troupe. The current coaching team includes: Ms. Ling Yan Huang(Choir Conductor) and Ms. Jie Ou(Musical Performance and Vocal Performance).

Since its establishment, the Female Choir has rehearsed many works, including both Chinese and foreign classical chorus works, multi-tone singing with actions, classic operas and musicals. The Choir has also participated in major domestic performances and competitions and achieved excellent results. Key achievements include:

- 2nd Place in the competition of the University Art Show, certified by the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China,
- 1st Place of the Chinese university students' vocal music competition in Guangdong province.

CHINA'S HAINAN PHILHARMONIC WOMAN'S CHORUS

CHINA



Wang Jun

China's Hainan Philharmonic Woman's Chorus (HPWC), established in May 4, 1996, currently consists of five groups with more than four hundred members. It has trained close to one thousand singers over the years.

Over the past years, HPWC has become a well acclaimed Chorus, made dozens of media coverage in Hainan Province and nation wide, frequently appeared on China Central Television, People's Daily, China Women's Daily, Southern Weekend, Guangming Daily, etc. and was invited many times to perform abroad. HPWC has won its reputation as the brightest pearl of China's Southern Sea.

In the past years, HPWC participated in twentieth national and international choral competitions, winning gold prize in three events and Silver prizes in nine events. HPWC also participated in numerous local cultural events.

THE HSINCHU PHILHARMONIC CHORUS

TAIWAN



Chang Chsiao-Chi

The Hsinchu Philharmonic Chorus was found in March 2009. The founder Ms. Chiu Yuan-Mei has built the chorus based on the concept of "building a loving and happy singing corner using all our hearts". They love to bring music to an audience in order connect to them with their love.

The chorus has participated in many charity performances and various contests in Hsinchu and has held a charity event under the name of "Build-Love Charity Concert" each year, all proceeds from which are donated to charitable organizations such as the Christian Mountain Children's Home, the Pediatric Respiratory Care Association, the Unique Atayal College, and the Vox Nativa Taiwan. The chorus has received the silver plate in the 6th Taiwan Straits Choral Festival, the highest score achieved by any Taiwanese chorus.

PADUAN SUARA EL-SHADDAI USU

UNIVERSITAS SUMATERA UTARA, INDONESIA



Rudolf Nababan

The members of the choir come from different departments and faculties whose vision is ministry through choirs. Our aim is to increase the appreciation of singing, especially choral singing in Universitas Sumatera Utara.

In August 1995, the students of the Faculty of Science celebrated the 5th Lustrum. Dr Immanuel Meliala and one of the committee members Robert Manurung formed a choir to participate in that celebration. Hippu Roni Manurung was given opportunity to be the conductor. In December 1995, the students performed at a Christmas celebration. Several months later, there was an intention to form a choir and finally on May 1996 they formed a permanent choir. The word El-Shaddai comes from Hebrew which means "The Almighty God".

In 1998, this choir accepted students from all faculties in Universitas Sumatera Utara as choristers. Therefore, the name of the choir become Paduan Suara El-Shaddai USU.

VOX GLORIFY CHOIR

JAKARTA - INDONESIA



Conductor
Reinald Lakoro

Vox Glorify Choir was formed on January 31, 2014 under the leadership of Reinald Lakoro. Composed of young people from various church denominations in Greater Jakarta, Indonesia which has the talent and desire to serve in the shape Choir. Since established we consistent in service through praise in Churches and places of worship of other services.

The meaning of Vox Glorify Choir is voice or singing to glorify God. Our motto choir is also taken from the title of the song We Glorify Your Name (Hillsong) and Psalm 86 : 12 to verse guidance our motto.

VOICE OF GLORY HKBP INDONESIA



Huger Saragih

Voice of Glory is a youth choir of HKBP (Huria Kristen Batak Protestan), the first Batak tribe church and the largest tribe church in Indonesia with a congregation of approximately 5 million people today. Voice of Glory is formed to be a forum for youth of HKBP as a professional choir in order to develop Batak youth talent in music and singing for "Singing to Glorify the Name of God". Voice of Glory Board chaired by Mr. Timbul M. Pasaribu.

Voice of Glory formed in February 7, 2014 in Medan - Indonesia, consisted of 34 youth derived from five HKBP churches in Medan and Mr. Huger Saragih act as Conductor. Some Voice of Glory members have ever participated in several choir competitions held in Indonesia and abroad. Periodically, Voice of Glory serves worship through music and worship choir in church.

Singapore International Choral Festival 2014 is the first competition that is followed by Voice of Glory, but this choir committed to follow the other choir competitions both national and international levels.

For correspondence, Voice of Glory address : HKBP Resort Medan, Jl. Jenderal Sudirman No. 17 - A, Medan -Indonesia, Email : voiceofglory_hkbp@yahoo.co.id and website : www.voiceofgloryhkb.com.

JOHOR BAHRU CHAMBER CHOIR MALAYSIA



Fam Qing Rui

Established in 1999, with the primary aim of promoting the art of choral singing, JBCC has organised numerous concerts and performed within the country as well as on an international platform since the day of founding.

Aside from performing, JBCC also strives for choral excellence through taking part in prestigious choir competitions. In 2002, JBCC represented Malaysia in participating in the World Choir Olympics held at Busan, Korea where the choir attained 2 Silver Awards. In 2006, the choir took part in the Taipei Art Festival (Choral Presentation) and emerged as the best choir in Renaissance Repertoire Interpretation and Stage Presentation.

Back in Malaysia, JBCC lives up to its expectation of promoting the art of choral singing through organising master classes that host world renowned conductors and musicians.

Currently, JBCC is under the baton of Ms Fam Qing Rui, a budding conductor who graduated from the National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU) with a Master Degree of Fine Arts, majoring in Choral Conducting.

CHING-YUN CHOIR TAIWAN



Dr Chang Cheng-pu

Ching-Yun Choir was founded in 1973. The members are composed of the alumni of Chien-Kuo Senior High School and Taipei Municipal First Girl's Senior High School. Being one of the oldest choirs in Taiwan, Ching-Yun has witnessed the evolution of choral education and activities in Taiwan. Lead by four great conductors: Prof. Chia-Yi Lee, Prof. Chia-Fen Weng, Prof. Yi-Yin Tai and Prof. Cheng-Pu Chang, Ching-Yun Choir has the chance to explore various fields in choral music, from 16th century chants to contemporary choral music. Ching-Yun Choir holds formal concerts frequently and never hesitates for new challenges, including the Taiwan premiere of Stravinsky's Symphony of Psalms and Ralph Vaughan Williams' Mass in G Minor.

In 2014/3/3, Ching-Yun Choir just had the 40th anniversary concert at National Concert Hall, which is a milestone, also a new beginning of an abundant journey to the future.

TAIZHOU AIYUE CHILDREN'S CHOIR CHINA



Liu Yan Ling

Approved by the government of Taizhou City, Taizhou Aiyue Children's Choir is a non-profit literature and art organization belonging to the Communist Youth League of Taizhou. The group members, aging from five to sixteen, are selected from the primary and high schools in Taizhou. With a most outstanding professional conductor employed as our resident conductor, the Choir aims at advocating individuality and developing children's talents, hoping to provide a learning environment and experience of multi-intelligence, happiness and delicacy. At the same time, with more than 500 group members, we hope to discover and foster literary and artistic talents among students in Taizhou, aiming to make the Choir a top-class and influential exemplary group both at home and abroad. In 2013, the choir participated in second Asia International Vocal Festival, and won the first prize among the terms of simultaneous.

CONCORD PRIMARY SCHOOL CHOIR

CONCORD PRIMARY SCHOOL, SINGAPORE



Angila Tan

Concord Primary School Choir was established in 2000 as a Dancing Choir and integrated as Soprano / Alto choir in 2003. It has since established itself as a recognized Choir nationally and internationally, having clinched many awards, including the highest accolade of Distinction in Singapore Youth Festival Art Presentation for Choirs in 2014 and Gold with Honours award in the Singapore Youth Festival Central Judging of Choirs in 2012. Concord Choir also won the Gold award in the Voices of Asia Kuala Lumpur in 2013 and the Gold award in the International Winter Choral Festival in Hong Kong in 2012 amongst a competitive field of school choirs from around the world.

Concord's commitment to its school choir and the dedication of its teachers, have helped the choristers develop a strong sense of discipline and passion for vocal training through the sensitive interpretation of their senses. The unity and devotion of the choristers can often be heard in the beauty and elegance of each song performed by the children.

The choir has also been invited to perform at various public performances, including the inaugural Cultural Festival at the Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall in 2011, the SYF Choral Presentation in 2012 and the SYF Celebrations in 2014.

In 2013, the choir was invited by the National Library Board to produce the "Read Singapore" theme song, "I'm Gonna Read a Book Today". The Okto television channel has also produced an episode of the choir on their "After School" series to showcase the choristers' passion of singing. The choir was also honoured to be selected by the Ministry of Trade and Industry to represent Singapore to sing the National Anthem at the 2013 Formula One Singtel Singapore Grand Prix.

SWEET 13 CHOIR CLUB

SEKOLA KEBANGSAAN SEKYEN 13, MALAYSIA



Ong Bee Bee

Sweet 13 Choir Club is a small and simple primary school choir which is best for her performance with local companies since 2008. This choir group members has 60 members who aged from 9 years old to 12 years old. This choir group has been performed and competed since 2008 and among the highest achievements was 2nd Runner Up in the Petaling Perdana District Level Choir Competition 2008, 2nd Runner Up in the Subang Parade Patriotic Songs Competition 2010, Diploma Award in The 3rd Vietnam International Choral Festival 2013, 2nd Runner Up in the The 1st Smart Kids Choir Competition 2014 and etc. In 2012 and 2013, the choir group was invited to The International & Friendship Culture Camp which was organized by Songhwa Elementary School, South Korea.

Since 2010, Sweet 13 Choir Club has attended a few choir workshops which was conducted by private choir teacher. In 2012, Sweet 13 Choir Club attended The 11th and 12th Malaysia Choral Eisteddfod which was conducted by Young Choral Academy, Malaysia. In 2013, Sweet 13 Choir Club attended another International Choir Workshop by Susie Davies and Phil Splister from Australia.

In 2014, Sweet 13 Choir Club would like to try their fortune and takes the challenges enter the 1st Singapore International Choral Festival.

SJKC KUNG MAN CHOIR

MALAYSIA



Ong Zen Kai

The SJKC Kung Man Choir is one of the most established children's choirs in Malaysia. Formed in 2003, the choir is the brainchild of Mr. Ong Zen Kai, a teacher at the school, who is still directing the choir until today. The choir is a 40-member choir and is accompanied by Ms Julia Chieng.

Since 2003, the choir has secured numerous accolades including achieving Gold Medals (and Overall Champions as well) at the Malaysian National Children's Choir Competition in 2012 and the Smart Kids Asia Choir Competition this year. At the international level, the choir has also managed to secure a Gold Medal in the Malaysian Choral Eisteddfod Competition in 2012 and a Silver Diploma Level VI in the Asia Pacific Choir Games in Manado, Indonesia in 2013. In 2013, SJKC Kung Man Choir has also appeared in the best-selling My Astro Chinese New Year Album "Ulala".

ENDEAVOUR PRIMARY SCHOOL CHOIR

ENDEAVOUR PRIMARY SCHOOL, SINGAPORE



Angela Lee Sze Ling

In the 6 years since its inception, the Endeavour Primary School Choir has grown from strength to strength. The choir participated in our first Singapore Youth Festival Central Judging in 2010 and was awarded a Bronze award. The choir continued to improve and has achieved a Gold award in Singapore Youth Festival Central Judging 2012. In 2014, we are awarded Distinction in Singapore Youth Festival Arts Presentation. Besides school functions, the choir has also been invited to perform at several community events including Arts@KKH, Ensemble Series @ Singapore Conference Hall, SYF Celebrations @ the Enchanted Gardens, SYF Celebrations @ Woodlands Regional Library, Divertimento @ SOTA etc. The choir was honored to have our inaugural concert, Endeavour Sings! at The Republic Cultural Centre in 2013. We are excited to participate in the First Singapore International Choral Festival 2014.

THE CHILDREN CHORUS OF GUANGZHOU OPERA HOUSE CHINA



Su Yan Hui

The Children Chorus of Guangzhou Opera House is the first professional team built by Guangzhou Opera House itself, which combines the arts of singing and opera performing works.

As the first Children Chorus directly subordinating to opera house in China, Children Chorus of Guangzhou Opera House maintains most excellent youth and operates as a professional performance team.

As one part of the production team of Guangzhou Opera House, Children Chorus of Guangzhou Opera House performs every annual opera with masters around the world. Besides training of vocal music, the children's Chorus of Guangzhou Opera House focuses on cultivating children's abilities of acting and multi-language (Italian, French, German, English and Russian). Daniel Orem, the famous director of opera and the chief inspector of opera of Guangzhou Opera House, would teach the Children's Chorus of Guangzhou Opera House. Also there would be chances for the children to communicate with some international performance teams that come to Guangzhou performing periodically.

CCC KEI WAN PRIMARY SCHOOL CHOIR CCC KEI WAN PRIMARY SCHOOL (ALDRICH BAY), HONG KONG



Anne On-Lai Chu

CCC Kei Wan Primary School Choir was formed in 1991. The choir frequently performs in school assemblies, school concerts as well as other public performances. The choir frequently participates in Hong Kong Schools Music Festival and obtains remarkable results.

In July 2005, the choir participated the 59th Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod (Wales, UK). It won the champions of both the Senior Children's Choir and the Junior Children's Choir. In July 2006, the choir participated the 12th International Choral Kathaumixw (Powell River, British Columbia, Canada). It won the champion of the Children's Choir category.

In July 2008, the choir participated the 9th China International Chorus Festival (Beijing, PRC). It won the silver prize of the Teenagers' group.

In July 2011, the choir participated the 65th Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod (Wales, UK). It won the 4th place of the Folk Songs Category. It joined the 2011 Hong Kong International Youth & Children's Choir Festival in July. It got Gold medal and the Champion in the Children's Choir (under 12) category.

PEI CHUN PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOIR PEI CHUN PUBLIC SCHOOL, SINGAPORE



Ho Lian-lan

The school choir, under the tutelage of choir conductor, Ms Ho Lian-lan, is a strong group of choristers, bonded together by sheer enthusiasm and a common love for choral singing. The choir has established itself as an integral part of the school's music scene.

Always seeking to improve in voice and musicianship, the choir has been embarking on excursions to watch choral concerts and attending choral master classes with renowned conductors. The choir has also participated in choral festivals held overseas and in the Society for the Physically Disabled (SPD) Charity Show and a combined school choir concert, Cantarel!, in 2011. In 2013, the choir, in collaboration with Windstars Ensemble, performed in Windstars Ensemble Beautiful Sunday at Esplanade Concert Hall.

Since 1993, the choir has won eight Distinction/Gold Awards and two Gold with Honours Awards in the Singapore Youth Festival Central Judging/Arts Presentation for Choir.

CHIJ OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE CHOIR CHIJ OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE, SINGAPORE



Angila Tan

CHIJ Our Lady Queen of Peace is a 65 members strong choir consisting of pupils from Primary 2 to 6. Currently, the competition choir consists of about 36 pupils.

Under the guidance of the choir mistress, Ms Angila Tan and the choir teachers, CHIJ choir has clinched a Gold award in 3 consecutive Singapore Youth Festival competitions in 2008, 2010 and 2012. In the recent SYF competition, 2014, our school choir is proud to be awarded a Distinction under the new grading system.

This year, the choir has performed several times and their performances include performing for Honors Day, Chinese New Year Celebration and other special school occasions. The choir also had the opportunity to perform at Marina Bay Waterfront Promenade last year, 2013, with the rest of the school's performing arts groups. This year, they had participated in choral exchange programme in Maha Bohdi School.

EAST SPRING CHORALE

EAST SPRING SECONDARY SCHOOL, SINGAPORE



Lee Jun Jie Kevin

Established since 1999, the East Spring Chorale (ESC) has grown and matured steadily to become one of the most well-regarded school choirs in Singapore. The Chorale comprises more than 70 members across the soprano, alto, tenor/baritone and bass voices. Under the dynamic musical tutelage of regionally accomplished choral conductor and composer, Mr. Darius Lim, and rising talent in the local choral scene, Mr. Kevin Lee, ESC continues to explore and break new ground in Singapore's school and regional choral landscape.

With 'We sing as One' being ESC's firm belief and guiding principle, the Chorale also seeks to equip each member with life skills and competencies for the 21st century society. Each purposefully planned training activity contributes to the students' development of self-discipline, peer leadership, musical appreciation and the attitude of excellence – all while enjoying a shared passion for singing!

FAIRFIELD CHOIR

FAIRFIELD METHODIST SCHOOL (SECONDARY), SINGAPORE



Wynne On

The Fairfield Choir started out as a group under the Music Society in 1960. In 1975, the Fairfield Choir took part in the National Day Celebrations for the first time and choristers sang on board a float decorated by our very own school teachers. In 1977, the choir clinched the first position in the choral section of the Arts Festival as well as the Youth Festival. The choir was also invited to sing at the first Festival of the Arts in the same year. Over the years, the Fairfield Choir has won many accolades for its stellar performances locally and internationally, including the Silver award at the 2004 International Choral Festival at Riva Del Garda Italy and the Zlata (Gold) award at the 2006 Festival of Songs, Olomouc, Czech Republic. At the Singapore Youth Festival Central Judging, the Choir has also achieved a Gold with Honours award in 2005; Gold awards in 2007 and 2009; Silver in 2012 and this year, they were presented with the prestigious Distinction Award.

ZHONGHUA SECONDARY SCHOOL CHOIR

ZHONGHUA SECONDARY SCHOOL, SINGAPORE



Ong Kok Leong

The Zhonghua Secondary School Choir has nurtured numerous batches of potential choral singers over the years, under the guidance of conductor, Mr Ong Kok Leong and pianist, Ms Winnie Tsin. The 45-member strong choir always seeks for opportunities to sing in various internal and external performances every year. Some notable performances in recent years include "Singing All Together", a joint choral concert at the Arts House, as well as "Where Love Is", a concert organised by the Singapore Lyrics Opera Children's Choir at the Esplanade concert hall in 2012. The choir was invited to perform in the Singapore Youth Festival (SYF) Celebrations at the Esplanade concourse in 2013. The choir was honoured to be invited once again for the SYF Celebrations in 2014 where they took part in the 400 strong combined school choir flash mob at the Gardens by the Bay.

In 2013, the choir took part in the SYF Arts Presentation for Choirs and was awarded a Certificate of Distinction. Always seeking on nurturing and improving the vocal skills and techniques of the choir members, the choir has went through choral workshops and have also hosted exchange programmes with other secondary schools in order to learn from one another.

The choir believes that with our passion for singing, commitment and perseverance, it will be an unforgettable and amazing chapter for the members in their secondary school life.

QUEENSWAY SECONDARY SCHOOL CHOIR

QUEENSWAY SECONDARY SCHOOL, SINGAPORE



Lim Huimin

The choir has grown in membership and vocal techniques and skills throughout the years. This year, the choir has 73 members to represent the school in performances and choir exchanges. The choir is trained by very competent and effective instructors, and taken care of by a team of committed teachers and led by a team of enthusiastic committee members.

The choir was actively involved in performing in school and externally throughout the year. The choir performed excellently in the 21st Century International Arts Festival in Genting Highlands, Malaysia in December 2011. We have achieved a Gold Award. We had also participated in the Hong Kong Winter Choral Festival in December 2012 and achieved a Silver Award. In 2013, our choir had participated in the Singapore Youth Festival Competition, the choir had achieved a Certificate of Distinction.

The choir members has worked together as a team to strengthen their singing techniques, on 19 November 2013, they had performed in the 'Let's Sing Along' Concert held in the Anglo Chinese School Baker Road. In 5 July 2014, we are invited by the Singapore Art Education Branch to provide 43 Choristers for the Combined School Choir together with 9 others Schools in Singapore. It was a strong Flash Mob consisting of 400 Choristers. The event was held as a finale item for the SYF Celebration at the Gardens By the Bay, it was viewed by our Minister, Mr Heng Swee Keat, and the public. The school is proud of the Choir members for their commitment and determination. This spurred the choir members to continue to strive towards excellence.

ANDERSON CHOIR

ANDERSON SECONDARY SCHOOL, SINGAPORE

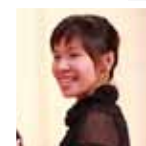


Dawn Yin

Anderson choir has been doing the school proud by clinching top positions in various competitions. In 2007, the choir attained a Gold award in the Singapore Youth Festival (SYF). In 2009 and 2011, the choir received the Gold with Honours award in the SYF and brought much prestige to the school. In 2010, the choir travelled to Riva Del Garda, Italy to participate in the annual Concorso Corale Internazionale, an annual choral competition. Once again, it did the school proud by emerging as champion in the Youth category. The choir has also been invited to perform at events in the presence of VIPs such as Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. In 2012, the choir won a Silver Award in the Winter Choral Festival held in Hong Kong and in 2013, they achieved a Certificate of Distinction at the Singapore Youth Festival.

MING-HO RIVERSIDE CHOIR

TAIWAN



Chang Yushan

Ming-Ho Junior High School locates in a remote rural area of Central Taiwan. Transportation in and out of the area is highly inconvenient. The residents are primarily farmers, hunters and laborers with low social and economic status. There are a total of 137 students in the school where Indigenous people accounts for more than 80% of the total. In view of the disadvantages and need for formal music education, Rosyclouds Education Foundation began to help establish and sponsor the Ming-Ho Riverside Choir in 2010.

There are currently 35 members in the choir which is primarily made up of Bunun people (one of many tribes of Taiwanese indigenous peoples). Bunun people is known for their polyphonic vocal music and chanting. They often sing to express their feelings and chant in traditional rituals. As a result, the choir members specialize in Bunun songs and chants which allow them to convey their passion for singing as well as the love for their own culture. In the meanwhile, the traditional songs and chants are added and integrated with contemporary elements in order to appeal to more audiences. Three years after establishment, the choir's beautiful and sincere voices have gained popularity and are often invited by various corporations and organizations, including National Palace Museum, to perform not only in the form of chorus, but also musical. In 2013, thanks to the support and donation of Rosyclouds Education Foundation and many donors, the choir had the opportunity for the first time to participate in International Youth & Children's Choir Festival in Hong Kong and was awarded silver prize. The exposure to different culture and large-scale competition have further strengthened the chorus members' resolution to sing their own songs and to pass on the beautiful music.

XINMIN CHORALE

XINMIN SECONDARY SCHOOL, SINGAPORE



Lee Jun Jie Kevin

Xinmin Chorale is a youth choir consisting of talented and enthusiastic singers from age 12-17 years old. Through a love for music, we seek to inculcate a passion for singing in each of our choristers, and in the process mould them into all-round and gracious student leaders.

XM Chorale has, in providing opportunities for growth and joy to the choristers, been contributing actively to the vibrant school culture. XM Chorale performs regularly in public concerts and musicals, such as the highly successful musical-cum-choral concerts, Melizo, to consistently sell-out audiences. Furthermore, the choir has also been invited to perform specially for various Ministries and private organisations for their celebrations and functions.

Despite our short history, we have consistently received accolades at the Singapore Youth Festival with Gold Awards (with Honours, 2011) in succession since 2005. In 2013, XM Chorale was conferred the prestigious Certificate of Distinction at the Singapore Youth Festival. To ensure the continued excellence of our chorale programme, our young singers are regularly coached by renowned international choral conductors, composers and clinicians

SOLO CANTABILE CANTORA (SCC)

INDONESIA



Wahyu Purnomo

Solo Cantabile Cantora (SCC) comprises of children and adolescent choristers from the city of Solo and was formed in December 2009. We currently consist of 45 members aged 9 to 18 years, with a variety of educational backgrounds ranging from elementary to high school. They are all guided and trained by Bp. Drs. Wahyu Purnomo, M.Sn, Mrs. Mary Subekti, S.Pd and Bp. AY. Suratno, S.Pd.

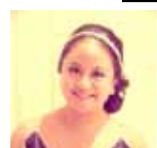
SCC is often invited to perform in various events organized by various community, churches and the Surakarta City Government. In the four-year journey thus far, the SCC has demonstrated achievement in international choral competitions, including:

- Gold Medal in the category of Folklore, in the event the 6th World Choir Games held in Shao Xing, China, on July 13 to 21, 2010.
- Gold Medal in the category of Folklore and Champion Gold Medal for the Youth Choir category, in the event the Bali International Choir Competition, dated August 6 to 9, 2012.

Lastly, SCC achieved the 1st medal in the category of Children in the Christmas Choir Competition held in Hartono Mall, Solo, last December 22, 2013. To add to the experience and insight SCC members, SCC will take part in the 1st Singapore International Choral Festival from 21st - 24th August 2014.

PURWA CARAKA MUSIC STUDIO CHILDREN CHOIR

INDONESIA



**Jessica Fedora
Amadea**

Purwa Caraka Music Studio Children Choir is a choir program at Purwa Caraka Music Studio, an institution that is dedicated in music education. Purwa Caraka Music Studio has 90 music centers across Indonesia with 20,000 students enrolled annually.

Purwa Caraka Music Studio Children Choir was founded in 2007, the choir members are student auditioned from Purwa Caraka Music Studio centers across Jakarta Metropolitan area. With practice held regularly, the choir members are trained to sing as a choir, applying what they learned in individual classes and to interact with others as a group. Purwa Caraka Music Studio Children Choir has participated in events held by Purwa Caraka Music Studio, government events, public events, as well as international festivals and competitions.

Their recent International achievements are Gold Diploma C – A Voyage of Songs Festival 2009 in Penang, Malaysia for Children Choir Category, Silver Medal – The 1st ITB International Choir Competition 2010 in Bandung, Indonesia for Children Choir Category, Gold Diploma B and Category Winner - A Voyage Of Songs Festival 2011 in Zhuhai, China for Children Choir Category and Gold Diploma B - 2012:ASIA CANTATE in Phuket, Thailand.

BALESTIER HILL SECONDARY SCHOOL CHOIR

BALESTIER HILL SECONDARY SCHOOL, SINGAPORE



Christophe Drag

The Balestier Hill Secondary School Choir (BHSS Choir) comprise of passionate individuals who shares their love for music and singing through performances and competitions.

With dedication and diligence, the BHSS Choir stages regular performances in school celebrations such as the Annual Awards Day and the National Day.

In addition to this, the BHSS Choir also works together with external organisations to bring music and joy to public events; our most recent one being a musical on the haze situation at the National Environment Agency's Water Carnival in November 2013.

Our last major competition was the Singapore Youth Festival Arts Presentation in 2013 where we were awarded the Certificate of Commendation.

We look forward to our continued growth as a choir as we hone our skills and build experience through performances in school, public, through outreach programmes and competitions as well.

CHIJ ST. THERESA'S CONVENT CHOIR

CHIJ ST. THERESA'S CONVENT, SINGAPORE



**Nicholas Tham
Wen Loong**

The CHIJ St Theresa's Convent Choir is about 50-member strong, with ages ranging from 12-17 years old. The choir has been taking part in various events and competitions both in school and outside of school. Besides performance during school events, the choir always seek opportunities to gain greater exposure by performing for a public audience in events that are held at places such as Singapore Arts Museum, Singapore River and NTU. In 2011, the choir obtained the Certificate of Accomplishment in the Singapore Youth Festival Arts Presentation. This choir has been coached by Mr Nicholas Tham for the last seven years.

ST. MARGARET'S SECONDARY SCHOOL CHOIR

ST. MARGARET'S SECONDARY SCHOOL, SINGAPORE



Dawn Yin

The St. Margaret's Secondary School (SMSS) Choir is proud to hail from the oldest girls' school in Singapore. Over the years, the SMSS choir has performed in numerous national and international events including the APEC Convention for Women Leaders, the Observance Ceremony at the Supreme Court, the Hong Kong Winter Choral Festival in 2011, the SYF Opening Ceremonies in 2002 and 1992, as well as the 17th South-East Asian Games Opening and Closing Ceremonies in 1993. In the most recent Singapore Youth Festival Presentations, the choir was awarded a Certificate of Distinction (2013) and Gold Award (2011).

In the line with the school's mission of "Charity, Devotion, Patience", the choir has also participated in several fund-raising events such as the school's biennial charity concert and various community service projects. Under the guidance of choral conductor Ms Dawn Yin and vocal coach Ms Teng Xiang Ting, the SMSS choir is committed to the joyful endeavour of meaningful music-making.

SHUNDE BEIJIAO CHILDREN'S CHORUS

CHINA



Yu Qin

The Shunde Beijiao Children's chorus was founded in July 2012. The members are the students from schools in Beijiao. During July and August in 2012, Vice Premier of the State Council Wang Yang (the former Secretary of Guangdong Provincial Committee) had visited our chorus twice and had given highly praise to the chorus' performance. In November 2012, the chorus on behalf of Beijiao Town gave a good performance at the first Children's Chorus Seminars of Shunde. In December 2012, we held the first Chorus concert, the Children's Chorus became a striking "City ID" of Beijiao with their wonderful songs. In May 2013, the chorus as a demonstration group accepted the elaborate guidance of Henry Leck, the American famous conductor, the chorus demonstrated the singing skill to the music teachers from all parts of the country. In July 2013, the Beijiao Children's Chorus took part in the "Charming School" Chorus Competition of China and won the gold prize.

PAYA LEBAR METHODIST GIRLS' SCHOOL (SECONDARY) CHOIR

PAYA LEBAR METHODIST GIRLS' SCHOOL (SECONDARY), SINGAPORE



Choy Siew Woon

The Paya Lebar Methodist Girls' School (Secondary) Choir is also known as One Voice, as we aim to glorify God through singing. The love of music is a Methodist heritage and as a girls' school with the Mission, Vision and Core Values promoting the culture of graciousness, we seek to inculcate a passion for singing in each of our choristers, and in the process mould them into all-round and gracious student leaders under the guidance of God. One Voice has, in providing opportunities for growth and joy to the choristers, been contributing actively to the vibrant school culture. It performs regularly in school concerts and musical productions such as Musical Montage 2012, Symphony of Praise concerts and PL musicals. Actively serving the community, they performed for the Home for Aged Sick, St Luke's ElderCare, National Kidney Foundation Hougang 1, Society for the Aged Sick, Yong-En Care Centre as well as the grandparents and parents of our pupils. One Voice has consistently received accolades at the Singapore Youth Festival with the Gold awards in 2005, 2009 and 2011. In 2013, the choir was conferred a Distinction award at the Singapore Youth Festival Arts Presentation under the choral direction of Ms Choy Siew Woon. At the New York International Choral Festival in July 2008, the Choir clinched a Gold award with Ms Jennifer Tham at the conducting podium. In 2013, the choir was greatly honoured to perform at the National Day Observance Ceremony in the Istana organised the President's Office and Prime Minister's Office.

BEATTY SECONDARY SCHOOL CHOIR

BEATTY SECONDARY SCHOOL, SINGAPORE



Gerald Poh

Beatty Secondary School Choir was formed in 1998. The choir has grown in strength and performed in several public concerts. In 2009 and 2011, the choir is proud to obtain Silver Awards for the Singapore Youth Festival Choral competition. In 2013, the Choir achieved a Certificate of Distinction at the Singapore Youth Festival Arts Presentation. This year, the Choir is prepared to push itself to the limit and achieve greater heights.

MACAU YOUTH CHOIR

MACAU



Liu Mingyan

Established in 2004, the Macao Youth Choir is a student choral group, formed through a joint initiative between the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau and the Cultural Affairs Bureau. Since 2006, the Choir has been run by the Conservatory of Macao and provides systematic education in basic music combined with choral training and performance practice. The Choir aims to improve its members' musical competence and aesthetic sense and to enrich their extracurricular cultural life. In the future, the choir will continue to publicize the cultural essence rooted in Macao, which is a famous historic city, to more people around the world.

METHODIST GIRLS' SCHOOL CHOIR

METHODIST GIRLS' SCHOOL, SINGAPORE



Albert Tay

Sharing their love of singing through performances and competitions, the MGS Choir is one of 30 school choirs in The Singapore Ministry of Education's Choral Excellence Programme. The choir was most recently awarded Distinction award at the biennial Singapore Youth Festival Central Judging for Choirs in 2013. The choir also has the privilege of regularly travelling abroad for festivals and competitions and has returned with excellent results in San Francisco (1999), Athens (2004), Bratislava (2007), Prague (2007), St Petersburg (2010), as well as Prague and Vienna (2012). From 11-19 December 2012 in Prague and Vienna, the choir competed in the 13th International Festival of Advent and Christmas Music and had achieved stellar results. The choir attained gold awards in two categories they competed in and emerged as the winner of the Children's Choir category amidst stiff competition from many European Choirs.

BEDOK SOUTH SECONDARY SCHOOL CHOIR

BEDOK SOUTH SECONDARY SCHOOL, SINGAPORE



Adrian Poon

Since its inception, Bedok South Secondary School Choir has continuously strove for excellence. With its motto, "One Voice, One Smile, One Family", BDS Choir has developed devoted choristers with a passion for singing and music. Through hard work and determination, BDS Choristers continue to hone their musicianship skills and craft, spreading the joy of singing to anyone who is willing to stop and listen. Under the guidance of the instructor, Mr. Adrian Poon, BDS Choir continues to develop choristers into well-rounded individuals who are able to work as one big family.

THE JUNYUAN CHOIR

JUNYUAN SECONDARY SCHOOL, SINGAPORE



John Liao Chuan En

The Junyuanite Chorale is made up of 35-member, comprising a good mix of students. The choir strives to achieve music excellence through their resoluteness and commitment and under the wings of Mrs Alicia Kho, Ms Ong Sijia and Ms Tan Wan Lee, the teachers in charge of Choir and Mr Liao Chuan En, the conductor. The students are given many opportunities to perform, be it at school assemblies, shopping malls, school musicals, other schools and at the SYF Choral Central Judging Competitions. Besides training rigorously twice a week, the members also get together for fun and bonding during school holidays or end of school terms.

GLOBAL PRESTASI SCHOOL CHOIR

GLOBAL PRETASI SCHOOL, INDONESIA



Erani Silalahi

Global Prestasi School Choir (GPS Choir) is school choir from Indonesia. Each choir member receives tutoring in vocal, music theories, and particularly in musical education aimed at developing the interests and talents of young children. GPS Choir trains the students to have composure as well as professional singing skills and to be able to appreciate both local and international culture and the integration of universal arts.

PHOENIX SINGERS MALAYSIA



Ian lim

Phoenix Singers was formed in January 2014 by a group of passionate singers in the Klang Valley region of Malaysia. We are an all ladies group, most of us in our prime. Our main aim is to gain experience and be exposed on an international stage scene thus accomplishing one's musical journey and life dream.

We certainly look forward to this challenging "Maiden Performance" and hope as forerunner, we will help to encourage many other passionate singers of our age group to participate in future international competition to fulfill their ambition too.

BOSOWA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL CHOIR BOSOWA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, INDONESIA



Anshari Sanusi

Bosowa International School Choir is the Choir which has the member from Junior and Senior High School. School students of Bosowa International School it was established since February, 23rd 2014. Bosowa International School Choir its self was just composed in 2013, as the new choir with conductor Anshari Sanusi. It is expected to give a good performance and achievement in national and international level.

双溪威俱乐部合唱团 SUNGEI WAY CLUB MALAYSIA



Conductor
Shen Hua Xing

双溪威（青年）俱乐部母会成立於1954年。未成立合唱团前是以歌泳组及卡拉OK型式演唱。后由于人数不断增加，终于在2003年正式成立了本部的合唱团。本着推广及延续艺术歌曲为宗旨，提供机会于喜爱声乐及歌唱者学习。本合唱团在这期间举办了多场的汇报演唱会，也积极参与年度的欢乐之声音乐会。更不断与各合唱团交流，从中互相学习。

ASSUMPTION ENGLISH SCHOOL CHOIR ASSUMPTION ENGLISH SCHOOL, SINGAPORE



Chan Ern Theng

The Assumption English School Choir has learnt to unite as one voice and put their hearts and souls into the music. It recently achieved the Certificate of Accomplishment in the Singapore Youth Festival Arts Presentation 2013. Actively involved in the community, the Choir is also involved in annual Christmas carolling at the KK Women's and Children's Hospital. It also recently performed in Music in the City at Ngee Ann City.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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 Dr Katherine Wallace
 Mr Indra Listiyanto
 Mr Lee Yuk Chuan
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 The National Arts Council
 Singapore Exhibition and Convention Bureau
 Public Utilities Board
 Sentosa

Our fantastic performance venues: The Star Theatre, SCO Concert Hall, Victoria Concert Hall and The Esplanade Concert Hall

Our local choirs: The Amoris Singers, Project All Sing by the ACJC Alumni Choir, ONE Chamber Choir, SYC Ensemble Singers and the NUS Choir.

Most importantly, this festival would not be possible without our wonderful participating choirs, teachers and their choral directors. Thank you for doing what you do!



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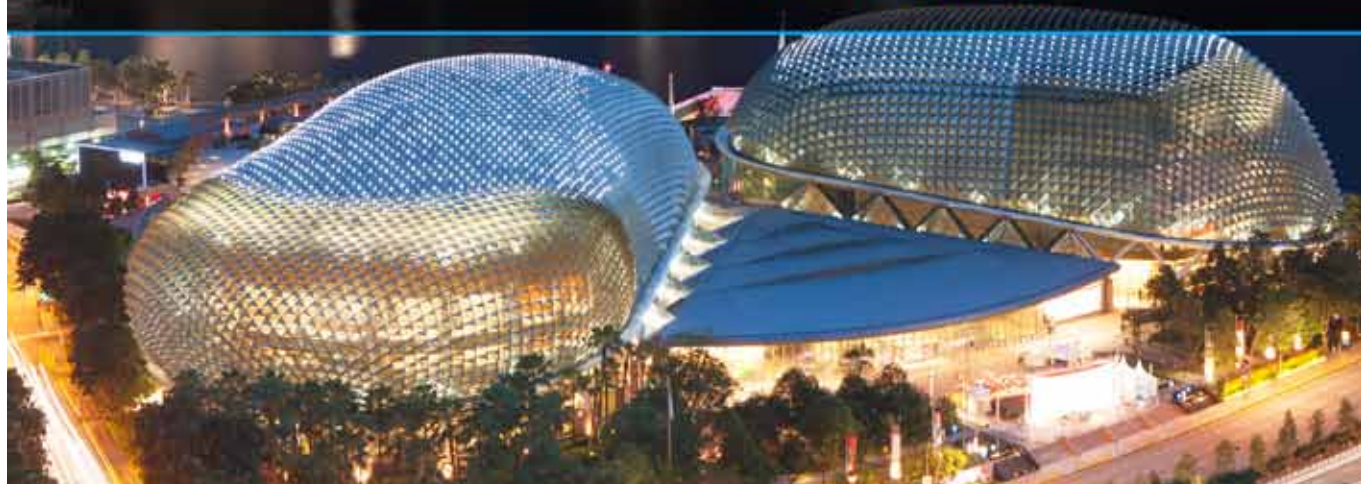
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