

**Y O U N G
C H O R A L
A C A D E M Y
B U L L E T I N
T E A M**

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**"Singing together brings
nations together"**

The idea of the World Choir Games originates from the effort to bring together people and peoples, who are united through singing, in peaceful competition. This way the coming together of nations, also in arts, can be effectively and illustratively demonstrated and continuously challenged.

**"Participation is the
highest honour"**

Being the world's largest choir competition the World Choir Games shall inspire people to experience the strength of interaction which is able to challenge personality and community equally by singing together. Participation alone is important and the greatest honour.

The World Choir Games are organised for amateur choirs from all over the world, no matter which continent they come from or which musical genres are represented in their repertoires or which artistic ambitions they have. To experience this festival for choirs from all over the world means to participate, to contribute one's own performance, to compare to others and to experience the enthusiasm of singing together.

Shaoxing is located on the southern reaches of the Yangtze Delta, not far from Shanghai. Shaoxing is a flourishing metropolis with a history that goes back more than a thousand years. Its people live in a city whose life is determined by water, whose beauty is reflected in its trees and plants and whose culture makes its soul come alive. The people of this city are looking forward to

this important cultural event with great enthusiasm and anticipation. Welcome to our friends from all over the world!

**CLOSING DATE
FOR REGISTRATION:
15th December 2009**

Choirs from Malaysia, please contact Susanna Saw from Young Choral Academy by calling

03-7726 4691

or

014-624 2733,

or email

youngchoral@gmail.com

for further information.

Shao Xing, China



What an experience! – Spotlight! 2009



by Jayson Cheah

Singing Mr Mistoffelees – a song from The Cats musical – at the recent Kuala Lumpur Children’s Choir *Spotlight!* event is both challenging and fun to me. The song is not easy for a nine year-old to master but thanks to the encouragement by Teacher Susanna and my mum, I decided to give it a try. The last few days before the Spotlight was hectic for me and my mum as both of us would rehearse over and over the song’s diction and movements. Especially the first two lines. My mom said I had to ‘wow’ the audience with my first two lines.

If only I can think and act like a cat! We wanted to hire a cat costume for my performance but my size was not available. So we settled for a cat make-up instead. The make-up and my black attire transformed me into the junior version of Rum Tum Tugger, the curious black tom cat who is so full of praise for the magician, Mr Mistoffelees. For my ‘paws’, I put on a pair of golfing gloves.

Once I arrived at the Young Choral Academy, everybody was surprised

when they saw me. They thought a cat was crawling into the centre. Actually it was me in a cat look.

The teachers there gave me a star sticker for me to write my name on as well as a number sticker. The number on the sticker was A6, which meant I would be the sixth contestant in my category (5 to 10 age group).

After the five contestants had showcased their talent, my turn came. I was so nervous. I was shivering. I told myself to remain focus to deliver my song. I did my best to remain composed. In the end, I managed to finish my song although my mother commented that I could do better. But what is important was that everybody enjoyed my song and I am very happy with my performance.

I learned from the two judges that in whatever performance that we take part in, we have to perform as if our lives are dependent on our singing. “Sing your heart out,” said Mr Michael Voon, one of the judges.

“Mean what you sing,” added Mr Mak Chi Hoe, who is one of the judges for Spotlight 09. Both judges advised that as a singer and performer, we have to practice to perfect our singing and performing skills.

Today, I’m very happy because all the time I spent to practise my song has earned me a Superstar title for the second time in the Spotlight. As one of the two winners, I will be looking forward to sing again at the coming year-end production.



Spotlight! 2009 Winners List

The KL Children’s Choir’s in-house solo singing competition was successfully held at the Young Choral Academy on 30th August 2009. Our two experienced judges, Mak Chi Hoe and Michael Voon, were impressed with the overall presentation from all 21 participants. The results of the competition are stated to the right:



Super Star

Irina Rafil
Jayson Cheah
Christopher Chalmers
Kirthana Sivaparanjothi
Kimberley Tan Su Yin
Denise Yap Huei Peng

Shining Star

Clarissa Lee
Jyllian Kok
Jynn Kok
Sarah Ng Ee Ling
Davin Chang
Merissa Victor
Eugene Tan

Budding Star

Arianna Tan Sze Huey
Aza Jemima Bte Ahmad Zainamin
Dhaanyah
Melina Victor
Thayallen A/L S. Paranthamar
Melissa Lee Ai Zhen
Nickhilesh Paul
Eiliza Chew



Asia Pacific Choral Summit Wuxi, China 7 – 9 September 2009

review

If the passion of one inspires, then the passion of many creates change. In the choral singing movement, the voices of many effectively communicates the concept that music, indeed, brings people together.

In June 2009, I received an invitation to represent Malaysia at the Asia Pacific Choral Summit in China. Organized by Mr Leon Shiu-Wai Tong for International Federation of Choral Music (IFCM), the summit in September aimed to be a congregation of notable conductors, directors, and organizers in the Asia Pacific choral music scene. Key objectives included the need to strengthen the bond between choral experts in this region, deepen the understanding of choral movements in our neighbouring countries as well as to discuss potential regional projects for the near future.

This is the fourth such gathering in the region, the initial three being in Busan (2003 and 2007), and Tokyo (2005).

Gathered this year in Wuxi, one of the top business cities in China, are participants from China, Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Australia, Singapore, Indonesia, and Philippines. Present at the event were also officials from Ministry of Culture of the People's Republic of China, representatives of National Centre for the Performing Arts, Phoenix Satellite Television Co. Ltd., China Music Education Magazine, and reporters from Shanghai and Beijing.

There were four representatives from Malaysia – Mr. Chew Hock Ping, Mr. Lim Boon Wee, Ms. Susanna Saw, and myself.

During the summit, delegates presented their reports on the choral music activities in their respective countries. Ms Susanna Saw and myself, under The Young Choral Academy, reported on Malaysia's

choral music education and youth choral movement respectively. As a result of this session, we realized our colleagues from neighbouring countries share similar views and concerns as we do such as funding and the need for a greater emphasis in choral folklore music.

Jonathan Velasco from the Philippines introduced the Musica Database as a means to provide bibliographic data of choral works in the Asia Pacific region through the employment of technology and the internet.

There were also discussions on the challenges in marketing and promoting choral activities within the region, training young choral leaders as well as the vital cultural differences and similarities between countries.

One of the most important dialogues of the summit was the formation of the Asia Pacific Working Group that works as a collaboration within the region to plan potential activities as well as international exchange. The core people in this group include Mr. Leon Shiu-Wai Tong (Hong Kong), Mr. Yoshihiro Egawa (Japan), Mr. Jonathan Velasco (Philippines), and Ms. Saeko Hasegawa (Japan) among others.

Both Mr. Chew and Ms. Saw commented that it was a successful event that allowed choral representatives to catch up with their colleagues as well as meet new acquaintances and allowed everyone to exchange views on choral education.

"We are aware that there are many events that benefit the Asia Pacific choristers. However, actions needed to bring forward these projects. Young Choral Academy will try our very best to introduce more events on choral education and choral exchange to

the Malaysian community. With this move, we hope to benefit the local choirs and to raise the awareness of choral activities in Malaysia. It is delightful to hear from colleagues of other countries that Malaysian choirs are getting better and better. Everyone is looking forward to the continuous growth in standard from our choirs," added Ms. Saw.

For me, the highlight of the summit had to be the opening ceremony of the China Choral Centre, Wuxi Base. This centre is equipped with an excellent acoustic hall and multiple rehearsal rooms. Being part of the Wuxi City Development Project, it is heartwarming to learn that this centre is supported by both government and private organizations in the name of upholding the national pride in Chinese cultural music and to preserve and further enhance the standards of choral music education and performance in this vibrant country. It is also the many years of perseverance and passion of a few key individuals that moved the idea of a need for a choral centre.

All in all, the Asia Pacific Choral Summit 2009 was a success on multiple levels. It fostered cultural understanding and vibrant discussions among the choral music community within the region. Delegates walk away determined to act on issues addressed in the discussions and look forward to the next meeting in Macau in 2010. And I, as a youth member of this unit, return to my homeland inspired by the works of those much older than I am. It is indeed a humbling experience to witness how the voices of many are brought together by the common passion in choral music.



by Tracy Wong

Tracy Wong can be contacted at tracy.wong@youngchoral.com

About The International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM)

The International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM) was founded in 1982 for the purpose of facilitating communication and exchange between choral musicians throughout the world. Through its world and regional symposia, conducting master classes, World Youth Choir Census, International Choral Bulletin, World Day of Choral Singing and many other projects, IFCM is fulfilling its purpose.

IFCM is the official representative of choral music on the International Music Council of the UNESCO. The Council recognizes that there are perhaps more people in the world participating in choral music than in any other group activity and that choral musicians need an organization such as IFCM to encourage and facilitate international communication and cooperation.

For more information on IFCM, please visit www.ifcm.net

Group photo of the delegates of the Summit



auditions

Come sing with us!

Auditions are now open for YCA's resident choirs' January 2010 intake. Please note that there will only be **ONE** intake per year.



To book a place for the auditions happening during November 2009 till December 2009, please call **014 624 2733** or **03 7726 4691** or email **info@youngchoral.com**



Youth Chamber Choir

The Youth Chamber Choir was previously formed from the graduating senior members of the KL Children's Choir as an avenue for its members to experience more challenging repertoire and perform regularly. Now, auditions are open to all passionate singers aged 13 to 19 years.



THE K.L. CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The KL Children's Choir is opening their doors to enthusiastic young singers! Children from the ages 6 to 10 years that are interested in joining the choir are welcome to audition.



Formed by Music Director Susanna Saw in July 2002, The Young KL Singers (YKLS) is the latest addition to the local performing arts industry comprising of members from all walks of life who share a common passion for music, singing, and performing. Young adults above the age of 16 are welcome to audition.

upcoming

The Malaysian Choral Eisteddfod VIII 2010



The pavilion of 8th Malaysian Choral Eisteddfod 2010 is focused on the international choir competition that has four categories (one for Children, two for Youth and one for Folklore). The new highlights will be tailored workshops for participants from the respective categories as well as an encounter concert during the competition. A panel of international experts will judge this competition and teach in the workshops.

All children's and youth choirs of the world are herewith called up to take part in Southeast Asia's premiere choral competition and symposium for youngsters. Sing in the shadow of the Kuala Lumpur Twin Towers and enlighten the world with the beautiful sound of your young voices!

presented by



Contact us:

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Email: malaysianchoral@gmail.com
Website: malaysianchoral.webs.com



The KL Children's Choir – *Triple Bill*



Alexander!

The short children's musical 'Alexander' is a musical re-telling of the story of Alexander the Great. Watch the Junior Group of members in warrior, Persian and Greek costume, singing and praising the great warrior Alexander.

Frankie & Me

The Intermediate Members will perform the spooky children's musical 'Frankie and Me'. A new musical with a mammoth message and swaying mass of monsters coming alive on stage with a message of friendship without prejudice.

Music of the Night

KLCC' Senior Members bring you songs by Andrew Lloyd Webber! They will perform a series of songs and dances from ALW's popular musicals, such as 'Cats', 'Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat', and 'Whistle down the Wind'.

directed & choreographed by
Susanna Saw & Michael Voon

upcoming

DATE & TIME

28 Nov@8pm
29 Nov@3pm

VENUE

pentas 1, The Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre (klpac)

TICKETS

rm43 (adult)
rm28 (children 12 below)

call/walk in:

klpac box office@Sentul Park
+603 4047 9000

The Young KL Singers – *Rhythmic Roots*

Come discover the depth of cultural heritage & ethnic influences that form the foundation of Malaysian folk songs. Join us in going back to our *Rhythmic Roots* as we journey to the far reaches of India, Thailand, The Philippines, Indonesia, and China.

Experience the diversity of melody, rhythm & lyrical poetry performed by The Young KL Singers at the newly opened The Actors Studio@Lot 10.

LUCKY DRAW

4 prizes to be won at every show*

(Victoria Station dining vouchers and Nescafé Gold hampers)

*excluding charity matinee

www.theactorsstudio.com.my



upcoming

DATE & TIME

12 – 14 Nov@9pm
15 Nov@3pm

Charity Matinee:

14 Nov@3pm

VENUE

The Actors Studio @Lot 10

TICKETS

m43 (centre seat)
rm33 (side seat)

call/walk in:

TAS@Lot 10 box office
+603 2142 2009
+603 2143 2009

review

PHOTOS

by Ryonn Leong

The Young KL Singers's *Live on Stage!* 2009

On the 17th of September, YKLS had it's annual *Live on Stage!* event.

Live on Stage gives an opportunity for choir members to show off their other talents outside of the scope of the choir's repertoire, in a relaxed recital format where the majority of the audience would be friends, family, and fellow choir members.

Since *Live on Stage* began, we've had solos, costumes, ensemble work, and even drama and dancing.

This year, we saw many younger members coming forward to perform pop numbers, traditional chinese folksongs, original compositions and some of the older members doing musical comedy sketches.



upcoming

ARS CHORALIS 2010

ARS CHORALIS 2010

The 1st International Artistic and Scientific Symposium on Choral Music

Zagreb, 8th-10th April 2010

Croatia

organized by the

CROATIAN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

We invite you to participate in the symposium as a lecturer or a delegate!

for more information, and to download the application form , please visit our website,

www.choralcroatia.com



Kodály Australian Certification Level 1



"It is our firm conviction that mankind will live the happier when it has learned to live with music more worthily. Whoever works to promote this end, in one way or another, has not lived in vain."

Zoltán Kodály

Hungarian Composer, Folklorist, Educator

Zoltán Kodály was a Hungarian composer, educator and ethnomusicologist. His philosophy on music education led to a highly sequential system of teaching music. The system was developed by those influenced by Kodály's vision of music education. Varied pedagogical tools are utilized to reach the central philosophical objective; *"Music belongs to everyone and is necessary for human health and development."*

Young Choral Academy (YCA) is pleased to announce that we will be holding the 1st Australian Kodály Certification course on the dates to the right. Each year there will be a level taught, and participants will have to complete all three levels to obtain the Kodály Certificate in Music Education.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Registration is now closed and all available spots have been taken. However, spots are still available for 2010 session. If interested, please contact Young Choral Academy for further information.

2009 Tutors:



Dr James Cuskelly

Lecturer in music education and aural studies at The University of Queensland. Director of the International Kodály Society Board.



Judith Johnson

Consultant in music education, guest lecturer at The University of Queensland. Past president of the Kodály Music Education Institute of Australia and editor of the Bulletin of the International Kodály Society.

upcoming

DATE & TIME

30 Nov — 11 Dec '09

break on 5-6 Dec

9am — 5pm

VENUE

Young Choral Academy,
114-A, Jalan Burhanuddin Helmi,
Taman Tun Dr Ismail, 60000,
Kuala Lumpur.

NOTE

* Note : 3 levels are required to fully complete the Kodály Teaching Certification. Level 2 course is aimed to be taught in 2010, and Level 3 course in 2011. There will be Level 1 course available in 2010 as well.

YCA Score Publication

for sale



Are you a choral conductor searching for good quality Malaysian choral music? The Young Choral Academy (YCA) Score Publication is established to achieve three aims:

1. To promote Malaysian choral music
2. To work as a platform for Malaysian choral composers and arrangers to showcase and share their works
3. To work as an ever-growing collection of Malaysian choral music for local and international choral conductors

Some of the works we promote feature Malaysian composers/arrangers such as Juliette Lai, Geneviene Wong and Ng Shyh Poh.

These works include *Getaran Jiwa*, *Dirgahayu Tanah Airku*, *Tanah Pusaka*, *Nona-Nona* and *Bujang Lapuk*, and are available in various vocal arrangements – both a cappella and piano accompaniment.

For more information and a full listing of what YCA Score Publication has to offer, kindly contact:

Tracy Wong

Assistant Academy Director

tracy.wong@youngchoral.com (with the subject: "YCA Score Publication")

We hope you will join us in supporting Malaysian choral music!

The Young Choral Academy

contact us

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www.youngchoral.com



Singing brings us together! It inspires our lives, celebrates our joys, and lets us get in touch with our inner feelings and emotions.

We at the Young Choral Academy are dedicated to inspire you through singing. Learn the joy of making music together. Celebrate life!

