

Volume 2 • September-December 2020

# Newsletter

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## Student Achievements



### 13 December 2020 ❖ RIMINI International Choral Competition 2020 (OctaVox)



The OctaVox choir was founded by one of our lecturers, Terrence Ling in March 2020. Many of the members of this choir are students of the Institute of Music (IMus), UCSI University. In December 2020, OctaVox, under the guidance of Terrence Ling won the Gold Award in the 14th RIMINI International Choral Competition that was held virtually and was participated by choir groups from different countries. OctaVox received the Gold Award in this competition under the guidance of Terrence Ling. The students that were involved in this competition were Tan Shiao Yen, Chan Wan Qi, Hannah Wong, Juni Chin Ying, Low En Qi and Wong Yuet Yeng. Another of our lecturer, Tan Chee Shen also participated as the choir member. Watch their video from the competition [here](#).

## Staff Achievements and Professional Activities



### Josephine Ang ❖ 5 September 2020 • Vietnam Kóaly Early Childhood Workshop (Part 1)



Sensory Music from Vietnam organised a workshop specifically targeted for music teachers of young children using the Kóaly method. Our lecturer, Josephine Ang was invited as musicianship presenter for this workshop. Due to the pandemic, this workshop was held virtually through Zoom. The workshop was held on 5 September 2020, and was also Josephine's first experience presenting to a Vietnamese audience. It was a rewarding experience for her as the Kóaly method is relatively new in the country. On top of that, being one of the presenters for this workshop also equipped Josephine to plan workshops for participants from different countries in the future.

**Lim Hoong Bee ❖ 1 October 2020 • Songwriter Incubator Project**



TeenEdge Malaysia partnered with Universal Music Publishing Group to organise the Songwriter Incubator Project. The goal of this project was to guide songwriters in building and establishing a career in the music industry. Our lecturer, Lim Hoong Bee was invited to be a member of the industry panel for this project. This project was conducted online where the members submit their materials or demos to be reviewed by the industry panel for comments and guidance. Hoong Bee considered this project to be challenging and interesting at the same time as it required her to elevate her ability to evaluate music. This allowed her to help other songwriters boost their careers.

**Assistant Professor Dr  
Cheong Yew Choong ❖**

**6 November 2020 • Beethoven and the Piano: Philology, Context and  
Performance Practice**



This online conference-festival was held by Bern University of the Arts (HKB), The Conservatorio della Svizzera Italiana (Lugano), Beethoven-Haus (Bonn), and The Italian Musicological Society, to celebrate the composer, Ludwig van Beethoven's 250th birthday. It mainly focused on providing a historically-informed performance practice of Beethoven's keyboard works. Our lecturer, Assistant Professor Dr Cheong Yew Choong, was among the presenters for this international level conference-festival. The presentation took place on Zoom along side other high profile musicologists and scholar-performers such as Barry Cooper, Clive Brown, Sandra Rosenblum and Tom Beghin. This conference was a wonderful opportunity for Dr Cheong's professional development as a performer, educator, and researcher.

**Nur Lina Anuar and  
Dr Ch'ng Xin Ying ❖**

**5 and 6 December 2020 • 7th Inter-Asia Popular Music Studies  
Conference**



Sunway University hosted the 7th Inter-Asia Popular Music Studies Conference from 3-6 December 2020. The theme of this conference, "Sonic (under) Currents and Currencies" sought to explore the responses of popular music as local, translocal national and transnational formations and traditions in the region's changing technocultural landscape. The conference also explored the relevance of both public perceptions and professional practices of popular music in the region. One of our lecturers, Nur Lina Anuar, who is developing her career as a researcher in popular music, presented her paper titled "Music Heals - An Analysis of BTS' Fan Song: Magic Shop" via Zoom on 5 December 2020. Watch her presentation [here](#).



Another presenter in this conference was Dr Ch'ng Xin Ying, also a lecturer in Institute of Music. Dr Ch'ng presented her paper titled "Voicing the *Muhibah* Spirit through Namewee's Ali, Ahkao Dan Muthu" on the last day of this conference through Zoom on 6 December 2020.

Dr Ch'ng is developing her career and furthering her research into popular music studies. Being a presenter for this conference was a stepping stone into the right direction for her career as a musicologist.

### Wani Ismail ❖ 19 December 2020 • Amethyst String Quartet: A Christmas Showcase



For the Christmas festivities, Amethyst String Quartet collaborated with The Percussion Store for their Virtual Music Concert series to celebrate the holiday. The performance was streamed online on Facebook and YouTube from The Percussion Store. One of the members of the quartet is our lecturer, Wani Ismail, who is the first violinist of the quartet. The performance includes a few string quartet arrangements of popular Christmas tune, which some of these were arranged by Wani Ismail herself. The goal of this recital was to have a light-hearted performance for people to enjoy from the comfort of their own homes despite not being able to celebrate Christmas properly due to the pandemic. Watch the performance [here](#).

## Past Events



### 21 September 2020 ❖ Webinar Series: Live Music in the Pandemic



We hosted our second live webinar from our Webinar Series to touch on issues faced by the industry during the pandemic. This virtual event was streamed live on our Facebook page and it was free for all public viewers to watch. In this webinar, we focused on the contemporary music performance scene in Malaysia. This webinar featured three special guests: Tay Cher Siang, a renowned jazz pianist in Malaysia, Jon Teo, the owner of a live music performance venue called Jao Tim, and Edwin Nathaniel, the Vice-President of *Persatuan Muzik Tempatan Selangor*. This webinar was moderated by our Deputy Director, Assistant Professor Justin Lim. Watch the recorded session of the webinar [here](#).

## 12 October 2020 ❖ Webinar Series: The Future of Classical Music in Malaysia



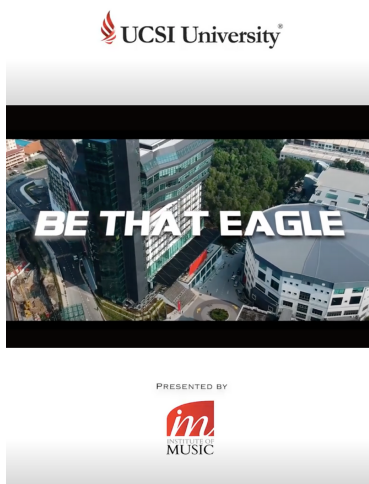
Our third and final live webinar from the Webinar Series of 2020 took place in October. Similar to all our previous webinars, this was also streamed live on our Facebook page for free. In this particular webinar, we move our attention to the classical music scene in Malaysia, specifically on the future of classical music in the country. The three speakers that were invited to share their views were Adeline Wong, a faculty member of Yong Siew Toh Conservatory, Singapore, Dr David Chin, the founder and artistic director of Bachfest Malaysia, and Stephen Tseu, lecturer from the Institute of Music, UCSI University. This webinar was moderated by our lecturer, Dr Ch'ng Xin Ying. Watch the recorded session of the webinar [here](#).

## 23 December 2020 ❖ IMSA Christmas Concert



In December, we organised our first virtual concert for Christmas festivities. This concert was put together by the Institute of Music Student Association (IMSA) which included performances by IMus students, alumni, as well as lecturers. One of the goals of organising this concert was to provide a platform for IMus family to share music despite the pandemic. This concert aimed to bring hope to everyone despite the hardships faced by the industry, and to show that our passion for art will push through these difficult time. The organising committee from IMSA worked hard to put this event together and it was streamed live on the IMus YouTube channel on 23 December 2020. Watch this virtual concert [here](#).

## 30 December 2020 ❖ Be That Eagle - 2021 Official Music Video



Back in 2015, we organised a song competition for UCSI University to select the theme song for the university. The song titled 'Be That Eagle' written by Grace Foo was crowned Champion and was selected to be the theme song for the varsity. To welcome the new year 2021, our students and lecturers worked together to reproduce the theme song to ensure that it breathes new sound and energy. The making of this official music video was done in collaboration with MUCO Music Elite and was shot on campus. The official music video was officially launched on 30 December 2020, just in time for the new year. Watch the music video [here](#).

## Stay Updated!



Follow us on our social media channels to stay up to date on all our upcoming events!



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**Editorial Team:** Dr Christine Tan (Editor), Wani Ismail (Writer and Designer), Terrence Ling (Advisor), Dr Ch'ng Xin Ying (Proofread)