

Volume 1 • May-August 2020

Newsletter

Student Achievements

Ivania Tan ● 15 July 2020 • Avila International Music Festival



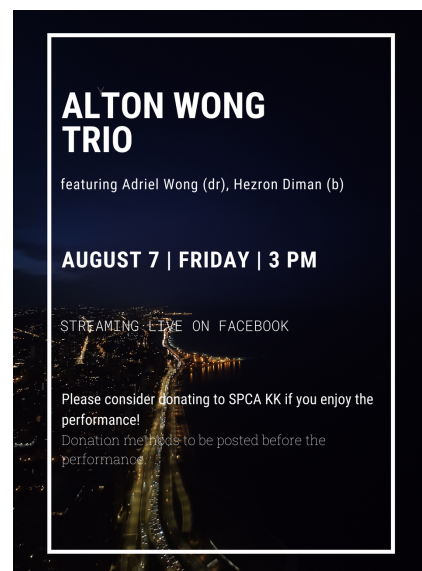
This music festival was open to participants from all around the world selected through video audition. This festival was held virtually, giving a different kind of experience for participants and tutors of the festival. Our 1st year student of the Bachelor in Classical Music, Ivania Tan, was offered the opportunity to play an online masterclass for Dr Diego Caetano and perform an online recital in the Avila International Music Festival.



Alton Wong ● 7 August 2020 • Alton Wong Trio - Facebook Live Performance



This Facebook live performance was self-organised by our 3rd year student of the Bachelor in Contemporary Music, Alton Wong. The live performance took place in SoundLab, Kota Kinabalu and the donation towards the performance was given to SPCA, Kota Kinabalu. The performance featured Alton's arrangements and it was his first time performing virtually. His initiative for this performance was to give back to the community. Apart from that, it also gave him the chance to learn about virtual live performance for future events.



Inez Tajol Asanan ●

31 August 2020 • New Millenium International Chamber Music Festival and Masterclasses



This music festival was held virtually, and it was based in Budapest, Hungary. This festival was open to candidates from all around the world, and 22 participants were selected and awarded with full scholarships for the masterclass. One of our third year students from the Bachelor of Classical Music programme, Inez Tajol Asanan, was among the participants selected to play for the violin masterclass.



Staff Achievements and Professional Activities

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Wani Ismail ● 20 June 2020 • Move for Unity Festival



The Move for Unity Festival was a virtual event that was held in conjunction with World Refugee Day. The festival took place virtually via Facebook Livestream hosted by JJ Fernandez.

The charity event was organised by IDEAS Academy to raise money to help less privileged children have access to food and education. The festival involved many different slots for different acts throughout the day of the event.

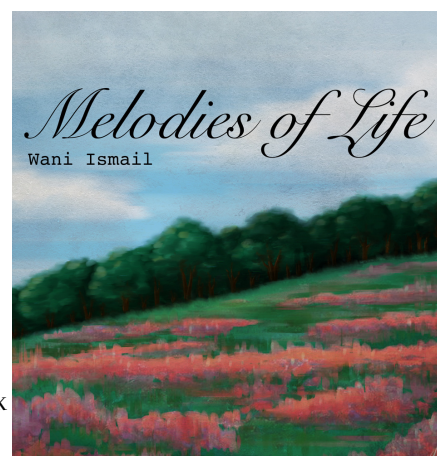
One of the slots was taken by our very own lecturer, Wani Ismail, as a musical performance act. Click [here](#) to watch the recorded live event.



Wani Ismail ● 24 July 2020 • Album Launch: Melodies of Life



One of our lecturers, Wani Ismail, released an EP called Melodies of Life on major streaming platforms such as Spotify, Apple Music, and Deezer. The album consists of five of her own compositions, two of which are for solo piano played by UCSI alumni, Seo Yan Yee. The other three are for string quartet played by The Amethyst String Quartet. The album was distributed by Nadir Studios and the album cover was designed by Shanita Lyn Kumar. Click [here](#) to listen to the album on Spotify.



Recording session at Nadir Studios

Dr Ch'ng Xin Ying

25 July 2020 • Construction of Music and National Identity Conference



Middle Tennessee State University organised an international conference that was supposed to run in March, but was postponed and moved to an online platform due to the pandemic. Our lecturer, Dr Ch'ng Xin Ying, was among the presenters for this conference. She presented under the session titled Competing Discourses in the Cultural Landscape, on the topic of *Namewee's Negarakuku: Rapping Racial Discourse in the Malaysian National Anthem*.



Terrence Ling 27 July 2020 • BCS World Virtual Choir Festival



The Bandung Choral Society organised a World Virtual Choir Festival. The festival was opened internationally and one of our lecturers, Terrence Ling, led the OctaVox choir during this festival as the artistic director and conductor and the choir received Gold Medal in the Mixed Choir Category. It was a completely new experience for the choir community to experience festivals virtually, however, it gave new experience and challenges for everyone involved. It also required Terrence to deepen his knowledge on post-production editing to gain the best audio and visual quality. Click [here](#) to watch the OctaVox's performance for this festival.

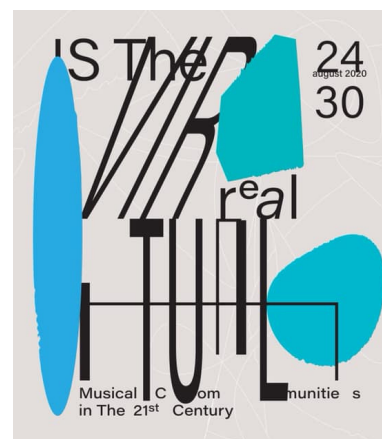


Assistant Professor Dr Jeremy Leong and Dr Ch'ng Xin Ying

26 August 2020 • PGVIM International Symposium 2020



Princess Galyani Vahdana Institute of Music from Bangkok, Thailand organised an International Symposium from 24 to 30 August. The event was held virtually and involved music educators and practitioners from around the world. Two of our lecturers, Assistant Professor Dr Jeremy Leong and Dr Ch'ng Xin Ying presented at this Symposium on 26 August 2020 on a paper titled *"Zoom-ing" Music History During the Covid-19 Pandemic*.



Terrence Ling ● 29 August 2020 • Cultures of China-Water Cube Cup 2020

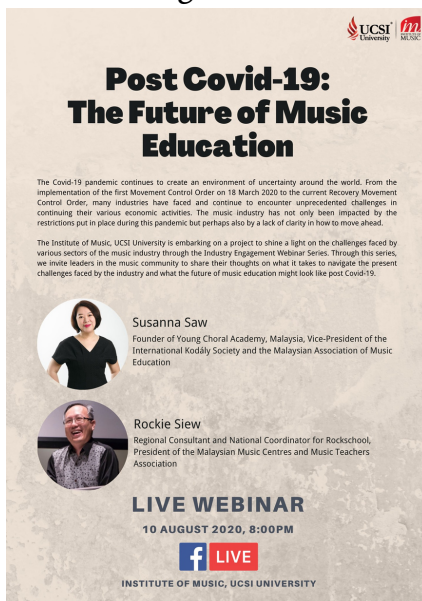


The Association of Malaysian Chinese Artistes (AMCA) organised this virtual competition for the Grand Final level in Malaysia, selecting four finalists (two in the Youth category and another two in the Open category) to represent Malaysia to participate at the international level. One of our lecturers, Terrence Ling, was among the jury members for this competition. With many events moving to an online platform in 2020, it gave Terrence a deeper understanding on the advantages and disadvantages of the current music industry especially in the competition scene. Click [here](#) or [here](#) to view the competition.



Past Event

10 August 2020 • Webinar series - Post Covid-19: The Future of Music Education



We held our first live webinar session on August 10 on our Institute of Music Facebook page. The live event was moderated by one of our lecturers, Dr Joyce Wang, and we were honoured to have two guest speakers: Susanna Saw, who is the Founder of Young Choral Academy Malaysia, and the Vice-President of the International Kodaly Society and the Malaysian Association for Music Education, as well as Rockie Siew, who is the Regional Consultant and National Coordinator for Rockschool, and the President of the Malaysian Music Centres and Music Teachers Association. This webinar was the first of our Industry Engagement Webinar Series. In this Webinar series, we invite leaders in the music community to share their thoughts on what it takes to navigate the present challenges faced by the industry and what the future of music education might look like post Covid-19. Click [here](#) to watch the recorded live webinar.

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