

New Beginnings

“A SINGING PEOPLE.”

This description has been applied to Methodists since the beginning of the Wesleyan movement over three centuries ago. Unfortunately, church choirs today face declining membership due to lack of good models and appeal in modern worship settings, and going along with that trend, hymn-singing. In that light, it is heartening to see local Christians attempt to remedy the situation. The formation of the **Methodist Festival Choir (MFC)** is the result of Singapore Methodists’ attempt to encourage and inject life into the choral tradition before it is too late.

Mooted in February 2013 by the Board of Management at MSM, the MFC was formed in July 2013. Its main purposes: to sing at major Methodist events, encourage choristers within the community in the choral traditions, and ultimately, to spread the news of the Gospel through sacred music and song. The idea of forming a massed Methodist choir was not entirely new, and may be seen as the evolved version of the now defunct United Methodist Choir which was helmed by the late American conductor and missionary, Mr William Zimmerman in the 1980’s. Through God’s blessing, Mrs Wong Lai Foon, a respected choral clinician in her own right, agreed to take the baton as the MFC’s Resident Conductor, while Mrs Judith Laoyan-Mosomos, the Acting Director of Church Music and Worship at MSM, serves as the choir’s Artistic Director.

Placement sessions were carried out in July for the first choristers. Judging by the overwhelming response, there were clearly

many who were enthused by the whole project! All in all, 75 choristers were selected. Each person committed themselves to the debut season, which culminated in an Advent



MFC tenors and basses

worship presentation. A group of volunteers from within the choir tirelessly assumed administration and logistical duties at weekly rehearsals. Mrs Grace Chiam, a member of Barker Road Methodist Church, volunteered for the unenviable post as Choir Administrator. She quipped, "I was excited and happy to serve in the MFC. I have sung in other church choirs, but only as chorister so I was not aware of the actual work that went on behind the scenes."

Only three months into rehearsals, the choir was invited for a brief appearance at the Ordination Service of the 38th Session of the Trinity Annual Conference on 21st November 2013.

On 8th December, the atmosphere at Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church (TA2) was abuzz with excitement as the choristers, supporting musicians and readers gathered for the debut. Bishop Dr Wee Boon Hup graced the event, which was attended by over 600 people.

See Page 3

INSIDE

General Music Events	2
Student Recital	4
Worship Symposium	5
Certificate of Christian Worship	2, 6
Announcements and New Courses	6-7

Acting Principal's Message

GREETINGS in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. A common maxim reads, "Time flies when you're having fun." It has been 8 months since I joined the Methodist School of Music as its Acting Principal. As I look back, I give thanks to God for giving me the strength and wisdom as the school formed a new choir, the "Methodist Festival Choir" in August 2013 and conducted a new course entitled the "Certificate in Christian Worship" from June to November 2013. Besides God's guiding hands, I am also blessed with a committed team of faculty and staff who make my time at MSM even more enjoyable and pleasant.

Many years ago I was introduced to MSM by my friend, my teacher and now my advisor/mentor, Ms Mary Gan, the founding principal of MSM. Through the years, I have attended music courses, worship symposiums, theological classes and even sang in the MSM choir in the school campus at the Upper Bukit Timah premises. You could say that I was somewhat destined to come back to this school — one that has a very special place in my heart. MSM has definitely shaped and directed my journey from the time I first answered God's call to serve in 2008 until now.

Let me share with you the reason I took up this role at the MSM. I see the school as a resource centre, strategically embedded in the Methodist family. This is the place where the people of God and especially Methodists can come to when they want to learn to sing in a church choir, to play a musical instrument at Sunday worship, or to learn how to lead and usher God's people into his presence in worship. In order for MSM to

fulfil its mission of equipping God's people to serve and worship through music, the school is structured around two main departments, namely: the General Music Department and the Church Music and Worship Department.

The year 2014 will be an exciting as well as challenging year for MSM as the school plans to:

- 1) Engage the Methodist schools and kindergartens by providing quality music education in the form of music enrichment programs or as Co-Curricular Activities;
- 2) Launch the Contemporary Music Platform (Ministry of Music or MOMU) in June 2014 by conducting Master Classes and music classes in guitar, drum and keyboards.
- 3) Conduct the second session of the Certificate in Christian Worship (CCW 2014) in both English and Mandarin from June to November 2014.

May our good Lord grant MSM wisdom, strength and joy to be a worthy steward of his wonderful gift of music.



Mr Yeo Teck Beng

Mr Yeo Teck Beng was appointed the Acting Principal from July 2013. After a career in the fabrication industry, Teck Beng responded to God's call to join the Christian music ministry. He worships and serves at Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church, and is also Vice-Chairman (Liturgy) of the Chinese Annual Conference Board of Worship and Music.

New Beginnings

Certificate in Christian Worship

ONE OF THE GOALS of MSM is to be a resource centre for worship and church music. In that light, a training programme, the Certificate in Christian Worship (CCW) was launched in June 2013, and ran each weekend through November 2013. The modules were designed for worship leaders and the general laity, with twenty five people signed up. With the aim of renewing and deepening one's understanding of worship, the CCW brought lecturers from both academia and local churches. This offered balanced teaching of both theological and biblical aspects of worship and practical applications.

The churches represented include the following: Ang Mo Kio Methodist Church, Abundant Life Church, Geylang Methodist Church, Methodist Church of the Incarnation, International Evangelical Church, Trinity Methodist Church and Wesley Methodist Church. The majority of the participants are

involved in some way in the worship teams of local churches. A typical day comprised morning worship, usually designed by the participants. Lectures were held on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings. Saturday afternoons involved practicum time and group discussions, with much time spent on applying what was learnt.

CCW 2014 will continue in English, and a new version will be run in Chinese. The modules will run at classrooms at Trinity Theological College and Methodist School of Music.



The participants of CCW 2013

COVER STORY ...continued

The theme, "Advent — the End and the Beginning", focused on the various meanings of Advent, interspersed with carols, choral anthems, instrumental music, readings and meditations. Not everyone in the choir had previous choral experience, but it was teamwork and camaraderie that made the difference. Mr Lawrence Teo, a tenor in the MFC reflects, "Fellow choristers understood that they sang to glorify God... and that guiding a "newbie" like me also contributes to the overall performance of the choir. For that, I am grateful."

When asked how she felt about the new choir, conductor Mrs Wong Lai Foon remarked, "It was very heartening to see such good turnout at our first event. The feedback received suggests that many, both singers and audience found the Advent programme very meaningful."

As to whether the Methodist Festival Choir would develop a legacy of its own after a successful beginning, it is only

through the grace and guidance of God. We heed once again the words of John Wesley, "**Above all sing spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing him more than yourself, or any other creature. In order to do this attend strictly to the sense of what you sing, and see that your heart is not carried away with the sound, but offered to God continually; so shall your singing be such as the Lord will approve here, and reward you when he cometh in the clouds of heaven.**" -- John Wesley's instructions for singing (from *Select Hymns*, 1761).



Mrs Wong Lai Foon &
Mrs Judith Mosomos



The founding members of the Methodist Festival Choir (December 2013)



"Next to the Word of God,
music deserves the highest praise.

The gift of language
combined with the gift of song
was given to man that he should proclaim
the Word of God through Music."

- Martin Luther, Protestant Reformer



Quick Quips

General Music

Performance Labs

The Performance Labs are opportunities for MSM students to play for their friends, families and peers. In 2013, these mini-concerts were held on 15th June and 28th November.



Left; Budding pianist in action



Expressive violin solo

Little Mozarts' Class

The school launched a new children's music programme based on the "Little Mozarts" method from the USA. Here, children of ages 5-6 are introduced to elements of music. Through games, toys and performances and fun-filled interaction, the children acquire new skills and present a mini-concert to mark each level.



Debut mini-concert by the young graduands

Annual Student Recital

The Annual Student Recital was held in the concert hall at Bukit Panjang Methodist Church on 12th December. As usual, the Ballet department stole the limelight — colourful costumes donned by graceful dancers from the studio of Ms Melissa Tan dotted the stage in excerpts from the *Nutcracker*, *Pirates of the Caribbean* and other works. Not to be outdone, the students from the music department played their well rehearsed selections with gusto and poise. "Bravo!" to all the teachers and students for their enthusiasm and hard work!



Nimble feet and graceful dances



Acting Principal Mr Yeo giving out awards

Violin Masterclass

Our music masterclasses are conducted either by our highly qualified senior teaching personnel, or by guest clinicians. On 25th November, Ms Judy Tay, Adjunct Instructor in Violin and Viola, held a class for young violinists at the school.



Ms Tay adjusting bow positions

What fun it is to play duets!



Church Music & Worship

Worship Symposium 2013: "Worship in Spirit and in Truth" (3-5 June 2013)**THE WORSHIP SYMPOSIUM**

organized by MSM, is a biennial gathering of worship leaders, pastors, teachers, musicians and the laity. For 2013 there were 152 participants from Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia, the Philippines, Japan, Mongolia and China, and 19 lecturers and clinicians from Singapore, Taiwan, Malaysia and the USA. The main speakers were Dr Lester Ruth and Dr Constance Cherry, both from the USA.

A number of pastors attended with their worship teams. Among the churches represented were: Geylang Chinese Methodist Church, Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church, Paya Lebar Chinese Methodist Church, Covenant Community Methodist Church, Singapore Life Church, Queenstown Lutheran Church and Woodlands Evangelical Free Church.



Dr Lester Ruth (left) and Dr Constance Cherry (right)

The five plenary sessions and fifteen lectures helped achieve the goals of the symposium: to help worship leaders understand that worship transcends style, the importance of incorporating Trinitarian hymns and prayers, appreciating a wider scope of congregational repertoire, and to make leaders aware of their accountability to the congregation.

Each morning and evening, worship was held incorporating various styles, from traditional western, to contemporary Christian, and global styles, which helped reinforce the teachings at the Symposium.

A total of 10 skills training workshops and sessions of community singing helped participants with application and execution of the various concepts.

The next Worship Symposium is scheduled to be held in June 2015.

Participants and clinicians**Organ Department**

The annual Advent musical celebration "Season's Pippings" was held at Kampong Kapor Methodist Church on Dec 13th. A collaboration between MSM and the Singapore Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, the evening comprised organ and instrumental music, carols and choral items for the Advent and Christmas Seasons. Adding to the colour were special guests, the Ventus Wind Quintet and Christus Cantores — a children's choir directed by MSM Teaching Associate, Ms Joanna Paul.



Performers gather for a final bow

Announcements



Methodist Festival Choir presents

A JOURNEY through LENT
 based on "Saints & Tears" by Dr. Roland Chia

led by Wong Lai Foon, Resident Conductor

Friday, 11th April 2014, 8:00 p.m.
 Trinity Theological College Chapel
 490 Upper Bukit Timah Road
 Singapore 678099

Free Admission
 Call 6767 5258 to reserve tickets
 All are welcome

Organised by Methodist School of Music
 Website: www.msml.edu.sg Email: festivalchoir.msml@gmail.com
 Tel: 6767 5258

Certificate in Christian Worship



Weekends
from June 27– Nov 21, 2014



RENEW & DEEPEN YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF WORSHIP

JOIN CCW 2014 and be a part of the following discussions:
 Biblical, Theological & Historical Foundation of Worship
 ~ The Sacraments ~ Worship Design ~ Scriptures in Worship
 Spiritual Formation in Worship ~ Worship in Spirit and in Truth ~
 Worship Leading Music in Worship ~ The Church Year ~
 The Lectionary ~ Worship Styles
 The Psalms in Worship **Worship Words**

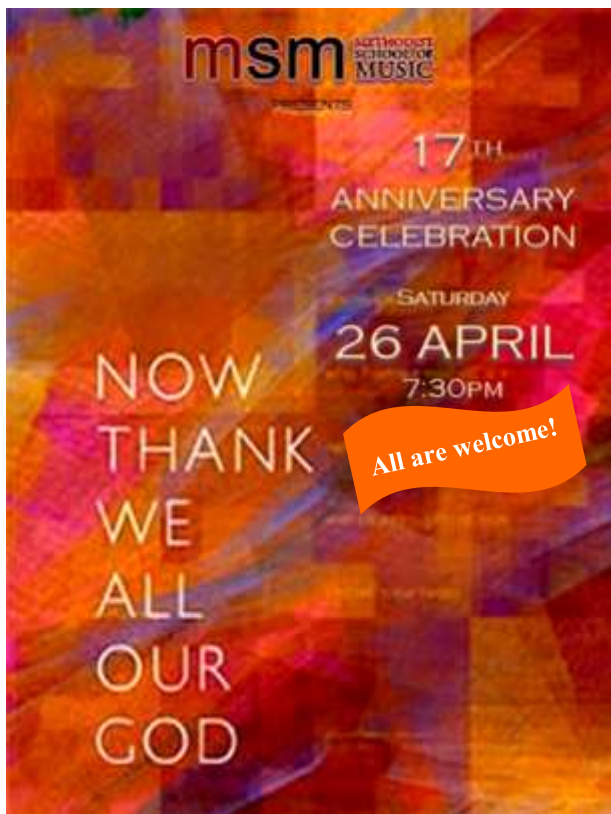
VENUES

Methodist School of Music (English Track)
496 Upper Bukit Timah Road, S 678093

Trinity Theological College (Chinese Track)
490 Upper Bukit Timah Road, S678099



For more information or queries, contact Methodist School of Music at
 Tel No: 6767 5258
 Fax No: 6767 4082
 Email: msm@msml.edu.sg
 Website: www.msml.edu.sg



The Ministry of Music (MOMU) is the contemporary platform of the Methodist School of Music. Conducted by Mervin John, a full time worship staff member at Grace Methodist Church and Coordinator of MOMU, band workshops will address the concepts of development, growth of worship bands. For more details, email Mervin at mervin@msmusic.edu.sg.

About Us

The Methodist School of Music (MSM) was founded in 1997 as an agency of the Methodist Church in Singapore, and whose main goals are: 1) To nurture individuals toward musical excellence; and 2) To address the music ministry needs of the church by providing training and resources.

General Music and Dance Courses

At the School, the pursuit of musical excellence is our constant motivation. Music instruction is available at all levels, in singing and various instruments based on the structured syllabi of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM), Trinity College of London (TCL) and others. The Ballet department boasts a high success rate, and is generally geared toward the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) syllabus. The instructors are Christians, and are professionally qualified with diplomas and degrees in their respective fields.

Church Music Training Modules

Short to long-term training modules are available for a variety of areas in the worship and music ministry.

Symposiums, Concerts and Festivals

The School regularly organizes Church Music Encounter Workshops, Worship Symposiums, Concerts, Hymn Festivals and Children’s Music Camps for outreach to churches and the community.

Methodist Festival Choir (MFC)

Formed in July 2013, the 75-member choir sings at major Methodist events and presents musical worship events twice a year. Mrs Wong Lai Foon serves as Resident Conductor, with Mrs Judith Laoyan-Mosomos as Artistic Director. Interested singers are invited to apply at the next vocal placement in July 2014.



Courses

General Music and Dance

- Piano
- Classical Organ
- Flute
- Violin/ Viola/ Cello
- Drums
- Singing
- Ballet
- Music Theory
- Aural Training

Children’s Music

- Little Mozarts Class (ages 4-6)
- The Young Organist (ages 6-16)

Ensembles

- Methodist Festival Choir
- MSM (Handbell) Ringers

Church Music Modules

- Hymn & Service-Playing (Organ)
- Organ Discovery
- Conducting
- Guitar for Worship
- Keyboards for Worship

代院长的话

奉耶稣基督的名向大家问安。俗语说：“欢乐的时光总是飞逝。”我上任卫理音乐学院的代院长已有8个月之久。我感谢上帝在这段日子里赐予我力量和智慧，尤其当学院在2013年8月份成立了新的“卫理公会节庆诗班”，也在2013年的6至11月开始了基督教敬拜的文凭课程。除了上帝的引领，一群委身的教师和员工也都让我享受在音乐学院的事。

颜玉钗女士，音乐学院的创院长，是我的朋友、老师，而如今是我的顾问导师。多年前，她介绍我到音乐学院去上音乐课程，参加敬拜座谈会、神学课程，并加入学院的诗班。你或许可以说我是注定要回到这所对我意义深远的学院。自从我在2008年回应上帝的呼召，卫理音乐学院就塑造并引导着我的旅程直到如今。

我想与你分享为何我愿意担任代院长一职。对我来说，卫理音乐学院是资源中心，很巧妙地存在于卫理公会的大家庭中。上帝的子民，尤其是卫理公会会友，若想要参加诗班、在主日崇拜中弹奏、或学习如何带领会众在敬拜中来到上帝面前，他们都可以来卫理音乐学院。学院为了达成装备上帝的子民以圣乐来服事和敬

拜的使命，就分成了两个主要的部份：一般的音乐课程，以及教会音乐与崇拜。

对卫理音乐学院来说，2014年将充满挑战，因为学院计划要：

1. 与卫理公会学校和幼儿园合作，提供有素质的音乐教育，作为学生们的课外学习。
2. 自2014年6月开始提供吉他、鼓和键盘课程，以设立现代圣乐的平台。
3. 在2014年6至11月举办第二学期的基督教敬拜文凭课程，将有英语和华语的课程。

但愿慈悲的上帝赐予智慧、力量和喜乐于卫理音乐学院，发扬上帝所恩赐的音乐，作个良善的仆人。

杨泽明先生于2013年7月份被委任为代院长。他曾任职于制造业领域，因回应上帝的呼召，而加入圣乐服事。杨先生是卫理公会直落亚逸教会的会友，也是新加坡卫理公会华人年议会崇拜与音乐部的副主席。



杨泽明先生



课程
音乐与舞蹈
钢琴
古典风琴
长笛
小提琴/中提琴/大提琴
锣鼓
声乐
芭蕾舞
乐理
听力训练
儿童音乐
小莫扎特班 (4-6岁)
儿童管风琴 (6-16岁)
合奏
卫理公会节庆诗班
手铃队
教会音乐单元
圣诗弹奏 (风琴)
风琴导论
指挥学
吉他与崇拜
键盘与崇拜