

## Border Crossing

### MUSIC HAS BECOME A MAJOR PART OF MODERN LIFE.

One cannot tune out the myriad of jingles that accompany festive occasions, used in advertising and played over electronic media. Music is also a good medium for portraying thoughts, moods, longings and beliefs. It reminds us of how things once were, how things are, and how things might be. Indeed, for most of us, life without music somehow would seem more subdued.

While classifications of “popular”, “classical”, “jazz” and “world” exist, musical creativity is generally welcomed and encouraged in secular music. In churches however, embracing other styles is rare. Personal preference seems to play a big factor in choosing music for worship. Music is an expression of Christian faith, manifested through various forms and styles: hymns, chants, choral anthems, contemporary choruses, and instrumental music. **If we stick to our preferred style and are unwilling to venture beyond that, we limit ourselves (and our congregations) to a narrow mindset.** As a result, our musical diet is limited to favorites, evergreens, or the hit for the day. The more important issues of theological relevance and engaging worship become secondary.

The Bible does not seem to provide guidance on the issue of taste or musical style in music, but only records how people worshipped, with or without instruments. There are also records of church leaders in historical times attempting to keep music pure for worship by rejecting styles and instruments which seem inappropriate or overly emotionally provoking.

In the 21st century, we may pride ourselves as having an enlightened attitude toward many issues. But has our mindset broadened over the years, or stagnated? It is common to find congregations grouped by the worship labels of “traditional”, “contemporary”, and more rarely, “global”. The typical worshipper is comfortable to

remain in only one, and not explore others. Have we deprived ourselves of the rich musical experience and depth of worship that diversity brings? It might be time to do something about this.

There is merit for crossing borders. Let us consider exploring worship and music styles from various cultures and eras. When we do this, we broaden our world view and become more engaged with the Body of Christ. Latin chant and organ music remind us of the timelessness of the Church; modern choruses reflect the yearnings of our contemporaries; old hymns reflect the life and struggles of Christians through the ages; ethnic music and song helps us identify with the Christian experience across the globe. **As overseas trips and study enrich the mind, so can the exploration of worship and music from across time and space enrich spiritual lives.**

May we be challenged into making a resolution for the new year, to explore musical “border-crossings” and musical “time travel”!

If you would like to know more about crossing borders in worship, plan to attend the MSM Worship Symposium in June 2015. The programme features a diversity of worship styles and practices from both Western and Eastern cultures. *See page 3 for details.*

By Dr Evelyn Lim,  
Vice-Principal (Musical Arts)  
Organist / Lecturer

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## Principal's Message

The year 2014 was been another eventful year for the Methodist School of Music; we saw God's unchanging faithfulness and loving hands guiding and sustaining the school through the numerous activities. Through all the events and activities that MSM had conducted and organized, I reflected and pondered over a basic question: "Has the Methodist School of Music stayed true to its original calling and vision, or is the school caught up in the rat race of competing with other secular commercial music schools in Singapore? Have we compromised our Christian beliefs, principles and quality of music education in order to boost our student populace?"

In all honesty, MSM could do better in terms of student enrolment - no thanks to the ongoing construction work of the MRT along Upper Bukit Timah Road. It was a tough year of trying to make ends meet. But thanks be to God that in spite of difficult situations, the staff, teachers and ever-supportive parents and volunteers have stuck with the school.

Joseph Gilmore's 19<sup>th</sup> century hymn came to mind:

*He leadeth me: O blessed thought!  
O words with heavenly comfort fraught!  
Whate'er I do, where'er I be,  
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.*

If not for God's ever-abiding and comforting presence, any other secular, commercial music school would have thrown in the towel and called it a day. Following the vision of the founding principal of MSM, Ms. Mary Gan: "The school's pioneering vision is to enhance the quality of worship in our churches by nurturing an interest in music and developing the music talents of those so gifted by God." The school has stood its ground.

Now in our 18<sup>th</sup> year of existence, MSM continues to strive towards being a responsible and faithful steward of God's wonderful gift of music, by providing quality music education to equip the people of God to make joyous music in praise and adoration to honor God's holy name in corporate worship. Building upon those convictions, MSM conducted the second session of the Certificate in Christian Worship last year, which saw a total of 40 participants equipped with a deepened understanding of Christian worship from a biblical, theological and historical perspective.

Looking ahead, MSM is excited about the new initiatives to be launched in 2015. In the words of the prophet Isaiah, MSM will be "stretching our tent curtains wide" to reach out and provide Music Enrichment programmes beyond our walls. One of the initiatives is to reach out to kindergartens in the Methodist churches so that children are given the opportunity to cultivate an interest in music making or dancing.

So, in responding to the lyrics in the refrain of Pastor Gilmore's memorable hymn, the Methodist School of Music will continue and persevere in the mission that God has called and entrusted us with:

*He leadeth me, he leadeth me,  
by his own hand he leadeth me;  
his faithful follower I would be,  
for by his hand he leadeth me.*



Dr Yeo Teck Beng,  
MSM Principal

## Methodist Festival Choir (MFC)



The Methodist Festival Choir (MFC) presented "Jubilate": a Service of Lessons and Carols on November 30th at Barker Road Methodist Church, and December 7th, 2014 at the newly renovated Christ Methodist Church. Mrs Wong Lai Foon conducted the choir, which was accompanied by a brass ensemble, organ, piano and percussion instruments. Founded in mid 2013, the choir has since sung at two ordination services of the Trinity Annual Conference of the Methodist Church in Singapore, two Aldersgate Hymn Festivals, and three worship presentations in the seasons of Lent and Advent. An initiative of MSM, the majority of the 70-strong choir are Methodists. Regular rehearsals are held on Tuesday evenings from mid-January to May, and from August to November.

If you are interested in participating in this ministry as a supporter or a chorister, please write in to:  
<festivalchoir.msm@gmail.com>



The MFC singing at Barker Road Methodist Church



Mrs Wong Lai Foon conducting at Christ Methodist Church

## Church Music

### Certificate of Christian Worship

The CCW is designed for worship leaders and worshipers who are interested in deepening their understanding of worship. The programme comprises 6 modules to be completed within 6 months. Participants may choose to complete all 6 or register for individual modules.

Be a part of CCW journey, to:

**Heighten** your understanding worship from the biblical, theological and historical perspectives;

**Increase** your awareness of the role worship leaders in the spiritual formation of the congregation; and

**Enjoy** the study and discussion of topics relevant to worship planning, worship leading, scripture in worship, music in worship, the Christian year and the sacraments.

The Certificate in Christian Worship (CCW) for 2014 saw 37 participants (23 in the English track and 14 in the Chinese track) who represented 17 churches of various denominations. The programme for 2015 promises more of such offerings for the worship community.

**Come, join us!**

26-27 June	Biblical, Historical and Theological Foundations of Christian Worship
24-25 July	The Sacraments / Spiritual Formation in Worship
21-22 Aug	The Primacy of the Word / The Christian Year
25-26 Sept	The Worship Leader
23-24 Oct	Music in Worship I
20-21 Nov	Music in Worship II

*"CCW has widened my perspective & deepened my insights about what worship is & how we approach God. It has reinforced my personal belief even more that we need to be more intentional about engaging our members in worship, than to allow them to be a mere spectator. Thoughtful, well-chosen songs are so important in worship; as are scripture passages, prayers, etc, in the formation of a Christian's faith."* **Tammy Ang**, a participant from Faith Methodist Church

### Certificate in Christian Worship



RENEW & DEEPEN  
YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF WORSHIP

For more details please call 6767-5258

## Worship Symposium 2015

WORSHIP SYMPOSIUM 2015 | 崇拜研讨会 2015

# REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE

"Made in the image of God, to be the salt and light of the world".

记得你是谁 | 照着上帝的形象  
作世界的盐和光

23-25 June  
June 23-25

Methodist School of Music 基督教音乐学校  
496 Upper Bukit Timah Road, 5678094

Trinity Theological College 三一神学院  
496 Upper Bukit Timah Road, 5678093

**Presenters:**

Prof Jeff Barker | Dr Ruth Duck | Ms Tanya Riches  
Bishop Dr Wei Shun Tang | Rev Nirmal Kuriyil  
Rev Chuan Kuan Chuan | Rev Joel Yong | Dr Simon Chan  
Dr Joel Mwangi | Mr Joy Nkomo | Rev Raymond Tang  
Dr Hong Shing Tung | Mr Daniel Kwan | Dr Daniel Lee  
Rev Lai Chung Chan | Mr Pius Loo | Mr Louis Quik  
Rev Quik Li Huan | Mr Danny Sakin | Rev Tsz Tai  
Rev George Wertz | Mr Christian Law

中文讲者:  
尹和基博士 | 尹宜恩牧师 | 陈永基  
何耀基牧师 | 何耀基牧师  
黄耀基牧师 | 尹宜恩牧师 | 陈永基  
陈永基牧师 | 何耀基牧师  
何耀基牧师 | 何耀基牧师

EARLY BIRD Discount from 1 February to 30 April, 2015  
提早报名 (2015年2月1日至4月30日) 优惠价

Registration ends on 30 May 2015 报名截止日期: 2015年5月30日  
website: www.msmtan.org | tel: 66 8767-3258 | fax: 66 8767-4082  
email: worship@msmtan.org

sponsored by **msm** **msmtan**

sponsored by **ON TRAC TOGETHER**

**Save these dates: 23-25 June 2015**

**REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE** "Made in the image of God, to be the salt and light of the world."

- \* Learn from Dr Ruth Duck (USA), Prof Jeff Barker (USA),
- \* Ms Tanya Riches (Australia), Dr Daniel Law (Hong Kong), Dr Hong Xiang Tang (USA), Joy Nilo (Philippines), Dr Joel Navarro (Singapore), Dr Yap Teck Chong (Malaysia), Grace Ho (Malaysia), Rev Dr Lu Chen Tiong (Malaysia), and many more...
- \* Experience worship through traditional and contemporary / Asian and Western expressions.
- \* Sharpen your musical skills with the Skills Training workshops: Band Arrangement and Instruments, Vocal Training, Song Writing, Choral Arranging Techniques in Choral Conducting, Singing Techniques for Choristers, Worship Leading, Worship Planning, Song Writing and Presenting Scriptures in Worship, Flower Arranging
- \* Attend an afternoon Sectional choosing 3 among 12 sectionals (1 for each afternoon)
- \* Attend 3 plenary Sessions: 1) The Church without Psalms, Laments and Tears; 2) Story & Worship: What's the Connection; 3) Worship for the Whole Body of Christ.

WS 2015 sessions will have presentations both in English and Chinese. Plan to attend! Early birds may register between 1 February and 30 April 2015. Fees after 30 April 2015 will not be discounted.



## Student Performances

It was a year of performance opportunities for the various departments at MSM. Apart from the regular offerings of **music masterclasses** and the **biennial music competition** held on November 25<sup>th</sup> for piano and November 27<sup>th</sup> for strings and a **performance lab** (November 26<sup>th</sup>), selected students also performed at the **Forum Shopping Mall** on November 1<sup>st</sup>. The programme there consisted mainly of piano, dance, singing and guitar items. Another significant performance opportunity was the invitation to perform at the **Esplanade Concourse** on November 11<sup>th</sup>. The year ended with the **Annual Student Recital** on December 6<sup>th</sup> at the Methodist Girls' School (Blackmore Drive) Auditorium. The programme incorporated performances by the high scorers from the Competition, carol singing and organ music, ensemble and Christmas items, and a presentation by the Ballet Department.



Enthusiastic ballerinas at The Forum Shopping Mall



Elliot Teo at the piano



Tan Z-En sharing a song



Lauren Chee at the violin



Chaya Mosomos strumming and singing



Piano Masterclass with Ms Yuko Kamimoto



Strings Masterclass with Ms Vivien Goh



Performance Lab for students



Leong Su Yean at the Esplanade Concourse



Student performance at the Esplanade Concourse in "School's Out", organized by the Esplanade.



MSM Handbell Ringers at a caroling presentation at HillV2



# Performances 2014



MSM Annual Student Recital at the MGS Auditorium

## Orff Schulwerk Class on Creative Movement

A group of 13 participants attended a **Creative Movement** class on the techniques of the Orff Schulwerk, led by practitioner Paul Grosse. It was held on Dec 3-5<sup>th</sup> at MSM. The **Orff Schulwerk**, or simply the **Orff Approach**, is one of several developmental approaches used to teach music education to students. It combines music, movement, drama, and speech into lessons that are similar to child's world of play, and can incorporate various instruments, objects and the use of sound effects to achieve the goals. Though aimed specifically at educators of young children, the skills are applicable to other forms of music education and learning.



Creative speech, Music & Movement Workshop



Participants with Mr Paul Grosse (upper left)

**Ms Serena Tan**, a participant who is also a church musician, comments, *"The techniques are very helpful as it not only allows us to relax but also to focus. I have tried some of the activities on my choir and I can see how using movements can help in our focusing and singing together as a group."*

The next Creative Movement classes will be held in June 2015



Mr John Cheng,  
Piano Instructor

## SPOTLIGHT ON... Mr JOHN CHENG, Piano Instructor

We warmly welcome our newest, full-time faculty member, Mr John Cheng! Mr Cheng joined our ranks in August 2014. He holds the Bachelor of Music degree (piano) from the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA), awarded by the Royal College of Music (London). John not only plays the piano, but the violin as well, and serves at his church (Tun Aminah Presbyterian Church) in Skudai, Johor. Because he loved music even as a child, Mr Cheng decided to pursue a career in music. Despite his youthful looks, he has considerable teaching experience, with students from a wide variety of ages. He views music as "food for the soul", and believes that anyone can learn to enjoy music if they have the interest, for the sake of fulfilment and stress relief, and not merely for paper certification.

At MSM, Mr Cheng's regular duties involves teaching, accompanying students for concerts, exams and ballet classes, and assisting in student assessments. He is also the resident accompanist for the Methodist Festival Choir.

# Announcements



## WHAT'S NEW?

If you have a passion for worship ministry and believe in the importance of sharpening your skills to be an effective worship leader ...

WATCH FOR THE LAUNCH OF "Worship Music Programme" on **14 March 2015**.

This programme is designed to equip up-coming worship ministry teams in contemporary guitar, keyboard and drums.

## What is the programme about?

- ◇ To **equip & inspire** new musicians to **serve God** through their skills and talents.
- ◇ To provide the foundational skills and experience in playing **individually** as well as in a **contemporary band setting**.
- ◇ To provide quality training, resources and support to churches to **nurture** their music ministries.

## Who should attend?

**Beginners** who have little or no experience in playing in a contemporary worship setting.

Target age group: Youths and Young Adults

## Who are the instructors?

They are **passionate** individuals with a united vision of nurturing the next generation of **musicians** to have sincere and committed hearts in making excellent music unto the Lord.

**The Methodist School of Music (MSM)**  
celebrates her 18th Anniversary  
with a service of thanksgiving in word and music

**Guest of Honour and Speaker:**  
**The Bishop Dr Wee Boon Hup**  
**of The Methodist Church in Singapore**

and

a special presentation  
by the Methodist Festival Choir

**All are welcome**

Ye Servants of God,  
your Master proclaim  
and publish abroad  
his wonderful name,  
the name all-victorious  
of Jesus extol,  
his kingdom is glorious  
and rules over all.

**Methodist School of Music**  
**18th Anniversary**

**25 April 2015**

**Saturday, 7:30pm**

Kampong Kapor Methodist Church  
1 Kampong Kapor Road  
Singapore 208673



The ministry of the  
**Methodist Festival Choir (MFC)**  
 continues with

### “Songs of the heart”

Exploring how we encounter God through the wide range of emotions expressed in the Psalms. The musical service begins with a canticle, *Gloria* by Christopher Walker and ends with another canticle, *Te Deum* by W. A. Mozart.

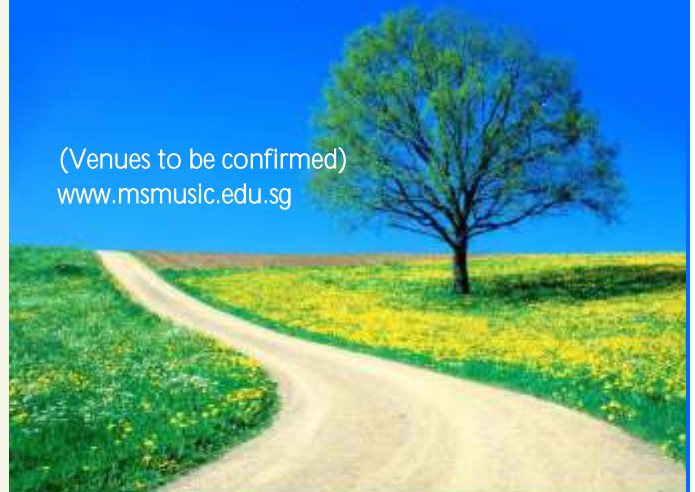
Join us for an enriching worship experience  
 Admission is free and all are welcome.

## SONGS OF THE HEART

A journey through the psalms and canticles in music, stories & prayer.

10th and 17th May, 2015

(Venues to be confirmed)  
[www.msmusic.edu.sg](http://www.msmusic.edu.sg)



## About Us

**msm** METHODIST SCHOOL OF MUSIC

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, and Hymn Festivals for outreach to churches and the community.

### Methodist Festival Choir (MFC)

Formed in July 2013, the 70-strong 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 2015.

## Courses

### General Music and Dance

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

### Children's Music

Children's Music 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



## 院长的话

2014 年对学院来说，就如往昔，又是很忙碌的一年。不过，在每一项活动中我们见证了上帝不变的信实和祂慈爱的手不住地引导着学院。经历了学院所举办的种种活动，我开始反思和默想一个很基本的问题：究竟卫理音乐学院有没有守住当初创院时所领受的呼召和异象，抑或是忙着与新加坡其它音乐学校进行激烈的竞争？我们是否为了增加学生人数而妥协了基督教的信仰、原则和音乐教育的素质呢？

老实说，今年对学院来说确实是挺艰难的一年。因着武吉知马路上段的地铁工程，学院的学生人数在某种程度上受到影响。但是，无论环境多艰苦，学院的职员和老师、还有永远支持我们的家长和义工们总不放弃学院，继续地支持着我们。为此我向上帝献上感恩。

Joseph Gilmore 于 19 世纪所写的一首圣诗萦绕我脑中：

*耶稣领我，我真喜欢！*

*蒙主引导心中平安！*

*无论日夜，动静起坐，*

*耶稣圣手时常领我。*

倘若不是上帝随时同在，任何一家世俗、只注重成绩的音乐学校都不能维持太久。卫理音乐学院首任院长，颜玉钗

女士说过：“学院起初的异象是培养人们对音乐的兴趣，并培育那些在音乐领域里有格外恩赐的人，好加强教会的敬拜素质。”这就是学院所坚持的立场。



杨泽明博士

创院至今已有 18 年，学院努力、尽忠地提供有素质的音乐教育来装备上帝的子民，帮助他们创造并发出喜乐的音乐来颂赞上帝，好在公共崇拜中尊崇上帝的圣名。基于此信念，学院于去年举办了第二届的基督教崇拜证书，来装备信徒从圣经、神学和历史的角度对敬拜有更深入的认识。此课程吸引了 40 名参与者。

学院以兴奋的心情来期待 2015 年的新计划。如以赛亚先知所说，学院：“要扩张帐幕”，提供音乐的培训给外界。其中一个计划是接触卫理公会的幼稚园，好让幼小的孩童有机会培养对音乐和舞蹈的兴趣。

因此，卫理音乐学院将继续努力完成上帝所托付的使命，来回应 Gilmore 牧师在诗歌的副歌所写的：

*耶稣领我，耶稣领我，耶稣天天亲手领我  
我愿为主忠实信徒，因蒙主恩亲手领我*

### 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

儿童音乐班（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

