

Music Ministry In The Church

By the time this issue of MSSM News is released, we should be in 2013 and I thought it would be useful to share some reflections on why we are in the music ministry.

The singing of hymns and worship songs is a vital part of Christian worship. Firstly, it is the part of the worship service which gives the congregation an opportunity to participate and respond to God to whom our singing is directed. If the spiritual health of God's people is demonstrated by the joy and purpose of worship, then the quality of congregational singing at least facially calibrates the spiritual health of the church.

A second important aspect of hymns and worship songs is the facility it affords for worshippers to learn spiritual truths. With appropriate text, a hymn or song encapsulates the essence of critical doctrines and serves as a facility for the recall of these truths. Luther, Wesley and Watts brought powerful statements of theology in their compositions.



Chairman's Message

Mr Chow Kok Fong

"We are in this ministry to edify, equip and evangelise."

We should not be surprised that the Christian tradition of singing hymns and spiritual songs helps in the process of our spiritual formation. In 1 Corinthians 14:15, Paul writes of singing "with the spirit" and singing "with the mind also". The intention is the deliberate engagement of the spirit and our understanding. God can use a hymn or song to remind His flock of His presence, to comfort and to reassure.

For the people who are to be reached for our Lord, the music ministry serves as a

compelling primer to prepare the ground for the gospel. It is crucial that the text of the music we choose is scripturally based and theologically sound. If such is the music we choose, they can depict God's holiness and one can relate more effectively the scriptural basis for our salvation to different experiential contexts of our Christian journey.

We are in this ministry to edify, equip and evangelise. The coming year promises to be a busy time with our expansion into contemporary music and the launch of the program on Christian worship to church members at large. This busyness should not detract us from the objectives of our ministry. The Psalmist has appropriately urged "let the people praise Thee O God...let the nations be glad and sing for joy" (Psalm 67:3-4). May we be faithful in ensuring that we are true to our focus.

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Aldersgate Hymn Festival
May 2013

Call 67675258 to join the choir.
Rehearsals begin
15th Jan 2013

Event Snapshots (November)

Music Enrichment Week (19th—24th November)

Violin/Viola Masterclass with Vivien Goh



Ms Vivien Goh (centre), Ms Judy Tay (right) and the masterclass participants

The 1st Annual MSM Music Competition was held on 20th November. The aim of the Music Competition was to encourage students to pursue excellence in artistic expression, performance and stage presence. Two guest adjudicators provided their expert assessment on the candidates. They were Ms Teo Suey Sung for Piano, and Ms Vivien Goh for Violin and Viola. The top-scoring soloists went on to perform at the annual Student Recital on 8th December.

Singing Masterclass with William Lim



Ms Joanna Paul (left), Mr William Lim (centre) and the young singers

Piano Competition



Ms Teo Suey Sung (above) and post-competition smiles

Ms Vivien Goh, a national figure in the local music scene and a Cultural Medallion winner, also coached the string students in a masterclass on the same day. In the masterclass for Singing, Mr William Lim, who is a professional singer and teacher, gave young students expert tips on voice projection, diction and technique.

Violin / Viola Competition



Tuned up and ready to go!

Captive audience



Performance Lab

Students performed for their peers and family at the Performance Lab on 21st November. This is a bi-annual event for all to enjoy.

Bravissimo!



Artists in the making



September-December 2012)

Annual Student Recital (8th December)



The graceful ballerinas



The highest scoring soloists, who were shortlisted from the 1st Annual MSM Music Competition, performed at the Student Recital. Held at Bukit Panjang Methodist Church Recital hall, the day's programme also included a choral trio, and a dance item choreographed by Ms Melissa Tan (MSM Teaching Associate). Dr Evelyn Lim (Acting Principal) awarded certificates of participation to the performers. Congratulations to all the teachers and students for their hard work!



A joyous conclusion

The intense soloists



Season's greetings to one and all!

Season's Pipings 2012

On 6th December, **Season's Pipings**, a collaboration between MSM and the Singapore Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, was held at Kampong Kapur Methodist Church. The evening comprised organ music, carols and choral items for the Advent and Christmas Seasons. It was presented by Chapter members, MSM students with special guests, La Fontaine Woodwinds and Christus Cantores — a children's group directed by MSM Teaching Associate, Ms Joanna Paul.



Organist accompanying carols

WORSHIP in Spirit & in Truth

3 - 5 June 2013

Venues
Methodist School of Music
&
Trinity Theological College
Singapore



Dr Lester Ruth teaches worship history in the Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies, Orange Park, Florida, USA and also as Research Professor of Christian Worship at Duke Divinity School in Durham, North Carolina. He served as a United Methodist minister for several years before

becoming a professor. His particular interests are the early church and the last 250 years. He is passionate about enriching the worship life of current congregations, regardless of style.

SKILLS TRAINING WORKSHOPS

- Band Arranging, *Mervin John & Team*
- Beyond I - IV - V - I (Keyboard improvisation), *Daniel Kan*
- Choral Conducting: Rehearsal Techniques, *Wong Lai Foon*
- Becoming Worship Architects: Designing Services For Encountering God, *Rev Dr Constance Cherry*
- Giving Our Best in Live Sound Reinforcement, *Daniel Foo*
- Guitar in Worship, *Chan Kum Soon*
- Handbells in Worship, *Ng Chet Wei*
- Nurturing Good Values in Children, *Dr Florence Teo*
- Singing in the Worship Team, *Quek Li Huan*
- The Art of Piano Accompaniment, *Jessica Leong*
- The Worship Leader, *Ps Fabian Ghui*
- Vocal Coaching, *Leona Quek*

Online Registration starts
2 JANUARY 2013!

15% discount for early
bird registration before
30 April 2013



Rev Dr Constance Cherry has served the church in various full-time ministries: Director of worship and music, pastor, professor in the academy. In addition to teaching regularly at The Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies, she also teaches in various international settings and speaks at conferences. Her latest publication is "The Worship Architect: A Blueprint for Designing Culturally Relevant and Biblically Faithful Services."

PLENARY SESSIONS (with Chinese simultaneous translation)

- Dr Lester Ruth:*
Worship in Truth
Worship in Spirit
- Rev Dr Constance Cherry:*
Worship Windows: Encountering God Through Song,
Encountering God in Music
- The "New Blended" — what it is and what it isn't**

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

- Can Anything Good Come Out of Asia? *Dr I-to Loh*
- Connecting Sunday to the other Days, *Dr Daniel Koh*
- Children's Choir in Worship, Part I & II**, *Mary Gan*
- Perhaps Contemporary Worship is not that Contemporary, Part I & II, *Dr Lester Ruth*
- The Worship Leader & the Band, *Rev Lee Meng Cham*
- Worship & Mission, *Rev George Martzen*
- 崇拜的圣经与神学基础, *Rev Phua Chee Seng*
- 崇拜与宣教, *Rev Khoo Cheng Hoot*
- 崇拜与道德, *Rev Dr Lu Chen Tiong*
- 圣诗欣赏, *Rev See Ping Eik*
- 礼仪祷文, *Cathy Tan*
- 亞洲不會出什麼好的嗎? *Dr I-to Loh*
- 敬拜的宝藏 - 《诗篇》, *Lily Wong Kueng Mee*

CERTIFICATE in CHRISTIAN WORSHIP



The Methodist School of Music is offering a Certificate in Christian Worship (CCW) program for pastors, worship leaders, musicians and worshippers who wish to learn more about worship from a biblical, theological and historical perspective.

This is a six week-end program that runs from June 2013 to December 2013

Venue: Barker Road Methodist Church
48 Barker Road, S 309917

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND!

THE FACULTY



Rev Dr Jeffrey Truscott



Rev Dr Maggie Low



Rev Malcolm Tan



Rev Dr Frank Senn



Bp Dr Wee Boon Hup



Rev Dr Lim Teck Peng

Special article: So You Want To Be A Church Pianist?

Things are not as straightforward as they may seem. You had piano lessons in your youth, and have now decided to offer your services as a pianist at church. But somehow, playing the hymns and choruses are not as easy as you had hoped. What's wrong? Not many realise that playing the piano for the church is not the same as playing your favourite Mozart, Richard Clayderman and pop tunes for enjoyment or performance. The piano classes had trained you for solo performance, but you now have to adapt to new requirements — to *lead* and *accompany* people during worship.

Duty now goes before personal preference – you are entrusted to encourage the congregation to focus on the message of the song or hymn, and not simply play them any way you like. Consider the intention and function of the song. Was it composed to rouse people's hearts, quieten the soul, or effect a response? How you play the songs can make or break the worship experience of the congregation. For traditional hymns in 4-part style, play as many notes on the score as you can, and refrain from glossing over the awkward reaches, or adding notes that are foreign to the chord. Play the melody line clearly and smoothly so people can hear it. Use the damper pedal (for sustaining) without blurring the inner lines. Playing a strong bass line also helps the congregational singing to keep in

pitch and in time. Tasteful improvisation is also welcome, but not to the point of drawing attention to self by covering the entire hymn with fancy rolls and trills.

If you play with other musicians, you are part of an ensemble. As a team, you will have to make a plan as to who leads, and who supports. It is not inspiring to hear everyone playing the same lines at the same volume, all the time. Listen to orchestral arrangements of similar worship songs to get an idea how to do this, but do not simply try to copy them.

Above all, a church pianist is expected to be technically proficient and possess solid musicianship skills. As servants, we are often told that it is the heart that counts, and not the product. But we must remember that it is the Master whom we serve, and our fellow believers to whom we account. We must offer our very best. Every church musician, whether professional or amateur, not only needs to pray, but continue to hone and upgrade his skills. In short, *practise...practise...practise!*

The MSM is dedicated to provide training and resources for musicians to serve in the music ministry. If you have any questions or would like a short class on this subject, please email us at evelynselim@msmusic.edu.sg We would be delighted to help!



Dr Evelyn Lim,
Acting Principal,
Organist / Lecturer



Announcements

Search For New Asian Songs Of Worship

Introduction

The Methodist School of Music (MSM) and the Centre for the Study of Christianity in Asia/Trinity Theological College (CSCA/TTC) are in the process of compiling and publishing a *New Asian Songs of Worship*. The hymnal is targeted for church and seminary use, as a resource for theological education in Asia, especially for the cultivation and development of contextual theology, liturgy and music.

The Editorial Committee is looking for new songs and liturgical responses written recently or within the past two decades from Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, India, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Philippines, China, Korea, Taiwan and Japan. The songs will be multi-lingual, with original languages and English translations; some with additional Malay or Chinese translations. The music will be in staff and cipher (numerical) notation. There will be notes and suggestions for creative use of hymns to help seminarians and pastors.

Criteria for Selection

- Biblically based with scriptural truth and depth.
- Theologically sound, reflecting the universal faith of the Christian community.
- Appropriate for use in seminary chapel services and/or corporate worship/gathering in churches.
- Could be hymns, short songs or liturgical responses to enrich contemporary worship.
- Hymns or songs that reflect the reality of the life, mission and witness of the churches in Asia today.
- Texts with rich contextual imagery and music with Asian ethnic elements and styles are greatly encouraged.
- Language: English, Chinese, Malay/Indonesian or other languages.
- The Editorial Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any song submitted.
- If selected, the composer shall give a written consent to MSM & CSCA to publish the song.

Submission & Enquiry

Deadline of submission: 30th April 2013. Please email text and music to:

Dr I-to Loh, Editor: ito@globalchurchmusic.org or Ms Mary Gan, Project Director/Co-Editor: maryganyt@gmail.com
or Ms Judith Laoyan-Mosomos, Co-Editor: jlaoyanm@gmail.com

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Introduce your child to the world of dance!

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Pursuing excellence in music education and ministry

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Sundays

4 – 5 years old	2 : 00pm – 2 : 45pm
6 – 7 years old	2 : 45pm – 3 : 30pm

Enrol Now!

METHODIST SCHOOL of MUSIC

496 Upper Bukit Timah Road
#03-20 John Wesley Centre
Singapore 678099

Tel: 6767 5258
Fax: 6767 4082
E-mail: msm@mamusic.edu.sg
Website: www.msmusic.edu.sg

Join the
MSM CHORISTERS!

Meet new friends
and sing with joy!



Children ages 6-15 are welcome to join the choir and explore the joy of making music through:

- ♪ Choral ensemble
- ♪ Creative movement
- ♪ Learning music theory, sight singing and rhythmic studies
- ♪ Playing angklung, gamelan, Thai ensemble and handbells

Schedule

Saturdays, 3:00pm-4:00pm
Session runs from 5 Jan 2013 to 30 Nov 2013.

Course Fees

Non MSM Students:
\$224.70 per term +
Registration Fee: \$32.10

MSM Students: \$112.35 per term
(11 classes)

Coming Event: Children's Choir Concert on 30th November 2013

A new contemporary music project will be launched in 2013. A collaborative effort of Grace Methodist Church (GMC) and MSM, **Ministry of Music** will be helmed by Mr Mervin John (Ministry Worker in Worship and Creative Arts) at GMC. It aims to support & equip our churches and schools through different ways in the area of worship empowerment. If you lead a worship ministry at your church and would like to get connected, please email Mervin at Mervin@gmc.org.sg

About Us

Introduction

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.

Programmes and Events

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.



Courses

General Music and Dance

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

Children's Music

- Seraphim Class (ages 4-5)
- MSM Children's Choir (ages 6-15)
- The Young Organist (ages 6-16)

Ensembles

- MSM (Handbell) Ringers
- MSM Adult Choir

Church Music Modules

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

教会圣乐服事



主席的话

Mr Chow Kok Fong

**我们在这服事里所要做的
是陶冶、装备和布道。**

当您阅读这份卫理音乐学院的院讯时，应该已是在2013年了，因此，我想这是个好时机来反思参与圣乐服事的重要性。

吟唱圣诗和赞美诗是基督徒敬拜神重要的一环。首先，唱诗给予会众机会参与在崇拜里，并借此回应上帝。倘若上帝子民的灵性健康是透过喜乐与有效的敬拜来表达，那会众唱诗的素质就必须反映出教会的属灵健康。

诗歌第二个重要的层面是让敬拜者有机会学习真理。好诗歌的歌词涵盖了核心教义，也成为管道，好让吟唱者重温这些真理。路德、卫斯理和华滋都在他们的创作里注入重要的神学。因此，毫无疑问的，圣诗和灵歌吟唱

传统确实可以帮助信徒在灵性方面的塑造。保罗在林前14：15中提到“要用灵歌唱，也要用悟性歌唱”。其目的是将灵性和悟性结合。上帝使用诗歌来让祂的子民感受祂的同在，使他们得安慰，也坚定他们的信心。

在信仰门槛外的人，圣乐通常是他们接触福音最初步的管道。我们所选择的诗歌，其歌词尤其重要，它们必须符合正

确的神学，因为好的诗歌，可以表彰上帝的圣洁，同时也在不同阶段的信仰旅程中帮助信徒与圣经真理紧密连结。

我们在这服事里所要做的是陶冶、装备和布道。来临的一年，我们将忙着扩展现代圣乐领域，以及大规模地向教会推广与敬拜有关的各类活动。然而，这些忙碌不应该使我们的使命模糊。诗人呼吁“愿万民都称赞你...愿万国都快乐欢呼”（诗67：3；4）。愿我们都忠心地朝正确的使命前进。

黄勤媚译

应用音乐与舞蹈

钢琴

古典风琴

长笛

小提琴/中提琴/大提琴

喇叭/长号/粗管低音号

爵士钢琴

锣鼓

声乐

芭蕾舞

乐理

听力训练

儿童音乐

小天使班 (4-5岁)

儿童合唱团 (6-15岁)

儿童管风琴 (6-16岁)

合奏

手铃队

成人合唱团

圣乐单元

圣诗弹奏 (风琴)

风琴导论

指挥学

吉他与崇拜

键盘与崇拜

新年快乐!

卫理音乐学院的委员会和全体员工要恭祝
所有读者以及支持者“新年快乐”!