

## CONFERENCE REPORT

# Performers (‘) Present Festival and Symposium 2016 at Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music Singapore 25<sup>th</sup> October-1<sup>st</sup> November 2016

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Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music Singapore (YSTCM) organized Performers (‘) Present Festival and Symposium 2016 on 25 October - 1 November 2016. This event is held to celebrate the anniversary of the conservatory. The event was held at the campus of Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music Singapore.

Participants who attend this event come from Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, Thailand, Netherlands, America, England, Norway, and so on. In this series of festivals and symposia, the whole series of events are arranged in an interesting and very indulgent ‘ear’ to all the participants who attended this event.

Performers (‘) Present Festival and Symposium 2016 begins on 25 October 2016 preceded by Pre-Symposium activities with Workshop Cello Workshop by 4Cellists, Brass Masterclass and panel discussion by Boston Brass and YSTCM Faculty Brass, and ends with a piano concert by pianist Melvyn Tan.

The second day activity of Performers (‘) Present Festival and Symposium 2016 begins with a vocal Masterclass by Donald George, followed by a Masterclass for chamber music by Gabor Takács-Nagy and ends with a percussion concert by Vanessa Tomlinson.

On the third day, the Performers (‘) Present Festival and Symposium 2016 event begins with the opening of a symposium by Brett Stemple as the Convener event. The symposium session was preceded by a presentation from Prof. Kua Ee Heok with the title “Music, Mood, and Memory-All in Your Mind”. Prof. Kua has been conducting research for 12 months and in collaboration with the National University system and Jurong Aging Study to trace the benefits of choral singing in delaying and managing dementia, anxiety, and depression in senior citizens. After Presentation from Prof. Kua, the symposium is divided into several spaces. All participants who participated in the symposium were given the opportunity to attend symposium topics appropriate to

their respective subjects and interests. After lunch, a “Lunchtime Concert” was held by Bart Van Oort and Petra Somlai. This concert is a piano concert with the use of “Mozart piano” which is almost similar to harpsichord but its shape is like a piano without pedal. The concert lasted for an hour. After the Lunchtime Concert, the symposium begins again. At the ends of the symposium held violin concert with theme “Quiet is Beautiful” by Mieko Kanno. The first day symposium event was closed by a music concert from Boston Brass and YSTCM Faculty brass that amazed the audience.

The fourth day of symposia begins with a symposium session which is then continued with Lunchtime Concert by Wu Xian Chamber music ensemble. After the concert, the symposium begins again. After the symposium is complete, all of the participants of the symposia enjoyed the Guitar and Percussion concerts by Paul Cesarczyk (Guitar) and Joachim Lim (percussion) for one hour. The second day’s activities ended with a concert piano by Melvyn Tan and Conservatory String Ensemble.

The fifth day activity of the Present Festival and Symposium 2016 begins with Presentations & Provocations sessions on “Illuminating the Score: The Past represented” topic with panelists: Gabor Takács-Nagy, Wong Kahchun and Darrell Ang, followed by Rehearsal By Gabor Takács-Nagy which was allowed to be witnessed by all symposium participants. After this activity, the symposium is resumed, followed by Lunchtime Concert by Luk Vaes. After lunchtime concert followed by Presentation and Provocations session again with the topic “Warping the Performer’s Present? The Recording Conundrum with panelists: Vanessa Tomlinson, Zhang Manchun, Albert Tiu, and Young Hoon Song. The next session is a Masterclass session by András Schiff pianist. Piano Masterclass session is open to the public and all symposium participants. After the Masterclass session, the symposium session resumes and ends with three music concerts. The first music concert was a music concert with the theme “Creative Project” by Jonathan Dove and 1st and 2nd year YSTCM students. The concert was a creative exploration concert of all 1st and 2nd year YSTCM students. The second music concert was a concert piano by Thomas Hecht. The third concert was a music concert by Lorong Boys. Lorong boys is a music group whose members are alumni from YSTCM, and to this day the group is very active in holding various music concerts in Singapore.

The last day of symposium began with symposium sessions and symposium activities concluded with Presentations & Provocations sessions with the topic “Sowing the Future Present” with panelists: Peter Tornquist, Anothai Nitibhon, Schott Harrison and Wong Kahchun. All symposium activities concluded with music concerts from Jonathan Dove and 1st and 2nd year YSTCM students and Preview Bangsokol workshop, A Requiem for Cambodia by YSTCM Ensemble, Musicians from Cambodia Living Arts with conductor Adrian Chiang.

This event is an event to give the experience of listening to music, critical thinking about music in this century and provide a new understanding of the music that is around us. This event is packed with a very interesting and certainly an event to form a networking of music players, academia, and students who follow this event.