

JEFFREY CHEAH HALL

SCHOOL OF ARTS PRESS

Newsletter



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DECEMBER 2023



About us

School of Arts Press (SOAP) is Sunway University's School of Arts monthly newsletter in which we highlight and provide information on student and staff achievements, past events as well as a notification platform for upcoming events.

Issue highlights

In this month's issue, SOAP highlights lecturers and students' achievements, Rawk Commcert 3.0, music showcases, and project-based learning among other exciting events!

The School of Arts Press

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Message To The Dean

It is time for us to bid a heartfelt farewell to Prof. Matthew Marshall. During his time as Dean, Prof. Matthew has led and overseen the varying departments and programmes with Sunway University's School of Arts. His leadership and guidance will be missed.

The School of Arts Press wishes you all the best in your future endeavours!

-THE SCHOOL OF ARTS PRESS



Intercultural Communication Students Visit Malacca for Project-Based Learning

On the 1st of December, Dr Norizzati Azudin from the Department of Communication brought students taking the COM2043 Intercultural Communication elective to Malacca for their class project. The trip was chaperoned by fellow School of Arts lecturers, including Prof. Bradley Freeman, Ms Yesuselvi Manickam, Ms Priyadharshini Ahrumugan, and Ms Intan Abida Abu Bakar. Throughout the trip, students worked well together and were able to enjoy project-based learning by exploring UNESCO heritage.



(Photo source:
Dr Norizzati Azudin)



Dr Poom Prommachart Features as Piano Soloist at Classical Music Concert

On the 2nd to 3rd of December, Department of Film and Performing Arts (DFPA) lecturer Dr Poom Prommachart was the featured piano soloist at the *Symphonic Stories: Dreams, Dances & Dramas* classical music concert, where he performed Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1. Conducted by Mr Kevin Field, the concert took place at Dominus Arts Venue and the Tutan Festival Orchestra performed works by Shostakovich, Grieg, Tai Yun Ming, and Tchaikovsky. Dr Prommachart's performance was attended by DFPA Head Assoc. Prof. Dr Adrian Lee, Contemporary Music (Audio Technology) Program Leader Ms Christine May Yong, part-time Music Performance staff member Mr Soon Kun Ming, and Music Performance students who attended and volunteered at the concert.



(Photo source: Ms. Christine May Yong)

Work Hard, Bowl Hard 2023 with the Sun U Admins!

Sunway University administrators managed to let loose and have fun during *Work Hard, Bowl Hard 2023*, a bowling night held on the 5th of December at Sunway Mega Lanes in Sunway Pyramid. Sunway University admins were able to unwind and enjoy themselves with some fun on the bowling lanes in an event that was all about excitement, networking, and making unforgettable memories. The night ended with the School of Arts' own technical staff Mr Tuah Khairuddin winning first prize alongside his team!



(Photo source: University Services)



Contemporary Art for Life Vol. 1

with Mitsuhiro Higuchi

On the 6th of December, Sunway students enjoyed a talk and showcase presentation by renowned Japanese digital artist Mitsuhiro Higuchi in 'Contemporary Art for Life Vol. 1'. He gave a talk highlighting his enthralling work of digital art and photography and how he skillfully combines traditional craft with his modern digital expertise. During the session, Sunway students not only got to experience an engaging discussion with the artist, but they also got to witness a demonstration of digital creation live in person.

Mitsuhiro Higuchi has worked in the advertising and entertainment industry as a creative director, designer, art director, video director and photographer. Using his ample amount of experience, he aims to help aspiring artists market themselves within the industry.



(Photo source: Akram Yunoos)

Music Performance Students Join String Masterclass with Lim Soon Lee

On December 8th, two exceptionally talented string students from the BA (Hons) in Music Performance had the privilege of receiving training from the distinguished Singaporean string specialist, Lim Soon Lee. This event, hosted at Sunway University, was not only a testament to the university's commitment to nurturing musical talent but also an opportunity for the broader Sunway community. Both staff and students were invited to witness this masterclass, providing a unique opportunity to gain valuable insights into the intricate world of string music.



(Photo source: Assoc. Prof. Dr Andrew Filmer)

Lim Soon Lee, a highly acclaimed figure within the scope of string instruments, brings a wealth of experience and achievements to this masterclass. Throughout his illustrious career, Lim Soon Lee has garnered numerous accolades, securing a multitude of awards for his outstanding achievements. He played a pivotal role in the Singapore Symphony Orchestra, including conducting at the 2017 SEA Games opening ceremony. His impactful contributions include directing the National Youth Orchestra. Since 2018, he has led the Nanyang Girls' High School String Ensemble to remarkable success, both in Singapore and internationally.



(Photo source: NUS Arts Festival 2023 Website)

Music Performance Lecturers

Feature as Soloists in Euroasia Sinfonia Concert

The Euroasia Association of Performing Arts and Sunway University's School of Arts came together to organise the concert, *"Harmonic Odyssey - All Strings Attached"* on December 10th 2023. This concert was primarily performed by the Euroasia Sinfonia, a Kuala Lumpur-based youth string orchestra established in 2022. Held at Alliance Francaise Kuala Lumpur, the concert welcomed renowned conductor/violist Mr Lim Soon Lee to work with them, alongside two soloists from our Music Performance programme - Assoc. Prof. Dr Andrew Filmer and Dr Poom Prommachart! The musical celebration was further enhanced by a special appearance by Euroasia's Royal Patron, Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin.



(Photo source: Euroasia Association of Performing Arts on Facebook)

CMAT Student Athan Leong Presents His Final Year Concert!

On the 16th of December, final-year Contemporary Music (Audio Technology) student Athan Leong held a recital called "Athan's Journals" as his final year project at the JC Hall, Sunway College. "Athan's Journals" honoured the end of his journey as a music student by showcasing a concert that he tirelessly put together throughout the year 2023. The concert featured Athan's original compositions, new unreleased music and old classics by bands that Athan is a part of, and arrangements of jazz music along with his rendition of J-pop and Indie music. Other performers in the recital included Variant IV, Grand Endeavour, Sunway's very own CMAT band, the Sunway University Ensemble (SUE), a choir and duets featuring Athan himself!



(Photo Source: Anthony Quach)



Elton Ting Organises Fundraising Concert for Charity

We are thrilled to share a detailed recap of the mesmerising event, "Hikari: A Light for the Future," which marked the pinnacle of Elton Ting's final year project. This event, held on December 17th at 8:00 PM in the enchanting JC Hall, was a celebration of musical brilliance and artistic expression. Elton, the current president of the Sunway University Ensemble, showcased his diverse talents as the producer, arranger, conductor, and sound designer for this event, orchestrating a harmonious blend of roles to bring the musical vision to life.

On that remarkable day, over 100 passionate musicians united for an impactful ACG (anime, comics, and games) and Pop Concert, aimed at raising funds for underprivileged children's music education. Generosity shone through as RM5,000 was raised for ChildAidAsia, ensuring more children have access to the enriching world of music education!



(Photo source: Isaac Yaw)

Music Performance Students Take the Stage in Graduation Recitals

From strong vocals to melodious piano performances, final-year students captivated the audience during their personalised graduation recitals. Starting off with vocal student Yeap Bo Yee, "Journey of the Fauna" featured vocal works and opera scenes. The works were accompanied with music inspired by Poulenc, Vaughan Williams, Handel, and Mozart. The recital was held in Kuala Lumpur City Opera studio on December 19th and was sponsored by Fiamma Opera Studio!



(Photo source: School of Arts Press, Ocean Fong)

On 21st December, Ng Xin Yee presented "A Fantastical Illusion" with an engaging piano performance featuring works by Liszt, Mendelssohn and Saint-Saëns. The hour-long recital was held in the SOA Gallery. During the recital, Xin Yee performed the first premiere of Saint-Saëns's Africa for piano and string quartet which was self-arranged. On 22nd December, the piano recital "Into Tales & Colours" was presented by Lee Yu Jun (Eugiene). The emotional piano performance featured works by Franz Schubert, Amy Beach, and Claude Debussy.



(Photo source: School of Arts Press, Ocean Fong)



(Photo source: School of Arts Press, Ocean Fong)

For the final recital, classical voice major Lee Jian Zhen will present his strong vocals during his “Love | Death” recital on 3rd January 2024. In his recital, he will feature works by Robert Schumann, Richard Straus, Reynaldo Hahn, Roger Quilter, Mozart, and Felix Mendelssohn. See you at the SOA Gallery on January 3rd!

Rawk Commcert Returns for Their Third Run

On the 16th of December, students taking the Event Management elective organised the RAWK 3.0 Evo-Commcert with the theme "Local Legends, Timeless Tunes". It emphasised supporting local artists while prompting greater appreciation of music throughout the ages. The event started with an opening speech by Prof. Sibrandes Poppema before progressing to performances by talented individuals and groups. These performances, which consisted of song, dance, and other skills, were curated according to the era they were based in.



(Photo source:
Catherine Anne Labrooy)

Here's what Project Director Jenn and Head of the Sponsorship Department Shivaani, had to say about the event:

1. What were the biggest challenges you faced in planning and executing Rawk 3.0?

Jenn: Our biggest challenge will definitely be the venue. We were eyeing JC hall in the college building because it's spacious and comes with better lights and sound system. But unfortunately, it was booked ages ago, no matter how much we tried. So, at the end we settled for JC1. We were worried it might look too "serious" for a concert, but our team pulled off some magic, and it turned out awesome!

Shivaani: We had problems confirming the location since the beginning; hence we started planning our event a little late :(We initially wanted to use JC Hall, but it was booked, and our other venue options were all occupied so our last option was JC1. It was a bit small for the concert's purpose, but I'm glad we made it work. Getting sponsors was definitely hard too since it was the end of the year and most companies ran out of extra funds. Working with a big team was a struggle as well. Having 56 people in our class meant it was difficult to get everyone to cooperate.

2. What surprised you the most about the event throughout the planning and execution phases?

Jenn: What really blew my mind was how the Sunwayians totally had our backs during the whole promo phase for the event! We ran into so many awesome people who were crazy supportive. They pumped us up, supported us on our social media, and made us believe we could pull it off, and we totally did haha, and we had a blast doing it!

Shivaani: I'm honestly surprised how well the event turned out since it's the first time most of us organised an event. I'm also happy that we received a lot of positive feedback after the event! Even though working with a large group of people can be hard to manage, we managed to make it work and I made many new friends! This is my first time taking up a leadership role and I've learned and gained so much experience~ I'm happy we managed to get sponsors for our event too!



(Photo source: Catherine Anne Labrooy)

3. If you could change one thing about Rawk 3.0, what would it be and why?

Jenn: If I had to pinpoint something to tweak about the event, it would still be the venue. We sold out our tickets a few weeks before the event, and we received so many inquiries from people still wanting to get tickets even on the event day. Having the JC hall would've let us host double the crowd we did, but hey, it all turned out amazing nonetheless!

Shivaani: I would like to change the location hahaha it would be great if we could have had our event at JC Hall instead of JC1. It's more spacious and maybe we could even have a little dance party at the end of the event, but ya that's my opinion~ overall Rawk 3.0 was great! The performances were so entertaining and enjoyable! I had a really great time with the team. Although the planning and execution processes were tiring, it was definitely worth it <3



(Photo source: Catherine Anne Labrooy)



**Thank you for reading the
December 2023 issue of the
School of Arts Press Newsletter.**

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