

Inspiring Young Organists at Organ Academy Singapore

Compiled by the Organ Academy Singapore Organising Committee

11 - 16 June 2019: An educational event for young organists, the “Organ Academy Singapore” took place at various venues around central Singapore. During the week, participants experienced different organs through lessons, concerts, workshops and organ crawls. The highlight was guest clinician Tom Bell from the UK, who presented two workshops and performed at an afternoon concert at the Victoria Concert Hall. The participants, whose average ages ranged from 12-20, ended with a recital showcasing what they had learnt, at the pipe organ at the Victoria Concert Hall.

The participants definitely enjoyed their time at the Academy; with the majority citing that the pipe organ crawls were the most exciting for them. Singapore AGO takes this opportunity to thank all who have made this programme possible.



Highlights from OAS 2019:

Top: Participants of OAS 2019 posing for a photo

Bottom (L-R): Tom Bell instructing a participant; one of the participants ending his piece with a little style

Message From The Dean

Time rolls on. As each year ends and a new one begins, we tend to look back on what we have achieved or left undone. With a sense of joy, regret or purpose we plough on and hope for a better tomorrow.

For the Singapore Chapter, 2019 was an exciting year indeed. It was “pulling out all the stops” for the Programme Committee as, in addition to the regular activities, we embarked on the gargantuan task of organising a nation-wide Organ Academy (OAS) for young musicians. With the support of arts groups, mainly the Singapore Symphonia Group, churches and precious individuals who gave time, energy, financial support and expertise, the project spelled a success. We hope to see the fruit of this planting in the coming years, as more musicians become aware of the organ and its numerous applications, both as a church and concert instrument. Personally, what was more encouraging and meaningful was the teamwork and enthusiasm among Chapter members, and new friends from outside the Chapter who came together with one vision to make this project possible.

What’s next after this major achievement? Perhaps we can look to another Academy in the near future. For now, we plough on; put the hoe to the ground and continue to do outreach, educational projects, concerts and worship events in order to nurture and encourage every organist, whether he/she is new or experienced.

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”

-Eleanor Roosevelt, former First Lady of the USA

With every good wish,
Evelyn Lim
Dean; 2018-2020

Full House at Season's Pippings 2019

By Suzanne Lau

The 2019 edition of Season's Pippings with the theme 'Epiphany' on 19 January saw a full house at the Prinsep Street Presbyterian Church. The evening featured pieces on the organ by members as well as guest oboists: Joost Flach and Jasper Goh. It was also the first time the Chapter has formed a choir for the programme.

The line up for the evening definitely showcased the organ as a dynamic instrument. It is both an instrument with magnificent tone colours on its own, as well as accompaniment for instrument and voice.



Moments from Season's Pippings: Top Right: Performers of Season's Pippings pose for a photo; Bottom (L- R): Newly minted choir leading the congregation in the singing of hymns, Guests oboists Jasper Goh & Joost Flach accompanied by member Yap Wai Hoong; members Chong Ten Yeen (violin) and Diana Kostova (organ) presenting an item.

François Espinasse in Singapore

The Singapore AGO co-hosts the visit of François Espinasse (France) as he presents an organ recital as part of the VCH Organ Series at the Victoria Concert Hall on Monday, Feb 24th, 12:30pm. The co-titular organist at the Church of Saint-Séverin in Paris, will be presenting French inspired (if not, with a French touch) organ music. Admission to the concert is free; but registration is required and will open from 10 February 2020 onwards.

An organ masterclass with Mr Espinasse on French music will also be held on 24 February 2020, 7:30pm at the Singapore Bible College Worship Hall. More details available soon. Those interested may register directly at <enquire@singaporeago.org>.



Exciting February 2020 Awaits:
François Espinasse in Singapore

Coming Soon...

Pipes of Praise & Thanksgiving

- 11 January 2020; 7:30pm, Orchard Road Presbyterian Church

"Organ, Français": François Espinasse, Organ

- 24 February 2020; 12:30pm, Victoria Concert Hall

French Organ Music Masterclass with François Espinasse

- 24 February 2020; 7:30pm, Singapore Bible College- Worship Hall

Organ Masterclass with Maurice Clerc: Beginning Improvisation

- 20 April 2020; 7:30pm, Barker Road Methodist Church

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