

Daniel Moulton Virtual Masterclass in Singapore

By Eugene Yeo; first published on Singapore AGO website on 14 February 2022, Photo by Suzanne Lau

We had a blast with last Sunday's masterclass taught by Daniel Moulton! Although COVID-19 disrupted plans for the recital, our tech teams came through (with what must be Singapore's first-ever use case!) by hooking up a pipe organ to Zoom so that Daniel could join us virtually even though he had been confined to his hotel room after testing positive for COVID-19 upon arrival in Singapore.

A special shout-out to Erin Tan, Terence Wong, and the Victoria Concert Hall team for tirelessly working with us to bring this event to fruition. Thank you to everyone who attended our events over the weekend – we've still got more in the pipeline, so stay tuned!



Virtual Masterclass in the Year 2022: Daniel Moulton streaming in from his hotel to conduct the masterclass

B.T.S. – “Whose Hill Is This?”

By Calista Lee, Photo by Dr Evelyn Lim

A “VCH Presents” series, “Whose Hill Is This” is a family oriented organ concert featuring a story with a narrator, live organ music, and imagery. The Chapter was thrilled to work with the SSO on this programme. We go B.T.S. (behind the scenes) to see how this came about.

Singapore AGO: What inspired you to write the script for “Whose Hill Is This”?

Calista: I think that stories have the amazing ability to teach children life lessons and help them process emotions and experiences, so that was one of the things I looked out for in picking books for reference. Somehow the ones I came across kept having bears as the main characters... A particular title by Jonny Lambert about a bear who learnt to share stood out. I probably found it relatable because my godson and his brother are at the age where they quibble about which toy belongs to who. I think the lesson for children should be quite obvious, or perhaps the children will surprise us with their point of view. For the adults, there is always a conflict that involves territory somewhere in the world, with a major one at the start of the year when this was written. So, I think reflections on ownership and sacrifice will also resonate with the older ones.

Singapore AGO: Did you find anything or anyone particularly helpful while you were working on this project?

Calista: What I wrote was actually supposed to be a draft for a professional writer to polish up or just take ideas from. Dr Evelyn Lim was full of ideas and had added notes on the character of each piece, which was helpful.

I'm pleasantly surprised and grateful that the AGO and SSO accepted the story and gave it full support. I must thank the organists for “bearing” with additional cues and movement compared to a regular performance. Also to be thanked are Rosemarie Somaiah who will be the storyteller, for giving her expert input in fleshing out the story to be more engaging for children; Casey Lim who started off illustrating only the key publicity image, but ended up doing most of the visuals for the concert; and finally Erin Tan who is managing this project, for recommending me and coordinating everything with such positive energy.



Rehearsal in progress: Practising for the show

Message From The Dean

Seasons of Change...

We survived COVID!

Although lockdowns are history (at least locally), ongoing issues such as climate change, global unrest, and other restrictions continue to affect the creation and expression of the arts and music. As economies and societies resume activities, there remain considerable challenges, especially for organ music in Singapore. Thankfully, with technological advances and hybrid platforms, the majority of our activities have resumed. A great example of this, is our ongoing OrganBytes online educational video series which highlights local installations, presented by fellow members. Do enjoy them on the YouTube channel!

Another example was a higher profile, collaboration at the Victoria Concert Hall in February, resulting in probably the first hybrid organ masterclass in Singapore. In this edition of our newsletter, we see how Chapter members have contributed to the organ scene in various capacities, enabling “the show” to go on!

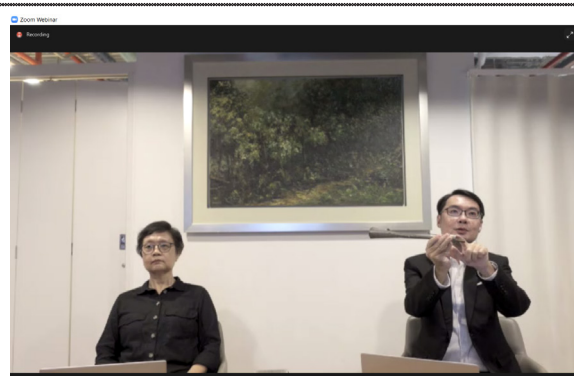
With every good wish,
Dr Evelyn Lim
Dean (2020 - 2022)



For the OrganBytes series, visit:
<https://singaporeago.org/organbytes>

Curiocity - Behind the Façade: Pipe Organs In Singapore

By Suzanne Lau



Pipe Organs of Singapore: Screen capture of Dr Evelyn Lim (on left) and Ong Te-Min (on right) sharing about pipe organs in Singapore during the live webinar via ZOOM

11 January 2022 - A National Library Board initiative, ‘Curiocity’, Dr Evelyn Lim and Ong Te-Min shared about local pipe organ installations, their history and their relevance in the current culture.

The session was held in the format of a live webinar via Zoom on a weekday evening.

It started off with the basic mechanics of how a pipe organ functions. This was followed by a presentation of the different pipe organs across Singapore from the oldest to the newest and refurbished installations.

It was certainly thrilling to see that the webinar garnered much interest from the public as there were many questions posted on the platform.

“There are two ways of meeting difficulties: you alter the difficulties or you alter yourself to meet them.”

– Phyllis Bottome; English novelist (1884-1963)

Coming Soon...

2022 Annual General Meeting

- 4 September 2022; 3pm, Methodist School of Music

- All members are welcome

OrganBytes: Upcoming Episodes on Organs of Orchard Road Presbyterian Church and Kampong Kapur Methodist Church

- Keep a lookout on <https://singaporeago.org/organbytes>

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