



Press Release

Singapore to host First Ever Symposium on the Performing Arts of Southeast Asia

SINGAPORE, 8 June 2010 - Singapore will host the first ever Symposium on the Performing Arts of Southeast Asia from the 10th to the 13th of June, 2010. It is initiated by the Study Group on Performing Arts of Southeast Asia of the International Council of Traditional Music (ICTM), an NGO under UNESCO.

Founded in 1947, in England, with Ralph Vaughan Williams as its first president, the aims of the ICTM are to further the study, practice, documentation, preservation and dissemination of traditional music, including folk, popular, classical and urban music, and dance, from all countries.

Jointly organised and hosted by Republic Polytechnic (RP) at its world class venue, The Republic Polytechnic Cultural Centre (TRCC), the four day event will feature a series of workshops and talks by scholars and professors from around the world, focusing on the following themes:

1. HYBRIDITY IN THE PERFORMING ARTS: GENRES OLD AND NEW

Speakers include: Mohd. Anis Md. Nor, University of Malaya, (MALAYSIA), Patricia Matusky, Grand Valley State University (USA), Kendra Stepputat, Kunstuniversitaet Graz (AUSTRIA)

2. PENCAK SILAT/MARTIAL ARTS IN SOUTHEAST Asia

Speakers include: Bussakorn Sumrongthong Binson, Chulalongkorn University (THAILAND), Uwe U. Paetzold, Robert Schumann University of Music (GERMANY) and Gisa Jaehnichen, Universiti Putra Malaysia (MALAYSIA)

3. ARCHIVING AND DOCUMENTATION

Speakers include: Belinda Maria Salazar, (graduate student), Philippine Women's University (THE PHILIPPINES) and Virginia Gorlinski, Encyclopedia Britannica & Museum of Musical Instruments (USA)

4. NEW RESEARCH AND WORKS IN PROGRESS

Speakers include: Ng Ting Hsiang, Republic Polytechnic (SINGAPORE), Ted Tsung-Te Tsai, Tainan National University of the Arts (TAIWAN) and Mumtaz Backer Aboo Backer, Universiti Sains Malaysia (MALAYSIA)

5. ROUNDTABLE CULTURAL STUDIES AND MUSIC/DANCE ANALYSIS:

Speakers include: Sumarsam, Wesleyan University (USA) and Birgit Abels, University of Amsterdam (THE NETHERLANDS)

Attendees can also expect an array of activities, highlights of which include performing arts showcases by expert groups on Pencak Silat, Indonesian Angklung and Filipino Kulintang. Workshops and talks are open to art educators, art and theatre groups and students of higher education.

A highlight is the opening show of the symposium which is a collaboration between students from STIAB Semarang and Singapore along with a special Wayang Orang performance entitled "BOROBUDOR - A ROYAL PURSUIT IN HARMONY" which is sponsored by Firefly Mission. Singapore Gamelan students from RP and La Salle College of the Arts are also artistic collaborators for this project.

The opening show will be attended by the Ambassador of Indonesia, His Excellency Mr. Wardana.

According to Dr Victor Valbuena, Director of School of Technology for the Arts, "RP's School of Technology for the Arts is honoured to be co-organising the Symposium on the Performing Arts of Southeast Asia. It is an ideal opportunity for students to partake significantly in the organisation of the event as part of their Final Year Project (FYP), in roles that include production, event management, stage management, marketing and outreach."

Several RP students and staff will also be involved in the numerous performances planned, including students from the RP's interest group, Create IG which will be showcasing their creative talent. In addition, Ng Ting Hsiang, RP academic staff from the School of Technology for the Arts (STA), will also present a paper on a new concept, to develop Gamelan virtual instruments for modern music.

Dr Valbuena noted, "In addition to presenting an opportunity for hands on experience, the symposium will also be a rare opportunity for staff and students to hear and learn from some of the most renowned scholars in the fields of traditional music, dance and theatre. The polytechnic has some of the best facilities for music production and staging concerts, and is hence very strategically positioned to host an international symposium of this nature."

- Ends -

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ANNEX 1

The ICTM, a non-governmental organization was founded on 22 September 1947, in London, England, by scholars and musicians as The International Folk Music Council with Ralph Vaughan Williams as its first president. In 1949, the Council was one of the Founding Members of the International Music Council - UNESCO, and is currently an NGO in Formal Consultative Relations with UNESCO. Through its wide international representation the Council acts as a bond among peoples of different cultures and thus serves the peace of humankind.

The ICTM aims to further the study, practice, documentation, preservation and dissemination of traditional music, including folk, popular, classical and urban music, and dance, of all countries. To these ends, the Council organizes meetings, World Conferences, Study Groups and Colloquia.

The Study Groups comprise of members in a common area of scholarly study which includes Folk Musical Instruments, Historical Sources of Traditional Music, Ethnochoreology, Oceania, Iconography, Computer Aided Research, Music and Gender, Maqam, Music of the Arab World, Anthropology of Music in Mediterranean Cultures, Music and Minorities, and Music Archaeology.

The first ever Symposium on the Performing Arts of Southeast Asia, held in Singapore from 10 – 13 June 2010 at RP, is initiated by the ICTM's Study Group on Performing Arts of Southeast Asia.

The full programme, fees and registration forms for the 4 days may be downloaded from the website: www.saltshaker.com.sg

About Republic Polytechnic

The first educational institution in Singapore to adopt the Problem-Based Learning approach for all its diploma programmes, Republic Polytechnic (RP) has six schools and one centre offering 34 courses in Information and Communications Technology, Engineering, Applied Science, Technology for the Arts, Sports, Health and Leisure, Events and Hospitality, and Culture and Communication. Republic Polytechnic is committed to nurturing innovative, entrepreneurial and cultured professionals in an environment that develops problem-solving skills and a life-long learning attitude. Since its establishment in 2002, the institution has been awarded various international and national accreditations, including ISO9001, ISO14001, OHSAS 18001, TR19, People Developer Standards, Singapore Quality Class and Singapore Innovation Class, demonstrating an ongoing focus on excellence. For more information, visit <http://www.rp.sg>

Annex 2

List of talks and free programmes

REBEKAH E. MOORE, Indiana University (USA)

→Practicing Belonging in the Balinese Indie Music Scene.

MOHD. ANIS MD. NOR, University of Malaya (Malaysia)

→From Matrilineality to Post-Colonial Gazes: Hybridity in Minangkabau Art Dance and Music.

PATRICIA MATUSKY, Grand Valley State University (USA)

→*Wayang Jawa (Wayang Melayu)* Ancient Malaysian Shadow Play (*wayang kulit*): Aristocratic Hegemony in a Hybridized Form.

MARGARET KARTOMI, Monash University (Australia)

→The Nature, History and Distribution of the Art of Self Defence in Indonesia: Martial Performance Displays (*Pencak*) and Duels (*Silat*).

UWE PAETZOLD, Robert Schumann University of Music (Germany)

→Some Macro- and Micro-Views on the Correlations between *Pencak Silat*, Music and Dance in West Java and The Netherlands.

TSAI, TED TSUNG-TE, Tainan National University of the Arts (Taiwan)

→ Sufism Healing and Religious Chant in Java: A Medical Ethnomusicological Study.

KENDRA STEPPUTAT, Kunstuniversität Graz (Austria)

→*Kecak Ramayana* – Tourists in Search for ‘the real’ Thing.

NG TING HSIANG, Republic Polytechnic (Singapore)

→Developing Gamelan Virtual Instruments for Modern Music.

MARGARET SARKISSIAN, Smith College (USA)

→Strike up the Band: Straits Chinese musical eclecticism at the close of the colonial era.

SHZR EE TAN, University of London (UK)

→Inscribing China into Singaporean musical traditions: a short history of accordions and harmonicas.

RAJA ISKANDAR BIN RAJA HALID, Universiti Malaysia Kelantan (Malaysia)

→ “*Nobat Taba*” – The Music that Installs A Sultan.