

2015 has brought us much cheer and joy since the beginning of the year, with our RISE and SMART students Vivian Li and Rachel Liang winning the FIRST PRIZE and SECOND PRIZE respectively in the prestigious American Protege Musical Talent Competition. They will be invited to perform in the world renowned Carnegie Hall in New York on the 24th of May .

Soon after receiving the great news, our RISE student, Fong Jean Ying also started off the new year with a bang, by winning the GOLD MEDAL of the AADGT International Young Gifted Musicians Festival " Passion of Music" 2015, and she will be going too, to Carnegie Hall to perform her winning repertoire , F.Kuhlau's 'Sonatina Op 55 no 3' on the 14th of June. Jean Ying has also been invited to give a solo recital in Steinway Auditorium on the 28th of this month, under Steinway's 'Rising Star Series 2015'. We wish her all the best with her first solo piano recital in the Steinway Auditorium.

Last month, our SMART student, Grace Wun was invited to perform in the High Scorers' Concert for ABRSM examinations 2014. She was the highest scorer in her grade 5 practical exam among the candidates in Singapore.

Other students too excelled in the Ars Nova Festival, which happened in December last year. The winners' name list includes the following: Jetaine Kwek(Gold), Kwong Jin Yib Rayner (Silver), Chelsy Ang Lee Ern (Silver), Yip Megan (Silver), Ben Tan Kiat (Silver), Matt Tan Yong (Silver), Aw Yufeng Adriel (Silver). The following Gold award winners were invited to perform in the Ars Nova Festival Gala Concert and were also awarded the Trophy: Hannah Hui Ching Hei, Claris Ang Kyle Xin, Wun Shi En Grace, Joann Teh Wen Xuan, Wee Xu Kai, Tay Hsien En Shannen, Kelsey Wong Yan Yun, Neo Yan Siong.

Christmas Concert 2014

We would like to thank teachers, parents and students for making the Christmas Concert last year a splashing success. It marks an appropriate end to 2014. It was an amazing feat for our students, the very young ones, together with children from primary and secondary schools to commit their time and effort to the rehearsals and the practices in order to perform well in the concert. Parents were giving their children their utmost support and encouragement all through the whole process. Kudos to everyone!



Performance @ Esplanade Library

Our prize winners were invited by the Library to perform at the Esplanade Library on the 1st Feb. The highly energetic and enthusiastic performance won praises from the patrons of the library and passers-by.



UPCOMING EVENTS / CONCERTS

Information Session on DSA (Musical Talents & Achievements)

We will conduct another session on DSA presented by Master Trainer Mr Thomas Tan, while our Principal Ms Flora Lim will present a talk on "Getting a Headstart in Music Education, achieving Grade 8 and beyond". This talk will be held in Funan on 7 March, 11am.

Hougang Library Concert (14th March)

We are again invited to perform in the Hougang Mall Library on the 14th March from 2.30pm - 3pm. See you all there!

Little Tots Recital (April)

We are excited to present to you our new series of concert that is distinctive and unique to our students in Seimpi School of Music. The inaugural Little Tots Recital, opens to students who are below 5 years old. With the innovative and child friendly teaching concepts of our Music for the Intelligent Mind (MIM®), we are confident that this will be an inspiring and fun-filled concert for everyone.

SMART Recital (July)

The SMART Recital adopts a unique approach this year. The double piano performance makes a return this year after 6 years of solo performances and performing on 1 piano with 4 hands. This performance showcases our students' ability to perform on 2 pianos with 4 hands.

Classical Extravaganza 8 (Aug)

Students are advised to discuss with your teachers to select suitable repertoire to perform in this concert. Audition is going to be held in May this year.

WORDS FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

We recently have received numerous positive feedback from parents that one of the reason they like putting their children in our music courses is that we organize a lot of activities, and thus their children are able to maintain their interests in music learning, and at the same time the activities motivate them to want to achieve more in music. We are grateful to receive these compliments and vow to work harder to keep to our vision of bringing out the best in our children. Indeed, there is scientific research to prove that meaningful participation in learning will bring one an in-depth understanding of a certain subject. This follows a well-established principle of cognitive psychology called levels of processing.

I would like to quote from a book that I read recently, 'The Organized Mind' by Daniel J. Levitin: 'Items that are processed at a deeper level, with more active involvement by us, tend to become more strongly encoded in memory. This is why passive learning through textbooks and lectures is not nearly as effective a way to learn new material as is figuring it out for yourself, a method called *peer instruction* that is being introduced into classrooms with great success'.

As I always emphasize in my advice to parents and students: to achieve success in learning, you need great discipline and

grit. Our prefrontal cortex does not fully develop until after age twenty. That is the reason that our children and adolescent are not particularly good at planning or delaying gratification. As parents, we have to keep to certain rules and routine for our children. This will not only help them to be disciplined in their learning but it also assists them in understanding ways to organize their lives, a great skill for their future well-being.

There is another factor which contributes to the success of learning: that is achieving a 'flow' during learning time. 'Flow' is a state of mind that scientist describes when one is deeply engrossed in a focused state, often associated with the execution of a complex task. Playing a music instrument needs this state of mind to achieve success as this state is when the child's mind works to its maximum capacity. We advocate focus and concentration when practising an instrument, and we parents, should enable all possibilities to provide a conducive environment at home.

Happy Lunar New Year!

Flora Lim

