



SSO on Campus

As a premier Asian orchestra and Singapore's national symphony orchestra, the SSO does more than just entertain classical music lovers within the confines of a traditional concert hall. In addition to its regular performances at the Esplanade, it also offers a wide array of special community and school programmes designed to enrich and entertain audience members of all ages, even those who might be new to classical music.

Out of a full schedule of concerts each year, the SSO dedicates some months to its Outreach Programmes. One of these is the **SSO on Campus** series – typically six campus performances in a concert season – wherein the work of the orchestra is extended beyond the concert hall and into schools. This would not be possible without the generous support from the schools, who open their doors to welcome the general public to these free community performances. Schools welcome this opportunity to work with the SSO as they also endeavour to play their part in encouraging an appreciation of the arts. As Ms Ilyana Hardianti, Co-Curricular Activities Subject Head of Dunman High School explains: *“Our school is very active in the promotion of the Arts and we feel that it is important to feature performances of value and high standards. We feel that it is important to show that the Arts is not something that can only be enjoyed by the privileged or the affluent, but should be enjoyed by all.”*



SSO @ Hwa Chong Institution

To kick start the **SSO on Campus** concert, a team of SSO Community Outreach Executives, Orchestra Management Executives and Stage Officers visit each school to assess if the school's performance hall is aligned with the requirements of the orchestra. In order to provide the audience members with an exceptional musical experience, choosing the performance venue is an essential part of the preparation process. Some of the requirements include an acoustically suitable and well-conceived concert space with ample storage space for instruments, proper back-stage access for the loading and unloading of instruments, changing room for musicians, stage space that comfortably sits a 70-piece orchestra and an auditorium that can accommodate at least 600 concert patrons. Regular school partners such as **Paya Lebar Methodist Girls School (Secondary) (PLMGS(S))**, **Hwa Chong Institution (HCI)**, **Dunman High School (DHS)** and **Victoria Junior College (VJC)** recognise this collaborative effort and have been the SSO's venue partner on several occasions. Each school was actively involved in every stage of the process, from preparations to publicity to execution of the concert proper, distributing concert flyers both internally and externally, promoting the concert during school assemblies and deploying student ushers to assist the SSO with audience management.

They see this partnership as beneficial to both the community and the school. As Mr Ng Eng Kee, Aesthetics Subject Head of PLMGS(S) shares: *"One of the school's strategic thrusts is Partnership, and the collaboration between the SSO and PLMGS(S) is a recognition of our school's effort in arts education. The outreach concert makes the school more accessible to the community and helps to raise public awareness of the school and its strength and focus on the arts."*

Mr Tan Siang Yu, Arts Enrichment & Appreciation Coordinator of HCI feels likewise: *"By hosting the SSO on our campus, the school provides its population the platform to watch a live classical concert for free. This fulfils our school objectives in providing a holistic education to our students, which includes appreciation of aesthetics. This is also an outreach for our school to touch base with the public, including our neighbours."* The **SSO on Campus** performances also have a strong social impact. *"This event provides a platform for our school to reach out to our neighbours and the public alike,"* Mr Tan Siang Yu continues – *"Many of our neighbours would otherwise not have such an opportunity to walk into our campus. This creates a good relationship between the school and the residents near us."* Mr Ng agrees, saying: *"It provides an opportunity for the community to witness and appreciate high quality music making in the heartland of Lorong Ah Soo and close to their home."*

PLMGS(S) student ushers



Pianist Stephen Hough with VJC students



Maestro Darrell Ang with young violinist Lanabel Teo
@ Dunman High School

Each campus performance introduces the spectacular sights and sounds of a symphony orchestra. From the vibrant waltzes of Gounod's *Faust Ballet Music* to the powerful passage of Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld* and local favourites such as Kelly Tang's *Home*, every campus concert promises an evening of excellent music. Witnessing a professional orchestra perform on campus also makes a lasting impression on the students. *"It is our hope to constantly expose our students to high quality performances and the SSO is a prime example,"* Ms Hardianti shares. *"Others who were familiar with the SSO were also excited to see some familiar faces on stage – their instructors, music teachers and/or even our alumni."*

Mr Ng shares this view: *"The concert might be the first time some of the pupils are exposed to classical symphonic music. For those pupils with some exposure to orchestral concerts, the campus performances provide an added avenue through which the professional musicians inspire them."*

The positive impact of these SSO performances is something that fellow teachers and their students all agree upon. Aesthetics Subject Head Ms Ding Yih of VJC shares – *"To have the SSO perform in our very own Performance Theatre is an added bonus as it encourages students who normally would not attend classical concerts to make a first attempt at appreciating*

classical music. Many of our students who attended the concert came away with a deeper understanding or a renewed interest in orchestral music, and hopefully, this experience will inspire them to attend similar performances in future or pursue their musical talents to a higher level."

Through a number of partnerships and performances throughout the city and the heartlands, the SSO maintains a vibrant musical presence, supporting the schools and the local community through its commitment to actively giving back with its outreach programmes for everyone. The **SSO on Campus** series thus harnesses the power of music to draw the community together in the enjoyment and appreciation of the great classics.



If you would like support the SSO Outreach Programme by hosting its campus performances, please get in touch with us via email at Yingling@ss0.org.sg or Hazel@ss0.org.sg.