

Composers Society of Singapore ACL Country Report from Singapore 2009

Background

The Composers Society of Singapore was formed in 2007 and joined the Asian Composers League as a country member in the same year. The society is made of full and associate members. Currently, the membership stands at 15.

At the 2008 AGM, the first Excom was formed. The society voted Ho Chee Kong as President, Joyce Koh as Vice-President, John Sharpley as Secretary, Peter Edwards as Treasurer and Kelly Tang, Adrian Tan and Steven Miller as members.

The first task of the committee was to nominate jurors for the Committee for ACL Young Composers. The jurors were Tan Chan Boon, Robert Casteels and PerMagnus Lindberg. The committee received 4 applications for the ACL Young Composers Competition. The jury selected Miss Emily Koh as the Singapore representative for the ACL Young Composers Competition 2009.

Highlights of Composers Activities for 2008

1) Singapore Arts Festival 2008

The National Arts Council commissioned 2 new works by Singaporean composers for the festival. "Cherish" is an orchestral work composed by Tan Chan Boon and was performed by the Singapore Festival Orchestra, and "Shades of Oil Lamps" was composed by Ho Chee Kong and performed by the London Sinfonietta.

2) Singapore Chinese Orchestra 2008

The orchestra has commissioned new works by Eric Watson and Yii Kah Hoe (Malaysia).

3) Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music

In the last season, the New Music Ensemble from the Conservatory has performed works by John Sharpley, Phoon Yew Tien, student Emily Koh and alumnus Diana Soh.

4) Singapore Youth Choir

The youth choir performed choral works by Hoh Chung Shih in its annual concerts.

5) Community Arts Festival by T'ang Quartet

The string quartet, resident at the Conservatory, performed works by Phoon Yew Tien, Ho Chee Kong and Goh Toh Chai at a outreach concert held at the Republic Polytechnic.

6) OperaViva

This is a chamber opera company founded by John Sharpley, Leow Siak Fah, and Robert Yeo. It will focus on performing Baroque operas as well as modern chamber operas and new works by Singaporean and other Asian composers and librettists.

Future plans for 2009

The CSS plans to increase its membership and encourage more composition students to join. At the next AGM, there will be discussions on hosting and facilitating concerts for composers in Singapore.