

FACTSHEET: COURSE DETAILS FOR MALAY MUSIC ENRICHMENT COURSE

Introduction

The Malay Music Enrichment Course is an initiative developed by the Malay Music Development Committee (MMDC), a committee set up by the National Arts Council (NAC) to look into the development of the traditional Malay music scene in Singapore.

This unique 9-week course, organised by the Association of Malay Singers, Composers & Professional Musicians (PERKAMUS), is designed to equip traditional Malay music practitioners who have not had the benefit of formal music training, with fundamental music concepts and skills. This music course aims to equip them with musical concepts that will enhance existing musical activities as well as to introduce basic musical elements used in Malay music. This is part of NAC's initiatives to enhance the capabilities of our traditional arts practitioners, including that of traditional Malay music.

With the development of musicianship skills and a sound understanding of Malay music, we hope to groom the next generation of practitioners as well as to enable interaction with musicians of other genres and background through a common understanding of musical concepts. Skills acquired during the course will also contribute towards the preservation and continuity of Malay music.

Entry Requirements

This course is targeted at traditional Malay music practitioners without prior formal music training, but who are actively involved in its performance and teaching, specifically:

- 1) Singapore Citizens / Permanent Residents
- 2) Able to speak, read and write Malay and English
- 3) Background:
 - For traditional Malay music practitioners with little or no experience in western notation
 - Able to play at least one musical instrument and show ongoing interest in the performance of traditional Malay music
 - Have the aural proficiency to articulate back a melody that was presented to them (be able to listen to a melody and sing back that melody).

Objectives

The course runs once a week for 3 hours each session over a period of 9 weeks, from 6 February to 2 April 2012. The programme focuses on **TWO** key components:

- (i) General Musicianship Skills
- (ii) Traditional Malay Music, Culture and Aesthetics

General Musicianship Skills

This module seeks to help participants become fluent in basic western music notation (and simple harmony). It will focus on developing basic musicianship skills so that participants may better understand (by ear) the music they listen to and play. This will also further develop better musical communication through the use of aural skills, notation and music theory.

Traditional Malay Music, Culture & Aesthetics

This module hopes to complement and reinforce learning goals in the area of aural perception and musicianship skills that preceded this module.

Participants will engage in critical examination of key concepts of music and issues surrounding the various Malay music genres, musical instruments and their performance practice. The study will also trace the social and historical development of particular types of Malay musical art forms. By the end of this short introductory course, experienced traditional performers will be fully equipped to articulate confidently more in-depth knowledge about Malay music. This course also enhances and deploys better teaching approaches and musicianship skills through the art of learning to perform.

The study will largely focus on two important Malay music genres: *zapin* and *ghazal*. The module will also touch briefly on other genres such as *nobat*, *joget*, *kronchong*, *kuda kepang* etc. What constitutes “Melayuness” will be explored. A study on a number of traditional musical instruments will be conducted. Finally, participants will be involved in a general discussion about the social, historical and cultural context of Malay music.

By the end of the course, participants would be able to:

- read and write standard music notation.
- developed basic (critical) aural and improvisation skills based on a good understanding of theoretical music concepts.
- acquired a good working knowledge and understanding of traditional Malay music including its history, instruments, genres, musical concepts, general philosophy and aesthetics.

A Certificate of Completion will be awarded to participants who achieve at least 80% attendance for the course.

Course Instructors

Dr Tony Makarome

He is an Assistant Professor at Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music. Dr Makarome has been a successful teacher of solfegé, ear-training and music theory. He is a lecturer on Jazz Studies & Popular Culture at Singapore's National Institute of Education. In May 2003, he was appointed the Musical Director/ Resident Conductor of the NUS Wind Symphony.

Dr Larry Francis Hilarian

He is an Associate Professor with the National Institute of Education. Dr Larry is an ethnomusicologist, composer and music educator. The University of London, where he took his Doctorate in Ethnomusicology, presented him three times with the "Excellence in Teaching Award". His research has been published in Vietnamese Institute of Musicology, Philippines Ethnomusicology Journal, Desacatos journal in Spanish & in the British Galpin Society Journal. Dr Larry also co-authored the secondary school music textbook named Exploring Music 1 & 2.