

## **ANNEX A**

### **About the Cultural Medallion**

The Cultural Medallion was instituted in 1979 as an initiative of the late President, then Minister of Culture, Mr Ong Teng Cheong, to recognise individuals who have attained artistic excellence in their fields of artistic practice, and made a distinction to the nation's arts and culture.

The Cultural Medallion is conferred by the President of the Republic of Singapore, and administered by the National Arts Council. As of 2019, 126 artists have been conferred the Cultural Medallion.

Cultural Medallion nominees are assessed upon the extent to which they have achieved or demonstrated all of the following:

- Artistic excellence and professional maturity, manifest through an outstanding and distinctive body of work
- Extraordinary contribution and leadership in shaping the development of Singapore's arts and culture; advancing his/her field of arts practice; and bringing the arts to the local public through educational and/or community development efforts
- Being an inspiration and role model to other artist
- Good standing and recognition internationally

In 2001, the Cultural Medallion Grant of \$50,000 was introduced to support the artistic pursuits of all CM recipients, and the grant was increased to \$80,000 in 2006. Since 2011, it has been renamed the Cultural Medallion Fund to signify greater flexibility, ease of access and an expanded scope of support of arts-related projects that will positively impact local arts and culture.

## RECIPIENT OF CULTURAL MEDALLION 2019

### **Eric James Watson (Age, 73) – Composer**

Eric James Watson, PBM (b. 1946) is a musician, composer, conductor, music technologist and pedagogue. Born in Wales, United Kingdom, he was raised in North East Yorkshire where he learnt how to play the piano and violin. At the Trinity College of Music, he studied composition and conducting, for which he won a Ricordi prize (1967).

Since relocating to Singapore in 1991, he has focused on fusing diverse musical and cultural sources, particularly Chinese, Indian, South East Asian and Korean instruments, in a symbiotic and fruitful relationship. In 2001, he was the composer and musical director for the Singapore National Day Parade (NDP), and in 2007, he wrote and arranged orchestral music for NDP with four orchestras – the Singapore Symphony Orchestra, Singapore Chinese Orchestra (SCO), as well as an Indian and a Malay ensemble. As composer-in-residence of SCO from 2016 to 2018, he composed two major works, 'Nanyang Gate', a concerto for sanxian and Chinese orchestra; and 'As The River Flows', a music history of the Singapore River.

Eric has taught at various institutions including the Central School of Speech and Drama, Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, LASALLE College of the Arts, and the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA), and is currently Associate Lecturer at the Singapore University of Social Sciences. He was awarded the Hua Yuan Association's Kuo Pao Kun Award in Arts and Culture for New Immigrants; and in 2017, he was the recipient of The Public Service Medal.

