



## General Information

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Singapore Clay Makers' Market 2022



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# Foreward

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Michael Tay  
Founder & Executive Director

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The arts are fundamental to our collective humanity. They empower and inspire us by cultivating creativity, empathy and beauty. The arts fortify our communities socially, educationally and economically – benefits persist even during a post-pandemic period that devastated the arts and musicians' livelihoods. The following ten reasons demonstrate why investing in artistes and arts organisations is crucial to the nation's post-pandemic healing and recovery.





In the following pages, you will find reasons why investing in artistes and arts organisations is integral to the nation's post-pandemic recovery. You will read stories of individuals and communities who have been transformed by the arts, have found solace in the creative process, and have been inspired to make a difference at home and carry the Singapore message abroad. You will discover how the soft power of the arts is being used to address some of the most pressing social issues of our time.

The sense of togetherness and shared experience from engaging with the arts can break down barriers and build bridges between diverse nations. Educationally, the arts enrich our learning environments, fostering critical thinking, innovation, and a love for lifelong

learning. Economically, they drive fashion, strategy, culinary, and tourism and create jobs to stimulate local economies.

In times of crisis, the resilience of the arts becomes even more apparent. Throughout the pandemic, artistes and arts organisations adapted, innovated, and continued to bring social good to countless individuals. However, this period has also highlighted the fragility of the arts sector and the urgent need for support.

Investing in the arts is not just about preserving beauty and creativity; it's about nurturing the very fabric of our society, ensuring that we emerge from these challenging times stronger, more connected, and more vibrant than ever before.



# ICONIC INITIATIVES



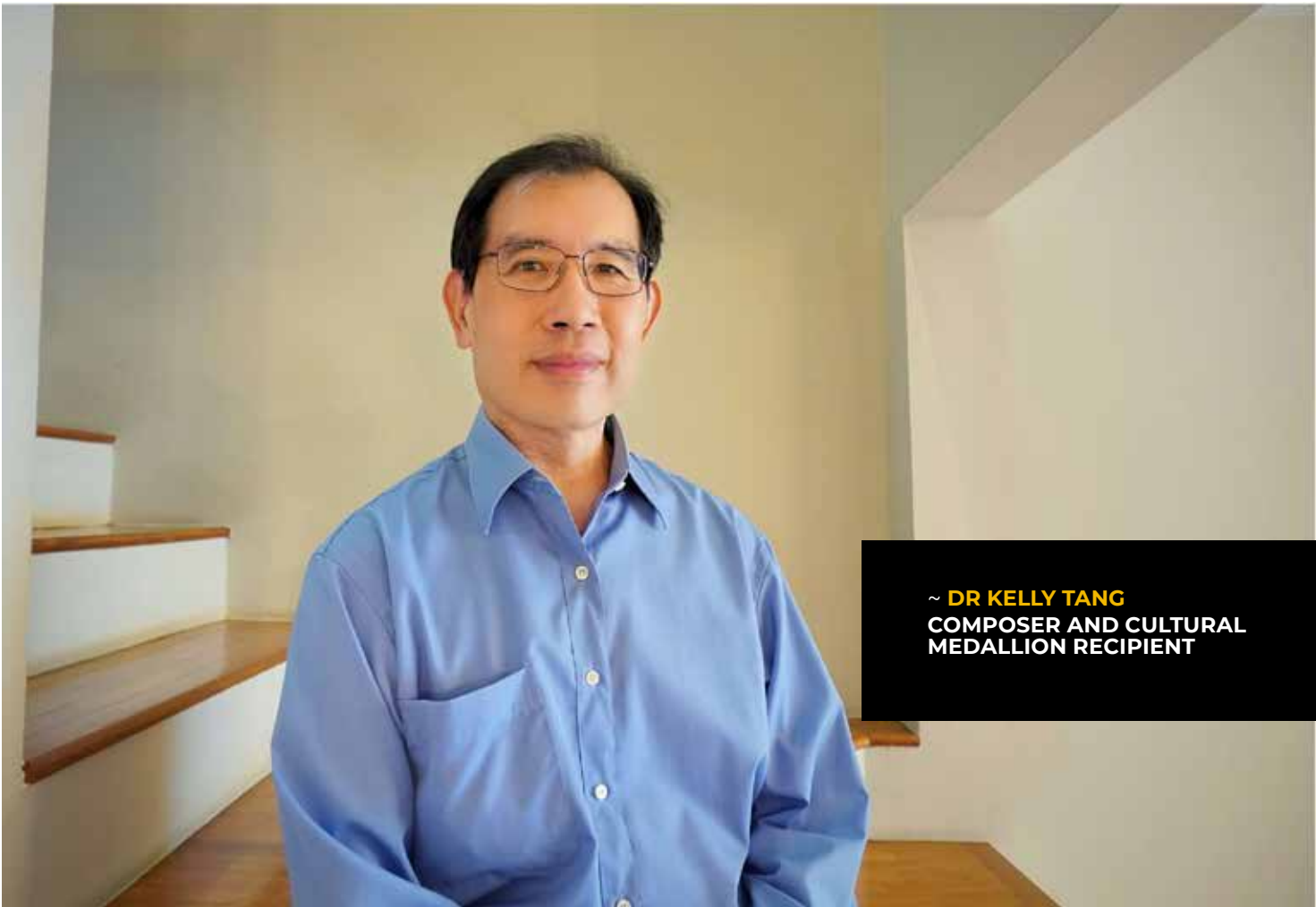


# One Million Towards UTOPIA

One Million Towards UTOPIA is a movement incubated by Foundation for The Arts and Social Enterprise. It is a state of striving together to better ourselves, to better the lives of people around us. Beginning as a symphony inspired by the island republic of Singapore, the UTOPIA movement brings together a local and international collective of musicians, artists, painters, businesses, community groups and everyday people to rethink what it truly means to live in happiness.



# MUSIC COMMISSIONING SERIES



## [OVERVIEW]

The Music Commissioning Series, a flagship project of the Foundation for The Arts and Social Enterprise, is proud to announce its inaugural composer, Dr Kelly Tang, a renowned Singaporean composer and recipient of the prestigious Cultural Medallion in 2011. Dr Tang's contributions to the local music scene have been instrumental in shaping the country's cultural identity, and his involvement in this project marks a significant milestone in our efforts to promote and celebrate Singapore's rich heritage.

Dr Tang's composition, a 40-minute suite for a full orchestra of approximately 70 musicians, draws inspiration from a curated selection of artworks from the National Gallery Singapore's collection. The Metropolitan Festival Orchestra premiered the suite at the Esplanade Concert Hall in 2023, promising an unforgettable musical experience for audiences.



*“I’m honoured to be selected as the first composer for this Commissioning Series that is the first of its kind to showcase the best of Singapore composers, and promises to bring them onto the global stage, where their work will be performed to a global audience. This is a large-scale effort to promote Singapore work and art in a field that promises to realise the full potential of the creative talent that we possess”.*


#### [TL;DR]

- The Music Commissioning Series is a 10-year undertaking to establish a Canon of Singapore Music
- Commissioning major works by Singapore composers to create a lasting legacy
- Draws inspiration from the National Gallery Singapore’s collection to promote and celebrate Singapore’s rich cultural identity
- It will provide a platform for local musicians to showcase their skills, driving growth and development in the music industry
- The first commission fosters a deeper appreciation for classical music and its role in Singapore’s cultural identity among music students and enthusiasts
- Premiering at the Esplanade Concert Hall in 2023, attracting international attention and promoting cultural exchange and collaboration



# Prodigy Fund

Foundation for The Arts and Social Enterprise's Prodigy Fund empowers young Singapore artistes who show world-class potential beyond their years.



We have all heard of Mozart, who played the piano when he was three and performed for the Austrian imperial family at Schönbrunn Palace at the age of six. Yo-Yo Ma had his first performance at the age of four and a half and played the first movement of Bréval's Concertino No. 3 in A Major from memory at seven. And, of course, Lang Lang changed the way traditional piano classical music is performed.

Mikkel Myer Lee  
piano prodigy



What if these prodigies never had the opportunity to bring their gifts and finest masterpieces into the annals of music history? Fortunately for them and for all of us, especially music lovers, these prodigies managed to bring their musical genius to the public through philanthropy and mentorship.

### [Overview]

Mikkel Myer Lee is a gifted concert pianist who has performed at the Mozarteum in Salzburg and the Het Concertgebouw in Amsterdam and was invited to perform at the famed Carnegie Hall in New York in 2020 before the outbreak of COVID-19.

In 2022, the 9-year old Mikkel, accompanied by a 41-member orchestra, entranced a capacity audience with his effortless virtuosity to move from the drama of Beethoven's Concerto No. 3 to the poetry of Chopin's Concerto No. 2 at Singapore's Victoria Concert Hall.

The Foundation recognises Mikkel's exceptional talent and dedication and is committed to supporting his artistic journey towards becoming a world-class concert pianist. This collaboration provides Mikkel with access to mentorship, performance opportunities, and financial assistance, enabling him to develop his skills further and propel his career to new heights.

At The Foundation, we aim to remove financial barriers and nurture the innate aptitude of child prodigies like Mikkel as they journey towards world-class talent.



# SHORT FILMS

Smoke Gets in Your Eyes  
烟熏到了眼睛



### [OVERVIEW]

SMOKE GETS IN YOUR EYES is a dark comedy short film written and directed by Singaporean filmmaker Alvin Lee. The story is about how a hapless funeral director has to make amends to the deceased's estranged children when the wrong body is cremated. The film discusses the themes of family unity and empathy, and doing the right thing.

The Foundation supported the project after meeting the passionate young Singaporean duo behind the film: award-winning director/writer Alvin Lee and budding film producer Angelina Marilyn Bok. The film features a talented cast, including former Mediacorp actors Wang Weiliang, Priscelia Chan, and Oon Shu An. The film has made stellar achievements on the international film festival circuit.







Alvin Lee  
film director

**[Impact of the Film]**

“SMOKE” has also received strong local support, with tickets to the Singapore International Film Festival (SGIFF) being snapped up within five minutes.

By participating in prestigious festivals and earning accolades, the director and his team have gained validation for their artistic endeavours and strengthened their professional standing. These achievements create opportunities for collaborations, funding, and expanded networks, propelling them towards their next creative endeavours. The recognition garnered through these short films serves as a stepping stone to larger-scale projects, where commercial viability becomes more attainable.

**[Moving Forward]**

Director Lee invested his personal funds, including prize money from a film competition and personal savings, in his passion for storytelling. Additionally, the actors graciously agreed to work for lower fees than usual, demonstrating their commitment to the project and belief in its potential.

Short films, unfortunately, often face challenges in securing funding due to their limited commercial prospects. Compared to longer forms of filmmaking, short films lack the avenues for product placements, box office

revenue, and other sponsorships that contribute to a funding pool. Nonetheless, these shorter works play a crucial role in a director's journey, allowing them to refine their craft and gain experience before venturing into commercially viable projects.

The production cycle for a short film typically spans one to one-and-a-half years, including the crucial stage of pitching the film to international festivals. Each festival submission incurs a fee, and with hundreds of festivals and competitions worldwide, the process can be both time-consuming and financially demanding. However, the potential rewards are immense. Accumulating accolades and recognition from these festivals enhances the director's, cast, and production personnel's prospects for future projects.

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*The Foundation will continue to support Alvin's efforts to promote “SMOKE” internationally to maximise its potential.*



**[TL;DR]**

- "SMOKE GETS IN YOUR EYES" is a dark comedy directed by Alvin Lee. It explores the themes of family unity and empathy in the context of Singapore's fading tradition of HDB void deck funerals
- The film stars renowned actors Wang Weiliang, Priscelia Chan, and Oon Shu An
- "SMOKE" has gained international recognition, winning awards at the Golden Rooster Awards in China and being screened at prestigious film festivals such as the Clermont Film Festival in France and the Kaohsiung Film Festival in Taiwan
- Despite director Alvin Lee's initial reservations about the film's reception outside Southeast Asia, it has resonated with audiences worldwide, affirming the universal appeal of its themes and the power of storytelling to transcend cultural boundaries
- The production of "SMOKE" was made possible through a combination of grants, personal funds, and contributions from The Foundation's network of patrons. Short films face funding challenges due to limited commercial prospects, but they serve as stepping stones for directors to advance to larger-scale projects and gain wider industry recognition

# Granny Battery

## [OVERVIEW]

Granny Battery is a story about regret, awakening, and realising that it is never too late to start doing what you want. This action comedy, crafted by writer/director Koh Zhi Hao and producer Goh Koonhow, follows the journey of three senior citizens who embark on a daring adventure to break free from the confines of their nursing home and attend a rock concert.

The film begins with the sudden passing of a dear friend, which catalyses the three main characters to re-evaluate their lives. As they reflect on their past choices and missed opportunities, they realise there is always time to pursue their dreams. The trio, each with their own unique personality and backstory, decide to take a bold step and escape the nursing home to attend a rock concert featuring their favourite band.

As they navigate the challenges of their daring escape, they encounter a series of comedic misadventures, from dodging the watchful eyes of the nursing home staff to overcoming the physical limitations of their age. Through their journey, the film explores the themes of friendship, self-discovery, and the importance of living life to the fullest.




## [TL;DR]

- Granny Battery is an action comedy by writer-director Koh Zhi Hao and producer Goh Koonhow
- The Foundation introduced Joanna Dong's music to the production team and facilitated the use of Joanna Dong's music on the film's soundtrack
- The short film's release date was 24 November 2022 and is currently available on Apple TV



# ARTISTES PARTNERSHIPS

Foundation for The Arts and Social Enterprise embraces a 'venture capitalist' spirit, collaborating closely with local artistes, forging powerful partnerships, and commissioning visionary works to nurture creative expression. Through our bold interventionist approach, we propel talented artistes towards the global stage, where their creativity knows no bounds. Together, The Foundation breaks barriers and unveils new horizons, ensuring the artistes' profound impact resonates worldwide.



Wong Kah Chun  
conductor

# UTOPIA Reimagined

Second Edition



Coming Up Roses  
band



Dru Chen  
musician

**[Overview]**

UTOPIA Reimagined II is currently underway, featuring a fresh slate of artistes, buoyed by the success of the first UTOPIA Reimagined commissions. Four musicians have been selected: weish, Dru Chen, OHMYMEITING, and Coming Up Roses, all at varying stages of their music careers. Visual artist and Young Artist Award winner Dr. Yanyun Chen has accepted the commission to create her response to the recordings in her inimitable style. Charlie Lim, who served as executive producer in the previous edition, reprises his role to direct the bigger-picture creative strategy.



weish  
musician



OHMYMEITING  
musician



# Keyana

Music Artiste

## [Overview]

Singaporean singer Keyana is taking the music industry by storm with her soulful voice and captivating performances. With The Foundation's support, she has achieved a major milestone: securing the coveted opening act for L.A. band Moonchild's Starfruit Tour 2022 in Singapore. This marks Moonchild's debut performance at Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, and Keyana was thrilled to share the stage with these internationally acclaimed artistes.

This opportunity is a dream come true for Keyana, showcasing her talent to a wider audience and cementing her position as a rising star in the music industry. The Foundation remains committed to nurturing Keyana's career, providing her with the resources and support needed to reach new heights.

# Joanna Dong

Music Artiste

## [Overview]

The Foundation was a supporting partner of Joanna Dong's concert, "You Must Believe in Spring", held at the Sands Theatre, Marina Bay Sands, in collaboration with Base Entertainment. This concert marked a significant milestone in Joanna's career, and we were honoured to have played a role in her journey. As a proud supporter of Joanna for the past several years, The Foundation has witnessed her growth and development as a talented artiste.

The concert featured a range of songs that showcased Joanna's vocal range and emotional depth, leaving the audience in awe of her performance. As a supporter of the arts, The Foundation is committed to nurturing and promoting local talent, and Joanna Dong is an exemplary example of Singapore's exceptional talent.



# Festival Winds 2022

## [Overview]

'Festival Winds' is organised by the Band Directors' Association (Singapore) and returned for its fourth year, running from 20 to 22 December and on 24 December. The Foundation is a proud supporter of this meaningful outreach event, aimed at fostering opportunities for students to experience and grow in the field of symphonic band music.

Festival Winds is a premier musical experience for students (10- to 20-year-olds) throughout Singapore to perform together. In 2022, the organisers expanded the student participants' age group to include upper primary school students. Accepted students participated in masterclasses with an esteemed professional faculty and rehearsed as an ensemble for three days. At the end of the festival, students put on a full-length concert to demonstrate their growth and development at the Esplanade Concert Hall.

## Aravinth Kumarasamy

Cultural Medallion Recipient 2022

## [Special Mentions]

The Foundation congratulates Aravinth Kumarasamy on being awarded the Cultural Medallion 2022. Aravinth is the Artistic Director of Apsaras Arts, a modern Classical Indian Dance company with which The Foundation has partnered for almost a decade.

Aravinth Kymarasamy  
artistic director

# INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS







## Beethoven Im Garten

### **[OVERVIEW]**

Following a hiatus due to COVID, Beethoven im Garten returned to the Singapore Botanic Gardens with new partnerships: the Foundation of the Arts and Social Enterprise as the organiser, and the Dresden Philharmonic and the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, and the Singapore Botanic Gardens, as programme and venue partners, respectively.

Beethoven im Garten 2022 is the third in a series of concerts held at the Singapore Botanic Gardens to celebrate Singaporean-German friendship. The series was inaugurated in 2018 in association with Singaporean conductor Kahchun Wong, the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music (YSTCM), and the Nuremberg Symphony Orchestra. It builds on the achievements of Wong, who is an alumnus of music academies in Singapore and Germany, the prize winner of the 2016 Gustav Mahler Competition, and the Chief Conductor of the Nuremberg Symphony Orchestra since 2018.

### **[TL;DR]**

The Foundation's partnership with the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Singapore began in 2020 with the inaugural Beethoven im Garten. Beethoven im Garten 2022 returned to the Singapore Botanic Gardens in March 2022, following a hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Conducted by Kahchun Wong, 10 musicians from the Dresden Philharmonic and its affiliate, the Kurt Masur Academy, joined 35 musicians from the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory Orchestra, to perform Beethoven's 4th Symphony.

# Singapore Clay Festival 2022

## [OVERVIEW]

The Singapore Clay Festival 2022 showcased the exceptional craftsmanship of 128 local clay artists at The Clay Makers' Market. This national event serves as a dynamic platform for clay practitioners, significantly enriching the visual arts scene. It breaks down barriers, enabling clay artists to extend beyond their studio spaces and engage with a broader audience.

Ceramists included master potters such as Ahmad Abu Bakar and Jessie Lim, as well as potters from leading Singapore studios like Goh Eck Kheng, Mona Malhotra, Rachita Tania Misra, Saya Yamaguchi, Suriani Suratman, Sunar Sugiyou, Toh Kiam Hock, and Yulianti Tan, alongside many newer pottery enthusiasts.

The Foundation collaborated with the Singapore Clay Festival, which took place from 10-13 November 2022 at Enabling Village, and has been a dedicated partner since the inaugural Singapore Clay Festival in 2021, amplifying recognition of this artistic craft and fine arts.





# CHAMPION THE ARTS, MAKE A DONATION

Whether it's partnering with Foundation for The Arts and Social Enterprise on a programme, spreading the word through employee engagement initiatives, or direct financial contributions, you play a vital role in amplifying the impact of the arts as a transformative bridge between business, the community and across generations.

The Foundation is an approved Institution of Public Character. A 250% tax deduction is granted by Singapore regulatory agencies for cash donations. Your gift also goes twice as far as all donations are matched dollar-for-dollar by the Cultural Matching Fund.

Together, we can ignite meaningful conversations, nurture artistic talent, and create a vibrant cultural ecosystem. We invite you to join us in our mission and make a lasting difference through your donation. We are committed to channeling the majority of our funds to our projects. In our most recent financial report, 87% of funds raised went directly to supporting our charitable activities.

Make a direct donation through PayNow to The Foundation (UEN: 201303721C)

