

SCHOOL OF ARTS PRESS

# Newsletter



SUNWAY UNIVERSITY

JULY 2023



## About us

School of Arts Press (SOAP) is Sunway University's School of Arts monthly newsletter in which we highlight and provide information on student and staff achievements, past events as well as a notification platform for upcoming events.

## Issue highlights

In this month's issue, it is yet another busy month for the School of Arts! SOAP highlights lecturers' and students' achievements, lovely Lunchtime Concerts, exciting events and the "Stressless Sunway" campaign by the BCOM students!

## The School of Arts Press

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# Message From The Dean

July marks an incredibly busy month for Sunway University as students and staff alike sprint toward the end of the semester. For the School of Arts, this culminates in an end-of-semester showcase celebrating our students' works across the different artistic disciplines. While preparations are well on the way, we've continued to keep busy with different events, workshops, and industry engagements. Take a look at what we've been up to in July, and stay tuned for information on our end-of-semester showcase and ArtBeats Festival!

**PROF. MATTHEW MARSHALL**



# Throwback: SOA Students' Visit to Daikin Showroom at Desa ParkCity

On the 25th of May, students from the Diploma in Interior Design and BA (Hons) in Interior Architecture courses visited air-conditioning solution provider Daikin at their Desa ParkCity showroom. Students managed to experience and learn about different humidities and the industry-leading air-conditioning system. To achieve optimal thermal comfort and indoor quality, four elements need to be considered: air temperature, humidity, air flow, and air quality.



(Photo source: Dr Goh Yi Sheng)

# Throwback: Prof. Matthew Marshall and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Andrew Filmer at the 48th International Viola Congress

On 7th June, Prof. Matthew Marshall and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Andrew Filmer were featured artists performing in the 48th International Viola Congress in Salaya, Thailand. The congress is the first ever international Viola congress in Asia, highlighting local talents for the international community. The theme, "Music Without Borders" represented music that transcends geographical and psychological boundaries with emphasis on viola music that pushes the envelope of sound and represents the cutting edge of music performance. Besides playing solo, Prof. Matthew and Dr. Andrew performed in collaboration with other guest artists as well.



(Photo source: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Andrew Filmer)



(Photo source: Assoc. Prof. Dr Andrew Filmer)

## Throwback: Saturn Return Staged at Sunway University

Saturn Return, a devised play presented by Theatresauce, was staged at the Rooftop Theatre in Sunway College. Supported by the Department of Film and Performing Arts, the show was about six women who explored what it meant to hit the big 30. Together, they explore womanhood, spirituality, love and death, while figuring out how they can utilise their past and present to anchor moving forward into the future. The show was performed for over 5 days and 7 shows to 486 audiences from June 14th to 18th. Performing with the cast members of Saturn Return was one of Diploma in Performing Arts alumnus, Leysha Al-Yahya!



(Photo source: Abdul Sami Shahid)



(Photo source: Abdul Sami Shahid)

# Lai Jia Yun Wins Prizes at Two Singing Competitions

Congratulations to second-year vocal student, Lai Jia Yun, who was awarded first prize in the Adult art song category for excellent performance (Vocal) in the Hong Kong International Vocal Open Competition! In addition to that, she was awarded second prize from the Young Buddhist Association of Malaysia's "YBAM got Talent: The Voice of Truth and Beauty" competition.

"It was a fruitful semester in which I participated in two competitions, one of which [being] classical singing and the other one of the pop genre. I have always believed both classical and popular singing are the two great assets to have as a singer of modern epoch - to preserve the rich heritage of classical singing culture as well as living within the contemporary preference," commented Lai Jia Yun on her achievements.

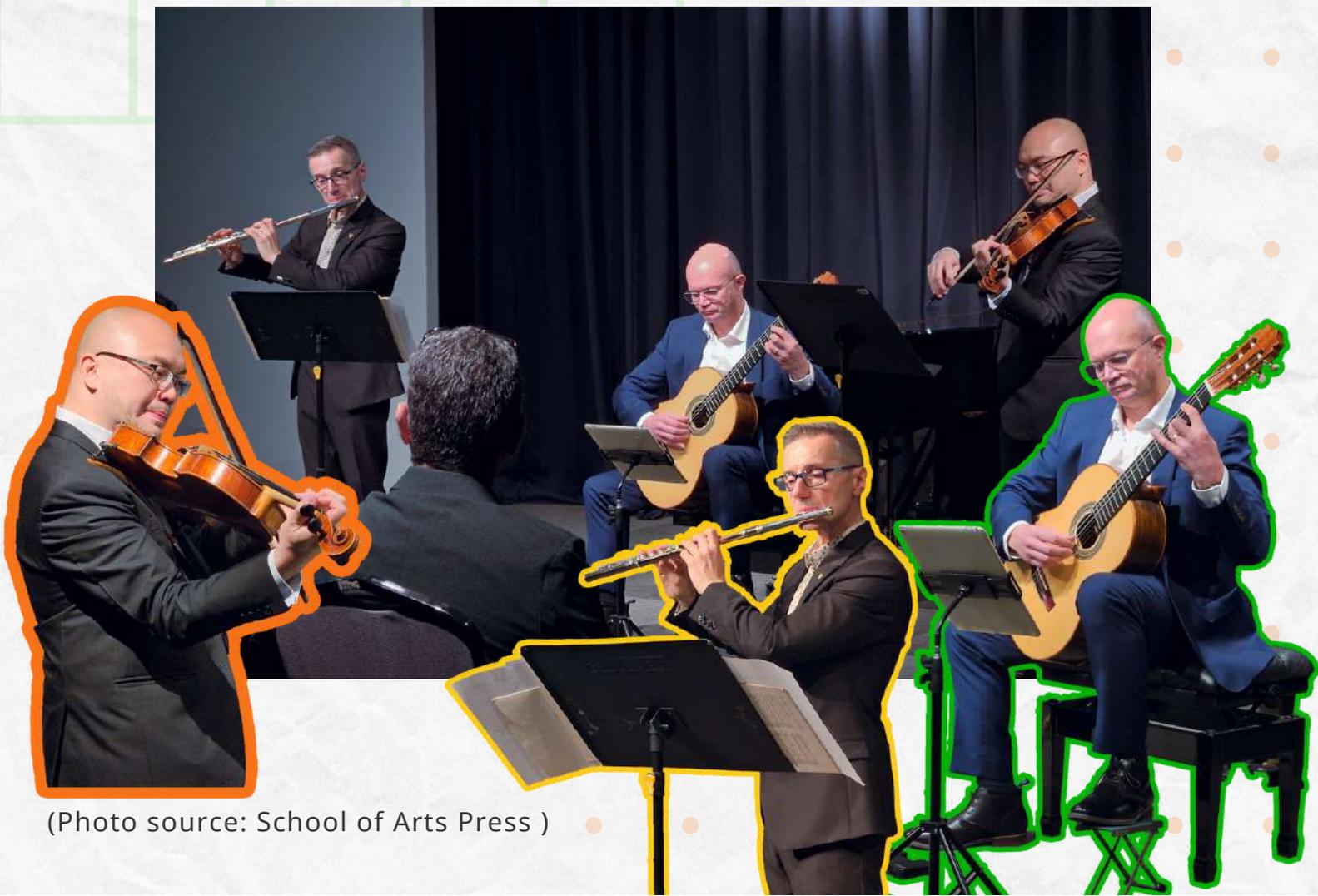


(Photo source: Lai Jia Yun)



# Lunchtime Concert with Dr Luca Manghi from New Zealand

International flute soloist Dr Luca Manghi, was joined by Prof. Matthew Marshall and Assoc. Prof. Dr Andrew Filmer for a lunchtime concert on 28th June. The trio performed chamber music from Italy, New Zealand, Austria, Argentina, and France. Dr Luca Manghi is the director of Performance (instrumental) at the University of Waikato, New Zealand. He also teaches flute and chamber music in the university as well as other universities such as University of Auckland and University of Otago. He was invited to teach at the Akaroa International Summer Festival and the Levallois Conservatory in Paris.



(Photo source: School of Arts Press )

# Assoc. Prof. Dr Andrew Filmer Gives Talk at Prodigy Royal Festival in Kuching

On 7th July, Assoc. Prof. Dr Andrew Filmer was invited to give a talk at the Prodigy Royal Festival. Happening at the Chemsain Auditorium in Kuching, Sarawak, the talk was on career pathways in music as an initiative to promote music education. The Prodigy Royal Festival is organised by Prodigy Music Centre in Kuching, in collaboration with the Euroasia Association of Performing Arts, with support from the School of Arts. The appearance of Tunku Zain al-'Abidin makes the "royal" element of the festival. Tunku Zain al-'Abidin, the royal patron of Euroasia, made an appearance at the festival, performing in one of the Bach selections, where Dr. Andrew Filmer also performed as a soloist. Teachers from the Prodigy Music Centre formed the ensemble for the performances as well.



(Photo source: Assoc. Prof. Dr Andrew Filmer)

# DADM Students Attend Bamboo Experiential Talk and Workshop

On the 6th and 7th of July, students from the Department of Art, Design and Media had the opportunity to learn about bamboo structures from Arkitek founder Tressie Yap and Upcycled Shack. Having previously explored bamboo structures from international case studies in the Design for Society course, students gained hands-on experience of working with bamboo, which is also a popular sustainable material in contemporary interior architecture and product packaging. They learned to work with the characteristics and potential of bamboo and apply it to bamboo projects of their own.



(Photo source: Dr Goh Yi Sheng)



(Photo source: Dr Goh Yi Sheng)

# Cardiff University Chamber Choir

## Performs for Lunchtime Concert



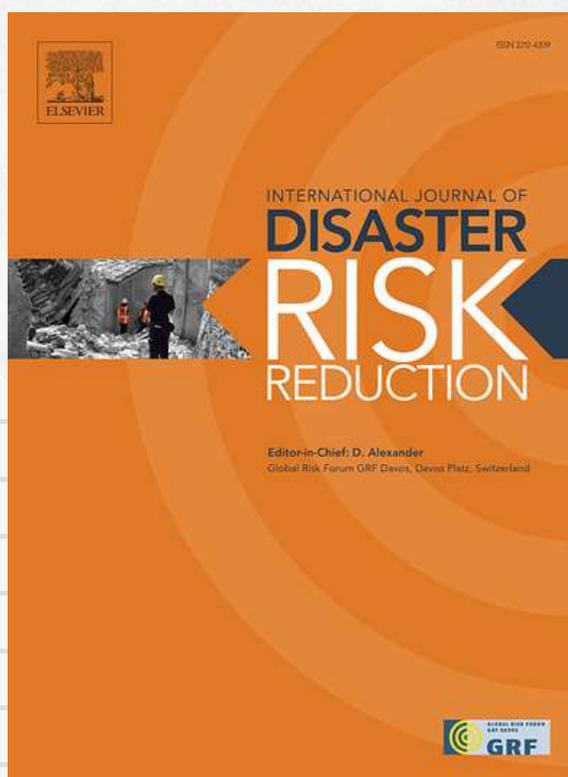
(Photo source: School of Arts Press, Becca Ding)

The Cardiff University Chamber Choir from the United Kingdom visited Sunway University for a lunchtime concert on 3rd July! The choir, which is made up of 30-40 singers, explores a repertoire ranging from Renaissance works to contemporary music and they have toured to various cities in Germany such as Hamburg, Lübeck, and Lüneburg. Towards the end of the concert, they were joined by the Sunway University Choir (featuring some of our students from the music programmes) for the final piece!

# Dr Goh and Dr Catherine Publish Article in International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction

Dr Goh Yi Sheng (Dept. of Art, Design and Media) and Dr Catherine Lee (Dept. of Communication) recently published an article in the International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction, stemming from their collaboration with Lancaster University through the Future Cities Research Institute. Titled 'Older people's needs in urban disaster response: A systematic literature review', the article touched on the elderly's needs in urban disaster response. Five needs were identified, including health, socioeconomic, evacuation and settlement, information and communication, and cultural needs. These insufficiently met needs were discussed in the paper, with five directions being proposed for future research. To [learn more, click here.](#)

(Photo source:  
ScienceDirect)



# Prof. Bradley Freeman Visits Lancaster University Leipzig to Work on New “Global Classroom: Media” Elective

Professor Bradley Freeman of the Department of Communication recently visited the campus of Lancaster University Leipzig in Germany to work on a new course called "Global Classroom: Media." This is a new idea that will allow Sunway University students to join students from four other locations - UK, Germany, Ghana, and China to take an innovative course dealing with global media. The course counts as an elective and will launch in the fall semester of this year.



(Photo source:  
Prof. Bradley Freeman)



# DADM Students Join Shutter Stories Sharing Session with Visual Artist Laura Blight



(Photo source: Mr Mohd Firdaus Mohd Anuar)

On the 12th of July, students from the Department of Art, Design and Media participated in the Shutter Stories sharing session featuring guest speaker Laura Blight. During the session, students learned about photography, primarily about ways to find inspiration and break into the industry. This was especially helpful for students who aspire to be professionals in the field. Laura Blight, who is also a photographer, visual artist, and lecturer from Falmouth University, then offered students personalised and constructive feedback on their work, informing them about their strengths and aspects that needed improvement from a professional perspective.

# Assoc. Prof. Dr Andrew Filmer Conducts Chamber Music Strategies Workshop

On the 2nd of July, the Chamber Music Strategies workshop and outreach event was held at Sunway University's Live Arts Space in collaboration with the SEA Music Academy Online and the Euroasia Association for Performing Arts. The workshop was conducted by Singaporean cellist Leslie Tan, and Dr Andrew Filmer, who is Sunway's Programme Leader for Music Performance and Director of Curriculum Development of SEA Academy Online. During this time, Euroasia Strings Competition prize winners visited the campus, where Leslie Tan and Dr Andrew coached two chamber music groups. Dr Andrew also coached Euroasia Sinfonia, which similarly consisted of prize winners.



(Photo source: Assoc. Prof. Dr Andrew Filmer)



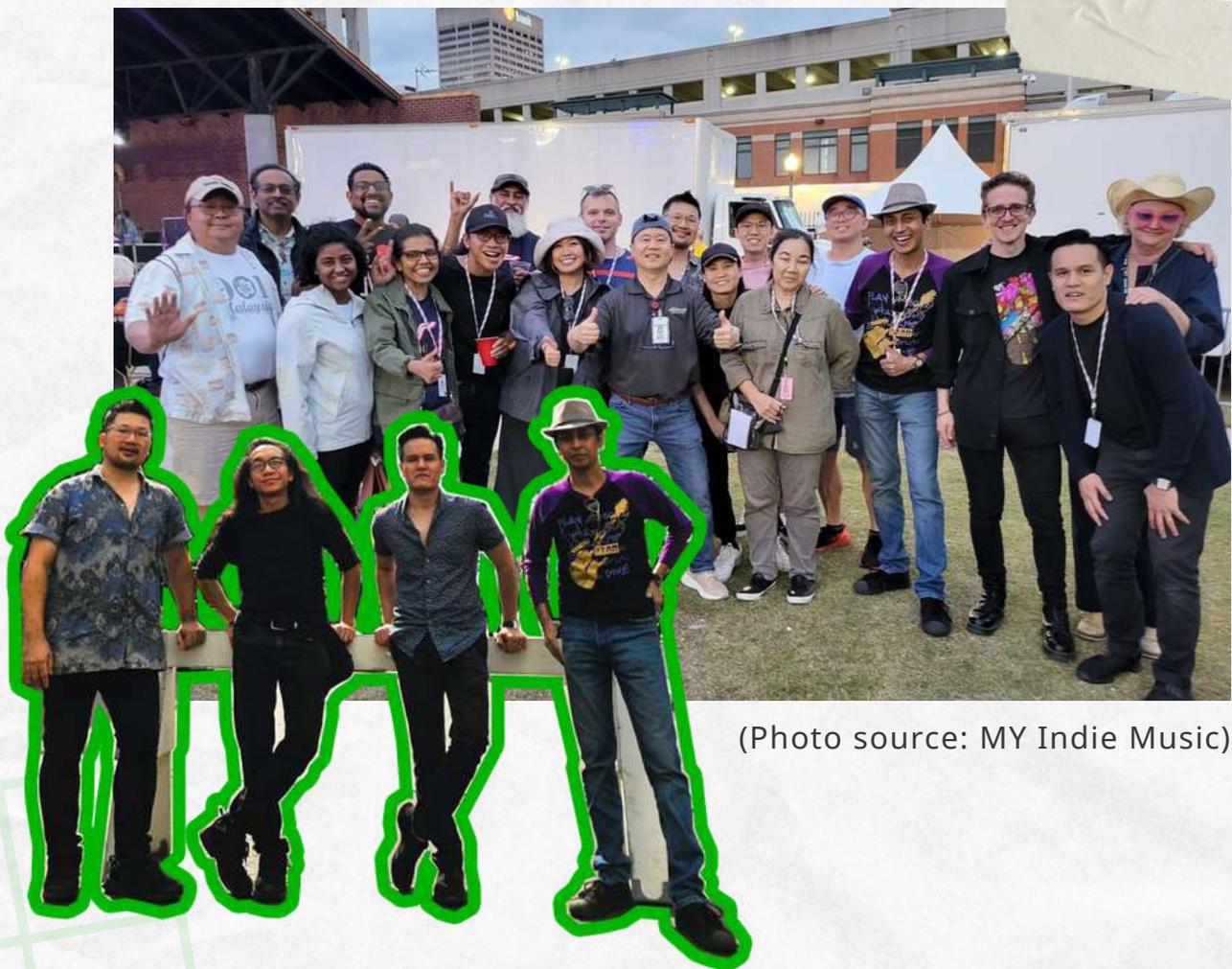
# “Stressless Sunway” Campaign Run by BCOM Students

BA (Hons) in Communication students organised a campaign titled “Stressless Sunway” for their Public Relations: Planning Campaign and Evaluation subject. The campaign was held from July 10th to July 18th and focused on the mental health and well-being of the students. The campaign started off with a student aid session in collaboration with re:mind Psychology Center, where expert counsellors provided a valuable talk and workshop on mental health and stress support. The campaign continued with the “Stressless Bazaar”, “Stressless Fiesta” and a “Movie Night”, where students can support local vendors and engage in a variety of activities that are designed to de-stress the mind. The campaign ended with the “Mind Matters Expo”, in which students had access to mental health resources and assistance from various Non-Governmental Organisations.



(Photo source : Ms Yesuselvi Manickam)

# Azmyl & the Truly Asia Perform in Memphis, Tennessee, USA



(Photo source: MY Indie Music)

Senior lecturer from the Department of Film and Performing Arts, Mohd Azmyl Md Yusof, along with his band mates performed at the Beale Street Music Festival in Memphis, Tennessee, USA. They were the only international band and the only band that performed twice at the music festival! The festival featured rock legend Robert Plant of Led Zeppelin and Allison Krauss, Earth, Wind & Fire, Ziggy Marley, The Lumineers, Los Lobos and many more. It was a part of the month-long “Memphis in May” Festival and Malaysia was its honoured country for the 2023 edition.

Azmyl & the Truly Asia were selected as the festival was looking for a musical act that represented Malaysia while being different from the conventional Tourism Malaysia mould. Besides performing in the festival, Mr Azmyl organised two more shows with his band mates in Nashville, Tennessee and Louisville, Kentucky. The band is the first independent Malaysian band to tour the United States!



(Photo source: MY Indie Music)



# Phisenukwat Chai Receives Prize in the MyTIGER Values Art Competition 2023

Congratulations to Phisenukwat Chai from the BA (Hons) Design Communication course, for receiving the Jury Special Prize in the MyTIGER Values Art Competition 2023! The Art competition was held by Maybank in conjunction with the Global Tiger Day. Phisenukwat's piece, titled "Urban Jungle", has been sold and is currently on display at the Art Gallery in the Maybank Tower. His artwork highlights the effects of human actions in conservation and climate action. The piece also expresses the need for sustainable cities and communities whilst stressing the dangerous path ahead with our rate of development. Phisenukwat expresses his gratitude to his lecturer who introduced and encouraged him to join the competition. He also thanked Maybank for the opportunity and for recognising young talents in the arts.



(Photo source: RUANG SEMENTARA Facebook, Phisenukwat Chai )



**Thank you for reading the  
July 2023 issue of the School of  
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