

Getting To Know Our Students

Yeong Lan Ing, Masters by Research graduate



Lan Ing is currently a freelance musician and is a Masters by Research graduate of Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) Academic Group.

What are you currently working as?

I am presently a freelance musician and hold a few contract positions in various institutions: music consultant in NIE (VPA), instrumental tutor in German European School of Singapore and piano ensemble instructor with Singapore Polytechnic and Raffles Institution.

We understand that you obtained your piano and harpsichord performance degree in Germany before coming back to Singapore. What attracted you to enroll in a higher degree programme in NIE?

I was away in Germany for 8 years. The few months back to Singapore was a huge adjustment as I didn't know where to begin. Coincidentally, I came across an advertisement published by NIE offering research scholarships at Master's level. I applied and was offered a place the next academic year.

We also understand that you previously toured Europe extensively as a soloist and accompanist with the Ensemble Nikolai. How did you chance upon that opportunity and are you still touring?

During my music training postgraduate years in Germany, I had many opportunities to perform as I only had 8 hours of lessons per week. On one occasion, Ensemble Nikolai approached my harpsichord teacher, Sabine Bauer, to be their harpsichordist for their Christmas concert in Europe. As her schedule was packed, she recommended me to the ensemble instead. After a successful tour to Switzerland that Christmas, I became part of the ensemble and toured other parts of Europe with them regularly. It's a pity we did not have the chance to work together since I returned to Singapore as the ensemble rehearsals are ongoing throughout the year.

You enrolled in our Master of Arts (MA) by research programme with VPA. Could you share with us more on the research that you did? Did the research yield the outcome that you hoped for?

My research topic was based on a contemporary German composer, Karl-Wieland Kurz. He was my lecturer for theory and harmony at the Akademie fuer Tonkunst Darmstadt. I chose to write a paper on his works as I was always interested in relating music with other art forms – and Kurz is a good representative in this aspect. Over the two years of intensive research, I found more composers that share the same interest – spreading over centuries and 7 continents of the world.

As an alumnus, do you currently have any development projects with NIE to benefit the Arts scene in Singapore?

I have the privilege to be back in NIE as a music consultant (part-time). Besides being the choir accompanist, I am also an instrumental tutor for the Bachelor of Arts (BA) programme. I hope my passion for music would be passed on to as many as possible.

Has the MA programme benefitted you in your career development?

The ultimate aim of the MA programme is to complete a thesis. Besides the knowledge gained throughout the research process, the teaching-assistant scheme gave me the opportunity to work with various disciplines and I benefitted greatly from their expertise and pedagogical ideas. Most importantly, I met a group of fellow research scholars who shared the same interest in music making and together we established the NIE piano ensemble. The experience was such a valuable one that I still apply them in managing my ensembles today.