

ORCHESTRA of the MUSIC MAKERS

"We are the music makers. And we are the dreamers of dreams." - Arthur O'Shaughnessy, Ode

At the heart of the Orchestra of the Music Makers (OMM) is a shared love of music and an idealistic optimism in pursuing that passion to its fullest. Its 140 musicians come together to practice, perform, and fulfil their grandest musical ambitions.

OMM is a volunteer orchestra comprising classically trained musicians from all parts of society, united in their wish to perform together as an ensemble. Most members are pursuing careers outside of music but have embraced this opportunity to pursue their keen interest in orchestral performance. At 23 years of age on average, they are students and working professionals in diverse fields. But despite their academic and professional commitments, OMM's musicians remain dedicated to their artistic goals, and consistently contribute to the best of their abilities. The orchestra's rigorous concert demands are always met by its membership, who return project after project to make good music purely for enjoyment.

Since its establishment in 2008, the Orchestra has grown from a small musical initiative championed by a few friends into a symphony orchestra of international repute. Under the mentorship of Chan Tze Law, Associate Director of the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music at the National University of Singapore, OMM has developed a tremendous presence in the Singaporean music scene and beyond. Soon after its founding the Orchestra was honoured with the HSBC Youth Excellence Award for Musical Excellence in 2009, and is a recipient of the National Arts Council's Seed Grant. Its performance of Mahler's 2nd Symphony garnered international acclaim in notable publications such as Gramophone (UK), Mostly Classic (Japan), the American Record Guide (USA) and Fanfare (USA). It has since released several live performance recordings, which have been received with acclaim and featured on numerous platforms, including the KrisWorld in-flight classical music selection on Singapore Airlines. More recently in 2012, OMM played alongside the world's finest at the Cheltenham Music Festival and Lichfield Festival in the UK in addition to gracing our home-grown Singapore Arts Festival.

OMM consistently places charity alongside its musical ambitions; it seeks to achieve social justice and effect the betterment of society through its musical endeavours. It is an Institution of Public Character and has raised over S\$5,000,000 for various charitable causes such as the President's Challenge, Straits Times School Pocket Money Fund and the Children's Cancer Foundation. The orchestra's priorities include sharing the orchestral experience with the public through pre-concert open rehearsals as well as facilitating the development of young talent through the annual Orchestra Camp and collaborating with educational institutions such as the School of the Arts Singapore (SOTA). Benevolence and altruism join ineluctably with artistic passion, a combination which ultimately defines OMM as an institution of societal benefit.

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