

Media Release

PIANO VIRTUOSO AWARDED THE PAUL ABISHEGANADEN GRANT FOR 2017

Singapore, 1 March 2017

NUS Centre For the Arts is proud to announce that the recipient of this year's Paul Abisheganaden Grant for Artistic Excellence is pianist and NUS alumni *Azariah Tan*.

"Azariah is one of Singapore's finest young musicians," says Sharon Tan, Director of the NUS Centre For the Arts, "Not only are his academic achievements across two continents outstanding, but his commitment to community and sharing the gift of music truly makes him an excellent recipient for this important grant."

Azariah is just 25 years of age and has completed a Degree in Music (First Class Honours) from the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music (NUS) along with two Masters Degrees in Music and a Doctorate in Piano Performance from the University of Michigan.

Not only is Azariah one of Singapore's youngest Doctors in the musical arts, he has achieved this immense success with just 15% of his hearing.

Alongside his academic work, Azariah has consistently "played it forward" over the past decade, with performances for ChildAid, the Disabled People's Association, the Singapore Association for the Deaf and at numerous other charitable engagements, sharing his love of music and raising funds for worthy causes.

"Music is my passion," says Azariah. "Though hearing aids help tremendously, they cannot reproduce many of the subtleties in music. I am constantly working with



others on how to more accurately perceive sounds and make up for it.” He credits his teachers in playing a big role in this.

Having been awarded the Paul Abisheganaden Grant for 2017, Azariah plans to participate in the renowned Sarasota Music Festival in Florida. This festival gives a short list of the best musicians access to a private faculty of masters, challenging them to expand their collaborative music skills.

Azariah will then fly to the Karlovac Piano Festival in Croatia, where he will engage in master-classes and private lessons to hone his skills in solo performance. Founded in 1804, the Karlovac Music School is one of the oldest music institutions in the region.

“I have aspired to attend these festivals for many years,” says Azariah. “They will help me further develop my playing and my ability to coach and mentor other players.”

“I want to help further develop the local collaborative music scene, starting with the Centre For the Arts at NUS.”

About the Paul Abisheganaden Grant for Artistic Excellence

Established in memory of the Singaporean music pioneer and Cultural Medallion winner, the Paul Abisheganaden Grant for Artistic Excellence is awarded to NUS students and recent alumni who are recognised by both their peers and the wider arts community as having contributed significantly to the performing arts. Applicants are assessed on awards they have won, programmes they have initiated, original works they have created and how they have contributed to the community.

The grant of up to \$10,000 enables recipients to pursue short developmental courses to further refine their artistic skills.

About the Centre For the Arts

Established in 1993, NUS Centre For the Arts (CFA) is a vibrant space for the appreciation of the arts and nurturing of the creative and inquiring spirit. We support student engagement with the arts and the integration of the arts into the life of the University.

We comprise the NUS Museum, NUS Baba House and a Talent and Development arm that oversees 22 student arts excellence groups. Through our myriad of programmes, practices, exhibitions, workshops and outreach, such as NUS Arts Festival and the

ExxonMobil Campus Concerts, we enrich the university experience and contribute to the building of knowledge and transformation of students.

We also manage facilities such as the University Cultural Centre, with its 1600-seat Hall and 450-seat Theatre, and rehearsal spaces in Runme Shaw CFA Studios and University Town.

For more information, visit cfa.nus.edu.sg

Media enquiries

Thomas Harper (Mr)

Marketing Communications (Media)
NUS Centre For the Arts

☎ (65) 8622 4694

✉ t.harper@nus.edu.sg

Cindy Ong (Ms)

Assistant Director, Marketing Communications
NUS Centre For the Arts

☎ (65) 6516 1223

✉ cindy@nus.edu.sg

###