

PRESS RELEASE

Collaboration is at the heart of a new season of ExxonMobil Campus Concerts

Singapore, 13 December 2019— Collaboration and contrast drive the arts forward, and in the latest season of ExxonMobil Campus Concerts (EMCC), various combinations of artists and source materials are being brought together to take performing arts in new directions at NUS and push artistic boundaries. Between January and April, seven free performances with an emphasis on crossing art forms, genres and creative partnerships are being staged in an effort to unlock the boundless potential of the arts on campus.

“The greatest masterpieces were once only pigments on a palette.” – Henry S. Haskins

Inspired by the sheer diversity of ideas and talents within NUS, this season incorporates theatre, dance, music and poetry and features both student and professional artists with performances at the University Cultural Centre, the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music and in the buzzing heart of the campus: University Town.



Intersecting cultures, artists and genres

Featuring the poetry of Singapore’s Alvin Pang, Abdul Ghani Hamid and A Palani, *Dhi* by NUS Indian Dance will investigate each poet’s approach to self-reflection, translating the English, Malay and Tamil works into movement and visually communicating complex internal thoughts. With its title derived from a Sanskrit term that encircles various facets of mental activity, *Dhi*

will feature both Indian and Malay music and all new choreography from Cultural Medallion recipient Mrs Santha Bhaskar and Madam Ambujah Thiru.

In contrast, *Miniatures 2020* brings members of the NUS Symphony Orchestra (NUSSO) together with soloists from the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music in *Celebrating Beethoven*. Linked by their passion for the composer on what would have been his 250th year, *Celebrating Beethoven* features soloists Nuttakamon Supatranont (trumpet) and Paul Abisheganaden Grant recipient Joey Lau (violin) performing with members of NUSSO and Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music students in various chamber configurations.

The programme for the performance will include inspiring works by Beethoven including *Egmont Overture* alongside pieces that inspired him such as Haydn's *Trumpet Concerto*.

Theatre pieces from the season include *The Sound of a Found Nation* in which NUS Stage and NUS Electronic Music Lab, under the direction of Edith Podesta, adapt local poet Hamid Roslan's debut collection *parsetreeforestfire* for the theatre and the first staging of How Drama's *Fat Kids are Harder to Kidnap* on campus. The topical comedy will be followed by a post-show dialogue with the cast and production team.

A full schedule of performances and artists is provided in Annex A.

A history of collaboration and development

Founded in 1986 as a platform for new artists and experimental works, EMCC is the longest running free admission arts outreach platform in Singapore. Each season fosters discovery, exploration and student development through the presentation of new and challenging ideas.

A truly home-grown platform, students frequently take the lead by presenting their own works each season and hone their skills in event management and production by serving as crew. Established artists are also invited to test new initiatives and experimental projects that inspire audiences and facilitate discussion on campus.

Thanks to more than three decades of support from ExxonMobil, each EMCC performance is free with registration. This model encourages students to experience the arts on campus and engage with ideas they may not have otherwise considered.

Ticketing

Each production in EMCC is free with registration.

A full schedule and ticketing links are provided in Annex A.

For media enquiries, please contact:

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Annex A: Series schedule



Miniatures 2020: Celebrating Beethoven

NUS Symphony Orchestra, Nuttakamon Supattranont and Joey Lau

Thu 16 Jan, 7.30pm
Conservatory Concert Hall,
YST Conservatory, NUS
120 mins

[Web link](#)

NUS Symphony Orchestra (NUSSO) celebrates Beethoven's 250th birthday with *Miniatures 2020: Celebrating Beethoven*, in collaboration with the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music (YST).

As one of the most iconic composers of the Classical Era, NUSSO pays tribute to Beethoven as a pivotal figure within the realms of music, through exploring what inspired him and in turn, how he inspired many: composers, musicians and audiences. Join NUSSO as they perform Beethoven's well-loved *Egmont Overture* and his teacher, Haydn's *Trumpet Concerto*, with soloist Nuttakamon Supattranont, a 1st year student from YST. The concert will also feature chamber pieces such as Schubert's *Rondo in A major* for Violin and String Quartet, featuring Joey Lau, a 4th year student from YST.

As part of NUSSO's 40th Anniversary celebrations, *Miniatures 2020: Celebrating Beethoven* is a reminder to continue to strive for musical excellence. Rediscover the legacy of Beethoven and the impact he has left behind.



Fat Kids Are Harder To Kidnap

How Drama

Wed 22 Jan, 7.30pm

UCC Theatre

65 mins

[Web link](#)

Performance with post-show dialogue

“There are a zillion things to like about this show.” - The Straits Times

“A delight from start to finish.” - bakchormeeboy

Fat Kids Are Harder To Kidnap has been entertaining audiences with their quirky observations and wacky take on current affairs. Written by journalists Melissa Sim and Jeremy Au Yong, enjoy this raucous attempt to stage 31 bite-sized plays in an hour - and you get to decide the order!

Created by Singapore theatre group How Drama, this irreverent show is not afraid to tackle hard issues such as the Trump-Kim summit and the Oxley saga. Don't miss this evening of laughter and get to meet the creators after the show as well.



CHEC 2020: Heartstrings 《心弦》

Halls of Residence, NUS

Wed 5 Feb, 7.30pm

UCC Theatre

90 mins

[Web link](#)

The Combined Halls Ensemble Concert (CHEC) brings love to the stage this season with familiar and nostalgic love songs reimagined through the fusion of Oriental and Western musical instruments. Timeless classics like 美丽的神话 and medleys from box office movies like Marvel's *The Avengers* are set to woo your hearts the moment they reach your ears. An annual concert organized by Raffles Hall, in collaboration with the other Halls of Residence in NUS; these musicians are constantly on their toes when it comes to experimenting with new ideas, combining different elements of music and boldly showcasing them to the audience.

Business is not as usual with CHEC. You've been warned.



Dhi

NUS Indian Dance

Wed 12 Feb, 7.30pm

UCC Theatre

60 mins

[Web link](#)

“Dhi” is a Sanskrit word that has several meanings related to the activity of the mind. It has multiple interpretations such as "imagination", "meditation" or "reflection".

Choreographed by Cultural Medallion recipient and Artistic Director, Mrs Santha Bhaskar, and Technique Instructor, Mdm Ambujah Thiru, this production invites audiences on a journey of self-discovery to seek answers from pressing internal conflict. Inspired by the works of important Singaporean poets such as Alvin Pang, Abdul Ghani Hamid, and A Palani; complex sentiments, which cannot be expressed in words, will be brought to life by Bharatanatyam and Kathak. *Dhi* seeks to connect to the audience's inner thoughts and emotions by bringing across the importance of self-reflection for the betterment of oneself.



Discovery: Girls' Night Out

RENE, J.M3 and KellyAnnalineZ

[Web link](#)

Fri 14 Feb, 7.30pm

UTown Dance Studio, Stephen Riady
Centre, University Town

90 mins

Women rule the stage at this season's Discovery as we present an evening of music from our home-grown talents: RENE, J.M3 and KellyAnnalineZ. RENE (FASS, Class of 2019) is a budding singer-songwriter who is growing in popularity in the pop-rock genre. She has released 4 singles to date - *Lonely*, *Cheese on Toast* and a recent double-track release titled '*ODE*' (*Eyes Wide Open and Times Like These*).

J.M3 (FASS, Class of 2014) is a rare local rap talent whose music touches on key social issues. She is also active in promoting mental wellness among youths through music and dance by collaborating with the Singapore Association for Mental Health (SAMH).

Having recently released her first single, *Cologne*, KellyAnnalineZ is another singer-songwriter to look out for who is actively performing in and out of campus. She endeavours to create an impact in the local English and Chinese music scene, while juggling her studies as a third-year Business Administration student.



Amplitude 2020: Histoire De La Vie

Halls of Residence, NUS

Tue 25 Feb, 7pm

UCC Theatre

150 mins (includes 20 mins intermission)

[Web link](#)

Feeling lost in your emotions in your life in NUS? Find out how their experience relates to yours in this performance and discover that you are not alone in this journey! *Amplitude* annually stages performances of choir or acapella groups formed by students, showcasing various vocal talents from across the seven Halls of Residence in NUS. Taking from this year's title, *Histoire de la Vie*, or *Life Stories* in French, *Amplitude 2020* adds an additional element of featuring the life stories of the people in NUS, and then performing songs which underscore the theme of the stories.



The Sound of a Found Nation

NUS Stage with NUS Electronic Music Lab
Directed by Edith Podesta

[Web link](#)

Directed by Edith Podesta
Thu & Fri 2 & 3 Apr, 7.30pm
UTown Dance Studio, Stephen Riady
Centre, University Town
60 mins

After the success of *The City Remembers*, NUS Stage and NUS Electronic Music Lab collaborate once again in a new work, directed by Edith Podesta. Adapted from Hamid Roslan's debut poetry collection *parsetreeforestfire* (Singapore: Ethos Books, 2019), the work playfully toggles between the myriad of language we speak in Singapore – such as English, Singlish, Bahasa, Mandarin and Hokkien – to celebrate as well as contrast the relationships between them. If language defines, how do we see the world in a multi-lingual environment?

Annex B: About NUS Centre For the Arts (CFA)

Established in 1993, NUS Centre For the Arts 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.

CFA includes the NUS Museum, NUS Baba House and a Talent and Development arm that oversees 21 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 1700-seat Hall and 425-seat Theatre, and rehearsal spaces in Runme Shaw CFA Studios and University Town.

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

Annex C: About National University of Singapore (NUS)

A leading global university centred in Asia, the National University of Singapore is Singapore's flagship university, which offers a global approach to education and research, with a focus on Asian perspectives and expertise.

NUS has 17 faculties and schools across three campuses. Its transformative education includes a broad-based curriculum underscored by multidisciplinary courses and cross-faculty enrichment. Over 38,000 students from 100 countries enrich the community with their diverse social and cultural perspectives. NUS also strives to create a supportive and innovative environment to promote creative enterprise within its community.

NUS takes an integrated and multidisciplinary approach to research, working with partners from industry, government and academia, to address crucial and complex issues relevant to Asia and the world. Researchers in NUS' Schools and Faculties, 30 university-level research institutes and centres, and Research Centres of Excellence cover a wide range of themes including: energy, environmental and urban sustainability; treatment and prevention of diseases common among Asians; active ageing; advanced materials; risk management and resilience of financial systems. The University's latest research focus is to use data science, operations research and cybersecurity to support Singapore's Smart Nation initiative.

For more information on NUS, please visit nus.edu.sg