

NAC-MOE Performing Arts-Based Learning (Digital) Sampler



Exploring The Great Outdoors

SINGAPORE
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA



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The Great Outdoors:

Music in Nature and Urban Landscapes

Get Started!



The Journey Begins

Travel Itinerary

Students' Travel Itinerary:

- Complete the [Pre-Exploration Survey](#)
- Find out more about the [Singapore Symphony Orchestra \(SSO\)](#)
- Learn more about [The Orchestra](#)
- Discover the [Home of the SSO](#)
- Check out the 'Read & Listen/Watch' activities within each of the modules (i.e. Seasons, Islands, Boat Ride, Cities) under [Learning Resources](#).
- Complete the [Post-Exploration Survey](#), after you have attended the teacher-guided tour of the 'Action' activities within each module (i.e. Seasons, Islands, Boat Ride, Cities) under [Learning Resources](#).
- Check out the 'Explore & Discover' activities within each module at your own free time.

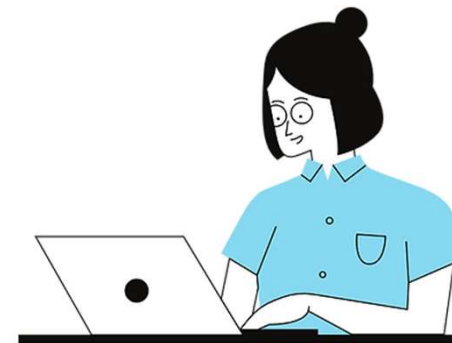
[Get Started!](#)

Teachers' Travel Itinerary:

- Provide the guided-tour of the 'Action' activities within each module (i.e. Seasons, Islands, Boat Ride, Cities) under [Learning Resources](#).
- Complete the [Post-Exploration Survey](#).
- Optional: Provide the guided-tour of the 'Explore & Discover' activities within each module



Pre-exploration Survey



Select Your Destination

Travel Destinations

Seasons

We begin with Antonio Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*, a work that evokes an array of tropical Singapore to instead explore a climate with four seasons in a year – spring, summer, autumn, and winter.

Which most associate each of these seasons with a particular feeling, sensation, or spirit. Vivaldi shows us that each season can have nuanced characters, and how this can be portrayed in sound.

Then, we go to the skies as we hear *Old Gables' Northern Lights*, as we imagine how sound can portray some of nature's most magnificent treasures.

Islands

After this, we return to Singapore with Wang Chen's *The Island*, which narrates the legend of the named island just south of the main island of Singapore.

Here, we hear the essential tale through soundscapes of village life in old Singapore, the call of trade ships, and the sounds of the stormy seas. Through the soundscapes of this work, we hear the island's call of the gamelan that leads from our southern neighbour, Indonesia.

Boat Ride

Next, we learn a tale of our history through Leong Wei-Pin's *Shanghaï Bamboo Orchestra*. This collection setting of a tale that narrates the difficulties of immigration that our forefathers faced, we hear how sound of bamboo as seen can be painted in yet another way.

In this segment, we also explore the ways in which music is a part of our day-to-day communication with the help of *Zachariah Goh's Four Seasons*.

Cities

Finally, we hear Tan Yung's *Melody* and Jonathan Stern's *City Along*, that bring us back to the bustle of city life, away from vast landscapes, foreign climates, and choppy seas.

Here, two composers call our attention to what we hear on a daily basis as city dwellers, and present to us their imaginative documentation of these sounds in a musical form.



Pre-departure Tips & Preparation

What is an Orchestra?

A group of musicians from the **String**, **Woodwind**, **Brass** and **Percussion** sections playing their instruments together.

Today, the Singapore Symphony Orchestra (SSO) has about 90 members and plays western classical music ranging from early baroque to contemporary classical music and Chinese works composed or arranged for a western orchestra.

Why is the Orchestra seating layout different for different performances?

Orchestras around the world experiment with different seating arrangements to achieve a particular "sound" for each performance. The choice of seating plan also depends on factors such as the programme and the conductor's preferences.

An example of an SSO seating plan would look something like this:

The Journey Continues...

Read & Listen/Watch

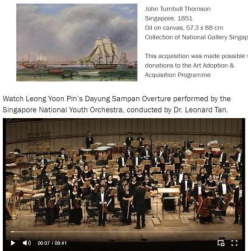
About the Music

The Malay folk song "Dayung Sampan" (translating to "paddle the boat") narrates the journey of Chinese immigrants who travelled across the South China Sea from China to Singapore in the colonial period of Singapore's history. This folk song is special because it has a very strong mix of both Malay and Chinese influences, reflective of its history.

The word "sampan" means "small boat" in the Malay language, but originates from the Chinese words "三板" (sān bǎn) that mean "three boards". However, the boats that would have been used by immigrants traversing from the Nanyang region would have been junk ships that would have been larger and winged with three sails.

John Sumfith Thomson
Singapore, 1970
Oil on canvas, 57.3 x 90 cm
Collection of National Gallery Singapore
This acquisition was made possible with
donations to the Art Adoption & Acquisition Programme

Watch Leong Yoon Pin's Dayung Sampan Overture performed by the Singapore National Youth Orchestra, conducted by Dr. Leonard Tan.



Action!

Learn the Folk Song

What is a folk song?

A folk song is a song that is often in a specific community of people, who have created it as a tradition for its preservation and passing down. Folk songs often reveal much about the history, culture, and core values of the community they come from.

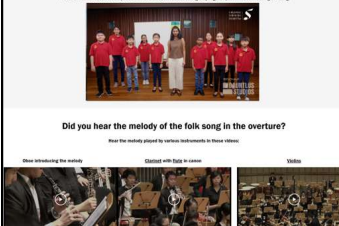
What is a pentatonic scale?

A pentatonic scale is a scale with five notes in an octave. "Pentat" means "five" and "scale" means "ladder". There are many different types of pentatonic scales, but most common is the major pentatonic scale. Watch this introduction to the pentatonic scale used in the folk song "Young Sampan" from the song "Dayung Sampan".

Did you hear the melody of the folk song in the overture?

Here the melody played by various instruments in these videos:

How convincing the melody? Clicked with 5/5 in cases? Video



Melody Composition on Song Maker


Song Maker

Can you use Song Maker to write the melody of Dayung Sampan? Check out the Song Maker 2022.

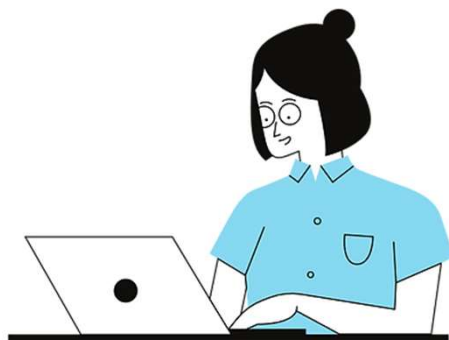
Song Maker Guide:

SONG MAKER

Reset Start About



Post-exploration Survey



Explore & Discover

About the Composer

Zechariah Goh is a Singaporean composer who is best known for his choral music, especially settings of folk songs and use of folk idioms in his compositions. In this work, he chose various Chinese idioms to set different moods showing the beauty of nature and good weather, as well as oddities of strange encounters and behaviours.

Some examples of Chinese idioms that follow the four tones used in this piece are:

- i) Good weather or conditions, 风调雨顺 (fēng tiáo yǔ shùn)
- ii) Strange and bizarre, 千奇百怪 (qiān qí bǎi guài)
- iii) Birds and beasts running about, 飞禽走兽 (fēi qín zǒu shòu)

Interview with Composer Zechariah Goh

Dr Zechariah Goh
Head of Composition
Young Academy of Fine Arts



Screenshots of some of the exercises available

Explore & Discover



Compose a Haiku

A haiku is a type of Japanese short form poetry consisting of 17 syllables across 3 lines, with each line consisting of 5, 7, and 5 syllables respectively.

Compose a haiku reflecting one of the following phenomena of nature:



1. A Season (Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter)
2. Weather (rain, sun)
3. Scene (sunrise, sunset)
4. Your Choice of Phenomena of Nature



Record your Haiku Recital using Soundtrap

Soundtrap Guide:

[Download](#)

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