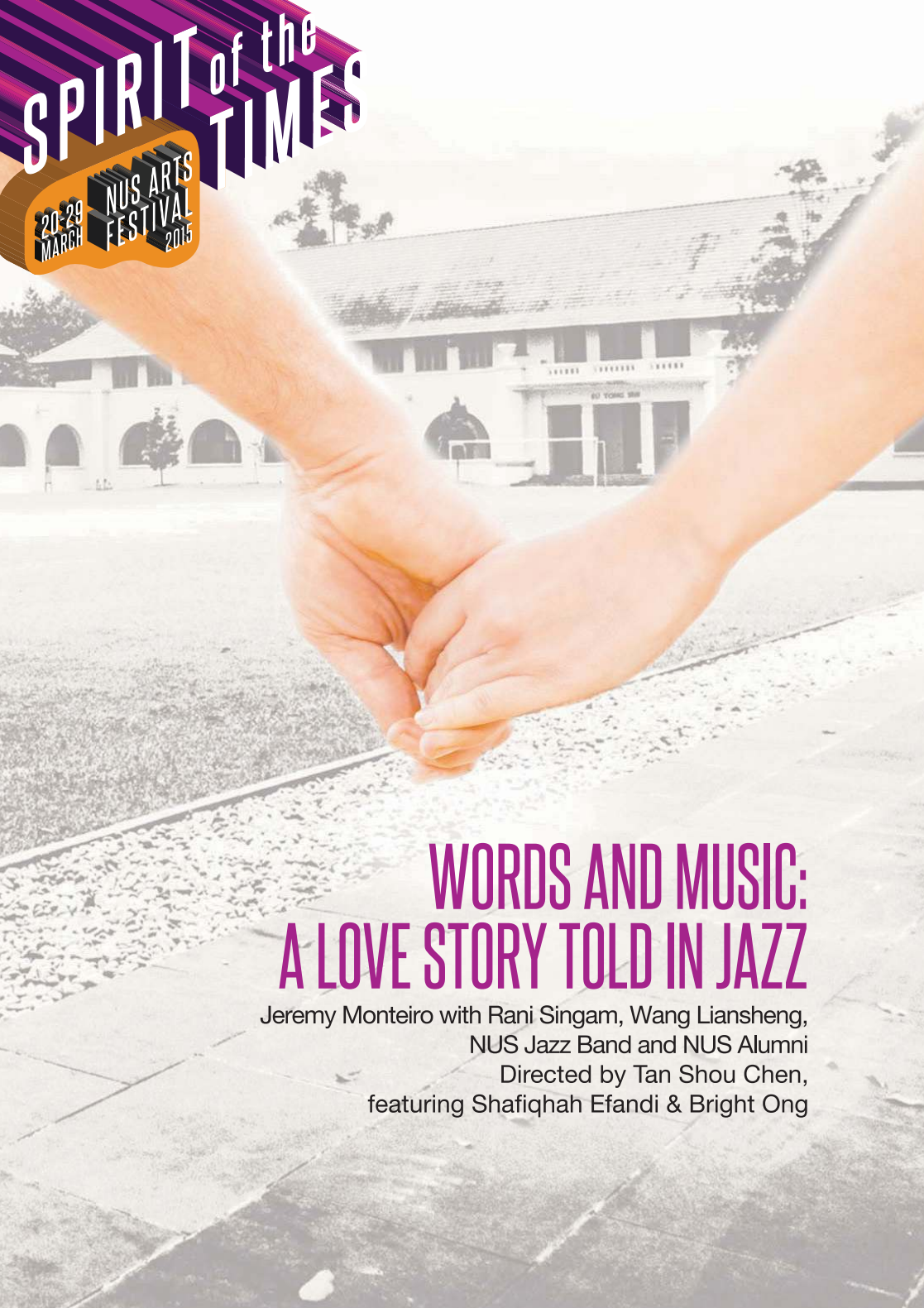


**SPIRIT of the  
TIMES**

**20-29  
MARCH**

**NUS ARTS  
FESTIVAL  
2015**

A photograph of two hands, one from the left and one from the right, holding each other in a firm grip. The hands are positioned in the foreground, with the fingers interlaced. In the background, a large, white, multi-story building with a tiled roof and several arched windows is visible. The building has a sign that reads "SU YONG SHAN". The ground in the foreground is paved with large, light-colored tiles. The overall scene is brightly lit, suggesting an outdoor setting during the day.

# **WORDS AND MUSIC: A LOVE STORY TOLD IN JAZZ**

Jeremy Monteiro with Rani Singam, Wang Liansheng,  
NUS Jazz Band and NUS Alumni  
Directed by Tan Shou Chen,  
featuring Shafiqhah Efandi & Bright Ong

# WORDS AND MUSIC

Inspired by AR Gurney's *Love Letters*, *Words and Music* traces the love between two people separated by circumstances, but bound by their inextricable love for jazz music.

Shen, the daughter of a highly respected academic, wonders if dreams come at the expense of home; Fong, who follows the normal path of a university education and ends up with a safe career as a teacher, finds something missing in his life. When opportunity knocks and one does not grab it by the collar, will it then be lost forever?

Through original music composed and performed by Cultural Medallion (Jazz) recipient Jeremy Monteiro with notable NUS alumni such as Rani Singam, as well as familiar jazz standards by NUS Jazz Band woven into a script written by Wang Liansheng (*The Boy Inside*) and directed by Tan Shou Chen, *Words and Music* is their love story tenderly told in jazz.



# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Welcome to the 10th NUS Arts Festival: *Spirit of the Times*.

As our flagship performance platform, the Festival embodies our vision of becoming a vibrant centre for the appreciation of the arts and nurturing of the creative and inquiring spirit of the NUS students. The annual Festival celebrates the best of our 22 Student Arts groups. Through the Festival's innovative programming and partnerships, we aim to grow an active arts community where students, artists, scholars and audience can converge and create.

NUS Centre For the Arts encompasses NUS Museum, NUS Baba House and a Talent & Development arm that oversees the Student Arts groups. Through our programmes, practices, exhibitions, workshops and outreach, we augment the university experience and contribute to the building of knowledge and transformation of the students. We strongly believe that students who engage deeply with the arts enhance their creativity, broaden their perspective and enrich their lives.

On behalf of the Centre, I thank the Festival's professional artists and NUS alums who are inspiring role models for the next generation of arts audiences and talents in NUS. We are grateful to our donors and supporters who share our goal to enrich the intellectual and cultural life of the campus.

Enjoy the Festival!

**SHARON TAN**

Director

NUS Centre For the Arts

# FESTIVAL DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



In 2015, we celebrate Singapore's 50 years of nation building and National University of Singapore's 110th anniversary. At our 10th NUS Arts Festival (NAF) from 20 – 29 March, we recall the achievements of our pioneers who have transformed society today.

NAF 2015 opens with *Words And Music*, a jazz concert helmed by Singapore's best jazz talent Jeremy Monteiro with text from Wang Liansheng. Enjoy the youthful energy of NUS's talented young musicians as they present classical works as well as contemporary compositions by Singaporean composers, the late Cultural Medallion recipient Leong Yoon Pin, Zechariah Goh and Kelly Tang. We are proud to present a new commissioned work by Young Artist Award winner Chen Zhangyi and the Asian Contemporary Ensemble led by Wong Kah Chun.

Look forward to *Overdrive II* by NUS dance talents with two established Asian choreographers Ricky Hu and Chen Wu-Kang. Fringed by live gigs and screenings of films from Israel and Japan, NAF 2015 climaxes with *Dance Reflections* featuring all 6 dance companies under NUS Centre For the Arts.

This year, we welcome an unprecedented level of participation from NUS' arts talents, including outstanding alums who return to share their creativity in the arts. We thank them for their dedication and support.

Through the theme "Spirit of the Times", NAF 2015 looks back at the past as fuel to push forward to the future. The insights into the lives, achievement and spirit of those who have gone before serve to encourage us to also make a difference in the world.

Come explore the spirit of the times with us!

**CHRISTINE KHOR**

Festival Director

NUS Centre For the Arts

# PROGRAMME

## Prologue

### OVERTURE: BLUES FOR THE SAXOPHONE CLUB

By Jeremy Monteiro Arr. Tom Kubis

#### Scene 1 Introduction

### LOVE LETTERS STRAIGHT FROM YOUR HEART

By Victor Young (Music) & Edward Heyman (Lyrics)  
Arr. Chok Kerong Feat. Melissa Tham (Vocals)

#### Scene 2 Childhood

#### Scene 3 City Girl & Country Boy

### ALL BLUES

By Miles Davis

#### Scene 4 Growing Up

#### Scene 5 Living History

### AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'

By Fats Waller, Harry Brooks  
(Music) and Andy Razaf (Lyrics) Feat. Melissa Tham (Vocals)

### ALL BLUES

By Miles Davis

#### Scene 6 Re-encounter

### BLUES FOR CAPTAIN HANS

By Jeremy Monteiro

### BROTHERS

By Jeremy Monteiro

#### Scene 7 Sharing Jazz

### FRAILITY

By Chok Kerong (Music) & Rani Singam (Lyrics)

#### Scene 8 Frailty

#### Scene 9 Life

### HERE'S TO LIFE

By Artie Butler (Music) and Phyllis Molinary (Lyrics)  
Feat. Rani Singam (Vocals)

### SOMEWHERE OVER THE RAINBOW

By Harold Arlen Arr. Chok Kerong

## Intermission

#### Scene 10 Being Friends

### SWING WITH ME

By Jeremy Monteiro (Music) & Rani Singam (Lyrics)  
Arr. Tom Kubis

### I WANT TO BE HAPPY

By Vincent Youmans (Music) & Irving Caesar (Lyrics)  
Arr. Eddie Sauter

#### Scene 11 A Requiem

### DO I LOVE YOU?

By Cole Porter

#### Scene 12 Contentment

### FOR ONCE IN MY LIFE

By Orlando Murden (Music) and Ron Miller (Lyrics)

### CONTENTMENT

By Chok Kerong (Music) & Rani Singam (Lyrics)

#### Scene 13 First Love Second Chances

## Epilogue

### EVERYTHING IS BEAUTIFUL

By Ray Stevens Arr. Chok Kerong

### HIGHEST LAND

By Jeremy Monteiro (Music) & Rani Singam (Lyrics)  
Arr. Michael Veerapen

# MUSIC DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



I am very happy to have been asked to be the Music Director for the Opening show of the 2015 NUS Arts Festival and I am very grateful that NUS/CFA has kindly invited me to participate.

It has been a very enjoyable experience working with writer Wang Liansheng and Director Tan Shou Chen to create a tapestry which makes the show both a musical theatre presentation and a Jazz variety show.

Working with the musicians of the NUS Jazz Band has also been a very satisfying process as I see the student musicians work on their parts with passion and much effort achieving a high level of performance.

Joined by some of the top professionals in the Singapore music scene, like Rani Singam, Melissa Tham, Tamagoh, Christy Smith, Rick Smith, Tan Wei Xiang, Kenneth Lun and other great musicians, we have created a combination of musicians that I think will enthrall and entertain you.

Please sit back, relax and enjoy the swinging jazzy music and the inventive and fun script that is *Words and Music*.

Peace & Love  
Jeremy Monteiro



## JEREMY MONTEIRO

Jeremy (pianist, vocalist, composer, jazz educator) has won critical acclaim in many parts of the world. He has performed all over the World in addition to numerous occasions at home in Singapore, where he has been dubbed "Singapore's King Of Swing" by the local press. He currently acts as an International Arts Ambassador for EFG Bank, headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland.

Most recently, in November of 2014 he performed on one of the main stages of the EFG London Jazz Festival at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in concert that also included the Kenny Barron and Dave Holland duo.

Also in 2014, he released an album called, *Jeremy Monteiro & Alberto Marsico – Jazz Blues Brothers* on the iconic Verve Records label. In December of 2014, his second release of the year *Christmas In Our Hearts* was released on the Universal label. His latest album, his third in the past calendar year, a jazzy collection of Chinese New year and Chinese evergreens entitled *Gong Xi!* was launched on 31 January 2015.



On 15 September 2006, Jeremy Monteiro was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society for the encouragement of the Arts, Manufactures & Commerce in the UK (the RSA). On 1 September 2006, he was appointed a Board Member of the National Arts Council of Singapore and served two terms until 2010.

On 29 May 2006, Jeremy Monteiro was appointed Professor & Visiting Chair of Jazz, School of Music, Faculty of Performing Arts & Integrated Studies, LASALLE College of the Arts. He is the first Singaporean to be appointed Professor at the Institution since Brother Joseph McNally founded it in 1984. Also on 29 May 2006, Jeremy released his first album of all original compositions. Jeremy has released more than 30 albums as leader and/or producer.

Jeremy was conferred the Cultural Medallion, Singapore's pinnacle award in arts achievement on 8 October 2002.

In 1988, Swing Magazine of Switzerland (the official magazine of the Montreux Jazz Festival) called him "one of the best exponents of Jazz Piano". That year, he performed with his all-star band, Monteiro, Young & Holt on the mainstage of the prestigious Montreux Jazz Festival, in a concert that also included Mongo Santamaria and Chick Corea.

On June 18 & 19 2003, Jeremy performed with legendary harmonica player, Toots Thielemans, together with the members of his NYC Trio, bassist Jay Anderson and drummer Adam Nussbaum at the Victoria Concert Hall as part of the Singapore Arts Festival.

In late 1992, he produced the Ernie Watts album *Stand Up*, joining an illustrious alumnus of Ernie Watts' producers, which include Quincy Jones, Creed Taylor, Don Grusin and Gilberto Gil.

In March of 1990, at the same time as Natalie Cole, he was admitted as an active voting member of the National Academy Of Recording Arts & Sciences (Los Angeles Chapter), and has voted at the Grammy Awards from 1991 through the 2010.

As a composer, Jeremy has been awarded a Silver Medal at the 1991 International Radio Festival of New York, as well as finalist awards at the 1990 and 1991 London International Advertising Awards for best original music score (radio, T.V. and Cinema). He has composed or produced over 700 pieces of music and is listed in the year 2000 edition of *Who's Who of The World*.

He served as Artistic Director of the Singapore International Jazz Festival 2001, an event which featured 52 bands and more than 150 musicians from Singapore and overseas.

# WRITER'S NOTE

Dear you,

When I was first approached by Mary to write a play that would interweave jazz music, I had no idea what to write. It took me a long time before I wrote the first draft. During my writing process, I was pleasantly surprised to discover many things I never knew about jazz, relationships and writing, and in particular, the similarities they share.

I thank the many people who have been so giving and patient during this process: Shou Chen, Jeremy, Silei, Shafiqhah, Bright, Mary, Anirban, Moh Li, Chia Meng, Clement, Cheng Jun and the SM team, Chin Boo, Rani, Melissa, Kerong, Miin, the NUS Jazz Band and the professional musicians, the production team, marketing team and the venue technicians. In particular, I am also grateful to my firm for their understanding and support as I go on my artistic pursuits.

Writing *Words and Music* has been the most cathartic. I hope you will allow tonight's words and music to gently caress and transport you to places, as the lives of Shen & Fong unfold before you...

Enjoy.

Regards  
Liansheng

*P.S. This play is dedicated to J, the muse of that season.*



## WANG LIANSHENG

Liansheng graduated with an LLB (Honours) degree from the National University of Singapore and is currently working as a lawyer.

He started working in the theatre scene as a production crew in 2005, and subsequently made his transition into writing in 2012. Since then, he has written for The Necessary Stage's Theatre For Seniors, Singapore Arts Festival 2012, and the NUS Arts Festivals 2012 to 2014. In June 2014, he presented a dramatized reading of his first full-length work, *The Boy Inside*, as part of the Esplanade's The Studios RAW series. He subsequently completed his second full-length work, *Half Life*, in the later half of 2014 under the Mentor Access Project. He is grateful to NUS Centre For the Arts for the many opportunities and assistance provided.



## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

*If you're playing jazz you're automatically earning the emotion, paying for it; the history of the music has seen to that.*  
– Geoff Dyer

Frank brought me to Jazz's door, and Ella opened it.

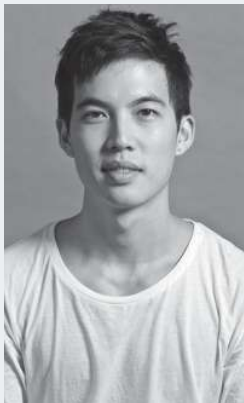
Jazz has always been an elusive, enigmatic lover to me. A lover who is at once exciting as a swallow, dipping and diving in the blue dawn; as distracted and moody as a hot August day; and (dare I say) as boring as watching paint dry. You never really "know" jazz.

Preparing for this show gave me an opportunity to deepen my affair with jazz. Two worlds meet in this work: the world of jazz and the world of theatre. Jazz is free, thriving on unbridled emotion, and improvisation. Theatre lives, a breath on stage can never be replicated, an experience in constant motion. What a wonderful meeting this has been!

It is my honor to have worked with Liansheng, Jeremy, Silei, Anirban, Mary, the cast, the creative team, NUS Jazz Band and Alumni...all in the UCC! Special thanks to Chee Wai, AK and my family. Finally, thank you, the audience, for sharing this night with us.

Tan Shou Chen

shouchen.net / FB & IG@shouchentan



### TAN SHOU CHEN

Shou Chen is a theatre practitioner known for his versatility. His performing credits span music, theatre, film, TV, and radio. The Straits Times billed him as one of Singapore's 30 under 30 actors to look out for. A new director, his debut work *MEDEA* developed under The Substation's inaugural Director's Lab Program was received with rave reviews. He will be next directing a dramatised reading of Singapore's first English language plays under *The Esplanade 50*.

# CREATIVE TEAM



## CLEMENT CHEONG

Lighting Designer

With over 10 years of experience in lighting programming and designing, Clement has proven to be a versatile designer and collaborated with many local and international directors and artists, spanning a wide range of performing arts and event genres. Notably, he has designed for events by MediaCorp, Esplanade Theatres by the Bay, People's Association and etc.

Clement enjoys working on youth productions, and is glad to have crafted lighting designs for many tertiary institutions. He has been working regularly with NUS Centre For the Arts with many of its performing arts groups since 2008 and has lit close to 50 productions till date.

“Lights is not just about a simple switch but is to paint a picture for the audience.” This is the phrase which triggered Clement Cheong to make his major career switch from a graphic artist to a lighting designer in 2006.



## KOO CHIA MENG

Multimedia Designer

Trained as a filmmaker, Chia Meng has been actively involved in various aspects of film production since 2009. In 2013, he began directing music videos for Singaporean musicians as well as casting for feature films such as Anthony Chen's *Ilo Ilo* (2013).

Chia Meng is also a Multimedia Designer, having provided visual content for various performances over the years, most recently *Ah Boys To Men: The Musical* (2014) and *Hossan-AH!* (2014). His works have travelled to audiences internationally, including New York, Canada and Malaysia. He is presently an Associate Multimedia Designer with TheatreStrays.

Chia Meng is currently pursuing his Masters of Fine Arts in Film Directing at Taipei National University of the Arts, Taiwan.

**RANI SINGAM**

Vocals

Rani Singam is one of Asia's most sought-after vocalists today. She is named in *The Jazz Singers, The Ultimate Guide*, a 2008 Hal Leonard publication which serves as an encyclopedic guide on the important singers in jazz.

Rani recorded her debut album in Los Angeles, *With A Song In My Heart*, produced by Jeremy Monteiro. In 2011, Rani produced her second album *Contentment* which was recorded at Bennett Studios, USA. A fresh approach to jazz vocals, this album is also a showcase of Rani's songwriting skills comprising primarily original compositions.

Rani has been featured at several international jazz festivals, including The Mosaic Festival in Singapore and Jakjazz in Indonesia.

Rani was also featured as one of 39 iconic Singaporean artists in the *music video*, *Home* which was produced for the Total Defence Campaign 2011.

Rani is a member of COMPASS, Composers and Authors Society of Singapore Limited.

**MELISSA THAM**

Vocals

Known as the petite singer with a big voice, Melissa Tham's relentless pursuit of swing and the blues has endeared her to audiences in her hometown of Singapore and around the region. She has performed at numerous festivals and venues in Southeast Asia, Europe and New Zealand.

Performances locally as well as internationally include guest starring in MBS's *Tribute to Sinatra* (Louis Hoover) by British Playhouse, *The Three Divas* South-east Asian Tour with Jeremy Monteiro Trio, Hong Kong and Shenzhen featuring jazz guitarist Teriver Cheung's Asian Tour, as well as the world premiere of Singjazz International Jazz Festival with Jeremy Monteiro. Melissa was also a guest artist with the Asian All Stars Power Quartet in the London Jazz Festival 2014.

Melissa who was awarded the "Emerging Jazz Vocalist of the Year" at SingJazz 2015, will also be releasing her debut album in April this year.

# CAST



## SHAFIQHAH EFANDI

As Shen Wong

Shafiqhah graduated from LASALLE College of the Arts with a BA(Hons) in the Acting course, She has worked with Singaporean directors Effendy Ibrahim in *A Doll's House*, and Natalie Hennedige in *6 Characters in Search of an Author*. She also worked with Edith Podesta in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Hamlet* and Stefanos Rassios in *Woyzeck* and *Attempts on Her Life*. She has had an interest in the Malay theatre scene and hopes to be involved in future productions of the known Malay theatre groups in Singapore. She also hopes to work in more productions where music plays a big part as she would like to pursue music in the future.



## BRIGHT ONG

As Lim Fong

Bright is a theatre practitioner and a puppeteer who has Cirque du Soleil and The Muppets to thank for being the catalyst to his performing arts career. An SRT alumni Young Co. scholar, he is also a graduate from the Geography department in NUS.

He was the puppeteer for Latif on *ZooMoo*, an international puppet show about wildlife, as well as Cracker the Cat on another international television programme *Mr Hooty's Toyshop*. Theatre credits include *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*, Sheares Production 2008 (*hey guys!*): *Macbeth*, (Shakespeare in the Park, SRT, 2011), *Lan Fang Chronicles*, Singapore Arts Festival, 2012, *Lord of the Flies*, SRT Young Co, 2012, *Marco Polo*, Theatreworks, 2014, *2 Houses*, Georgetown Festival 2014. He will next be seen in Skinned Knee Productions' work, *Ragnarok*.

# NUS JAZZ BAND

Serving up a potent brew of lush and inviting jazz – the bossa, blues, swing, bebop, fusion, ragtime, soul and arrangements from the traditional to the contemporary, the NUS Jazz Band was formed in 1994 by a group of dynamic musicians and jazz enthusiasts.

The band experiments with a spectrum of arrangements and improvisations from traditional big band to contemporary compositions. The members engage in weekly practices under the guidance of tutors who are prominent practitioners in the jazz industry. They also participate in ensemble playing, jam sessions, workshops, master classes and music camps.

The NUS Jazz Band held a series of sold out performances at the NUS Arts Festival – *Irresistibly Yours*, *Soul Remedy*, *Treat Her Like A Lady!* The popular band has also performed at various schools and corporate events such as CASE Conference at Asian Civilisation Museum, Funkamania at Ngee Ann City, Arts in the City – Contemporary Jazz at Art Square, Raffles City, NUS Centennial Roving Exhibition at Raffles City Shopping Centre, Jazz at the Beach at Sentosa and music performances at Concourse and Outdoor Theatre, Esplanade.

## **TAN CHIN BOO**

Resident Conductor, NUS Jazz Band

Chin Boo has more than 34 years of professional music experience. He has an Honours Degree in Electronic Music & Commercial Music Arranging from Berklee College of Music, USA, which he attended on a scholarship from then Singapore Broadcasting Corporation.

From a self-taught percussionist to Music Director and then Head of Audio post in MediaCorp, Chin Boo brings his wealth of knowledge and experience to Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) where he heads the Audio / Radio section and lectures in Audio Technology and Productions, Advanced Audio Production in School of Film & Media Studies.

He composed the music for NP's 40th Anniversary musical, and was the percussionist for musical *Victor/Victoria*, which starred Laura Fygi, at the Esplanade Theatre in 2009.

Chin Boo was awarded NP's Teaching Award (Academic) in 2006.

## Words And Music: A Love Story Told In Jazz 20 March 2015

### Creative Team

<b>Music Director</b>	Jeremy Monteiro
<b>Scriptwriter</b>	Wang Liansheng
<b>Director</b>	Tan Shou Chen
<b>Multimedia Designer</b>	Koo Chia Meng
<b>Lighting Designer</b>	Clement Cheong
<b>Music Arranger</b>	Chok Kerong

### Administrative & Technical Team

<b>Associate Producers</b>	Anirban Sen, Sing Moh Li
<b>Production Manager</b>	Chan Silei
<b>Stage Manager</b>	Song Cheng Jun
<b>Assistant Stage Manager</b>	Johanan Lau
<b>Sound Engineer</b>	Gao Yang
<b>Set Coordinator</b>	Daniel Sim
<b>UCC Production Coordinator</b>	Rajandra Vadivale
<b>Photography</b>	See Joo Teng, NATStudios
<b>Videography</b>	HeTian Film Productions

### NUS Jazz Band Executive Committee

<b>President</b>	Hans Jonathan Charis
<b>Vice Presidents</b>	Tong Miin, Khoo Yong Jie
<b>Secretary</b>	Vivienne Teoh
<b>Treasurer</b>	Tan Ting Yu
<b>Logistics Manager</b>	Marius Andrian
<b>Publicity Manager</b>	Kevin Hadinata



## Cast

**Shen Wong** Shafiqhah Efandi  
**Lim Fong** Bright Ong

## Guest Musicians

**Lead Vocals** Rani Singam  
**Lead Vocals** Melissa Tham  
**Piano** Tan Wei Xiang  
**Bass** Christy Smith  
**Guitar** Rick Smith  
**Drums** Tamagoh  
**Alto Saxophone** Teo Boon Chye  
**Tenor Saxophone** Jonathan Lim  
**Baritone Saxophone** Cai Yanlong  
**Trombone** Leo Jeoh  
**Trumpet** Kenneth Lun  
**Trumpet** Dan Wong  
**Piano** Sooty Heng

## NUS Jazz Band

**Resident Conductor** Tan Chin Boo  
**Saxophone** Zack Hwang Yi Kun\*, Vivian Goh  
Elias Arun, Jerome Seow  
**Trombone** Derek Lim\*, Tham Cheng Yong\*  
Bryce Lim, Kevin Lee  
**Trumpet** Pratheesh Dhanabal\*, Tan Wen Quan  
Ilja Behnke, Tan Ting Yu\*  
Jane Gong Xue Wen  
**Piano** Hans Jonathan Charis\*  
Marius Andrian, Joshua Hendinata  
**Bass** Ray Fellix Ganardi  
William Naftali\*  
Andreas Alvin Purnomo Soetdjo  
**Guitar** Kevin Hadinata\*  
Vivaldi Ibelio Chandra  
**Drums & Percussions** James Andrew Jr. Gunawan  
Michael Alexander, Chee Yao Yuan  
**Vocalists** Tong Miin\*, Rianda Gracia Jacobs  
Charlene Su, Vivienne Teoh  
Florence Leung, Shavena Vigneswara Kumar  
Phan Qi Xian, Hadian Pradipto, Matthew Ng

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