



**Mr Toh Ser Khoon**

External Member

Mr Toh is currently the Deputy Director at the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE), Singapore Polytechnic. Mr Toh was conferred the Public Administration Medal (Bronze) by the President of Singapore at National Day 2008 for his public education contributions and service. Mr Toh has also been honoured by his former student and received Mr Koh Boon Hwee Scholarship Award (Nanyang Technological University) - Certificate of Honour from the President of Singapore in July 2010. This is in recognition of his influence of inspirational teaching, and the enduring bonds that are forged between him and his students. He received his Bachelor of Electrical & Electronics Engineering Honours in 1990, Master of Science (EE) from National University of Singapore in 1994 and Graduate Diploma in Change Management from Civil Service College in 2006. Ser Khoon has more than 25 years of rich educational experience in both public and private institution - ranging from lecturing, engineering project management, senior management and serving on Academic Board. His recent focus of work is in the areas of Academic Resource and Organisation Development which includes HR management, Enhancing Organisational Design, Diagnosing Organisational Performance Gaps, Facilitating Organisational Change and Developing Organisational Culture leading to life-long learning, productivity, innovation and service excellence.



**Mr Toh Ban Sheng**

External Member

Starting out essentially as a self-taught musician, the former Physics teacher, against all odds, completed double master degrees in conducting and voice from the USA with the assistance of National Arts Council Bursary. He has since established himself as a prominent music educator and carved out a lustrous track record, garnering more than 60 gold awards at international and national competitions. An active member in international choral scene with his choirs, he has been a jury member and clinician in Europe, and has written for International Choral Bulletin. Having won 20 champions, 14 special jury prizes and standing ovations with his choirs in Austria, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, Lithuania and Slovakia, he has been honoured with Conductor's Prizes four times. At home, Ban Sheng has twice won his choirs the highest national accolade of Best Choir of the Year Award. He has also served as a Music Specialist with the Ministry of Education. Among many other appointments received, in 1999 he conducted the 800-strong National Day Parade Combined Choir at the national stadium on live telecast. In recognition of his artistic achievements and contributions in the Singapore music arena, Toh was conferred the Young Artist Award by the National Arts Council in 2006. He currently directs choirs in Catholic Junior College (since 2006), Crescent Girls' School (2012), Dunman Secondary School (1994), Raffles Institution (year 1-4 since 2003) and Raffles Institution Junior College (since 1998), St Joseph's

Institution (since 2009). Ban Sheng is married with a daughter. His self-titled book “The Accidental Conductor” is published in 2010 and available from major bookstores in Singapore, Malaysia, and on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).



**Dr. Chua Soo Pong**  
External Member

Currently a Visiting Professor at Hanoi Academy of Film and Theater, Dr. Chua obtained his Ph.D.(ethnomusicology) from the Queen’s University in Belfast, U.K. in 1979. He obtained his M.Sc. from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London in 1976 and his B.A. (Hons) from Nanyang University in 1972. He was the President of World Dance Alliance (Singapore) from 2006-2007. He taught at has been a the Nanyang Technological University (2002-2006), the National Institute of Education(1999-2000) and was the Founding Director of the School of Performing Arts at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts(1999-2000). Dr. Chua was the first Senior Specialist (SEAMEO SPAFA Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts (1989-1992, 1994-1995) , Visiting Associate Professor, Aesthetics Department, Seoul National University (1992), Osaka University (1993- 1994). Dr. Chua taught at the National University from 1980 to 1988. Dr. Chua is the Founding Director of the Chinese Opera Institute, Singapore. He was instrumental in organizing many Chinese opera international conferences, showcases, the “Opera in the Park” series, publishing of books on Chinese opera and Chinese dance. He is also a co-founder of the ASEAN Puppetry Association (APA) and Asia Dance Association (1983). Chua was the editor of “Performing Arts”, the first journal on the arts in Singapore, published by the National Theatre Trust, (1983-1989), Singapore. He is one of the regional editors for the Asia volume of the York-University-based, UNESCO-supported, six-volume World Encyclopedia of Contemporary Theatre published by Routledge 1998. Dr. Chua is also the Founding Chairman of National Theatre Dance Circle. His dance reviews have been published in Straits Times, Lianhe Zao Bao, Business Times in Singapore. He edited “Essays of Dance Theatre” (1987, 1988, and 1989), published by the National Theatre Trust, Singapore. He chaired the Dance Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Culture (1982-1984), Singapore. He serves as the adviser of Singapore Chinese Dance Artistes Association, Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan Dance Theatre, Leng Kee Dance Troupe, and is the Chief Adviser of China-ASEAN Theatre Week, China, since 2013.



**Dr Chua Yun Ying**

Head of Piano Faculty/Course Leader

Yun Ying holds a PhD in music from the University of Manchester, a Masters in Music from King's College London, a Graduate Diploma from the Royal Northern College of Music and a Bachelor in Music (1st class honours) from the University of Manchester. At the University of Manchester, she is a recipient of the Hargreaves Fund Prize as well as the Overseas Research Scholarship and the University Research Studentship. She has extensive experience in tertiary education, having been a Graduate Teaching Assistant at the University of Manchester. Since returning to Singapore in 2005, she has taught at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts and the Singapore Raffles Music College, where she is the Head of Piano Faculty and the Programme Leader for University of West London programmes.



**Nelson Kwei**

External Member

Nelson Kwei the premier choral director of Singapore, is an international acclaimed conductor, conservatorium lecturer, editorial advisor, international adjudicator, music arranger and vocal clinician in the music scene. He is a Fellow from the London College of Music, has a Licentiate in singing from the Guildhall School of Music and Advance Post-Graduate in Choral Conducting from the Royal Academy of Music (London) . In 2013, Nelson was elected to receive the Associateship from the Royal Academy of Music for his outstanding achievements in choral music. In 1993, Nelson was honoured with the "National Youth Service Award", the highest Youth Award in Singapore, in recognition of his significant contribution in the field of choral art. In 1999, he was awarded with the "Culture Award" by the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry and in 2001, the Rotary Club honoured him as the "Ambassador of the Arts" for Singapore. In 2011, COMPASS Singapore has awarded Nelson with the prestigious "Meritorious Award" in view of his outstanding artistic achievement and contribution to the nation. On the international level, Nelson won the prestigious "Outstanding Choral Director Award" two years in a row at the International Choral Competition in Germany, 1998 & 1999 and also the "Best Conductor Award" at the Petr Eben International Choral Competition 2002 & 2004 in Prague. Between 2006 and 2008, he has led his choirs to 8 Gold Medals including 3 Choir Olympic Champions in the World Choir Games held in Bremen, Germany & Xiamen, China. His choir was also the first Asian choir to win the Grand Prize & Audience Prize at the prestigious Concorso Corale Internazionale held in Riva Del Garda, Italy. In 2008, he was also conferred the "Conductor Prize" in the 10th edition of the internationally-acclaimed choral competition. In 2012, Nelson was once again presented

with his 6th conducting prize in the 28th Franz-Schubert Choir Competition held in Vienna, Austria where he led Victoria Junior College Choir to attain 4 Gold awards and 2 Category Champion prizes. In 2014, he led the National University of Singapore Choir to win three Gold Medals in the World Choir Games held in Riga, Latvia. In 2015, Nelson sets the world record with the VJC Choir at the international choral festival in Hoi An, Vietnam by winning four Champion titles. Presently, he is an executive member of the National Arts Council's Advisory Board for Choral Development in Singapore and the NAC external assessor for music. He is also the Artistic director of the prestigious Singapore Choral Festival and Singapore Music Festival. Internationally, he is the Artistic Director of "A Voyage of Songs" and "Asia Canatae", both are prominent international choral competitions and "Jubilate, Festival of Choirs". Nelson is also invited as both clinician and adjudicator in many top international choral festivals and competitions including the World Choir Games Series. Currently, he is the Conductor of 9 schools, colleges, university and semi-professional choirs in Singapore that has won numerous national and international accolades.



**Wong Yoon Foong**  
Academic Director

Wong Yoon Foong is an Ethnomusicologist, Composer and Music Educator. Previously awarded the prestigious Public Service Commission Scholarship, he studied Composition at the University of York, UK. After serving his bond, he went on to obtain in Masters in Ethnomusicology (with Composition) at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. Yoon Foong has extensive experience teaching music at Secondary, Pre-university and University levels, helping both public and private schools develop curricula and resources. Examples include his contributions in "Indian Music" in *Teaching Living Legends* resource package, as well as "Vietnamese Music" in *General Music Programme Lesson Ideas*; both of which are currently in use in Singapore schools. His research interests are in Ethnomusicology and Music Pedagogy, with published research and conference papers in both genres.