

## **ANNEX C – NAFA SYT Department Profiles**

### **About Junior Art Department**

The Junior Art department is the largest and oldest of the four SYT departments. The department grew from more than 10 students in 1976 to today's 2,600 students. Over the years, the department has developed a structured and vigorous curriculum to cultivate the interest of our young in the visual arts, and to encourage self-expression and creative thinking. In keeping abreast with times, the department is constantly engaged in new pedagogies that correspond with current situations and the changing environment. The students take part regularly in a wide range of activities including annual exhibitions, drawing competitions, outdoor painting events, vacation camps and workshops. The courses offered by the department are highly sought-after, with a two-year waiting list.

### **About Junior Music Department**

The department's objectives are to discover young talents and provide systematic and professional training to groom future musicians. The department draws on the teaching pedagogy of renowned overseas music colleges, while at the same time tailor the curriculum according to our local environment. It has discovered and nurtured hundreds of young musicians and established a reputable brand name. Its gifted programmes are recognized by the Ministry of Education Co-Curricular Activities Brand.

The department holds two stringent auditions every year to select children with music potential. The student population grew from about 20 students in 1991 to more than 300 students today. The department now offers courses in eight musical instruments (from one instrument since its inception). Its students won a total of 150 awards in local and international competitions. The students also achieved an above 90% distinction rate in the annual ABRM piano examinations, which is a world record. All the piano and violin students have successfully obtained their Grade 8 before 11 years old and passed their DipABRSM and LRSM at around 12 years old and 14 years old, respectively.

In 2003, SYT was the first international institution invited to perform at the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Piano Conference in Slovenia. The concert of these 13 outstanding young pianists was recorded and produced into DVDs as an exceptional, recommended teaching example worldwide. Additionally, the six child prodigies' concerts at the 27<sup>th</sup> European Piano Conference in Manchester in 2005 and the concert tour of 14 young pianists and violinists in UK in 2007 received rave reviews from the audience, as well as musicians.

As at today, 24 outstanding music students have been selected to enter the Royal College of Music, Eastman Conservatory, Yehudin Menuhin School, Purcell School, Chetham's School of Music, among other prestigious music institutions. In addition, the young musicians have been invited by Singapore Symphony Orchestra, Singapore Chinese Orchestra, Tokyo Symphony Orchestra and the Singapore Istana to perform at various concerts and many high profile events. Further, the Chinese instrumentalists did the School proud by winning Gold prizes at competitions held in China.

### **About Junior Dance Department**

The enrolment of the Junior Dance department has grown from over 100 students in

1999 to about 580 students currently. The department's teaching principles inculcates both training of the basics and performance practical, and uses public performances as a way of presenting the students' results. At the same time, it holds dance holiday camps which are popular with the students, programme learning classes, as well as training courses on modern dance. The Chinese cultural dance students take part yearly in the Chinese Dance Graded Examination that the department co-organises with the Beijing Dance Academy (China). Close to 200 students had participated in the Examination and scored excellent results.

### **About Junior Drama Department**

Incepted in 1999, the Junior Drama department conducts courses to train and produce future bilingual talents who possess strong confidence, stage presence and discipline in public speaking in English, as well as Chinese. In 2001, the Department scripted, directed and successfully produced "Peter and Wolf". In 2006, the Department started the special Bilingual Compere Class for children aged between six and nine, which was well-received. The students are also given aplenty opportunities to showcase their talents in public performances.