JENNIFER THAM

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EDUCATION

Bachelor of Fine Arts (Music) — October 1995
Simon Fraser University — Burnaby, BC, Canada

Bachelor of Arts (Philosophy/Sociology) — July 1985
National University of Singapore — Singapore

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Artistic Director/Conductor, *SYC Ensemble Singers (SYC),* Singapore — 1986 – present
The SYC is an auditioned adult community ensemble of 32 singers focusing on the work of living composers, commissioning more than 40 new works in the last two decades. Responsibilities include:

- Articulating the long-range artistic vision of the SYC, and implementing this through multi-year artistic plans,
- Commissioning, and liaising with, composers,
- Scheduling, planning, programming and directing rehearsals and performances,
- Planning and developing education and outreach programmes.

Of special mention among the education and outreach programmes is *THREE*, a biennial three-choir festival featuring the SYC with choirs from Japan and the Philippines.

Lecturer/Conductor, Conservatory Chamber Singers — 2015 – 2017
Yong Siew Toh Conservatory, Singapore

Choir Conductor, Various schools and institutions, Singapore — 1996 – 2017
Planned and supervised the choral programme, including weekly rehearsals, vocal and musicianship training and development, and conducting public performances, at the following institutions: *Convent of the Holy Infant Jesus* (2000-2017), *Dunman High School* (2004-2017), *River Valley High School* (2000-2017) and *Temasek Junior College* (1997-2017), among others.

Chorus Director-in-Residence — 2007 – 2009
Singapore Chinese Orchestra, Singapore.

Director*,* Chamber Choir, Chorus — 2001 – 2008
Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore

Chorus Director — 2005 – 2006
Singapore Lyric Opera, Singapore.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AS GUEST CONDUCTOR

Delegate Choir #4, Choralfest 2019, Fremantle, Australia *2019*
Festival Choir, 24th International Kodaly Symposium, Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia *2019*
Taipei Song-Yung, For You, Feng Chia University and *Taichung Chamber Choirs,* 2017
Taichung and Taipei, Taiwan
New Liszt Ferenc Chamber Choir, Liszt Academy, Budapest, Hungary 2016
Asia Pacific Youth Choir, 10th World Symposium on Choral Music, Seoul, Korea 2014
Gaia Philharmonic Choir, Tokyo, Japan 2011
En Musique l'An Neuf 2008, Strasbourg, France 2007
Japan Choral Association Junior Chorus Festival, Tokyo, Japan 2004

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching faculty, *Kodaly Seminar Asia* 2009 – 2014
10-day certification course for music pedagogues and choral conductors by the Kodaly Institute of the Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music, Budapest, Hungary, organised by the Young Musicians' Society, Singapore.

Lecturer, *Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore* 2001 – 2008
Designed the curriculum for and taught the Choral Training and Direction modules as well as the degree module Directed Studies in Choral Conducting.

Guest principal lecturer, *Lithuanian Conductors Summer Academy*, Lithuania 2008
A week-long seminar on yoga for singers, rehearsal games and exercises for young choirs, and rehearsing/performing the choral music of Singapore. Co-hosted by the Lithuanian Choral Union and the Lithuanian Folk Cultural Centre, Ministry of Culture.

Courses, workshops and clinics (selected)**:**
Led repertoire sessions; taught vocal technique and pedagogy, choir-building and choral pedagogy, musicianship/rehearsal games, conducting and rehearsal technique, at/for:

Foundation Course on Choral Leadership, various schools, Singapore 2018 - present
Sing in tune! Sing in time! Conductors' Workshop, Bandung, Indonesia 2018
5th Symposium on Church Choral Music, Bandung, Indonesia 2016
11th Busan Choral Festival and Competition, Busan, Korea 2015
Stanislaw Moniuszko Music Academy, Gdansk, Poland
Australian National Choral Association (WA), Perth, Australia
Kodaly Autumn Seminar, Melbourne, Australia
9th International Choir Festival Mundus Cantat Sopot, Poland 2013
Symposium on Choral Music, Tomohon, Indonesia 2010
3rd Symposium on Church Choral Music, Bandung, Indonesia 2007
1st Karuizawa Choral Festival, Karuizawa, Japan 2005
The 2nd Symposium on Church Choral Music, Bandung, Indonesia
1st National Choral Seminar, National Arts Council, Singapore 1999

PRESENTATIONS, CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

MOE-NAC Master Artist Series <An afternoon with Jennifer Tham>, Singapore 2017
On the work of the SYC Ensemble Singers, musicianship training and how to develop a new music ensemble.

IFCM World Choral Summit, Beijing, China 2012
ACDA International Choral Academy, Cincinnati, USA
Symposium ARS CHORALIS, Zagreb, Croatia
9th World Symposium on Choral Music, Puerto Madryn, Argentina 2011
8th World Symposium on Choral Music, Copenhagen, Denmark 2008
Voices of the Baltics, 3rd IFCM Multicultural Choral Conference, Tallinn, Estonia 2007
Voices of Origin, The Second IFCM Multicultural and Ethnic Conference, Jokkmokk, Sweden 2003

PANELS, COMMITTEES AND JURIES

Advisor 1998 – present
National Arts Council, Singapore
Ministry of Education (Arts Education), Singapore

Coordinator, *IFCM Asia Pacific Working Committee* 2008 – present
International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM)
Board Member, *International Federation for Choral Music* 2008 – 2014

Member, *World Choir Council, Interkultur* 2005 - present
Providing feedback and advice at Council meetings; serving on juries at the World Choir Games since 2006.

Selected jury work (others):
Armenian Little Singers Choral Composition Competition, Armenia 2020
World Choir Championship, President of Jury, Tokyo, Japan 2019
Tokyo International Choir Competition, President of Jury, Tokyo, Japan
International Chorus Review, Tampere Vocal Music Festival, Tampere, Finland
34th Takarazuka International Chamber Chorus Contest, Takarazuka, Japan 2018
11th Busan Choral Festival and Competition, Busan, Korea 2015
44th Florilège Vocal de Tours, Tours, France
11th International Choir Festival Mundus Cantat Sopot, Poland
Pacific Basin Music Festival, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA 2014
Armenian Little Singers Choral Composition Competition, Armenia
11th China International Choral Festival, Beijing, China 2012
3rd Grieg International Choral Festival, Bergen, Norway 2009
Japan Choral Association National Choir Competition, Saitama, Japan 2006
8th International Chamber Choir Competition Marktoberdorf, Germany 2003

HONOURS AND AWARDS

Cultural Medallion, conferred by the President, Republic of Singapore. 2012
Singapore's highest artistic accolade.

Artistic Excellence Award, the Composers and Authors Society of Singapore. 2011
For contribution to the growth and development of Singapore choral music and choirs.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Artistic Director, *Singapore International Choral Festival*, Singapore 2014 - present

Artistic Director, *Young Musicians' Society,* Singapore 1996 – 2017
A not-for-profit arts company with a focus on outreach and education in the areas of choral music and new music. Responsibilities included:

- Artistic Director, *Asia South Pacific Symposium on Choral Music* (Singapore, 2001). A week of performances, lecture-demonstrations, masterclasses and workshops by 26 clinicians and 10 choirs from the region.
- Organiser, *First Aid for Choirs and Conductors* workshop series
- Artistic Director, *Magnetic Band*, new music ensemble

OTHER INFORMATION

- Contributed to the *Arts Magazine* and *Esplanade Diary +* (publications of The Esplanade Company, Singapore), writing articles on baroque music and interviews with the Berliner Barock Solisten, Jessye Norman and Sumi Jo; also for the International Choral Bulletin (the IFCM quarterly), and on the choral life of Singapore for the NUS Centre for the Arts publication *the Arts*, and a Japanese trade journal.

- Produced and hosted *Voices*, a 10-programme series on choral music, for Passion 99.5FM, Singapore's Arts Radio station.

- Member of the American Choral Directors Association, the International Federation of Choral Music and European Choral Association.