



NEWS RELEASE

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Factsheet – Performing Groups for the SAF Charity Concert - SAF Central Band

Formed in 1994, the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) Central Band is the premier band of the Singapore Armed Forces. Located in Tanglin Camp, the band consists of a core of professional regular musicians supplemented by Full-time National Servicemen. Since its inception, the band has entertained audiences both locally and overseas.

The SAF Central Band is a versatile band, performing as a concert, marching as well as a ceremonial band. It is also able to perform in a variety of smaller configurations, such as a brass quintet, a combo & stage band, ceremonial fanfare trumpeters and a clarinet quartet.

The SAF Central Band is most often seen in the public eye at major parades like the National Day and SAF Day parades. On a more regular basis, the band stages three concerts a year as part of the In Harmony and Chamber Repertory series. Widely received by the public, these highly successful concerts are meant to bring the band's music closer to the masses. They also help to build the band's music repertoire into an extensive array of styles and variety.

Through the years, the SAF Central Band has had the opportunity to work with several distinguished conductors and soloists including Frank Renton, Steven Mead, John Sharpley, Evelyn Glennie, Jan Van der Roost, Toshio Akiyama, Yasuhide Ito, Eric Whitacre and Hardy Mertens.

In recent years, the SAF Central Band has been representing Singapore at international music festivals. These include the Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers street parade in Australia, Festival International de Musiques Militaires in Saumur, France, as well as the Kuala Lumpur Military Tattoo in Malaysia.

By striving towards the highest musical standard, the SAF Central Band hopes to join the ranks of other world renowned military wind ensembles. The SAF Central Band is led by Senior Director of Music, CPT Philip Tng, and Director of Music, CPT Chua Siong Loo.

SAF SILENT PRECISION DRILL SQUAD

Silent precision drill was introduced in the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) in 1984. It is a form of arms drill where a group of men perform in unison, requiring precise co-ordination and timing, without the use of commands.

Every squad member in the Silent Precision Drill Squad (SPDS) goes through a training phase of about 6 months before he becomes proficient to perform publicly. The training emphasises physical endurance, mental discipline, co-ordination and teamwork. A good memory is also required in order to execute the numerous series of complex drills. The SPDS member executes the silent drill by using the MK IV, a musket which weighs about 5kg and measures 1.2m in length.

SPDS has performed at many events, such as National Day Parades, Chingay Processions and the Istana Changing-of-Guards.

The Squad was voted Most Outstanding Performance in National Day Parade 1986 and 1998. In the 1996 and 1998 Chingay procession, the Squad was also awarded the Best Showmanship Award.

With its daring weapon tosses, thrilling throws and precise execution, SPDS is a hit with Singaporeans and its popularity also extends beyond our shores. The squad was invited to the 1989 Military Tattoo held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where they received excellent reviews.

For the past 19 years, the silent precision drill executed by SPDS has been a unique skill appreciated by many and a firm favourite for many functions and events.

SAF MUSIC AND DRAMA COMPANY A CAPELLA CHOIR

The SAF Music and Drama Company (MDC) provides entertainment and promotes national messages through quality performances to boost the morale of the SAF. Founded in 1973, SAF MDC comprises of dancers and singers, an a cappella choir, and musicians from the Combo Band, Chinese Orchestra, Chamber Ensemble, and Choir.

The SAF MDC A Cappella Choir was formed in 1992 with the aim of providing talented SAF personnel an avenue to develop their musical talents in singing. With a diverse repertoire ranging from contemporary to folk songs, the six member a capella group performs in public concerts and SAF events, and in the Arts Education Programme for schools initiated by the National Arts Council.

TANGLIN SPECIAL SCHOOL

Tanglin Special School is one of the five schools under the umbrella of the Association For

Persons with Special Needs (APSN). APSN is a voluntary welfare organisation inaugurated in 1976 to serve the needs of persons with mild mental retardation with an IQ range between 50 to 70. The association is supported by the National Council of Social Service (Community Chest), the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Community Development and Sports.

Tanglin Special School caters to students from the age of 13 to 16 with mild mental retardation. Its academic programme is geared towards meeting the students' educational, physical, social and emotional needs. Computer literacy is emphasized and subjects taught include English Language, Mathematics, Science, Art and Crafts, Moral Education and Physical Education. Other areas taught are self-help skills, social competence training and extra curricular activities.

The mission of Tanglin Special School is to nurture its students to lead independent and meaningful lives. This mission has led to the creation of the school's own percussion ensemble called "Stomptroopers". The students in the percussion ensemble take up percussion playing as a co-curricular activity. They have a good ear for music, a good sense of musical rhythm, and are united in their love for music.

With the guidance of their teachers, the students from the school's percussion ensemble have become confident performers, with creditable performances outside school under their belt.

SINGAPORE SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF (SSD)

The Singapore School for the Deaf (SSD) was established in 1963 and has been at its Prince Charles premises since 1987. The school provides nursery and early-intervention programmes, as well as primary school education for children aged 2 - 15 years with hearing impairment. Depending on their ability, children at SSD will move on to sit for their Primary School Leaving Examination at 12 years or above. Slow learners will be taught social skills based on a diluted syllabus until they are 14 years old before being channelled to the Vocational School for the Handicapped.

The school's motto is "Success through Determination" and it aims to develop and educate its students to their fullest potential so as to enable them to contribute and be integrated into society. The SSD provides its students with opportunities to develop their potential in academic, communicative, cognitive, physical and social skills to their fullest.

The SSD caters to students with different degrees of hearing loss and believes in Total Communication as a medium of communication and instruction in the classroom. Total Communication combines speech, speech reading, amplification, signs and finger-spelling.

Creative and artistic talents are spotted early in the SSD. Unknown to many, the deaf can be taught to appreciate drama and music. Besides being subjects to be enjoyed, drama and music enhance expressive and auditory skills, as well as incorporate the teaching of rhythm for speech purpose. Many graduates of SSD move into the creative fields and excel in them.

The SSD is staffed by teachers seconded from the Ministry of Education as well as teachers employed by the Singapore Association for the Deaf.

PC 2003 BENEFICIARIES ATTENDING THE CHARITY CONCERT

1. Asian Women's Welfare Association (AWWA)

Established in 1970, AWWA currently manages several welfare projects, including operating the AWWA Special School for pupils with single or multiple disabilities, and running the AWWA TEACH ME Services, an integration programme that caters to the educational, rehabilitative and social needs of pupils with physical disabilities who are cognitively able to follow the mainstream curriculum.

2. Breakthrough Missions Ltd

Breakthrough Missions is a Christian halfway house catering to male mandarin speaking drug addicts.

3. Hospice Care Association

Hospice Care Association is a charitable organisation providing hospice care to patients with advanced disease and their families.

4. Sathya Sai Social Service

Sathya Sai Social Service (4S) was established with the purpose of serving the community by providing social assistance and services, particularly to the disadvantaged, needy and disabled aged people.

In March 2002, Sathya Sai Social Service was appointed by Ministry of Community Development and Sports to establish and manage the Tembusu Home @ Pelangi Village for the mentally burnt-out destitute male persons.

5. Singapore Anglican Welfare Council

Singapore Anglican Welfare Council (SAWC) is a charitable organization affiliated to the National Council of Social Service. It works closely with the Mission and Social Concern of the Anglican Diocese. The vision of SAWC is to provide care and support for the psychiatrically disabled in Singapore.

Currently, SAWC is raising funds for its Simei Care Centre, which will be a community-based mental health care center and hostel that accommodates psychiatric patients.

6. Singapore Association for Mental Health's Oasis Day Centre

The Centre is a day activity programme for the psychosocial rehabilitation of persons with mental illness. The Centre aims to help restore the participants' capacity to their optimal level of functioning. The activities at the Centre include vocational training, job placement, art and craft, outings, indoor games and other social activities. Through these activities, participants become more responsible for their own health, thereby reducing the chances of relapse. Self-

confidence, self-esteem and identity of the participants are also enhanced, and they have a better relationship with their families and with those around them.

7. Singapore Children's Society

Singapore Children's Society provides help for children, youth and families under their care. SCS services can be classified into 3 broad categories : social work services (preventive, community & rehabilitative services), child abuse and neglect prevention, and children's home.

8. Sree Narayana Mission (SNM)

SNM provides the following services to the community : SNM Home for the Aged Sick, Meranti Home @ Pelangi Village, home nursing service, and home help service. SNH Home for the Aged Sick is a 224-bedded facility providing institutional nursing care to the elderly sick residents. In addition, the Home also provides home nursing services for the home bound elderly.

9. Sunlove Abode for Intellectually-Infirm (Sunlove Home)

Sunlove is a 200-bedded nursing Home for the intellectually infirmed. The Home's present site will be taken back by the government for development. An alternative site was provided to develop a new Home to house 200 psychiatric residents.

10. Villa Francis Home for the Aged

Villa Francis Home for the Aged is run by the Singapore Catholic Welfare Services. The Home is a 139-bedded nursing home providing care for the aged sick.

11. Yong-En Care Centre

Yong-En Care Centre provides a range of caring and value-added services to the community to enhance the well-being and welfare of the less-fortunate and needy.

PERFORMING PC 03 BENEFICIARIES AND GUESTS AT THE CHARITY CONCERT

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13. Tanglin Special School

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