

NUS Home | Search: in NUS Websites

NUS
National University of Singapore

Newshub
NUS' News Portal

[Home](#) | [Press Releases](#) | [Media Coverage](#) | [Knowledge Enterprise](#) | [President's Speeches](#) | [NUS Publications](#) | [Calendar of Events](#)

KNOWLEDGE ENTERPRISE online

NOV DEC 2006
Vol 6 No 5

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

- [Editor's Roundup](#)
- [Promotions](#)
- [Newcomers](#)
- [NUS in world's top 20](#)
- [Education that transforms](#)
- [Industry giants sponsor scholarships](#)
- [NYU@NUS: Best of both worlds](#)
- [GE-NUS partnership paves the way for Singapore as 'global hydrohub'](#)
- [Concurrent degree in law and public policy](#)
- [Encyclopedia of the Indian Diaspora](#)
- [Greater research tie-ups between India and NUS](#)
- [Expert training for clinician scientists](#)
- [USP helps address youth issues](#)
- [Nobel spirit in NUS](#)
- [Quantum team wins National Science Award](#)
- [Kaszlikowski's glimpse of the quantum world](#)
- [A quantum leap from astronomy](#)
- [Engineered with skill... love and care](#)
- [From deadly toxins to lifesavers](#)
- [Flying high: The Eusoffian spirit](#)
- [NUS helps students take up global challenge](#)
- [New world in education opens](#)
- [Celebrating 25 years of establishment](#)
- [Global culture needed](#)

[back to KE home](#)

New world in education opens

 [Email this story](#)

-Lo Tien Yin

WALKING INTO Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music is like entering a musical instrument – a *Stradivarius* of perfect acoustics and artistry. This is NUS' brand new Conservatory – a three-storey, 19,300-sq m building adjacent to the University Cultural Centre, in the heart of NUS Cultural Hub.



HALL OF PURE SOUNDS: The new Conservatory sports state-of-the-art acoustics features without sacrificing aesthetics. Teaching studios even have windows, an uncommon feature for music studios.

Dr Liu Thai Ker, architect-planner and Director of RSP Architects Planners & Engineers Pte Ltd which designed the building with German consultant Eckhard Kahle of Kahle Acoustics (in collaboration with UK-based Theatre Projects Consultants), said that the shape of the building is driven mainly by acoustics, with many "wedge spaces" which prevent echoes from resonating.



MILESTONE IN EDUCATION: Ms Yong Siew Yoon (extreme left) who is the sister of the late Ms Yong Siew Toh with former Chief Justice Yong Pung How (centre) who is the nephew of Dr Yong Loo Lin; and Deputy President and Provost Professor Tan Chorh Chuan. The Yong family has donated \$25 million from the Yong Loo Lin Trust to the Conservatory in 2003. Ms Yong Siew Toh, Dr Yong's daughter, had dedicated her life to music.

Besides one of the largest recording studios in Asia, the Conservatory also

boasts Asia's first "shoe-box" concert hall. So called because of its long, narrow and tall shape, the shoe-box hall provides plenty of lateral reflections – contributing to excellent acoustics. Practice rooms are soundproof, sporting the "box-within-a-box" feature. Each room, with its suspended ceiling, floor, and special two-layered walls, is literally a room floating within a room – effectively sealing off outside vibrations.

The building houses 44 practice rooms, 31 teaching studios and seven spacious ensemble rooms for rehearsals and performances. There is also a recital studio equipped with video-conferencing facilities, a music library, music technology labs and smart classrooms.

Launched in July 2003, exciting times are in store for the Conservatory which now has about 180 full-time students from 13 countries. Said Dr Gene Aitken, the Conservatory's Director: "Going forward, one of the major initiatives of the Conservatory is to integrate technology into the classrooms so that our students are prepared to embrace technology in an ever-changing global music industry. In addition, we are developing a recording arts programme and in time to come, a Masters programme. We are also looking into introducing a summer programme for students and educators from throughout the world."

Said NUS Deputy President and Provost, Professor Tan Chorh Chuan: "The new building provides the infrastructure for music to be taught at a standard benchmarked to the top conservatories in the world. Leveraging on our partnership with the renowned Peabody Institute, our vision is for the Conservatory to evolve into a music institution of international standing and quality."

[Home](#) | [Subscribe to KE Online](#) | [Contact KE Editor](#)

© Copyright 2001-07 National University of Singapore. All Rights Reserved.
[Terms of Use](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Non-discrimination](#)
Last modified on 7 August, 2007 by [Office of Corporate Relations](#)