

OMS e-NEWSLETTER

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Orkestra Melayu Singapura welcomes our newly appointed Music Director, Maestro Amri Amin

As one of the main people behind the success of Simfoni Filem Nusantara, it is an understatement to describe this music maestro as talented.

In this edition, we will get to know a little more about our very own Music Director, Mr Amri Amin and his contribution to the orchestra.

With the recent concert as the platform and benchmark, we will also find out from the man himself what entails the success of Simfoni Filem Nusantara and dig a little deeper to what his vision for the Orkestra Melayu Singapura (OMS) is.



Interview by Noraihan Sariff

When did you first know about Orkestra Melayu Singapura (OMS) and what is it about OMS, at that time, that stood out and got you “noticing” this orchestra?

I first came to know OMS through Mr Jais when I first came back from my study in 1997. I was delighted when he requested me to arrange and compose for the *orkestra*. I thought OMS is a good vehicle for me to develop my love for Malay music.

Since then till now (prior to the Simfoni Filem Nusantara concert), what sort of collaborations have you done with OMS? Why do you collaborate?

I have been contributing music arrangements to OMS under the nickname ‘Meme’ (no more secret). PA has been wooing me for the past 3 to 4 years but I was concentrating more on my career and could not commit. Furthermore, Jais and his team have been doing a splendid job at OMS. It was only late last year when PA and Jais spoke to me seriously about the role as Music Director.

How do you feel each time you hear OMS play the pieces that you have composed or arranged?

I am thrilled every time I hear OMS performed my music and it always interest me when someone interprets my music differently. Most of the time the musicians are able to feel and understand what I want. Now that I am with OMS, I think it will be more fun.

What is it about OMS that you think is lacking or needs improvement on? What is it that we are strong/good at?

I was amazed with the spirit of comradeship and passion for music in OMS. Leaders like *Ibrahim* and *Roomaizan* and of course *Jais* are very committed and they are already the pillars behind OMS. Like any other orchestras, there are always good and not so good musicians but the strength of the orchestra is the ability to work together as one.

I have noted some areas which need improvement and SFN is only a beginning. There are always 'talk' about bringing OMS to the next level. Well SFN is a new level and we should strive for the next one.

Since joining OMS as a Music Director, what is your vision for the orchestra?

My vision is to build a full scale orchestra that plays our own brand of Malay music. An orchestra that inspires musicians. We will be the 'sought after' orchestra in the region blessed with many talented musicians.

What do you hope to see in/from the orchestra in, say 3 to 5 years time?

More committed musicians (especially the strings). Good collection of repertoire and of course more exposure and being recognized.

What changes have you seen in OMS?

Many of the arrangements for SFN are experimental. I was always discussing with Ibrahim whether it is too much for the musicians. Some of the musicians thought that it is at a difficult level but the success of SFN proved that they have already improved.

What learning experience have you got to share with and learn from the musicians?

Firstly, there are different standard of musicianship in the orchestra and as musicians we have learn to tolerate and moderate ourselves. Secondly, everyone have one common passion—to play good music. Lastly, the success of a concert is not as important as the process, i.e. rehearsals and practices. Having said that, we need everyone's full support for the rehearsals and practices.

Why Simfoni Filem Nusantara?

The idea for SFN is a collective one. It is a way to showcase our versatility in not only traditional but also Pop music. The silver screen have abundant of music that ranges from traditional to the current modern hits. To meet our objective of promoting and preserving Malay music, we decided to venture wider ground.





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Simfoni Filem Nusantara Special