

Voices of Nature

About us

We are a group of Hwa Chong Students that formed a music interest group that came together because of our interest in music.

Kaiyang, the group leader, is the main voice and Composer of our songs. He also organises group meetings and reflections.

Xingjian, the pianist who does chording, also burns and designs the CDs and contributes to the written report.

Yixian, our admin writes up PowerPoint presentations and supposingly gets us endorsements. Also helps us reflect on our work.

Justin, the secondary singer and the one who helps out with written report and CD designs. Also, he helps to edit the grammar and acts as the group's "grammarly".

Our theme

行, refers to travelling around and at the same time, appreciate the nature around us as time passes. It teaches us to cherish what we have before they are gone, possibly forever.

We got the idea when we always see our friends not appreciating the beauty that we have around us. Thus we wanted to compose songs about travelling and sceneries.

Our aim is to influence people who always have their eyes glued to their phones to take a break and appreciate the flora and fauna

around them, as well as to convince audiences to start saving the environment.

So why music?

Firstly, music can be appreciated by anyone, anywhere. Also, one does not have to understand the song to like it because what people look for is not just the lyrics, but also the catchiness of the song and the melody. In music, there is no language barrier like there is with different languages. Music is universal and can bring people together regardless of their background. Thus, we decided to express ourselves through Mandarin pop, also known as Mandopop. This is because Chinese songs have more depth as the lyrics can have different interpretations and deeper meanings. Also, Chinese songs are less prevalent in Singapore and thus, this enables listeners to take a step back and analyse the meaning of the song and at the same time, appreciate the Chinese songs.

Artist references

An artist whose songs inspired us was 朴树。 Born on 8 November 1973 in Nanjing, China, the 44 year old singer-songwriter has 3 albums and has composed 23 songs. His signature works include “那些花儿” and “白桦林”。 Some of the works that influenced us the most included “平凡之路” and “清白之年”。 We were impressed by how his songs were simple, yet so meaningful and impactful. For instance, the lyrics, “人随风飘荡 天各自一方 在风尘中遗忘 的清白脸庞”。 Although the words chosen were simple, when put together, that particular line adapted from the chorus had a deeper meaning behind it. In this case,

we felt that through the years, people are lost and were changed by the cruel reality of life. This song reminds one of their previous purer self and makes people reflect about life. We liked the idea of using simple words to get people to put on their thinking caps and reflect on life and thus, we adapted the idea into our own project.

Another artist that influenced our work is another Chinese singer 毛不易. His songs have very unique melodies that suits his lyrics extremely well. His lyrics also reflects the topic in a deep and mature manner with beautifully phrased words. We would like our works to have melodies and lyrics that resonates with each other like his.

What we aimed to produce at the end

We discussed about our end product, considering factors such as time, resources and manpower and decided to produce an album of three songs at least or more if time was on our side. We planned to simply finish the songs by the end of the project. However, we were fast enough to make it available in disc version.

Song analysis:

1. 丽江

This song is mainly in the **C** major key, and is composed with the melody being the singer, and the accompaniment being the piano played in the background, the accompaniment being chordal.. The song is in the ABCA format, with the verse, followed by the pre-chorus, then the chorus, then a similar sounding verse. The texture is quite clear and thin, without many thick chords in the song. There is an overall use of contrast, between loud and soft, albeit not being that obvious. The tempo is 65, and the time signature is 4/4.

Inspiration: When both Kaiyang and Xingjian went to 丽江, they felt that the place was beautiful and songworthy. Thus we composed a song that featured many items unique to 丽江.

2. 飞雪

The song is played in C chord. The song is composed in major key, and the song is once again composed to be melody and accompaniment, the main melody being the singer again, the accompaniment being the piano playing in chords, but with pockets of arpeggios and scales to exaggerate the feeling of sadness and loss and of nostalgia of the past. The texture is very clean, with very little large chords, most of the time only 3-4 notes. The structure is ABCA₁, B being the pre-chorus and C being the chorus. the second verse being a repeat of the first, but though having the same tune, the lyrics are different. The song is written in the 4/4 time signature, and the tempo is 65.

Inspirations: Kaiyang heard that there was snowing in April in hometown. he felt that the surroundings have changed a lot since young and that nature is being ruined by pollutions. Thus he wish to travel back in time to see the pure snow again.

3. 欧洲的味道

This song is once again composed in the C major chords. The main melody being singer, and accompaniment being the piano playing in chords. The song contains lots of

minor keys although being overall major to demonstrate the sadness of missing Europe's majestic scenery as well as the pain of losing nature. The structure is ABC, with a pre-chorus as B and chorus as C. The song is composed in 4/4 time signature, tempo is 65.

Inspirations: Kaiyang went to Europe during the June holidays in 2017 and he could not forget the stunning sceneries that he saw. He decided to compose a song about it so as to express his experiences and feelings.

Lyrics

Song 1: 丽江

我独自在路上
自由是我的向往
小桥流水的故乡
就是我的方向

玉龙盘旋的东方
沿着古老城墙
听风吹花香落叶慢慢响

我对自己歌唱

秋丝扬
背着吉他去丽江
秋月夜凉
今晚星光恒长

闻格桑
酒吧霓虹的弹唱
人来人往
古城老树夕阳

Song 2: 飞雪

夜空中哪颗星今夜黯然失神
又有哪颗冉冉升起

明媚的春天明明才刚刚开始
何必畏惧秋的苦涩

当蓝天白云失去了色彩
当信仰成为迷惘
当风吹不走人心的炎热
当雪不再白

我多想
飞
去那片~
永远不会落雪的星空

我多想
追
一个能~
永远都不落空的梦

我想要
飞~
飞回没有我
的那年冬天
飞回那片纯白的世界~
飞回不复存在的时间~

Song 3: 欧洲的味道

中世纪欧洲 的城市里
我坐在列车上
穿过插满旗帜的街头
和泛黄的小楼

白色的教堂 千色玻璃
渲染了阳光
瓦解了你的愁怅
再点燃幻想

白云映的水绿
路远衬的山高
还有远方山上
盘着龙的城堡

我还记得欧洲的味道
花香美丽世界的逍遥
家乡没有欧洲的天高
也没有万里路遥

让我回味欧洲的芳香
彩虹云朵飘进梦乡

城市没有宁静的月光
所以让我们留住
你的光芒

Timeline

Term 1

Week 1 & 2

Finding groupmates and mentor

Week 3 & 4

Deciding of idea and clearing of concepts

Week 5

Research
& PPT

Week 6

Field Trip 1
(Sentosa)
& PPT

Week 7

Fieldtrip 2
(Chinese Garden)
& PPT

Week 8
Lyrics and tune composing

Week 9
Composing background music
March holidays
Recording & PPT

Term 2

Week 1 & 2
Record song
& finish PPT

Week 3
PRELIM

Week 4
Improvements and reflections

Week 5 & 6
Record 2nd song

Week 7 & 8
Record 2nd & 3rd song

Week 9 & 10
Finish 2nd & 3rd song & PPT

June Holidays
PPT

Term 3

week 1 & 2
Rehearsal

week 3
Mid term evaluation

Week 4
Gather suggestions

Week 5,6
Start on ppt and CDs

week 7
Rehearsal

week 8
Finals

Our Journey

Gathering Inspiration through places in Singapore



Trip to Sentosa



Trip to Chinese Garden

Our discussions and Ideation Process



**Discussion in one another's homes
(doing researches)**



**Discussions in school
(doing PPT and reflections)**

Group reflections:

Our merits:

- We managed to outdone our previous aim of simply making songs. We managed to make CDs.
- We had regular group meetings every Sunday and the project progressed at a steady paste.
- We managed to overcome many difficulties we had faced such as not knowing how to operate a specific equipments and difference in opinions.
- We managed to hold meeting with our mentor for at least once a term to present our work.
 - We managed to change for the better after each evaluation.
 - We managed to finish our each assigned tasks.
- Also learnt many things in music such as tune composing, lyrics composing and how to analyse songs.
 - Bonded through many hardships.
- We also plan to upload the songs on to Soundcloud, Youtube etc.

Our shortcomings:

- We were not very united some of the time.
- We had quite a lot of arguments and disagreements between different opinions.
- We each had difficulties, e.g. busy with other commitments and dragging the whole group's progress/not having the knowledge or ability to perform some of the assigned tasks so we had to rearrange.
- We missed out some of the key points like artist references since the start.