

## Tales of the Moon: Featured Local Artists

### Rani Singam



Rani Singam is one of the most sought-after and accomplished contemporary vocalists today. A former lawyer with the Singapore Legal Service, Rani became a professional singer in 2002. She has been named in "The Jazz Singers, The Ultimate Guide", a Hal Leonard publication which serves as an encyclopedic guide on the important singers in jazz. Rani was awarded the COMPASS Artistic Excellence Award in 2015. Amongst many accolades, she has been dubbed as "Singapore's first lady of jazz". Her debut album "With A Song In My Heart" was produced by jazz maestro Jeremy Monteiro in 2004 and marked a significant milestone in her career.

Rani has collaborated with many greats from all over the world namely James Moody, Ernie Watts, Jeremy Monteiro, Michael Veerapen, Iskandar Ismail, Shawn Kelly, Alberto Marsico, Eugene Pao, Urs Ramseyer, Tony Lakatos and T'ang Quartet. Her performances, which include solo recitals, have been held before Presidents and dignitaries all over the world including the United States, China, Indonesia, India, Thailand and Malaysia. Amongst her notable performances include her groundbreaking rendition of the National Anthem Majulah Singapura at the National Day Parade 2013.

Rani is involved in jazz education through "Jazz 123 - Rani Sings for Kids", a unique jazz appreciation for young people since 2007. The programme has been under the National Arts Council -Arts Education Programme since 2013.

Rani has also spread her wings into the world of cinematography, making her first motion picture acting debut in the movie "Our Sister Mambo" by Cathay Organisation in July 2015. The movie serves to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Cathay. In addition, Rani recorded and sang the end credit song for the movie "All Your Love", an original composition written by Malaysian producer Alex San.

Rani sings in a style which is truly reminiscent of the great jazz singers she admires. Apart from her strong vocals and fine interpretative skills, Rani has a truly endearing way of connecting with the audience. Her "playful yet caressing vocals likened by many to legendary jazz vocalists including Billie Holliday, Dinah Washington and Sarah Vaughn" continue to woo the hearts of critics and fans alike. "... "She doesn't just sing the songs, she sometimes becomes the song" – TODAY.

## Susanna Lau



Having performed at countless events and occasions over more than a decade, and recorded backing vocals for many regional artistes, Susanna, or sometimes known by her occasional stage name '*Zana*', has come a long way to establish herself in the regional Chinese music industry, sought-after as a professional vocalist and vocal arranger for commercial projects, record albums and live concerts. Armed with formal training in classical piano and music theory since her formative years, Susanna is recognised for her versatile vocal performances and arrangements, as well as efficient sight-singing and music transcription, as a professional backing vocal artiste-cum-arranger, also commonly known as background vocalist/arranger or chorus singer/arranger. On live stages, she has worked with international artistes including Asian heartthrobs Wang Lee Hom and JJ Lin; homegrown icons Kit Chan, Eric Moo, Liang Wen Fu, Jimmy Ye; local songsters including Olivia, A-Do, Jocie Guo and Chen Wei Lian; and other regional big names including Francis Yip (*Hong Kong*), Chyi Yu (*Taiwan*), Wan Fang (*Taiwan*), Aska Yang (*Taiwan*), Dami Im (*Australia*) and Nanami Iwamura (*Japan*). In studio, the exhaustive list of artistes include the likes of Jolin Tsai, Joey Yung, Rainie Yang, Miriam Yeung, Vivian Hsu, Vincy Chan, Janice Vidal, Michael Wong, Jade Kwan, TWINS and Kelly Poon. More recently, Susanna was also involved in the backing vocals arrangements for Stefanie Sun's 'Kepler' World Tour Concerts.

Susanna had previously taken on regular performance engagements at live music establishments including Hood Bar and Cafe (with partner Ling Kai), The Ark Music Cafe (Muchuan) and TCR Music Cafe, and can still be occasionally seen singing, and sometimes playing the keys, guitar or pianica, at weddings, private functions and corporate events. With a degree in both the English and Chinese language, Susanna is equally at home performing, and hosting, in both languages. A true-blue Cantonese descendant who speaks the dialect fluently, Susanna also speaks a fair amount of Japanese. Her wide ranging repertoire includes some of the latest Mandarin, Cantonese, English, Japanese and Korean 'pop'-songs, lesser-known compositions from Taiwan 'Indie' artistes, timeless 'Mando' and 'Canto' oldies, as well as the classic English jazz tunes and evergreen melodies. As a session vocalist, Susanna also lends her voice to commercial jingles, and has also sung the theme and sub-theme songs for several local TV drama serials, including "Housewives' Holiday", "Baby Bonus", "Mrs. P.I.", "The Journey: A Voyage", and "Yes We Can!".

## X-roads VOCAL ENSEMBLE



X-roads is a talented young vocal ensemble with an intense passion for performance. Consisting of schoolmates Ariel Loo, Cheyenne Tso, Hannah Lam, Mak Yu Fei and Wang Weiyi from Nanyang Girls' High School, this versatile bilingual vocal quintet has a fascinatingly varied repertoire spanning across different genres. With an infectious youthful and vivacious yet delectably rich sound, the group draws inspiration from each member's diverse artistic background which sets the tone for their inimitable musical signature and stylistic eclecticism.

Their combined experiences include prestigious vocal recitals, concerts and competitions (solo and choral), contemporary dance performances, professional screen acting (both film and television), musical theatre performances (lead and ensemble), television commercial gigs, plain speaking competitions, emceeing and hosting, with multiple award-winning achievements in singing and speech contests. And among them are an accomplished badminton player, a fine Chinese calligrapher, a model, and an experienced pop concert stage hand.

Amidst their packed individual schedule and academic commitments, the group is planning to release a series of recordings showcasing their unique rendition of songs ranging from mainstream pop to jazz, soul to evergreen classics.