

CHRISTMAS AT THE FORT – PRESS RELEASE



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From left to right: Charlie Lim, Haneri, Olivia Ong, Joanna Dong. For high res photos of artistes, please download from [here](#).

November 20, 2019 Singapore – Historic Fort Canning Hill will come alive with a new Christmas music festival this December.

Christmas at the Fort, a four-day event from December 19 to 22, will feature well-known Singaporean musicians Charlie Lim, Joanna Dong, Olivia Ong and Haneri as well as

performances by local bands and music community groups such as the Auburn Daze, Ireson Latin Band and Bishan North Horn Club.

This festival, held in support of the Singapore Bicentennial, is organised by Wesley Methodist Church and co-organised by non-profit arts and culture organisation The RICE Company Ltd.

Reverend Stanley Chua, Wesley Methodist Church's pastor-in-charge, said: "Wesley Methodist Church is blessed to have Fort Canning Park in our neighbourhood. Church members still have fond memories of our Christmas at the Fort some 23 years ago in 1996. Hence when the opportunity came for us to celebrate Christmas once again at Fort Canning Green, the church leadership decided to take it up as this serves our calling to love and care for others in our community. And we will be commemorating Singapore's Bicentennial as well".

"Indeed, one of the great hallmarks of the early Methodists, as encouraged by our founder John Wesley, was their involvement in practical works of kindness, hospitality and generosity to bless the community. This Christmas, we hope to continue this Methodist tradition of being a blessing to our community and beyond".

Mr Charis Lim, Chairman of the church's *Christmas at The Fort* Taskforce, said: "We felt that a music festival that celebrates the spirit of giving and the values of charity and generosity would serve an occasion which all can enjoy and take part in during the year-end festive season. We have sought to create an event which will involve the community as well as feature a line-up of performances that ranges from unique and up-and-coming musicians to well-known acts".

Christmas at the Fort will also feature an eco-market specially curated for the occasion, a variety of food and beverage stalls, playground activities, a multi-media show designed by Brian Gothong Tan showcasing 200 years of Christmas celebrations in Singapore, and a mass Christmas carol sing-along each evening.

Adds Mr Lim: "Together with our co-organiser TRCL, we plan to host up to 3,000 of our beneficiaries during the four-day festival. We see this as a wonderful opportunity for them to enjoy good music and festivities together in an event to promote the spirit of giving and sharing."

The festival will also celebrate the spirit of philanthropy seen in Singapore over the past 200

years with the *Spirit of Giving* trail on the Locomole app, a self-guided experiential walking trail app.

The trail app will guide users to discover stories behind more than 20 historical sites and charitable personalities around the Fort Canning precinct. These people and places had played a significant role in helping the less fortunate and improving the quality of life for people in general. Among the notable philanthropists are Karel Willem Benjamin Van Kleef of namesake Van Kleef Aquarium that once stood at the foot of Fort Canning and Loke Wan Tho, the founder of The Cathay Organisation.

An initiative of co-organisier TRCL in partnership with LDR Technology, a Singapore based mobile technology company, the *Spirit of Giving* trail is downloadable for free on the LocoMole app from now till January 5, 2020.

Said Mr Colin Goh, the chief executive officer of The RICE Company Ltd (TRCL): "The vicinity surrounding Fort Canning Hill is one that is rich in history. While many of us may be familiar with the various institutions in the area and their contributions to the political and economic development in pre-independent Singapore, we may not be aware that their contributions have been philanthropic in intent and spirit. So this trail aims to create more awareness of the importance of the spirit of giving during this festive season."

People can begin the trail leading up to Fort Canning starting from four MRT stations close to Fort Canning Park. They are Dhoby Ghaut, Bras Basah, City Hall and Fort Canning stations. Along the trail, there are stories and activities in the app where users can collect and interact with 3D augmented reality christmas icons.

Christmas at the Fort is expected to welcome more than 15,000 visitors over the four days. Visitors are encouraged to take public transportation to reach Fort Canning as parking lots are limited in the vicinity.

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About Wesley Methodist Church

Founded in 1885 by Rev Dr James Thoburn and Rev William Oldham, Wesley Methodist Church is the oldest Methodist church in Singapore. In early 1907, a new building at Fort Canning was completed and named the Wesley Methodist Church. Today, it is home to more than 7,000 congregation reaching believers from all walks of life. Here at Wesley is where we grow together in the faith and knowledge of God and serve our community with love. Our English, Mandarin, Youth and Filipino services serve different congregation at various timings throughout on Saturday and Sunday. For more information, visit www.wesleymc.org

About The RICE Company Limited

The RICE Company Limited (TRCL) is a not-for-profit organisation and registered charity with IPC (Institutions of Public Character) status. TRCL seeks to harness the potential of the arts to benefit under-served children and youths in the community. TRCL manages a social fund (The Business Times Budding Artists Fund), arts centres (The Little Academy and 10 Square Youth) in Northpoint city and Orchard Central, creative spaces (The Pavilion at Far East Square and Temenggong 18/20) and two subsidiaries (Global Cultural Alliance and Millet Holdings). For more information, visit www.therice.sg

About Global Cultural Alliance

Global Cultural Alliance Ltd is a not-for-profit organisation which focuses on building communities and bridging borders. GCA is committed to developing an inclusive Singapore society through arts and culture programmes and positioning Singapore as a cultural hub for the exchange of ideas and shared experiences. Founded in 2014, GCA is a wholly-owned subsidiary of The RICE Company Ltd. For more information, visit www.globalculturalalliance.sg

About Locomole

Locomole is a self-guided travel experiential app that enables travellers and communities to explore local places with interactive content and augmented reality. Users can discover local food, promotions and hidden gems with their mobile devices on-the-go. Locomole is created by LDR Technology, an award-winning mobile technology solutions company that transforms learning and discovery experiences through innovative use of immersive media and location-based services.



EVENT SYNOPSIS

19 - 22 December 2019

Fort Canning Green

CELEBRATE THE SPIRIT OF GIVING THIS CHRISTMAS

This festive season, see the historic Fort Canning Hill transformed into a tapestry of enchanting sights and sounds. Christmas at the Fort is a four-day music festival that celebrates the spirit of philanthropy and charity. Highlights include performances by **top local artistes**, a **market** with **eco-friendly brands** and a **food bazaar**, coupled with a **multimedia show** designed by Brian Gothong Tan showcasing 200 years of Christmas celebrations in Singapore, with **mass carollingsessions** every night. Admission is free! Activities start from 4 pm and concert commences at 6.30pm.

This event is organised by Wesley Methodist Church and co-organised by The RICE Company Ltd in support of Singapore Bicentennial.

🎵 HIGHLIGHTS 🎵

19 Dec: Charlie Lim

20 Dec: Haneri

21 Dec: Olivia Ong

22 Dec: Joanna Dong



CHARLIE LIM

Charlie Lim is a Singapore-based singer-songwriter and producer whose debut record 'TIME/SPACE' (2015) clinched the #1 spot on iTunes Singapore charts and was named Best Pop Album of the Year by The Straits Times in 2016. In 2018, his single 'Zero-Sum' of his latest album 'CHECK-HOOK' earned him Best Song of the Year by Apple Music Singapore.



HANERI

Formerly known as Daphne Khoo, Haneri is a LA/Singapore based pop artist, songwriter and host. She rose to fame after emerging as 3rd runner up in Singapore Idol 2004 and later led local indie-rock band, West Grand Boulevard which was nominated the Best Breakout Band of the year at Power 98's Singapore Music Awards in 2008. Since her transition into Haneri in mid-2017, her first feature with UK duo DASCO 'Whatever You Like' currently has almost five million streams on Spotify.



JOANNA DONG

Widely known as a Singaporean jazz vocalist, musical theatre actress and TV host, Joanna Dong is a multi-hyphenate in the entertainment industry who has risen to become one of the most highly sought after jazz vocalists in the country. Joanna became the pride of Singapore when she emerged as 2nd runner up with a stellar performance at Sing! China under the mentorship of famous Chinese pop star Jay Chou.



OLIVIA ONG

Olivia Ong was introduced to the Mandarin music market when she sang the theme song for Singapore Highest rated drama "Little Nonya". Shortly after, she released her first Mandarin Music album "等等". Olivia's mellow, charismatic vocal has made her one of the well-known multilingual singers in Asia! As a renowned international artiste, Olivia has represented Singapore to perform at ASEAN-Japan Music Festival and other International Events. Her outstanding music performance has also gained her recognition of "Outstanding Regional Artiste" at Music Awards Night, such as the Singapore Hits Awards and Global Chinese Music Awards.