



## International Songwriting Competition Announces the winners

### For immediate Release

- The International SeaKeepers Society Asia, Hitmaker Global Academy, The Jazz Association Singapore and Raffles Yacht Group partnered to launch an international songwriting competition “A Song For The Sea” to raise awareness for marine conservation.
- The inaugural Song For the Sea International Songwriting Competition 2020 (ISWC) concluded with the selection of the Top 3 songs as the winners of the competition:  
“Follow Me” by long time performing collaborators and songwriters -Wayne Oh and Likie Low  
“Mother Ocean” by singer, songwriter and marine enthusiast - Asyeeqah Mazlan  
“Oceans Of Paradise” by musician and performer father and 15-year-old daughter - Rain and Aly

*23rd February 2020, Singapore –*

In collaboration with programme partners Hitmaker Global Academy, The Jazz Association Singapore and Raffles Yacht Group - The International SeaKeepers Society, Asia launched an international songwriting competition “A Song For The Sea”.

Judges and SeaKeeper volunteers were treated to the voices, music and creativity of the 15 final contestants at Hitmaker’s spanking new production studio in Tampines Hub, Singapore.

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*“Oceans Of Paradise”* by musician and performer father and 15-year-old daughter - Rain and Aly.

Co-organised by Hitmaker Global Academy, an institute focused on an advanced teaching methodology in contemporary music learning, this unprecedented initiative aims to encourage talented and passionate individuals to creatively express their appreciation of the oceans and seas. The goal is to encourage creativity in support of The International SeaKeepers Society, to raise awareness for marine conservation and the impact it has on our environment. The hope is that through the power of music - individuals and corporations will be spurred into action. Encompassing the three key aspects of Education, Social Awareness, and Entertainment, “A Song For the Sea” songwriting competition was based on the theme “What a Wonderful World”.

Selected for their expressions of appreciation of the oceans and seas; lyrics from “Mother Ocean”, “Follow Me”, and “Oceans of Paradise” depict the beauty and mystery of the ocean with messages to protect the ocean and melodies that evoke a sense of hope.



As part of the competition's programme, SeaKeepers Asia led a conservation activity for the talented songwriters to learn more about sustainable seafood and the use of technology to boost food security and guard against threats like climate change.

As an unexpected and added surprise the winning songs "Mother Ocean" and "Follow Me" were performed live at the Eco Ark First Harvest Ceremony for Guest Of Honour , Republic of Singapore President Madam Halimah Yacob ; Amy Khor ,Senior Minister of State Ministry of Health and Ministry of Environment and Water Resources and Masagos Zulkifli Minister for the Environment and Water Resources.

As the winners, the songwriters attended a 3 full-day workshop where they received first-hand experience in the production and mixing process undertaken by the competition's Production Partners J-POP and United Records, as well as witnessed their winning songs recorded by professional artistes.

Plans are for these produced songs to be digitally distributed by United Records to major international music platforms, with their copyrights managed by Hitmaker.

Julian Chang, President of the International SeaKeepers Society, Asia concluded, "All of us at Seakeepers would like to thank our competition partners for their support of this unique initiative. Most of all, to the talented songwriters out there who are taking an interest in the health of our oceans- please continue to use your music to let others know how important our oceans are for us all."

This competition aims to be a global event and hopes to unite people in generating awareness in ocean preservation

## **About the Competition**

The aim for the competition is to raise awareness for the need for conservation and the impact it has on our marine environment. The hope is that through the power of music - individuals and corporations will be spurred into action to protect and restore the marine environment for generations to come.

Open to international participation by aspiring songwriters this unprecedented initiative encouraged the three key aspects of Education, Social Awareness, and Entertainment in the songs submitted. The contestants were given a theme, "What a Wonderful World" and challenged to create 'A Song for the Sea' and what a wonderful day of music it turned out to be. The final 15 songs were systematically evaluated during a live performance with points based on Melody and Lyrics, totalling 80%, and the remaining 20% through a on line voting.

The Judges for the competition were Jeff Miyahara (Co-founder and CCO for Hitmaker Global Academy & CEO for J-POP, Japan), Jeremy Monteiro (Executive Director & Music Director for Jazz Association Singapore), Julian Chang (ISWC Chairman & President for The International Seakeepers Society, Asia), and Eric Wong (Music Producer, Film Director, Vice Dean for Stanford Faculty of Music & CEO for United Records Production, Singapore).



## About the Songwriters

### **“Follow Me “by Wayne Oh and Likie Low**

After meeting at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music (YST) in Singapore, these friends worked on several self-initiated productions together, becoming familiar with each other’s strengths before joining the competition as a duo.

Wayne is currently pursuing songwriting fulltime. As a talented songwriter he has succeeded in other national competitions and has had his work published as well as regularly performs with the National University of Singapore Chinese music performing society - Voices. Likie performs regularly as an Erhu Soloist with different Orchestras and her compositions have been premiered by the Singapore Chinese Orchestra. She also produces Electronic Dance Music remixes and repertoires for projects and performances.

#### What is the inspiration and key message for their song?

The message is for all humankind to stop hurting the oceans any further. The lyrics can be interpreted in two ways: as a lover appealing for the hurt to stop or as the ocean speaking to us to end our destruction. The duality in meaning adds layers to the song, allowing for more depth in thought as well as making it easier to understand. It becomes more relevant to the audience, without losing its meaning of the need to conserve the ocean.

### **“Mother Ocean” by Asyeeqah Mazlan**

Growing up, Asyeeqah used to secretly write songs. Not being able to play any instrument, she would instead imagine how the song would sound like in her mind, writing the words whilst thinking of a melody. After learning about music during college, she taught herself some basic piano and began songwriting for her assignments. Joining this competition, she has evolved to write for a bigger and important cause.

#### What is the inspiration and key message for song?

The song is arranged to be big, grand, and somewhat dramatic to represent the vast-ness, beauty and the mystery of the ocean. Asyeeqah wants to spread the message of hope to the listeners and inspire them to act. “We know more about the different planets than our own ocean because we have not explored it enough. It had me thinking that polluting the ocean will risk destroying not just the marine life but us as well. A pebble in a pool makes a ripple effect. imagine how long the ripple effect could be on the ocean.”



## **“Oceans of Paradise” by Rain & Aly of D’fusion**

The band D’fusion has had their original songs played worldwide and has also enjoyed radio airplay. Originally established in 2008 by Rain, Rudy & Kayla, D’fusion is now in its second generation comprised of daughters Aly, Lia & Charissa.

What is the inspiration and key message for their song?

This song was written to encourage and create awareness of the importance of preserving our oceans. Music brings people together and this is the hope that we have put into our lyrics and melody - to touch people's senses and emotions.

### **About the Co-Organisers** **The International SeaKeepers Society**

The International SeaKeepers Society is a non-profit organization focusing on the health of the world’s oceans and climate. SeaKeepers works with the boating and yachting community to take advantage of their unique potential in order to further marine research and to raise awareness about the issues our oceans face.

The International SeaKeepers Society acts as a global catalyst working with governments, scientists, industry, and other marine organizations to further its mission and to support sensible, achievable marine protection and restoration.

The International SeaKeepers Society, Asia was established in 2016. This expansion in Asia is under the leadership of Julian Chang. Operations run parallel to the headquarters of SeaKeepers in the USA, with a focus on expanding the impact of the DISCOVERY Yachts Program.

Discovery Yachts are privately owned vessels which facilitate programming by providing access to the ocean for research, scientific discovery, community outreach and artistic inspiration. From hosting learning opportunities for children to facilitating research for genome sequencing; yachts are the platform to enable our goals and achieve our motto of Research. Educate. Protect and Restore.

For more information visit : [www.seakeepers.org](http://www.seakeepers.org) or [www.facebook.com/seakeepers](https://www.facebook.com/seakeepers)  
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### **Hitmaker Global Academy**

Hitmaker is an education and launchpad platform for musicians and talents in penetrating the commercial music industry. It collaborates with world-renowned practitioners, coaches, music producers, and songwriters that have successfully launched multiple hits for major artists, including Namie Amuro, Timbaland, Boyz II Men, and Girls’ Generation to help grow the next generation of artists and prepare them on the global stage.



Hitmaker is committed to promoting a wholesome, original, and vibrant music industry by organising various international festivals and competition such as Singapore International Solo Competition, Australian International Music Competition, Guiyang Music Festival, and International Ensemble Competition in the past.

For more information visit : <https://hitmaker.sg>  
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## **About Production Partners**

### **J-POP Group**

J-POP Music Group is an accomplished international complete music production & publishing company. Our passion is to connect our worldwide network of talented songwriters and producers to the latest breakthrough projects and artists, and have their music exposed globally.

15 years in the music business: 100 albums, 130 singles, and a multitude of chart-topping hits have added up to over 30,000,000 units sold.

J-POP Music Group is a worldwide organization that is aimed at a team-based approach of developing a wide variety of artists and projects through creative talent based all over the world. From the song-writing process, to adding the final touches at the mastering studio, J-POP Music Group meticulously communicates with its creative team to carefully sculpt and deliver chart topping hit after hit.

We do this with a great team of highly motivated and ambitious fun people from all ethnicities and time zones across the world.

For more information visit: <https://jpop.co.jp/>

### **United Records**

United Records began as a home-based music studio in 2009. By 2011, United Records found its place at Katong where we built and designed our first project recording studio. As it continued producing music albums, United Records ventured into audio post projects for TV channels such as Sony Pictures and Fox, doing programs such as EBUZZ Entertainment and Asian Le Mans Racing Series. In 2012, United Records also developed its first artiste, Scarlet Avenue and began producing original music and video content with them.

Ever since, United Records has produced multiple music videos for other homegrown and external artistes. In 2014, United Records expanded its services to include film and creative content for media platforms such for web, radio, TV, and cinema.

Till date, United Records has effectively handled turnkey productions from conceptualization, to pre-production, to production shoots, to creative edits, colour grading and audio post with original music compositions.

For more information visit: <http://www.unitedrecords.sg/index.html>



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