

Composition & Performance from a Pasifika Perspective

Dr Opeloge Ah Sam

Unpacking this Workshop

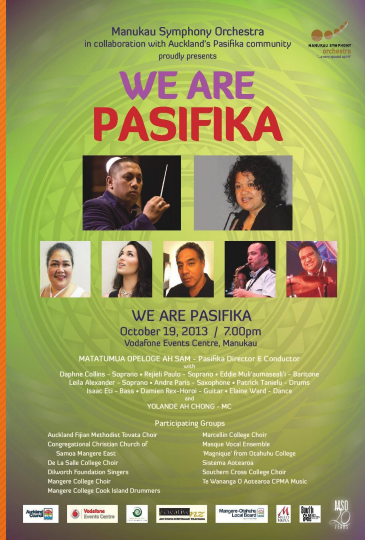
'Pasifika' - Is a problematic Term
Because it is a Social Imaginary that assumes my positionality

Composition & Performance from a Samoan Identity Perspective

Should be the proper title of my workshop

The clarification of my positionality as a SAMOAN BORN NEW ZEALAND COMPOSER

And the angle from which I will share with you today my experiences & ideas



Positionality / Background

PhD from Victoria University

Performance Experiences and Spaces I work within (Adele, NZSO, NZMusic Awards, Manukau Symphony, first Opera)

Current Projects

Why Identity / within a Social Imaginary

Identity is important for developing Self-Esteem and Confidence (importance for Performing Arts)

Children who know their identity place or cultural space feel a sense of worth & are optimistic

It can help not just the children but their families build a pride or positiveness about their language or race or culture

Social Imaginary is an assumption about how we are connected

But it is important to understand that how we imagine ourselves connecting are often expressed differently

Unpacking the myth of which musical style is most important

The need to break down the elitest-view that Western Art Music or Classical music is more valuable and more important than other music and Performing Arts

And to increase the understanding in Maori and Pasifika - and the essence that makes it special and often difficult to replicate with regards to the Experience (not the level of difficulty)

Sharing for today - Sasa

Context of the Sasa and general Dance practice of Dance actions in Samoan culture - can be applied to what our tamariki / students bring to the class - making it relevant and engaging

How our everyday lives become our Performing Arts - expression of self and a way of ensuring old and new traditions continue

Sharing for today Songwriting

Setting up a basic framework to work within (chords / lyrics / melody /
beat/groove)

Songwriting - expressing and sharing our experiences with others and in doing so
connecting and finding out that actually - some of our pathways are not so
different after all

Finding Peace

A Musical Example

<https://youtu.be/kfB6egZioWc>

Questions?

Sharing Ideas / Thoughts / Questions?