

MUSIC PERFORMANCE BEING EQUIVALENT TO RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS: A MALAYSIAN PERSPECTIVE

Associate Professor Dr. Chong Yew Yoong

Faculty of Music, Universiti Institut Teknologi MARA (UiTM)

MALAYSIA

chongyew@salam.uitm.edu.my

ABSTRACT

There has been an aggressive push in Malaysia for academicians in institutes of higher learning to have indexed publications for promotion and tenure purposes. This leaves performing musicians in Malaysia in a dilemma as their creative output in this country is not considered on par with indexed journals which clearly disadvantages them when comparing to their peers in academia. The purpose of this paper is to discuss how the music performances can be measured and evaluated for academicians in Malaysian universities. There are already existing criteria in American universities for promotion and tenure purposes and it is just a matter of adapting them to Malaysia. The paper looks at some of these criteria and discusses on how they can be adapted to the Malaysian context so that they can be graded in different levels for promotion and job retention purposes in Malaysian universities. The paper hopes to play its part in ensuring recognition for the work of music performers in Malaysian universities so that their creative output is recognized as being equivalent to that of their scientific counterparts and in the long run can contribute to the growth of the creative arts departments in Malaysian universities.

Keywords: Music performance, indexed publications, university position.