

## **BIOGRAPHY OF THOMAS LIAUW**

Thomas Liauw obtained his M.A. (music) as a research scholar at the National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. He graduated with a B.A. (Honours) Degree in music from Kingston University (London), obtained his Fellowship from Victoria College of Music (United Kingdom), Licentiate Diploma in Teaching from the Trinity College of Music (London) and a Music Diploma from the LaSalle College of the Arts (Singapore). His works include arrangements and composition for solo guitar such as “Favourite Collections for Solo Guitar” (Books 1 & 2), “Jingle Bell Rock” (a Christmas Collection) and “Guitars in Harmony” (ensemble pieces).

He successfully completed his first recording in 1990, an album entitled “Time For Romantic Guitar” which turned out to be a sell out. The album was republished into cds in 2003. His next recording was a classical cd done in 2003 - “Thomas Liauw plays A. Lauro, F. Terrega, A Barrios, H. Villa-Lobos & F. Martin”. Besides recording, Thomas has performed at numerous recitals internationally, in Iceland, Italy and London, Poland, and regionally in Indonesia, Malaysia and also in Singapore. His other achievements include being a prize-winner at the Singapore Guitar Festival, National Music Competition, Golden Kite World Song Festival 1991 where he represented Singapore, as well as other notable classical guitar competitions.

Thomas is also known for imparting his love of the classical guitar. He currently teaches at the local universities, tertiary institutions and guiding budding guitarists. Thomas has set up many ensembles and under his tutelage; many have gone on to win numerous awards and prizes such as International Guitar Festivals, Singapore Guitar Festival and Gold with Honours in Singapore Youth Festival. Besides teaching, he was involved previously in conducting music examinations (Guildhall School of Music & Drama, Yamaha Music School, etc), judging at International Music Competitions (such as The 2nd Selangor & Wilayah Persekutuan Guitar Competition, Japan Guitar Concore 06’ in Japan, etc) and creating music awareness (participated in Musical Instrument Festival 2003 in KL). Mr Liauw was also invited to be a guest speaker and gave performances at summer camps such as Krzyzowa’s Summer Guitar Camp 03’ in Poland and 2007 IZU International Guitar Festival & Summer School in Japan just to name some. He also gave a 13-part series titled “Strings Attached” which covered guitar history, technique, and artistes that was aired over Radio FM 99.5 (Singapore) from October 2002. Following the success of the first series, a second 13-part series was added on guitar music appreciation. In addition, he was featured in many magazines such as Harmony Guitar Magazine (Japan), Gendai Guitar Magazine (Japan), Classical Guitar Magazine (UK) and also in the collection of guitarists around the world – The Classical Guitar – it’s evolution, players and personalities since 1800 (5th Edition, Ashley Mark Publishing company).

To promote and enhance guitar music in his home country, Singapore, he set up Tomas Music Consultants Pte Ltd in 1994. His music consultancy has organized numerous notable recitals and performances including the famous John Williams & Friends, Manuel Barrueco, Kazuhito Yamashita, David Russell, Paco Pena, Carlos Barbosa-Lima, Jorge Morel, Juan Martin, Julian Byzantine, Uto Ughi, I Solisti Veneti, Tango 2000, Flamenco Passion, and 11 consecutive editions of the Annual International Guitar Festival (Singapore) & Competitions. In 2012 he flagged off the first Singapore International Acoustic Guitar Festival in this part of the region.

He expanded his music business with Tomas Music Centre in 2000, which stocks quality guitars, books and accessories. In addition, Tomas Music School was set up in 2013 (registered with Ministry of Education) with the aim of providing quality music education for music enthusiasts and budding musicians.

He also formed Niibori Guitar Singapore in 2005 in partnership with the most important guitar ensemble academy from Japan – Niibori Guitar Academy.

Thomas Liauw was nominated to be the entrepreneur of the year (SOE) in 2008 and in 2015 by SMBA (Small Medium Business Association). He was also conferred/knighted in 2014 by the President of Italy, Giorgio Napolitano through its Ministry of Foreign Affairs with “ORDINE DELLA STELLA D’ITALIA” (KNIGHT/STAR OF ITALY).

Thomas is eclectic in his interpretations of both classical and contemporary music. Not only is he an exponent of the guitar, he is also in demand as a teacher and performer.