

News Release

For Immediate Release



## *A Concert of Hope*

*Sunburst: The Business Times – CapitaLand Fundraising Concert*

20 October 2017, 3pm and 8pm

Concert Hall, School of the Arts

Singapore, 10 October 2017 – The Business Times, Singapore’s premier English language business daily embarks on a new fundraising initiative this October with a concert featuring artistic talents of all abilities from various segments of the community.

Titled ‘*Sunburst: The Business Times - CapitaLand Fundraising Concert*’, the event is a fundraiser for the Muscular Dystrophy Association Singapore (MDAS) and the School of the Arts Student Assistance Fund (SOTA SAF). CapitaLand Limited, through its philanthropic arm CapitaLand Hope Foundation, is the presenting sponsor of the concert. *Sunburst* is scheduled to be held at the Concert Hall of the School of the Arts (SOTA) on 20 October. The concert stands out from the newspaper’s previous fundraising events with its equal focus on artistic merit and inclusivity and has, to date, raised close to \$230,000 for both these institutions.

Says Mr Wong Wei Kong, editor of The Business Times and organiser of the concert: “The Business Times has always engaged in charity and community work in the arts and cultural sectors, such as the Business Times Budding Artists Fund for children from lower income families. In our aim to reach out even further and wider into the community and we have thus decided to expand our work to look into how we can impact, not just the financially challenged but also those with physical disabilities.

“*Sunburst symbolises that balance. It seeks to help students requiring additional financial support for their studies in SOTA and it highlights the work of MDAS, a self-help organisation that focuses on a muscular disability that is ever present in our society and which needs support and attention.*”

Produced by arts and culture non-profit Global Cultural Alliance Ltd and curated by artistic director Jeremiah Choy, the concert places an emphasis on collaboration and artistic excellence. Highlights of the concert include former NMP and well-known thespian and musician Eunice Olsen's performance with members of MDAS as well as a piano performance by Ron Tan, who has hearing impairment.

Elaborates Choy on the concert's programme: *"The curatorial thought behind Sunburst is to capture the sunflower's qualities of warmth, vibrancy, nourishment and longevity. The petals are like sun rays bursting outward to the universe; we hope to bring a gift of joy and extend dreams of possibilities from our collaborators and sponsors to the beneficiaries."*

Senior Minister of State for Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth & Ministry of Trade and Industry Ms Sim Ann will be the guest of honour of *Sunburst*.

Says Ms Sherena Loh, Executive Director of MDAS: *"We hope that through the concert, we will be able to drum up greater awareness and support of muscular dystrophy. The funds raised will enable MDAS continue to reach out to those challenged by the severe disabling condition so that they too can enjoy an improved quality of life."*

The concert will also feature performances by SOTA students as well the school's alumni including one of Singapore's most promising and upcoming vocalist Amni Musfirah who has performed at major occasions such as the opening of Asian Youth Games in 2009 and opening and closing ceremonies of the 2010 Youth Olympic Games.

For a month prior to the concert, members of MDAS and SOTA students collaborated in a linoleum printmaking project. Designed by members of MDAS, the prints are eventually copied and carved onto linoleum blocks by SOTA students. The two groups will meet on October 16 for a printmaking session, and their resultant creations will be displayed at SOTA Gallery as part of SOTA's Year 1 & 2 showcase exhibition.

Says Ms Lim Geok Cheng, principal of SOTA: *"In SOTA, we believe that no child should be deprived of or denied an education in the arts, due to any financial disadvantage. The SOTA Student Assistance Fund (SAF) has helped students who are in need of financial assistance cover expenses for laptops, IB examination fees and more. It is our privilege to be one of the beneficiaries of Sunburst, The Business Times – CapitalLand Fundraising Concert. With more funds raised for the SOTA SAF, we wish to extend the help we offer our students to include the purchase of books, uniforms, arts materials, food and transportation costs. Students should not have to*

worry about meeting basic needs and give their full attention to receiving a holistic education at SOTA.”

Mr Lim Ming Yan, CapitaLand’s President & Group CEO and Director of CapitaLand Hope Foundation said, “CapitaLand has always held the belief that corporates can play an important role in contributing towards the building of an inclusive and caring society. We recognise that the long-term success of a company is closely linked with the health and prosperity of the communities we operate in. Through our philanthropic arm, CapitaLand Hope Foundation (CHF), we have been supporting the development needs of underprivileged children in Singapore and the region. Beyond donations, we leverage our expertise to build homes and schools, initiate assistance programmes for the community and promote an ethos of volunteerism amongst our staff. As the Presenting Sponsor of this concert, we hope to not only support these young talents and the beneficiaries, but also inspire more youths to fulfil their dreams. It will complement our suite of CHF programmes that empower children beneficiaries to create a brighter future for themselves and their families.”

The other supporters of the concert to date include diamond sponsors StarHub and Standard Chartered Bank, as well as other corporate and individual donors.

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## **Annex 1:**

### **About The Business Times**

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### **About CapitalLand Hope Foundation**

CapitalLand Hope Foundation, the philanthropic arm of CapitalLand, was established in 2005 to further CapitalLand's community development commitment to 'Building People. Building Communities', by recognising that the long-term success of the company's business is closely intertwined with the health and prosperity of the communities in which it operates. Every year, CapitalLand allocates up to 0.5% of its net profit to the Foundation to promote social growth and development of underprivileged children with respect to their education, healthcare and shelter needs. CapitalLand Hope Foundation is a registered charity in Singapore and strongly believes each child has within them the potential for greatness, which if nurtured and built upon, can bring significant value to future societies. Going beyond donations associated with charitable giving, the Foundation also focuses on giving time and attention to the children beneficiaries through advocating volunteerism. The strong commitment of volunteers embodies CapitalLand's mission to care for and contribute to the economic, environmental and social development of communities.

For more information, please visit the official website: [www.capitalandhopefoundation.com](http://www.capitalandhopefoundation.com)

### **About Muscular Dystrophy Association (Singapore) (MDAS)**

Muscular Dystrophy Association (Singapore) is a self-funded welfare organisation that strives to uplift the lives of persons with Muscular Dystrophy and integrate them into society. Persons with Muscular Dystrophy face difficulties performing everyday tasks, from turning a page to feeding themselves, due to the genetic condition that causes muscle weakening. Through MDAS's programmes and services, they can equip themselves with social and vocational skills, thus living life to the fullest.

### **About School of the Arts (SOTA)**

The School of the Arts (SOTA) is Singapore's only national pre-tertiary specialized arts school with a six-year integrated arts and academic curriculum, leading to the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma or Career-related Programme.

Under the ambit of the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY), SOTA offers a dedicated development path for those who have interest and show early talent in the arts, providing a learning environment where both the artistic and academic potential can best be realised.

With a vision to shape and impact society through an education in the arts, SOTA aims to identify and groom future generations of artists and creative professionals to be leaders in all fields, and to be patrons and supporters of the arts.

A school of the future, SOTA embraces a holistic educational philosophy that celebrates experimentation, expression and discovery.

### **About School of the Arts Student Assistance Fund (SOTA SAF)**

SOTA's philosophy is that no child should be deprived of or denied an education in the arts, due to any financial disadvantage. The SOTA Student Assistance Fund (SAF) is set up to assist students who need financial aid, either due to special or sudden circumstances, or face financial difficulties.

On average, a SOTA student spends \$1,500 per year on books and art materials for his art form, on top of his school fees. In addition, students in need of financial assistance may request subsidies for meal vouchers, laptop, school uniform, International Baccalaureate (IB) examination fees and student development programmes.

It is hoped that the assistance provided by the SOTA SAF will empower the students in their pursuit of a holistic art education in SOTA, and help them to realise both their artistic and academic potential as future generations of artists and creative professionals.

**About Global Cultural Alliance (GCA)**

Global Cultural Alliance (GCA) is a Singapore-based not-for-profit creative enterprise that serves as a cultural catalyst between arts, culture and businesses. We create arts and culture-related platforms that enhances exchanges and dialogues between communities within and across countries. GCA is a wholly-owned subsidiary of The RICE Company Limited.

## **Annex 2: Programme**

### **Joint MDAS-SOTA Printmaking Workshop**

Date/Time: Monday, 16 October 2017, 4pm – 5.30pm

Venue: SOTA

### **Sunburst Art Exhibition**

(held within Drawing Out VI: Year 1 & 2 Showcase Exhibition)

Date/Time: 18 – 22 October 2017

Venue: SOTA Gallery

### **Sunburst:**

#### **The Business Times – CapitaLand Fundraising Concert**

Date/Time: Friday, 20 October 2017, 3pm and 8pm

Venue: SOTA Concert Hall

Duration: 90 min

Featured acts:

#### **Eunice Olsen in collaboration with members and friends of MDAS**

Piano: Eunice Olsen

Vocals: Kelvin Sim, Heng Xiaomin, Ymara Couwenberg, Oh Boon Keng, William Eng, Brandon Tan, Muhd Danial Bin Sohaimi, Jasmine Yau

#### **SOTA alumni and friends**

Vocals: Amni Musfirah and Irena Taib

Piano and Instrumentals: Lin Xiangning, Samuel Phua

Dance: Shruthi Nair and Iswarya Jayakumar

#### **SOTA students**

Vocals: Ariadna Padron Yassin, Natasha Michella da Costa, Siti Syakirah Noble, Adam Mark Lim Yong Wei

Percussion: Gwyneth Daphnie Carelo Parreno, Yeo Heuk Ming Olivia, Pragya Jha, Michael Huang Wei Cheng, Abree Tan

Dance: Tristan Kevin Glenn Calauad

#### **Guest acts**

Vocals: Aisyah, Adeline Koh (visually impaired)

Piano: Ron Tan (hearing impaired)