

SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARDS 2004
ARTS AND CULTURE (INDIVIDUAL)

MS LEE HUEI MIN



"As a Singaporean violinist, it is about creating our very own unique path to discover that we too have wings to soar, even to global stages. What gives me the greatest satisfaction is knowing that I am giving my best effort, not only in each performance, but also in life itself. As a person, I hope to have a close group of people and friends that I can really trust and love - that will be my ultimate measure of personal success."

Ms Lee Huei Min, more popularly known as Min Lee, has been dubbed by the international media as "Singapore's poster child of classical music". At two years old, Min started studying the violin and at five, gave her first public performance at Victoria Concert Hall.



Min's early "youngest ever" achievements included first prize at the National Arts Council's (NAC) 7th National Music Competition at six; first prize and the Best Performer Award at NAC's 8th National Music Competition at eight; and the Grand Laureate Prize at the Czech Republic's Kocian International Violin Competition. Min also received NAC's Young Artist Award and HSBC's inaugural Youth Excellence Initiative Award among other accolades.

At nine, Min went to the United States, studying music at the University of Michigan and then Oberlin College's Conservatory of Music. At 14, this young prodigy was recommended for the Masters programme at Yale University by the university's violin professor, Erick Friedman.

As a Singaporean violinist, Min has helped to place her country on the world's arts map through recitals and performances with renowned orchestras such as Prague Chamber Orchestra, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Vienna Chamber Orchestra, and Academy of St Martin in the Fields. She recently performed, and recorded a Russian album at Abbey Road Studios with the Philharmonia Orchestra, conducted by Vladimir Ashkenazy. This album follows "Debut" with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, released by Universal Music Group in 2002.



As a violinist with a heart, Min has raised \$5 million towards the arts and charities, such as the Princess Diana's International Action for Aids, International Red Cross Foundation, NAC Gifted Young Musicians' Bursary Fund, Presidential Charities, Community Chest, and Building Funds for the Methodist Girls' School and the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts

(NAFA). In 2004, Min adopted the Bone Marrow Donor Programme for leukaemia patients.

Min has participated in many Young Audience programmes in the US, UK and Singapore since she was 10. In 2003, as Artiste-In-Residence at the NAFA, Min launched the NAFA Chamber Orchestra.

For her musical achievements and contributions to the local and international community, Ms Lee Hwei Min is conferred the Singapore Youth Award 2004.