

2015 Business China Young Achiever Award Recipient

Tanya Chua 蔡健雅

Age: 40

Singer Songwriter, Tangy Music International Group

Contributions to Singapore-China Relations

- Her greatest contribution to the Singapore-China relations is through her status and profile in the Chinese pop music scene. Along with JJ Lin and Stephanie Sun, Tanya is one of Singapore's most well-known Mandopop exports.
- In 2008, she was selected by Singapore Tourism Board to be its ambassador to China for two years due to her popularity overseas.
- At the Shanghai World Expo 2010, Tanya along with fellow Singaporean singers JJ Lin, Stefanie Sun and Ah Du performed a song titled "*Every Touching Moment*", helping to raise Singapore's profile in the global event held in China.
- Took on the role of producer for China's Mandopop queen Na Ying (那英)'s new album entitled "So What" in 2010. This was the first time Tanya had produced an entire album for another singer. This new role also helped to raise her profile in China as a multi-talented Singaporean musician.
- In 2014, she was appointed as one of the 4 judges-mentors on China's CCTV reality singing competition Song of China (中国好歌曲), where contestants perform their original compositions. Tanya is the sole Singaporean representative on the panel. The show was a hit in China, thus helping to raise the profile of Singaporeans in the Chinese entertainment scene. She was re-appointed for the 2015 season.
- In 2014, she spearheaded Project WAO (Women as One). She teamed up with fellow female Mandopop powerhouses A-Mei from Taiwan, Sandy Lam from Hong Kong and Na Ying (那英) from China to record her self-composed song "*We are One*".
- The project is a charity concert and music festival consisting solely of female solo artists and female-led bands, which benefits abused women and girls.
- The first WAO concert at Taipei Arena in April 2014 was a sell-out within minutes and raised about NT\$10 million. 10,000 fans attended the concert. All

proceeds went to the New Taipei-based City People Foundation to support its program for abused females aged 10 to 18.

- The second WAO concert, "Project WAO x Kiehl's", was held in September 2014 in Hong Kong. The concert raised over HK\$4.3 million. All proceeds went towards the Hong Kong End Child Sexual Abuse Foundation (香港護苗基金).
- Tanya has also indicated her inclination to bring Project WAO all over Asia where there is Chinese music and especially Singapore because it is her hometown.
- Tanya had also previously performed in charity events benefiting social and welfare organisations like the Community Chest (2002) and the National Kidney Foundation (2001).
- She has also held many concert tours in many Chinese cities including Shanghai, Beijing and Nanjing.

Background

- Born in Singapore in 1975 as the younger of two daughters.
- Attended CHIJ Saint Nicholas Girls School and graduated from Singapore Polytechnic with a Diploma in Business Administration.
- Actively participated in numerous music competitions throughout her schooling years, inspiring her to embark on a music career.
- In 1994, she became the lead singer in a band, performing live covers of English songs in hotels and pubs. She was inspired to train herself to play the guitar and also tried her hand at song-writing.
- Released her first English album, *Bored*, in 1997 in Singapore. This album comprises most of her original compositions, including the hit song, *My Colour TV Set* which received extensive airplay in Singapore.
- In 1998, she went on to further her studies at the Los Angeles Musicians' Institute in the United States.
- In 1999, she released her debut Mandarin album, *蔡健雅 (Tanya)*, which has sold over 150,000 copies to date and she was nominated as Best Newcomer in Taiwan's 11th Annual Golden Melody Awards.

- In 2006, she moved to Taiwan and based her music production career in Taipei. This move was a turning point for her as it improved her Mandarin and allowed her to capitalise on the opportunities present in Taiwan and China.
- In 2006, she established her own music production companies, Tian Ya Music Productions (based in Taiwan) and Tangy Music International (in Singapore), which is involved in music production, publishing and talent management.
- Effectively bilingual in both English and Mandarin, she has gained popular success mainly in the Chinese music industry, releasing both English and Mandarin albums and holding concert tours in cities like Taipei, Beijing and Shanghai.
- Released 11 Chinese albums, 5 English albums, 4 soundtracks, 2 compilation albums and 3 singles since 1997.
- Composed and performed the 2001 national day theme song, "Where I Belong".
- Composed songs for many other famous Asian singers such as Faye Wong, A-Mei, Fish Leong and Stefanie Sun.

Achievements

- First Singaporean to win an award in the Asia Song Festival with her composition "Hear Me" in 1998. She came in first in the "Unpublished" category of the annual song-writing competition held in Manila, the Philippines.
- Only Singaporean singer to be awarded the Best Mandarin Female Singer thrice in Taiwan's biggest musical event, the prestigious Golden Melody Awards, winning in 2006, 2008 and 2012. The historic three wins have established a solid reputation for her as a multi-talented singer, song-writer and album producer in Asia.
- Tanya has since won four Golden Melody Awards including one in 2008, where she was named the Best Album Producer for the album, *Goodbye & Hello*. She composed all the music of that album and wrote the lyrics for six songs.
- In 2008 alone, Tanya garnered a total of 21 awards.
- Her self-titled debut Mandarin album, *Tanya*, was released in 1999 and topped the charts in Taiwan. The album also spawned an instant hit, *Breathe*.

- Her second Mandarin album, *Remember*, reached the No 1 spot within the first week of its release in 2000 and she was nominated Best Newcomer at the Taiwan's Golden Melody Awards.
- Bagged the "Young Composer of the Year" Award and "Top Local Artiste of the Year" Award at the annual Composers and Authors Society of Singapore (Compass) Awards in 2001, which honours performers in Singapore's music scene.
- In 2009, Tanya's seventh album *若你碰到他 (If You See Him)* was awarded one of the Top 10 Selling Mandarin Albums of the Year at the 2009 International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI) Hong Kong Album Sales Awards, presented by the Hong Kong branch of IFPI.
- In 2011, she held a sold-out solo concert at the 13,000-capacity Taipei Arena in Taiwan.
- The same year, she returned to Singapore for her first solo concert at the Singapore Indoor Stadium.

Awards

- 2014:
 - Best Album Producer, Best Foreign Singer (Singapore), Top Ten Mandarin Songs, Taiwan's Hito Music Awards ceremony
 - Top 10 albums of 2013 in Taiwan, Chinese Music Man Association
- 2013:
 - Best Local Music Composition, Singapore Hit Awards
- 2012:
 - Best Mandarin Female Singer, Golden Melody Awards, Taiwan
 - Artistic Excellence Award, Composers and Authors Society of Singapore
- 2010:
 - Best Local Music Composition & Best Local Artiste, Singapore Hit Awards
- 2009:
 - Best Local Lyrics; Most Outstanding Local Musician; Asian Media's Best Female Singapore, Singapore Hit Awards
- 2008:
 - Best Mandarin Female Singer; Best Album Producer for Goodbye & Hello, Golden Melody Awards, Taiwan

- 2007:
 - Most Popular Duet, Global Chinese Music Awards, Hong Kong

- 2006:
 - Top 20 Songs; Best Composition, Global Chinese Music Awards, Singapore
 - Best Mandarin Female Singer, Golden Melody Awards, Taiwan

- 2005:
 - Most Popular Singer Songwriter; Most Popular Duet, Global Chinese Music Awards, Taiwan
 - Best Composing Artiste, Singapore Hit Awards

- 2004:
 - Best Local Music Composition; Best Local Music Arrangement; Top 10 Most Popular Songs, Singapore Hit Awards

- 2000:
 - Best Local Music Composition, Singapore Hit Awards

- 1999:
 - Best Local Music Composition, Singapore Hit Awards

- 1998:
 - Best Music Composition for "Hear Me", Asia Song Festival