

GET PAID DOING WHAT YOU LOVE

ANTHONY Yap is a graduate of the Bachelor of Music (Hons) in Professional Music offered at the International College of Music (ICOM). Currently, Anthony runs his own studio, Big A Productions, and has worked with local bands and artistes on a variety of projects.

Besides studio work, he has also worked extensively in events and in about three years has been involved in more than 700 shows. Awards shows, product launches, live broadcasts, rock festivals, weddings, and corporate dinners are just some of the events that he's been involved with.

This is his story:

"I have always loved music.

Everything about it moved me in such a way that nothing else that I came into contact with came close to even being comparable. I wanted to pursue a higher education in music upon completion of my SPM but my family was against it. I had no choice but to continue with STPM in hopes of securing a placement in a local university.

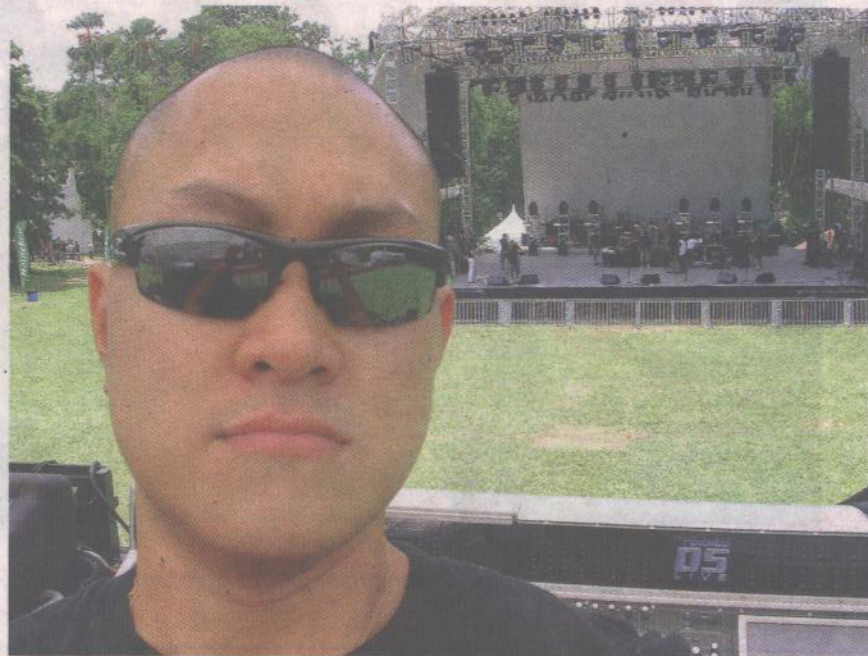
"It was during this period I realised that I would not be able to do anything

else but a career in music. With this in mind, I felt that there was only one option and that was to get a formal education in music.

"My uncle was instrumental in financing my studies to pursue a Bachelor of Music (Hons) in Professional Music at the International College of Music.

"My parents were not supportive of my decision to pursue a career in the music industry. This is mainly due to the stigma attached to a career in arts in Malaysia, which makes it seem a lot harder to survive. This was exacerbated by the fact that I did not have a music background, since my parents could not afford to send me for music lessons when I was growing up.

"Being mostly self-taught and without any formal music education, I had to catch up to my classmates who had been studying and practicing music since the age of four years old. Ear training, Harmony, Performance, Musicality, Sight-Reading and many more are skills and subjects that cannot be learnt overnight. I was also working as a music/guitar teacher during my course and that just made the situation



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all the more hectic and difficult.

"But ICOM prepared me thoroughly for the music world. The BMus program gave me the tools and the confidence to do what I love most – making music!

"I would say that if music is your dream, go for it as there is nothing like

doing what you love. Speak to the counsellors at ICOM and see for yourself how the programs help you to be a successful musician."

Look out for the International College of Music advertisement in this StarSpecial.