

# Music hath charm to soothe the lives of babies

## William

I had one goal in mind when we organized Music for Life: to change lives for the better through music. I had no idea how pivotal, significant and influential it would eventually come to be, in my own life, and in the lives of the children at the Shanghai Baby Home. I am immensely grateful for those who have contributed to it along the way.

Undoubtedly, there has never been more love expressed under a single roof than under the roof of Shanghai Baby Home. You could tell straight away that *ayis* (aunties) held genuine love and respect for the children they were caring for. At Music for Life, we hope to work closely in support, and in collaboration with Shanghai Baby Home in the future. Working to support the children at the home was unlike anything I'd done before. After the first visit, I finally understood the capacity we possess to help the children in need. Through music production and performance, we can generate and contribute monetary aide effectively and within a geographically convenient location.

A volunteer who has been teaching at the Shanghai Baby Home for the past four years told me that, after our few music sessions with them, the children were much more motivated to learn and were

happier overall. We are in a unique position to support the children at the home, who are some of the most inspiring people I've ever met. I'd never encountered such resilience and perseverance in a group of children before, and it has inspired me and my fellow musician-volunteers to change our attitude toward many important things.

The genuine happiness these children showed when we taught and played music with them is something that I'll always remember. Their disabilities are not something that stopped them from being brave. In fact, their bravery and determination to fight the adversity in life are unparalleled.

On November 10, we hosted a full house of audience in Mei Lan Fang Theater, Dulwich College Shanghai Pudong, and raised 31,955 yuan (US\$4,606) to fund medical costs. This concert was the result of many months of preparation. Support from staff, parents, the student body and our musicians helped us achieve our goal. Everyone performed at an exceedingly high standard.

I am immensely grateful to everyone who supported us.

This concert is one of many on our journey, and I hope that you will continue to support us in building the foundations of Music for Life in the coming years.



William, a Year 12 student at Dulwich Pudong, performs at Mei Lan Fang Theater to raise fund for the children at Shanghai Baby Home.

# A hitchhiker's guide to the galaxy that is our Shanghai

## Ashlee and Hanna

ARE you tired of visiting the usual tourist attractions? Are you looking for more unique experiences? We have a few suggestions for you that you may not have heard about. Having lived in Shanghai for years, we have gained insight into some of the best unique places you can visit.

For authentic places to observe local culture in Shanghai, we suggest going to little alleys, or *小巷 (xiao xiang)*, that are scattered all throughout town. Here, they often sell traditional foods and snacks. These small alleys are the concrete version of the childhood memories of Shanghainese locals.

Other places you could go to experience local culture would be parks, such as Fuxing Park. You can see older people singing or dancing. During blue sky days, these parks are also a nice place

to have a relaxing picnic.

For those that are interested in art, one of the best places to visit is M50. It's a very unique experience as it is more than just an art museum. Actually, it is an art district that is composed of multiple little galleries. The galleries were once warehouses and factory buildings for textiles, having been converted to hold today's contemporary Chinese art. The exhibitions change multiple times throughout the year, showcasing a diverse range of art media. There is no admission fee, apart from when festivals are being held there. We suggest popping into island6, which is one of the more interactive galleries. ShanghaiART is a Swiss-owned gallery that is also worth a visit. There are also coffee shops and restaurants there in case you want to take a rest.

The Long Museum is another artistic place we suggest. It often showcas-

es contemporary art but also features more traditional types of art at times, too. The entry fee can be a bit high but it is worth it, as you not only get to experience the artwork, but also the unique architecture of the building.

While you are out, you might start to crave a good cup of coffee or some desserts, so why not head to some of the coolest cafes in Shanghai? Cat cafes are an increasingly popular concept in Asia, and Shanghai isn't short of them. We suggest Saturday Afternoon, which is at 636 Hefei Road.

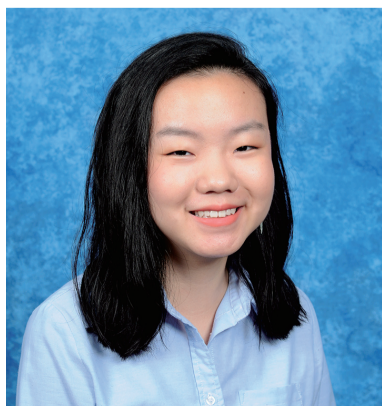
Another themed cafe which is great to visit is the Central Perk, which is based on the cafe from the hit TV-show, "Friends." It is a near-perfect replica of the iconic cafe, and its prices are reasonable. It is at 160 Harbin Road.

Exploring is always fun, we hope you spend some time enjoying these spots we discovered!



Ashlee (left) and Hanna are Year 12 students at YCIS Shanghai Puxi Secondary.

# West Lake MUN Security Council: a realistic date with reality



Sophie Chen is a Grade 12 student at HIS.

## Sophie Chen

I am a senior attending Hangzhou International School, and this was my 7th and final West Lake MUN. In the past few years, this conference has been my home, harboring both my highest and lowest moments, and patiently watching me grow as a person. It has been the life-changing event where I developed in my experiences, my sense of responsibility, and my love for diplomacy and international relations.

Despite the common criticism of MUN being a so-called "nerd club," I am reminded, every time I stepped into this conference, of the reason I chose to do

MUN in the first place, and why I chose to stick with it, year after year.

At the West Lake MUN 2018 conference, I had the honor to serve as the president of the Security Council. If I had to describe our security council in four words, it would be: too close to reality. Each delegate represented their nation's stance to the fullest degree possible, to the point that I almost forgot that this was only a simulation.

Just like the realities of UN, each individual nation was determined to protect its own interests at all costs. With these strong and often contrasting opinions, the three days at the West Lake MUN 2018 were filled with endless caucuses, heated exchanges and intense debates.

But I must say that what made the delegates of Security Council undeniably outstanding was each individual's ability to compromise. It was truly amazing to witness the entire council come together to negotiate with the delegate of France, exchanging the inclusion of one of his clauses for his vote in favor of the resolution, just so that our six hours of debate would not go to waste. If this isn't the epitome of diplomatic success, then I don't know what is.

West Lake MUN 2018 was truly memorable experience, and I hope that everyone who participated was as inspired by this conference in some way, that continues their MUN path into the future.