

Principal's Message

As Faithful Stewards of God for ACS

Against the unhurried tempo and distinctive musical motif, the composition spoke about the ACS family.

What stood out was its pace and mellow feel that shaped the aural experience. To me, this first draft was perhaps more suited to be enjoyed on an evening drive home, but not one that could serve as ACS (Independent)'s curtain-raiser to mark our 135th year.

This was October 2020.

The President of ACS (Independent) 15th Student Council, Joshua Chai and I were in my office going through the first draft of some of our music students' composition of a new song for ACS. A few months earlier, he and a fellow schoolmate, Hanson Lu, who is also the Vice-Chairman of ACS (Independent)'s Robotics Technology Society, approached me to propose the making of a new music video for the school. Timed to coincide with our 135th anniversary, they were inspired by the work of their seniors who had produced an original music video titled "This Is What ACS Means" which made its debut in 2016 when we celebrated our 130th year. Both Joshua and Hanson wanted to make their final year in ACS (Independent) count. They were inspired by the legacy left behind by their seniors and saw the baton now in their hands to give back to the school by capturing the day-to-day sights and sounds of ACS (Independent) that they have come to value and cherish. In their own way, it was an unspoken intent to reminisce their time in ACS (Independent) through this video *memoire*.

Mr Arene Koh
Principal
ACS (Independent)



The energies of these two gentlemen were infectious.

Almost immediately, we explored various options as to how to have this done within a short runway. We walked through the foreseeable resources required, the timelines, and outlined how this production could define the varied experiences in ACS (Independent) and uplift the school family. Though a considerable amount of time was dedicated to determining the form, what came through was their determination, love and pride for ACS as successors of our ACS heritage. And so, with a blank canvas, they sketched their lines, and gradually added hues and tones of varied colours to express in words, in visuals, in music, what ACS means to them. The weeks that ensued saw the galvanising of ACSians in ACS (Independent) like Collier Ow and Perry Tan who too share the same aspirations to take this work forward. Besides enlisting the help of their teachers from the Music Department, peers from different classes, different levels of study, different backgrounds and interests also stepped forward to use the gifts and talents that God has given them to give fuller meaning and definition to this project. Time was poured in to compose, record, film and

edit their work. Whenever feedback was received, they headed back to the drawing board to refine and improve. Except for engaging a studio to have a sound engineer professionally record their work, they utilised their own resources to bring this dream to reality.

And so, what started out as an unnamed concept gradually took form. The final stroke that completed the finishing touch to this piece of work was their decision to title this production as “ONE AC”. A title that not only captured what the lyrics of this original composition is about, but is a demonstration of the ONE AC spirit that led the team to a finished product that aptly reflects what ACS (Independent) means to them. The ONE AC Production Team and the Performers undertook this project with the knowledge that it would not lead to CCA credits or Honours Day trophies, but an enduring fulfillment within them that they have had an opportunity to share their personal stories about ACS (Independent) and the mark that ACS (Independent) has left on them. In leaving behind this legacy, it is their hope too that this endeavour would inspire cohorts after them to use their talents and gifts to work together and serve the school. Just like their seniors who had produced “This is What AC Means”, they utilised what they had and pressed on to their finishing line.

1 Peter 4:10 reminds us: *“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received*

to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms”.

What motivates us to pursue our aspirations to the fullest using the talents and gifts that God has given to us? Who should we turn to, to sharpen us for such pursuits?

For the team behind “ONE AC”, it was about the bonds forged by the school family and the varied school experiences that we are thankful for. Never mind the multiple iterations, dissonances along the way, or long hours of labour that crept into weekends or the nights so that this story could debut on March 1, 2021.

As faithful stewards of God, it is a cause worth striving for.

As ONE AC.



| The ONE AC Team



| The music video of ONE AC is accessible at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tEqYqHODxHA> or via this QR code