



Reimagining a Space for the Future of Music Education

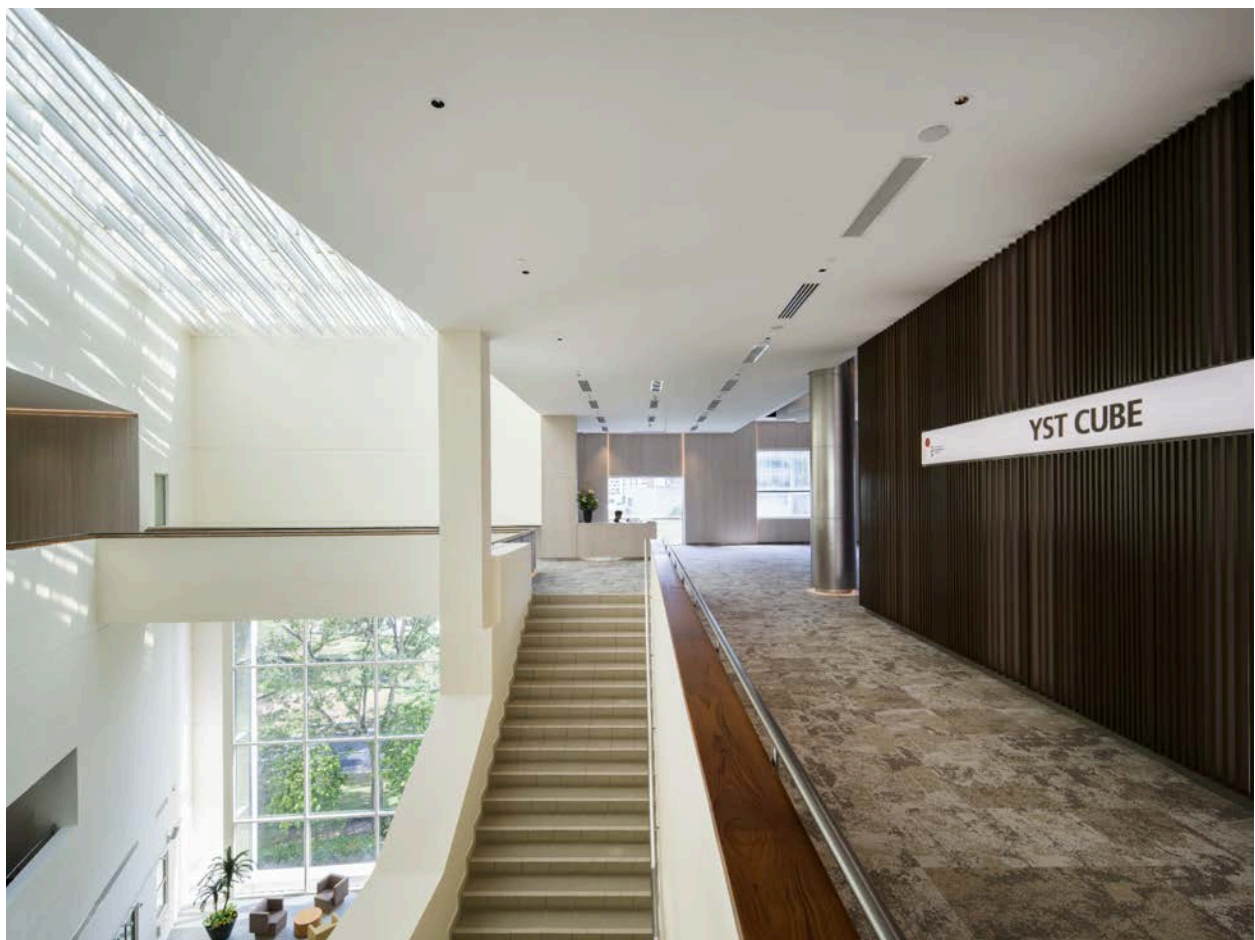
YST Cube Media Factsheet

Introduction

The **YST Cube** is a new purpose-built arts space at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music (YST), National University of Singapore (NUS), designed to support evolving approaches to music education, collaboration and performance.

Reimagined from the Conservatory's former Orchestra Hall, the Cube combines a flexible, reconfigurable environment with advanced acoustic and production capabilities, expanding the possibilities for learning, artistic practice and performance.

The main space can accommodate performances, teaching, rehearsals, workshops, presentations, multimedia events and collaborative projects. An adjoining pre-function area can operate independently as an intimate event space.



Inspiration

The development of the YST Cube forms part of a broader period of reimagining at YST, as the Conservatory prepares for the next phase of its academic and artistic development.

As approaches to music-making, learning and professional practice continue to evolve, YST is considering how its physical environments can support a broader range of possibilities. The transformation of the former Orchestra Hall reflects this approach: building on an existing space with strong foundations while reimagining what it can enable for students in the years ahead.

Previously used primarily for orchestra rehearsals and masterclasses, the space has been transformed into an adaptable environment where **learning**, creation, collaboration and performance can come together. Its expanded capabilities allow students and faculty to work across different formats and modes of practice, while providing YST with the flexibility to respond to developments in music education over time.

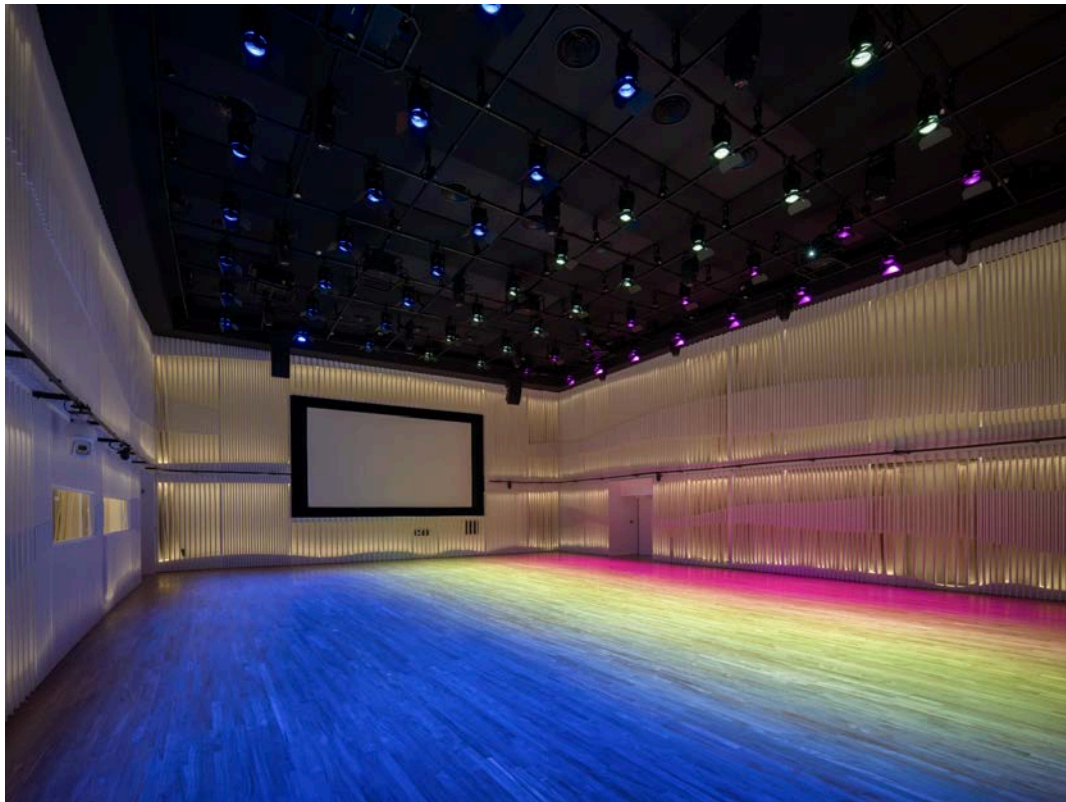
At a glance

Name	YST Cube (can also be referred to as 'the Cube' as 'YST' is already mentioned)
Former Space	YST Orchestra Hall
Opening Date	22 October 2026
Location	Level 3, Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, NUS
Capacity	~100 people (main space) ~50 people (pre-function area)
Primary Usage	Performances, teaching, rehearsals, masterclasses, workshops, artistic research, presentations, multimedia events and collaborative projects
Primary Users	YST students and faculty, the wider NUS community, visiting artists and researchers, arts organisations and external hirers

Why “YST Cube”?

This Level 3 multipurpose venue is contemporary in form, unfolding in space and breathing with expression—a modular, reconfigurable environment designed to push the boundaries of what performance can be. The name YST Cube reflects this multiplicity, without defining the venue by any single artistic form or function.

There is also a play on three: the Cube sits on Level 3, is YST’s third performance venue alongside the Concert Hall and Recital Studio, and takes its name from the square form of the space itself.



Technical features and key capabilities

> Flexible and reconfigurable space

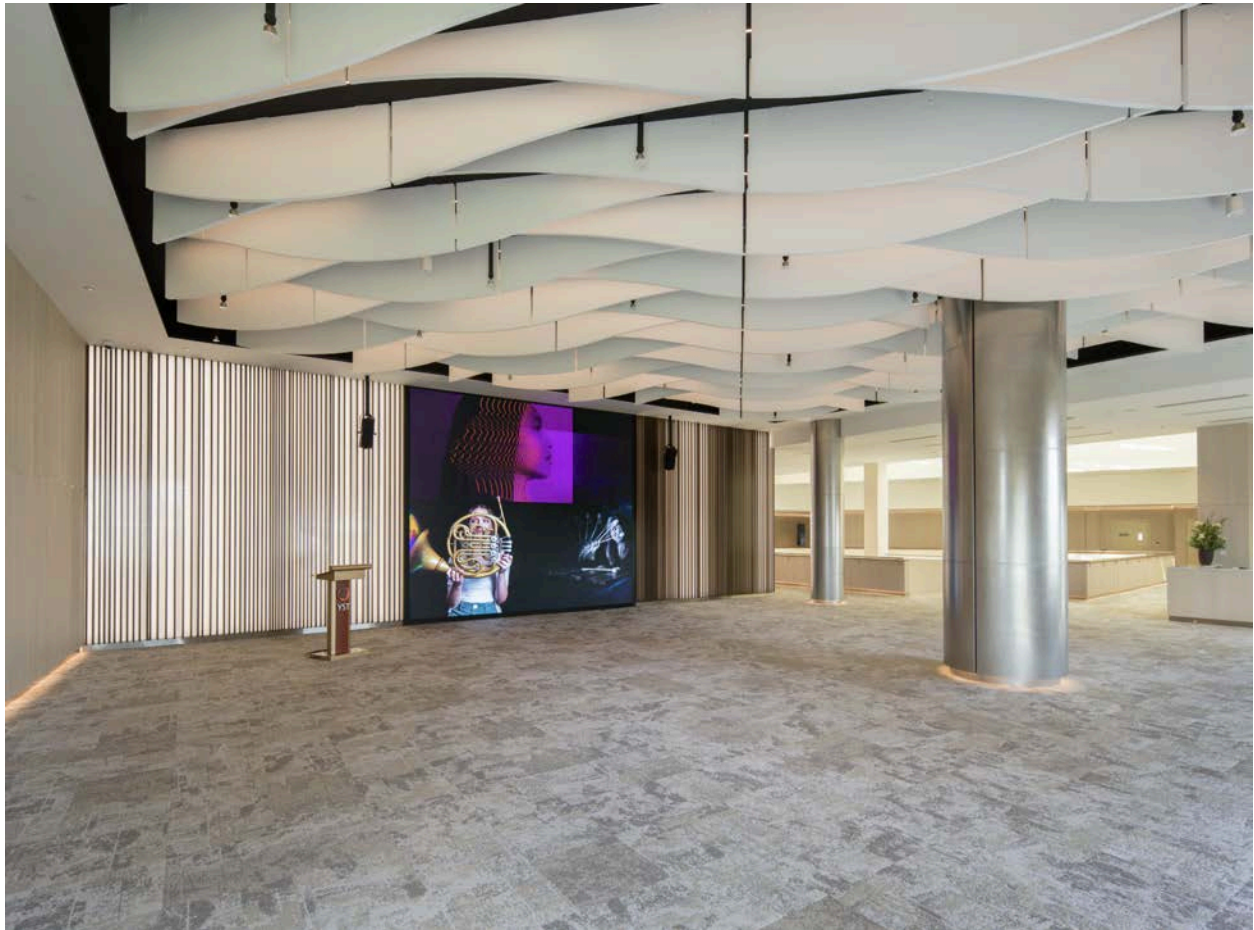
- Adaptable layout that can be tailored to different uses
- Configurable for performances, teaching, rehearsals, workshops, presentations, artistic projects and multimedia events
- Supports different performer and audience orientations, including 360-degree arena-style configuration
- Moving-head light fixtures supporting more complex lighting designs
- Multi-projection setup supporting visual content across different surfaces

> Variable acoustics

- Variable acoustic system allowing the acoustic response of the room to be adjusted for different activities
- Adjustable sound-absorptive curtains concealed behind timber lattice walls
- Timber lattice surfaces contribute to sound scattering while allowing the concealed acoustic system to remain effective
- Supports different acoustic requirements for live performances, rehearsals, presentations, talks and multimedia events
- Retains the former Orchestra Hall's box-in-box acoustic construction, acoustically separating the venue from the surrounding building
- Acoustically separated control room for technical support
- Building services designed to operate at low noise levels

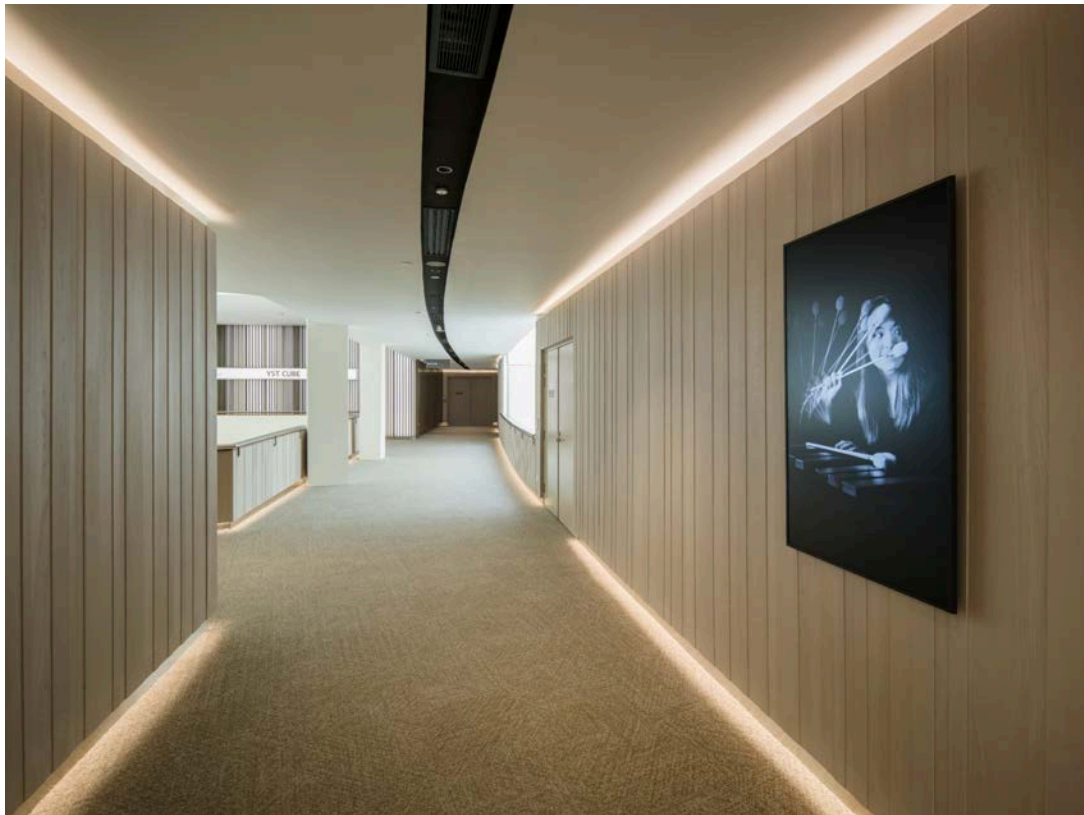
> Pre-function area

- Designed as an **extension of the Cube**
- Can operate independently as an intimate event and performance space
- Capacity of approximately **50 people**
- Suitable for talks and intimate performances alongside events with the main space



Building design and sustainability

- **Adaptive reuse:** The acoustic design builds upon the former Orchestra Hall, retaining key acoustic features and characteristics of the existing space—including room volume and box-in-box construction—while adapting it for the YST Cube's expanded range of uses.
- **Sustainable material choices:** Singapore Green Building Council (SGBC)-rated materials were used for the timber lattice within the Cube, as well as the carpets, timber cladding, slats and laminates in the adjoining pre-function area.
- **Energy-efficient lighting:** LED lighting is used throughout the Cube and pre-function area, reducing energy consumption while allowing longer intervals between maintenance. Zoned lighting with timer controls in the pre-function area also enables areas to be lit according to need, reducing unnecessary energy use.
- **Acoustically considered cooling:** The air-conditioning and mechanical ventilation (ACMV) system uses a low-velocity design to meet the acoustic requirements of the venue while improving dehumidification and operational efficiency for energy savings.
- **Managing daylight and heat:** A baffle ceiling beneath the skylight in the pre-function area helps diffuse harsh direct sunlight and radiant heat, improving visual comfort and reducing the load on the cooling system in the area. Solar film on the skylight panels allows natural light into the space while reflecting heat before it enters the building, further improving cooling efficiency.



Plans for the Cube

> Supporting music education

The Cube will primarily serve as a learning, creation and performance environment for YST students and faculty.

Its flexibility and technical capabilities will provide students with opportunities for applied learning in an environment that reflects real-world artistic practice. Students can work with different acoustic conditions, technical setups, spatial configurations and modes of presentation, developing an understanding of how artistic and technical decisions come together in practice.

The Cube also gives YST greater capacity as the Conservatory continues to develop its curriculum, including areas that place greater emphasis on students developing their own performance projects, collaborative music-making, and learning across artistic and technical practice.

> Artistic practice and research

- Student and faculty performances
- Visiting artist engagements
- Masterclasses and workshops
- Artistic research and research presentations
- Symposiums
- Multimedia and interdisciplinary projects
- Collaborative and student-led artistic work
- Opportunities for students to engage with professional artistic and research practices within their learning environment

> Arts for All at NUS

- Supports NUS' Arts for All (AFA) initiative, which seeks to make the arts accessible and integral to the university experience regardless of a student's field of study
- Creates a new focal point for artistic activity within NUS
- Broadens the range of artistic experiences available on campus
- Creates opportunities for students across faculties and disciplines to connect, exchange ideas and collaborate through the arts

> Connecting with Singapore's arts community

- New purpose-built platform for performances, rehearsals, creative residencies and collaborative projects
- Available to arts organisations and external hirers
- Supports artistic exchange and partnerships between YST and the professional arts sector
- Joins YST's Concert Hall and Recital Studio, broadening the range of venues available to support different scales and forms of artistic activity
- Strengthens connections between music education and professional practice while contributing to the cultural landscape of NUS and beyond