

Hari Warisan 2025: Tea Time Edition

Hari Warisan (Cultural Heritage Appreciation Day) was launched back in 2021 by the Malay Heritage Foundation (MHF) to honour and celebrate Malay cultural practitioners and activists in Singapore. This initiative recognises their invaluable contributions in preserving, shaping, and enriching Malay heritage for future generations.

Last weekend, the **Malay Heritage Foundation (MHF)** proudly hosted the first-ever **Hari Warisan: Tea Time Edition**. A unique gathering where tradition, language, and music intertwined in a delightful and interactive setting. This special event brought together heritage enthusiasts, music lovers, and language aficionados for an enriching afternoon of learning, discovery, and cultural appreciation.



Our Chairman, Dr. Norshahril Saat, welcoming our guests!

Melodic Migrations: Uncover the Fascinating Journey of 'Lagu Saduran'

The event began with an insightful talk on "Lagu Saduran" (Adapted Songs). Melodic Migrations: Uncover the Fascinating Journey of 'Lagu Saduran' was organised by the Malay Heritage Centre (MHC) and the talk explored the fascinating journey of how songs are adapted across cultures and languages, highlighting the significance of these transformations in shaping our musical heritage. The talk was expertly moderated by Dr.

Azhar Ibrahim, who guided the audience through the movement of translating music from other languages into Bahasa Melayu and Bahasa Indonesia that took the region by storm from the 1960s to 1980s.

Distinguished guest speakers enriched and enlightened the talk. With commendable expertise, Syed Ahmad, an esteemed Artistic Director, Teacher, and Ethnomusicologist, shared his deep knowledge of Malay music traditions and the role of adapted songs in the cultural landscape. Joining him was Dr. Eugene Dairianathan, an Associate Professor at NTU-NIE within the Visual and Performing Arts Academic Group, who provided valuable insights into the historical context and artistic influences behind "Lagu Saduran." Together, their contributions provided participants with a deeper understanding of the evolution of music and its cultural relevance. **They** shared valuable insights into the history, significance, and influence of "Lagu Saduran" in shaping Malay musical heritage. Participants explored the journey of songs that have transcended geographical, linguistic, and cultural boundaries - highlighting the intricate process of adaptation while preserving authenticity and Malay values.



We are delighted to have Mr Zainul Abidin to join us in Hari Warisan 2025!

This engaging discussion laid the groundwork for an **interactive Translation Workshop**. Participants had the opportunity to experience firsthand the challenges and beauty of translating music.

A Hands-On Translation Workshop Over Afternoon Tea

After the thought-provoking talk, participants were treated to a **delicious spread curated by Permata Restaurant** while diving into an engaging **Translation Workshop** designed to harness their linguistic creativity and musical intuition.



A delicious spread prepared by Permata Restaurant.

Throughout the workshop, participants took part in a series of **interactive activities** that challenged them to think critically and creatively. The workshop was held in reference to Nona **Asiah's song "Kenari Biru"**. The layered meaning of the song created an excitable environment that encouraged participants to think beyond literal translations.

One of the activities was the **Bilingual Glossary Challenge**, which expanded their vocabulary in both Malay and English through fun and engaging wordplay. Another exciting activity was the **Lyric Translation**, where participants worked through the lyrics of "Kenari Biru," ensuring that their translated version maintained the song's melody and tempo. The final activity, the **Mix & Match Puzzle**, had participants working collectively to piece together the translated song lyrics to reconstruct and perform "Kenari Biru" in its adapted form.



Students enjoying our Translation Workshop.

As they worked through the lyrics, matching words to rhythm and melody, they were met with an **unexpected revelation**. **"Kenari Biru" was originally an English song, performed by the legendary Dinah Shore!** By blending translation with performance, the workshop allowed participants not only to enhance their linguistic skills but also to gain a deeper appreciation of how lyrics shape the emotions and storytelling within a song, making it an immersive and enriching experience. This discovery sparked lively discussions on how **songs evolve across languages and cultures**, emphasizing the delicate balance between **preserving meaning, maintaining melody, and adapting lyrics for a new audience**.



'Kenari Biru' sing-along with the audience.

A Musical Finale with PlayWithArtusik

To conclude this memorable afternoon, participants were treated to a mesmerising performance by **@playwithartusik**. **@playwithartusik** was founded by Nabillah Jalal and Shahneezar Shannan, dedicated to educating and innovating in the realms of music and storytelling. The ensemble brings together a unique blend of talents, with some members having a background in Western music and others deeply rooted in traditional Malay music. This diverse mix allows them to explore the exciting fusion of "modernity meets heritage." Their performance during the event beautifully encapsulated the day's themes of language, tradition, and adaptation while highlighting the dynamic interplay between contemporary and traditional influences. Through their innovative approach, they reminded the audience of the richness, evolution, and ongoing vitality of Malay heritage.



The talented @playwithartusik team!



Serenading the audience with their impeccable music skills!

A Big Thank You to Our Sponsors & Participants!

A huge thank you to our sponsor, **MDDI**, for supporting **Hari Warisan: Tea Time Edition** and making this event a success! We are also deeply grateful to **our speakers, facilitators, performers, and enthusiastic participants** for joining us on this journey of **linguistic discovery and cultural appreciation**.

We hope this session has inspired you to look at **music, language, and heritage** through a new lens, and we can't wait to welcome you at our future events!



Stay connected with us for upcoming programs and heritage initiatives.

#HariWarisan #TranslationWorkshop #LaguSaduran #CulturalHeritage #PlayWithArtusik
#MDDI #MalayHeritage #BilingualFun #MusicAcrossCulture