

Fact Sheet: NDP 2021 Theme Song and Music Video

1. The National Day Parade (NDP) 2021 theme, “Together, Our Singapore Spirit” builds on the NDP 2020 theme, “Together, A Stronger Singapore”. ‘Together’ is a reminder of our common identity as Singaporeans, and how we have come together as one united people. ‘Our Singapore Spirit’ calls on Singaporeans to draw new strength from our ‘can-do’ spirit amidst challenging circumstances from COVID-19 and potential disruptions in the new decade.
2. This year’s NDP theme song and accompanying music video are conceptualised and centred on this theme.

“The Road Ahead”

3. The NDP 2021 Theme Song, titled “The Road Ahead”, is written and composed by Linying and Evan Low. It is performed by Linying, Sezairi Sezali, Shye-Anne Brown and Shabir.
4. Linying was inspired to write “The Road Ahead” because she wanted to encourage Singaporeans to count on one another in these challenging times where, for many listeners, the road ahead remains uncertain. Paired with Evan Low’s production, the song reminds us that Singapore has faced adversity time and again in our history, and we have overcome the odds each time. Its refrain tells Singaporeans that we can overcome the challenges in our present time as well as in the unknown future (“come whatever on the road ahead, we did it before, and we’ll do it again”). Together, each of us can contribute to a larger collective effort (“one man on an island, one drop in the sea, all it takes to set a wave in motion is a single word, an action”), to build a Singapore that we want to see (“the change that we’ve been longing to see, for our home, our land, our family”).

Accompanying Music Video

5. Directed by Huang Junxiang and Jerrold Chong, this year’s National Day music video invites Singaporeans on a visual odyssey. Singers Linying, Sezairi Sezali, Shye-Anne Brown and Shabir take us through a journey that recalls Singapore’s growth, and reflects on our shared values carrying us through even as we work towards our future. This is the first NDP music video to blend live-action and animation. The music video carries a sense of hope and looks to inspire Singaporeans with a shared sense of both determination and optimism, in spite of the challenges at the present.

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Annex A

Theme Song: "The Road Ahead"

Composed by **Linying** and **Evan Low**

Produced by **Evan Low** and **Linying**

Additional Guitars by **Sano Shimano**

Under the direction and supervision of Music Director **Dr Sydney Tan**

Performed by **Linying, Sezairi Sezali, Shye-Anne Brown** and **Shabir**

Music Video Directed by **Huang Junxiang** and **Jerrold Chong**

Verse 1

One man on an island
One drop in the sea
All it takes to set a wave in motion
is a single word, an action
A hope that we can be
the change that we've been longing to see

Pre-Chorus

For our home, our land, our family
It's all within our reach

Chorus

See this island, every grain of sand
Hear this anthem, it's the voices of our friends
Come whatever on the road ahead
We did it before, and we'll do it again

Verse 2

When the moments turn to hours
and the day's last light is gone
Look around us always and remember
There were times we were uncertain
but we just kept walking on
It's always darkest just before the dawn

Chorus 2

See this island, every grain of sand
Hear this anthem, it's the voices of our friends
Come whatever on the road ahead
We did it before, and we'll do it again

Bridge

Our home, the home we share
Where the garden always grows toward the light
Though the road ahead is daunting, I know we're gonna be alright

Chorus 3

See this island, every grain of sand
Hear this anthem, it's the voices of our friends
Come whatever on the road ahead
We did it before, and we'll do it again

Chorus 4

All see this island, every grain of sand
Hear this anthem, it's the voices of our friends
Come whatever on the road ahead
We did it before, and we'll do it again

Annex B

Artistes' and Directors' Profiles

<p style="text-align: center;">Linying, 27 (Theme Song Composer and Singer) 林颖</p>
<p>Named one of Spotify Asia's 25 Most Influential Artists Under 25, Linying built an international career as a singer and songwriter from a young age. Her own confessional style of music has received critical acclaim from Billboard and BBC, while her song writing work for artists in Europe earned her the 2019 COMPASS Award for the most royalties accrued on an English song. This is her first time participating in NDP as an artist and songwriter.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Evan Low, 31 (Theme Song Composer) 刘俊锋</p>
<p>Music producer Evan Low has been part of the National Day Parade Theme Songs and Parade Music since 2018, under the direction of Music Director Dr Sydney Tan. A man often behind the scenes, Evan is Music Director for Singapore music heavyweights Benjamin Kheng and Inch. He was recently part of the team awarded Best Sound at The Straits Times Life Theatre Awards for his work in "Til the End of the World, We'll Meet in No Man's Land" (2020). He assisted in the 2018 and 2019 NDP theme songs and parade music the direction of Dr Sydney Tan. This is the third time he is joining the NDP show committee.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sezairi Sezali, 34 (Theme Song Singer)</p>
<p>A true artiste at heart, Sezairi is a celebrated singer-songwriter and musician drive by his love and passion for music. Known for his hits such as "It's You" and "Raindrops", this is the second time he is participating in NDP. Previously, he appeared in the 2010 NDP singing "Song for Singapore".</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Shye-Anne Brown, 18 (Theme Song Singer)</p>
<p>Singer-songwriter and producer. This is the first time she is participating in NDP as an artiste.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Shabir Tabare Alam, 36 (Theme Song Singer)</p>
<p>Film composer, singer-songwriter, music producer, music composer and performer. He performed "Together" at NDP 2020 and was featured in the "Our Singapore" music video for NDP 2019. This is the fourth time he is participating in NDP as an artiste.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Huang Junxiang, 33 (Music Video Director) 黄俊翔</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jerrold Cheong, 30 (Music Video Director) 曾源培</p>
<p>Huang Junxiang is a filmmaker who has produced a range of feature films including Eric Khoo’s Ramen Teh (2016) and Tan Bee Thiam’s Tiong Bahru Social Club (2020). He has also served as multimedia producer for SEA Games 2015 and NDP 2016. As a director, his first short, Give Yourself a Chance (2013), received the audience award at the Very Short International Film Festival and his second, I Will Die (2014) was screened at the Singapore International Film Festival.</p> <p>Jerrold Chong is an award-winning animation filmmaker/director and a co-founder of animation studio Finding Pictures. A graduate from California Institute of the Arts, he has made numerous short films, including Ways of Seeing (2015) and Eclipse (2016) which screened at Singapore International Film Festival (SGIFF). He was also commissioned to produce films such as Automatonomy (2015) and What Has To Be (2016) which both won the Best Animation Award at the National Youth Film Awards.</p> <p>Together, they have co-directed Piece of Meat (2019), a stop-motion short film which has travelled to prestigious film festivals, including Cannes Film Festival's Directors’ Fortnight, Annecy International Animation Festival and Busan International Film Festival.</p> <p>This is the second time Junxiang is joining the NDP multimedia committee, while this is Jerrold’s first participation.</p>	