



Sing when you're winning

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AFTER having won many awards in the past, Tunku Abdul Rahman College University (TAR UC) Choir – Voichestra, is in the limelight again, bagging two awards in its first virtual choir participation.

Performing Jay Chou's popular song, Paddy Fragrance, the choir led by its advisor-cum-conductor, TAR UC Faculty of Communication and Creative Industries senior lecturer Ang Yaw Feng, took home the "Audience Choice Award" – which was awarded for Youtube videos with the most 'Likes' – and first place in the Open Category during the Young Choral Academy (YCA) Virtual Choir Competition.

Held last month, the theme of the competition was 'Together as One'. To date, the choir has won 16 awards in national and international competitions since it was formed in 2004.

On the lookout for a virtual choir competition to join, Ang had in April, proposed to the choir to produce a video of them singing during the movement control order.

"Coincidentally, in the midst of preparing our selected song, I received a surprise email from the YCA informing us that they were organising a competition with the aim of encouraging more choirs to create music together as a community.

"They wanted to keep choral singing alive while adhering to the standard operating procedure during the pandemic.

"Since we were already in the midst of recording a virtual choir video, I urged Voichestra to sign up for the competition," she said.

The choir members spent almost a month practising and recording the audio and video separately.

"Since we could not meet, I told every singer to practise the song themselves using the metronome at a fixed tempo. Then, each of them recorded their audio and video when they were ready to sing and we saved it into the shared Google Drive," Ang said, adding that the biggest challenge of participating in a virtual competition was technology.

None of the choir members were experts in audio and video editing.

"Luckily, I had learnt the basics of audio editing with Audacity and our choir president Yap Nee Che is from the Bachelor of Communication (Hons) in Broadcasting programme so he knows a little bit about the Adobe Premiere video editing software.

"Together, we were able to handle the video editing process for our maiden virtual choir video," she shared.