

Play It Forward Piano

Piano name: *Geometry*

About the piano

“As a mathematics student who loves to do crafting work, I think this is a perfect opportunity for me to do something I like. The design of the piano included many elements that I encountered in my study of mathematics. I also got inspiration from Rubik’s Cubes. Surprisingly, the most challenging part in making the piano was calculating various angles of dodecahedron for the stool. My favourite part of the design is the Mobius strip which features 170 digits of a “Pi song”.

Since I have just finished my last semester at NUS, I also considered this project as my farewell gift.”

Yan Hongwei (artist)

About Yan Hongwei

Yan Hongwei is a mathematics and philosophy graduate from the National University of Singapore (NUS). As a student, he was a Rag Day float engineer for NUS Sheares Hall in 2015 and 2018, and was a set designer for Sheares Hall’s Production in 2018. He was also a member of the ExxonMobil Campus Concerts (EMCC) Crew, a student production group under the management of NUS Centre For the Arts that provides stage and production support for the various performances and events at NUS. He enjoys the process of bringing ideas to reality.

About Play It Forward

Play it Forward Singapore is a homegrown public piano movement launched by three piano nerds in September 2015 (two of whom were NUS Piano Ensemble alumni).

The idea first came about when they heard about the large number of old pianos being thrown away every year. Many people they knew love to play the piano, but stopped doing so for various reasons. Hundreds of neglected pianos were gathering dust in homes across Singapore. At the same time, there were many who could not afford to own a piano or who did not have access to one.

The Play It Forward team thought: “Why not rescue these unwanted instruments and share them with everyone?”

Play It Forward want people to love playing music again, so they place pianos in public spaces as public instruments that anyone can play on anytime. By collaborating with local artists and designers, each piano is transformed into a public art piece, while remaining as functional instruments that are a joy to play on.

