



# Singapore Spotlight

Tom Benner

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シンガポールでは公共の場を人々のつながりの場にする活動が地域や民間団体によって行われている。使用されなくなったピアノを回収・寄付している民間団体の“Play It Forward”は、活動の一環として街中にピアノを置き、誰でも音楽を楽しめる空間を作っているという。

## 23) Playing piano in random places

街中で音楽体験

### ■ 公共の場に出現するピアノ

Play It Forward Singapore is a homegrown public piano movement whose mission is to put used pianos into the hands — and ears — of music lovers.

The group encourages donations of working pianos that are no longer wanted.

Then it looks for public places where it can place the pianos — either temporarily or permanently, sometimes two in one place, side by side, to highlight the social aspect of the public piano initiative.

Some of the pianos are eventually donated to a charity group, senior citizen's center, school or other non-profit institutions.

Play It Forward has two permanently placed pianos near where I live on a university campus, in a busy walkway outside a heavily trafficked food court.

People passing by will stop if they have a few minutes to play whatever they feel like playing — for free, any time of day.

I like that the pianos serve as an open invitation for artistic expression, the players transcending communication barriers in multilingual Singapore with the universal language of music.

I like that so many passersby turn out to be talented pianists — we wouldn't know if it weren't for these randomly placed pianos.

And I love the music. You never know what you are going to hear.

Walk by at any given time and you might hear a lovely Beethoven piano sonata, or sounds from centuries ago first played by Mozart or Chopin.

You might hear something jazzy, an older piece you recognize or something modern that you don't recognize but still enjoy.

Or you might hear something from popular music — maybe a Beatles favorite, or a current hit.

Sometimes, the playing is so good that you have to stop and listen, allowing a few moments of joy and peace into your otherwise hectic day.

Sometimes the players are



街中でピアノを弾く女性。外に設置されたピアノはイベント後は撤去される

© Play It Forward

young children, often with their beaming parents watching over them, likely glad for the chance for their children to show off after all those expensive piano lessons.

Sometimes strangers stop and chat, the music bringing them together — sometimes even for musical collaboration.

### ■ 3人の若者が作った団体

Play It Forward started in September 2015, founded by three self-described piano nerds named Jean, Yan and Billy, formerly part of the National University of Singapore's piano ensemble.

To date, the group has refurbished over 20 public pianos and made them available for playing in various locations in Singapore.

“Hundreds of neglected pianos are gathering dust in homes across Singapore right now. At the same time, there are some among us who cannot afford to own a piano or do not have access

to this instrument,” the organizers say on the group's website.

“So we thought, why not rescue these unwanted instruments and share them with everyone?”

“We love how the public pianos have transformed public spaces in Singapore and brought different people together through music and art.”

The government's “Our Favorite Place” program supports similar projects initiated by the community to enliven public spaces such as playgrounds, bus stops and outdoor plazas.

Play It Forward creates an impromptu musical atmosphere and belies the notion that Singaporeans lack creativity or artistic expression. There is a stereotype that Singaporeans are too work-focused and serious to appreciate life. Those who stop by to play for randomly passing strangers give a little bit of their souls to the rest of us.

Tom Benner is a freelance journalist who moved to Singapore from Boston, U.S., in fall 2012. His recent journalism has appeared in Al Jazeera English, Global Post and Nikkei Asian Review.

### KEYWORDS

**homegrown** 地元発の  
**encourage donation** 寄付を促す(後出 donate to ~は~に寄付する)  
**working** 使用可能な

**temporarily** 一時的に(後出 permanently 恒久的に)  
**initiative** 新たな取り組み(後出 initiate は始める)  
**eventually** 最終的に  
**senior ... center** 高齢者施設  
**non-profit institution** 非営

利団体  
**walkway** 通路、歩道  
**heavily trafficked** (ここでは)人の往来の激しい  
**transcend a barrier** 壁を越える  
**multilingual** 多言語の  
**passerby** 通行人

**talented** 才能のある  
**if ... for ~** もし~がなかったら  
**piece** 曲  
**hectic** 慌ただしい  
**beaming** 喜び・誇りに満ちた  
**show off** 見せびらかす  
**found** 設立する

**self-described** 自称の  
**nerd** おたく、マニア  
**formerly** 以前は  
**to date** 今まで  
**refurbish** 修理調整する  
**neglected** 放置された  
**cannot afford** 余裕がない

**transform** 変える  
**enliven** 活性化する  
**playground** 遊び場、運動場  
**plaza** 広場  
**impromptu** 即席の  
**belie ~** ~が誤りだと示す  
**notion** 考え

多読チャレンジ

Play It Forward が今までに修理調整したピアノの数は？

[本文 - 553 words]



## MACHIGAI! © Tim Young

毎週掲載



by Tim Young

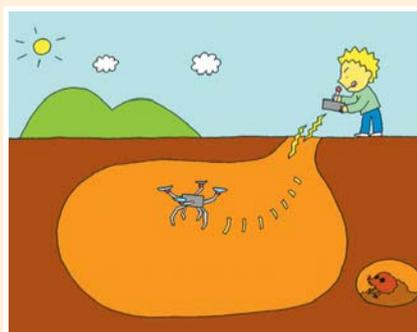
ドローンが空を飛んでいる。

### △ The drone is flying in the sky.

In English, to say something is flying “in the sky” sounds so obvious that no one needs to say it. Of course it's in the sky! Would you expect it to fly under the ground?

On the other hand, while it also may seem obvious, it sounds more natural to say that something is flying “through the air.”

### ○ The drone is flying through the air.



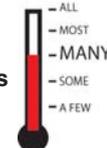
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米アイオワ州出身。イリノイ州オーガスタナ大学で英文学士号取得。1989年から日本在住。現在はスカイプでマンツーマンの英語レッスンをするほか、高校でのALT(外国人英語指導助手)やポッドキャストの製作など幅広く活躍。Twitter (@machigai) でも日々つぶやいている。著書「I can't eat natto!」がアマゾンで発売中。



### MACHIGAI Meter

How many of Tim's students made this mistake?



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