Esplanade Presents Voices – A Festival of Song

1 – 4 Dec 2022

www.esplanade.com/voices



Dear friends of the media,

Voices – *A Festival of Song* returns from 1 - 4 Dec 2022 as a full festival after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic which has affected singing more than any other art form. And it is double the celebration as the festival commemorates its 10th edition just as Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay turns 20 this year!

What has always made *Voices* so special is that it brings together so many different types of singing from choral, opera and a cappella to pop, musical theatre and *xinyao*. When we first started, it was a modest festival using only four venues. Now, for just one weekend, almost every corner of Esplanade comes alive with the sound of the human voice.

The theme for the 10th edition is homecoming, which is a befitting one, as we welcome back old friends such as **The King's Singers** with a new Christmas concert. I remember **MICapella** in our first *A Cappella Gala* 10 years ago, and they return to *Voices* this year performing alongside regulars such as **1023** and **Acapellago** from the Philippines, in this year's *A Cappella Gala*.

Many other groups who have been featured in *Voices* will also be back this year. These include Rio SilaenVoices of Indonesia, L'arietta Productions, Sing'Theatre, ACJC Alumni Choir, ONE Chamber Choir, ALLCAPS, Singapore Lyric Opera, Schola Cantorum Singapore, Sugar Bees, The Dandy Doo-Wops, New Recording 47, LimTayPeng and the DJs from 96.3 Hao FM. Some of the best parts of the festival are the ones where you, the audience, get to sing too and we're sure you'll be excited for the return of our singalongs, Musical Theatre open mic and the ever-popular Karaoke box live at Esplanade.

Beyond performances, *Voices* is also a chance for singers to come together and explore the voice. We will be bringing back our singing camps, with the **Voices Festival Choir** led by MI6—six conductors who debuted in *Voices 2017* and have a long-standing relationship with the festival. And for the first time, we have commissioned a song composed by one of the members of MI6, Low Xu Hao, that will premiere at the festival.

These are just some highlights of the festival, but we hope that you will take the time to explore, enjoy and sing along with us. The team and I are proud to say that no matter the genre, anyone who loves singing has a place in this festival and we look forward to celebrating that joy of singing with you.

Christel Hon

Senior Producer, The Esplanade Co Ltd

About Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay

Esplanade is Singapore's national performing arts centre. It hosts a year-round line-up of about 3,500 live performances and activities presented by Esplanade, its partners and hirers. Esplanade also brings the arts virtually to audiences in Singapore and beyond, through its diverse range of digital programmes on *Esplanade Offstage*, an all-access backstage pass to the performing arts and guide to Singapore and Asian arts and culture, with videos, podcasts, articles, quizzes and resources.

As an arts centre for everyone, Esplanade also creates opportunities for seniors, youth, children and underserved communities to experience the arts. More than 70% of the shows that take place each year at the centre are free for all to enjoy.

The centre works in close partnership with local, regional and international artists to develop artistic capabilities and content, push artistic boundaries and engage audiences. Esplanade supports the creation of artistic content by commissioning and producing new Singapore and Asian work for the international stage. It also develops technical capabilities for the industry nationally.

Turning 20 in 2022, Esplanade marks the occasion with a year-long celebration themed 20 *and Beyond: Keeping the Lights On.* In addition to the presentations of its year-long festivals, programme series, and special initiatives and events, there will also be a season of new works by Singapore and Asian artists specially commissioned for the arts centre's 20th anniversary and official opening of its newest venue, Singtel Waterfront Theatre.

Esplanade –Theatres on the Bay is operated by The Esplanade Co Ltd (TECL), which is a not-for-profit organisation, a registered Charity and an Institution of a Public Character. The Charity Council awarded TECL the Charity Governance Award – Special Commendation for Clarity of Strategy in 2016, and the Charity Transparency Award for four consecutive years since 2016. Esplanade is Singapore's first Dementia-Friendly Arts Venue and a certified Dementia Go-To Point, as well as a Guide-dog Friendly centre.

TECL receives funding support from Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth and its Community Programmes are supported by Tote Board Family, comprising Tote Board, Singapore Pools and Singapore Turf Club.

Visit Esplanade.com for more information.

~ End ~

Issued by The Esplanade Co Ltd.

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<u>Annexe</u>

Esplanade Presents Voices – A Festival of Song 1 – 4 Dec 2022 www.esplanade.com/voices

Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay is proud to present the 10th edition of *Voices – A Festival of Song*, a celebration of vocal music to be held from 1–4 Dec 2022.

The theme for the 10th edition is homecoming, which is a befitting one, as we welcome back old friends and regulars of the festival. *Voices 2022* will continue to feature a diverse range of forms and styles of singing, from choral, opera and a cappella to pop, musical theatre and *xinyao*, and more. Over four days, almost every corner of Esplanade comes alive with the sound of the human voice.

*Programme details on free programmes will be announced in November 2022.

TICKETED PROGRAMMES

Open Call for Voices Festival Choir

With The King's Singers, 1023, MICappella, Acapellago and MI6 (UK, Philippines & Singapore)

21 Nov – 4 Dec 2022

Esplanade Annexe Studio & Esplanade Rehearsal Studio



In conjunction with the 10th edition of *Voices – A Festival of Song*, we are launching an open call to form the inaugural **Voices Festival Choir**.

Comprising choristers between 17 - 26 years old, this choir will rehearse and perform with some of the best from 21 Nov – 4 Dec 2022. This includes choral stars **The King's Singers**, a cappella groups such as **MICappella**, **1023** and **Acapellago**, and local choral conductors, **MI6**.

Key activities include:

- Sectionals and rehearsals, where participants will be exposed to a variety of vocal styles and understand their nuances
- A day-long camp conducted by MI6, which focuses on fun and effective ways to build ensemble skills, musicianship, vocal production and aural skills
- An exclusive closed-door workshop and rehearsal with The Kings' Singers
- During *Voices*, the Festival Choir will perform alongside the artists for *Christmas with The King's Singers* and *A Cappella Gala* at the Esplanade Concert Hall, and have a special performance of their own at the Esplanade Concourse.

Open Call Information

Starts 27 Sep 2022, Tue Submit by: 16 Oct 2022, Sun, 11.59pm (GMT+8)

Programme dates: 21 Nov – 4 Dec 2022

(Subject to change, timings to be confirmed) Required in your submission:

- Information about your music background
- A short statement about your interest in this programme
- Digital video or audio recordings of a solo performance
- A recording of a range test

All successful applicants will be notified by **24 Oct 2022**. Please email <u>csiewwoon@esplanade.com</u> should you have any questions. Good luck!

Conducted in English

Participants: 13 and above, recommended 17 and above

\$80

Limited concession for Students: \$50

The King's Singers Choral Workshop by The King's Singers (UK) 30 Nov 2022, Thu, 7pm Esplanade Concert Hall Stage



Photo credit: Frances Marshall

Combining the art of singing and fun, The King's Singers share key aspects of ensemble singing such as text, balance and blend. This choral workshop will also include concepts of active listening, active breathing and vertical thinking to help participants both as a solo singer or as a collective.

Participants of this workshop must be able to read music and have experience in choral singing.

Duration: 1hr 30min Conducted in English

Admission age: 15 and above

\$25

Christmas with The King's Singers (UK)

2 Dec 2022, Fri, 7.30pm Esplanade Concert Hall



Photo credit: Frances Marshall

"The King's Singers oozed class ... the musical qualities they embody – pinpoint precision, total rapport, crisp diction, faultless tuning and a seemingly effortless ability to switch between different stylistic requirements – are so evident." – *The Times*

"Their vocal production was effortless, stylistically varied and beautifully blended, even in the most complex polyphony." – *Washington Post*

"A unified, harmonious whole with flashes of pure individuality." - Scotsman

Celebrate the magic of Christmas with festive favourites and brand-new surprises. In this concert, The King's Singers present their signature close-harmony style, as well as music celebrating 100 years of Disney.

Representing the gold standard in a cappella singing on the world's greatest stages for over 50 years, The King's Singers are renowned for their connection and engagement with their audiences, their unrivalled technique, versatility and skill in performance. Their consummate musicianship draws from the group's rich heritage and pioneering spirit to create an extraordinary wealth of original works and unique collaborations. With their extensive discography, The King's Singers have won numerous awards including two Grammy Awards, an Emmy Award, and a place in Gramophone magazine's inaugural Hall of Fame.

<u>The King's Singers</u> Patrick Dunachie, countertenor Edward Button, countertenor Julian Gregory, tenor Christopher Bruerton, baritone Nick Ashby, baritone Jonathan Howard, bass

https://www.kingssingers.com/

2hrs, no intermission Performed in English

Admission age: 6 and above

\$45*, \$70**, \$90^ Limited concessions for seniors, students and NSFs: \$35*, \$55**

Esplanade&Me Specials

Early Bird: 10 – 23 Oct 2022, Mon – Sun, from 10am

Black: 20% Savings | White: 15% savings | Discover (Min. 2 tickets): 15% savings

From 24 Oct 2022, Mon Black: 15% Savings | White: 10% savings | Discover (Min. 2 tickets): 10% savings (in)Sincerely Yours – 3 Contemporary Operas on Lust, Lies & Longing by L'arietta Productions (Singapore) 3 Dec 2022, Sat, 7pm & 9.30pm Esplanade Recital Studio



Photo credit: Jamie Chan

(in)Sincerely Yours features three short contemporary chamber operas about love, lust and longing.

Dinner for Three by Micheal Ching is a tale of infidelity gone very, very wrong for all parties involved with a hilarious twist. We get to eavesdrop on a conversation by a jealous soprano and a mezzo during an intermission in Tony Solitro's *She's Fabulous*. The show takes a more serious note with Samuel Barber's classic, *A Hand of Bridge*, where two seemingly happy couples play bridge and confessions start to spill about what they would really be rather doing. True to L'arietta Productions' style, *(in)Sincerely Yours – 3 Contemporary Operas on Lust, Lies & Longing* brings you small operas with big, big drama.

Dinner for Three Music: Micheal Ching Libretto: Deborah Brevoort

Wife: Felicia Teo Husband: Reuben Lai Lover: Alan Lau

<u>She's Fabulous</u> Music: Tony Solitro Based on a play: Jack Neary

Clarice: Akiko Otao Bethel: Rebecca Chellappah

<u>A Hand of Bridge</u> Music: Samuel Barber Libretto: Gian Carlo Menotti

David: Reuben Lai Geraldine: Akiko Otao Bill: Alan Lau Sally: Rebecca Chellappah

Direction: Mary Ann Tear Piano: Pauline Lee

<u>About L'arietta Productions</u> Bite sized | Relevant | Contemporary Chamber Opera in English

"Vital in conveying the message that modern opera could be unstuffy, accessible and even fun."

– The Straits Times

L'arietta Productions presents fresh exciting operas with modern and contemporary execution, working with composers at the forefront of classical music, such as Grammy nominated Lori Laitman, and NAC Young Artist Chen Zhangyi. Collaboration is their forte—opera is the intersection of all art forms, and together they dive into stories that matter today.

https://www.lariettasg.com

Duration: 35min Conducted in English

Rating: NC16 (Mature Themes)

Mask-wearing is optional. However, audiences are encouraged to continue to exercise responsibility and caution, such as wearing masks when in crowded places. \$30

Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors and PWDs: \$25

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From 24 Oct 2022, Mon

Black: 15% Savings | White: 10% savings | Discover (Min. 2 tickets): 10% savings

Singing Communities: A Folksong Improvisation Workshop by Dr. Zechariah Goh and Vox Camerata (Singapore) 4 Dec 2022, Sun, 12.30pm Esplanade Recital Studio



This workshop, led by renowned local composer and arranger Dr. Zechariah Goh, will introduce folk song singing as a social activity that binds communities together. Beginning with a performance of Goh's arrangement of *Lok Sui Ten* by the Vox Camerata Community Choir, the workshop will explore the socio-historical backgrounds of folk songs from various communities. Participants will then be guided to improvise with these folk songs by Dr. Goh, allowing them to experience these folksongs for themselves.

About Dr. Zechariah Goh

Dr. Zechariah Goh Toh Chai is a Senior Lecturer of Composition at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA), a composer of music ranging from choir, symphonic band, wind ensemble, chamber music to large scale orchestral works and whose work carefully fuses Southeast Asian-Chinese with Western traditions. He was awarded the David and Gunda Hiebert Scholarship from the University of Kansas and earned a Doctorate degree majoring in composition, under the guidance of Dr Charles Hoag.

Dr. Goh has premiered several choral works in Singapore and has won many international competitions. He has conducted numerous folk song arrangements and choral improvisation workshops for choral directors and composers in Bandung (2017), Kuala Lumpur, Kaohsiung, Taichung, Taipei, and Tianjin, China (2018). He was also invited to lecture and give workshops at the Oklahoma State University and University of Kansas, USA. He adjudicated the World Children and Youth Choir Competition in Hong Kong (2017), Bali International Choral Competition (2018) and The Malaysian Choral Eisteddfod (2018). His commissioned work 《纪元晨光》 performed by the Diocesan Boys' School Choir (Hong Kong), won Best Male Choir at the World Choir Games in South Africa (2018). His other choral works Reminiscences of Hainan, In the Bamboo Forest performed by the NUS Choir was awarded top prize at The Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod 2018, and Assassination performed by Diocesan Choral Society won the Grand Prix award at the Tokyo International Choir Competition 2018. The Singapore Symphony Orchestra commissioned and premiered Blossoms for large orchestra in 2017. Dr Goh has collaborated with Ding Yi Music Company on a multidisciplinary production with Chinese Chamber music, documentary film and ceramics entitled Songs of the Dragon Kiln (2017).

For his artistic excellence in the field of music, Dr. Goh was conferred the Young Artist Award (Music) in September 2003 by the National Arts Council, Singapore, was awarded the Artistic Excellence Award from the Composers and authors Society of Singapore in 2013 and was also presented with the distinguished Alumni medal from NAFA in 2014.

About Vox Camerata

Vox Camerata is a non-profit registered society which aspires to be a centre of advocacy, discovery, learning and practice for choral music making in Singapore and is a bridge between communities in Singapore, regionally and internationally. Since its inception in 2004, Vox Camerata has held on to two fundamental values—that everyone, irrespective of their background and ability, should be given opportunities to participate in a choir and, the society strives their utmost best to make good music. These twin beliefs are held together by a practice of teaching, mentoring and nurturing as a community.

2019 presented Vox Camerata the opportunity to reassess its role in the wider arts community. With the SG Arts Plan (2018 – 2022) as a framework, the society bridged the gap for advocacy and research within the choral music spheres. While the Vox Camerata Community Choir continues to be the heart of the society, embodying the best of their mission and values, they have also expanded their activities to encompass new areas of professional and community development. 2021 saw the formation of Vox LLinette, a professional choir that plays a vital role in the interventions enacted by Vox Camerata to rejuvenate Singapore's choral music sector.

Vox Camerata welcomes members of the public, even those without a music background, to join them in their efforts to advocate for the choral music scene in Singapore and to make Singapore a more conducive home for the arts.

Duration: 1hr 15 min Conducted in English

Admission age: 6 and above

\$10

Esplanade&Me Specials

Black: 20% Savings | White: 20% savings | Discover: 20% savings

Feed Your Voice – A Workshop on Nutrition & Vocal Fitness by Fiona Chia and Joel Tay (Singapore) 4 Dec 2022, Sun, 2.15pm Esplanade Recital Studio



Whether you are a singer, karaoke-goer, bathroom diva/crooner, teacher or someone who's just curious about your voice, this workshop will help you learn to feed your voice and keep it fit.

Nutritionist Fiona Chia and speech therapist Joel Tay share holistic voice care with voicehealthy diets and vocal exercises. Learn about foods that heal, as well as those that hurt your voice and exercises you can do to keep your voice in the pink of health.

About Fiona Chia

With over a decade of experience in food and nutrition, Fiona Chia is a champion at conceptualising, planning and developing effective custom health initiatives for various brand giants including Disney, Mercer Marsh and AIA.

Armed with public speaking skills, zestfulness and a fun approach to wellness, Chia has been featured on several broadcast channels including Channel News Asia, Mediacorp's Channel 8 and Channel U. Beyond Singapore, she is personal nutritionist to Taiwanese singer and actress Angela Zhang.

Chia's nutrition principle in living in a fast-paced society is to go back to basics with a key focus on cooking.

About Joel Tay

Joel Tay is an experienced Speech and Voice Therapist who has worked with people with communication and swallowing difficulties for the last 13 years. He graduated from the National University of Singapore with a degree in psychology and a Masters in Speech-Language Pathology, and currently teaches there. His primary clinical focus is on the treatment and prevention of voice problems.

Over the years he has had the opportunity to speak and educate the public about voice science and persuasive communication. He has spoken at World Voice Day Singapore, Esplanade's *Voices – A Festival of Song*, and worked with many schools and companies such as Ogilvy and Hilton Hotels.

Tay hopes to bridge the gap between voice science and art and hopes to demystify the often confusing world of voice training. In recent years, he worked with several singers to help them understand and protect their voice. He is also passionate about helping teachers regain their voices, and to teach them how to use good vocal technique to better command a class.

On top of helping people achieve the best of their voices, Tay also records voiceovers for a number of studios and companies in Singapore. He also been invited to emcee, most notably for some performances at the Singapore Grand Prix, Watoto Children's Choir, Victoria Concert Hall and Esplanade.

Duration: 1hr Conducted in English

Admission age: 6 and above

\$10

Esplanade&Me Specials

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Parent-Child Workshop: Play and Sing! by Ellissa Sayampanathan and Gabriel Hoe (Singapore) 4 Dec 2022, Sun, 3.45pm Eaplanade Bacital Studio

Esplanade Recital Studio



Calling both the young and young at heart. Rediscover the joy of play led by song—and song infused with play—as we journey through a programme of children's tunes that engage voice as well as body. Be prepared to participate by lending your voice and engaging in the fun. This programme is specially designed for children aged 6 to12, as well as their parents, grandparents, and/or caregivers.

About Ellissa Sayampanathan

Ellissa Sayampanathan is a choral practitioner and pedagogue who aspires to build good musicianship and a love for music in her choristers, moulding mind, heart, and voice. She works regularly with choral groups at the Singapore Symphony Children's Choir, St. Margaret's Primary School, and Methodist Girls' School (Primary). She spends part of her life teaching music in Special Education classrooms, is Founder and Artistic Director of Chroma, a choral collective based in Singapore, and serves as Secretary of the Choral Directors' Association (Singapore). Sayampanathan received her training at the University of Cambridge (MMus) and the Kodály Institute.

About Gabriel Hoe

Gabriel Hoe is a People Musician—a person who enjoys interacting with others, through music. He loves being a collaborative performer and is grateful to be a part of many amazing groups in his career so far. Some notable ones include being the pianist for the Singapore Symphony Children's Choir (SSCC), Singapore Ballet (SB), duodentity (a Singaporean piano duo formed with Adriana Chiew) and the trumpet studio at the Yong Siew Toh (YST) Conservatory. He is also keyboardist for The TENG Ensemble.

Duration: 1hr Conducted in English

Recommended for children aged 6–12 with an accompanying parent/guardian. No admission for children aged 5 and under. Accompanying adults must be above 16.

1 Adult + 1 Child: \$20

Tickets must be purchased in an adult-child pair.

Esplanade&Me Specials Black: 20% Savings | White: 20% savings | Discover: 20% savings

A Cappella Gala by 1023, MICappella & Acapellago (Singapore & Philippines) 4 Dec 2022, Sun, 5pm Esplanade Concert Hall



In celebration of the 10th edition of *Voices – A Festival of Song*, this specially produced *A Cappella Gala* brings together three unique and outstandingly talented vocal bands. Each known for their signature styles, Singapore favourites 1023 and MICappella, will be joined by top Filipino a cappella band, Acapellago.

Look forward to an evening of familiar pop, Mandopop and Singaporean songs, as well as some jazz standards that celebrate Singapore's musical and cultural diversity with 1023. A special treat will include their international premiere of *Mambo Jambo Medley*—a cheeky tribute to the uniquely Singaporean clubbing phenomenon of the same name, made popular in the late '90s and early 2000's. MICappella will perform their signature song *One Night in Beijing* and their original 我的 *Party Time*. Not to be missed either is Acapellago's *Queen of the Night* and *Burlesque*.

No matter your jam—childhood folk songs you can sing along with or toe-tapping classics that you know the dance moves to, this concert will have something for audiences of all ages to enjoy.

About 1023

1023 (Ten Twenty-Three) is an a cappella group from Singapore. Formed in 2015, the sixmember vocal band puts a fresh spin on classics with arrangements featuring traditional and modern music elements. With their multi-genre, multilingual repertoire, 1023's forte lies in a cappella music that embodies the all-inclusive Singaporean spirit.

This year, as part of *Voices - A Festival of Song*'s 10th anniversary, 1023 is excited to take stage with the Voices Festival Choir and to showcase the versatility of vocal music by marrying contemporary a cappella and choral music.

About MICapella

Effervescent, dynamic and versatile, MICappella is one of Asia's leading vocal bands based in Singapore.

The band most recently had the honour of performing at National Day Parade 2022, helming the 3rd act of the parade about family. The band was the opening act at the National Day Parade in 2018.

MICappella was also part of the Singapore Day contingent in 2017 to Melbourne and 2019 to Shanghai. That same year, they were invited to perform their rendition of the National Anthem *Majulah Singapura* at the Singapore Grand Prix flag-off ceremony which was broadcasted globally.

MICappella has released three albums to date. Their latest EP *LOVE, MICappella* released in 2019 took home the award for Outstanding Asian Album and Best Original Song by a Professional Group. The band tours extensively and has performed in many countries including Australia, China, Europe, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Russia and USA.

About Acapellago

Acapellago is one of the most influential pop a cappella groups in the Philippines today. The group leads in achieving top prizes both in the Philippines and international competitions held in Austria, China, Japan, Russia, Singapore and Taiwan.

They are also recognised by the Awit Awards, Ani Ng Dangal, and the recent National Commission for Culture and the Arts SUDI Awards, for their exemplary performances giving pride and honour to the country in the last decade. They believe in the magic of harmony and continue their mission of creating music, singing songs, and sharing love, peace, and unity through music in the Philippines and around the world.

Duration: 1hr 30 min Performed in English

Admission age: 6 and above

\$45 Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors and PWDs: \$35

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Workshop: Singing with Ease by Akiko Otao (Singapore) 4 Dec 2022, Sun, 5.15pm Esplanade Recital Studio



Photo credit: Daniel Ho (@oneclickwonder)

You sound wonderful and relaxed during practice, but once you're on stage, your body tenses and you hardly recognise the sound coming out of your mouth. Sounds familiar? Widen your toolbox to prepare for your best performance yet. Using evidence-based practice, learn to calm your nerves, massage your larynx, and create a bespoke pre-show ritual.

Let's prepare our bodies so you can concentrate on having fun while singing!

<u>About Akiko Otao</u> "A tour de force" – *The Straits Times*

"Commanding presence with powerful feelings and a voice to match." - Opera Magazine

Multi-award winning Japanese-American soprano Akiko Otao is an arts practitioner, educator, and co-artistic director of L'arietta Productions, a chamber opera company focused on presenting bite-sized contemporary operas in English.

She made her debut in Singapore when she landed the leading role, Nora in John Sharpley's world premiere of *Fences*. A champion of contemporary work, her performance in the monodrama *Diary of Anne Frank* directed by Samantha Scott-Blackhall received The Straits Times' Best Opera of the year in 2015, and again in 2018 for Chen Zhangyi's *A Singapore Trilogy*.

As a vocal coach, she has worked extensively in classical, musical theatre as well as commercial studio recordings internationally, collaborating with Sony Japan, Avex, and Gap Japan. She is a frequent guest clinician at VOS, CDAS, Performing Arts Medicine Singapore and Kathmandu Jazz Conservatory to name a few.

Her musical versatility continues to bring her an eclectic collection of projects. She is currently in the voice faculty at School Of The Arts, BA (Hon) Musical Theatre faculty at LASALLE College of the Arts, Artistic Director of The Voice Company, and is a full-member of NATS.

https://www.akikootao.com

Duration: 1hr Conducted in English

Admission age: 12 and above

\$10

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