CIMB alumni
# EXCHANGE
*SHAPED BY LEGACY. DRIVEN BY IMPACT.*
2ND EDITION
SEPTEMBER 2026

*[Welcome to the second edition of our newsletter designed to be a valuable resource to keep you connected with the CIMB Alumni community and informed on the latest updates and upcoming events.]*

## Game On: CIMB Alumni Invitational Series Debuts with Pickleball Challenge









The inaugural CIMB Alumni Invitational Series made its debut on the pickleball court, bringing together CIMB Alumni, current leadership and distinguished guests in a spirited showcase of competition, connection and shared history. Captained by CIMB Group CEO Novan Amirudin and CIMB Alumni Chairman Tan Sri Nazir Razak, the two sides brought plenty of competitive energy to the court. Following a closely contested series of matches, Team CIMB's High Spirits, represented by Rastam Dewal and Lawrence Yong, emerged as the inaugural Champions of the Court, overcoming CIMB Alumni's Red Rum, represented by Helmi Hamzah and Rizal Zaidi Zainudin in an exciting final.

The morning also marked a special moment for the Alumni with the induction of Datuk Nicol David as an Honorary CIMB Alumni Member, recognising her longstanding association with CIMB and the values of excellence and impact she continues to represent. Competition stepped up another notch with a special exhibition match featuring Novan Amirudin and CIMB MIBA Women's Pickleball Champion Nik Elena Sofia against Tan Sri Nazir Razak and Datuk Nicol David in a fitting finale that delivered both skill and sporting rivalry in equal measure.

Beyond the scoreboard, the Invitational Series reflects what CIMB Alumni represents: bringing together experience, leadership and relationships built across generations of CIMB. It creates a new setting for former and current colleagues to reconnect not simply around where we have been, but around the community we continue to build together.

**One court. Different generations. One CIMB community.**

And with the first Invitational now in the books, the series is only getting started!















Watch the highlights video here:

Click for Youtube link

# Where Two Journeys Meet: A Story of Career, Motherhood and Music



## *In Conversation with Jessica Loh*

Long before Julian Chan took his music to international stages, there was a mother learning how to nurture an extraordinary gift while building a career of her own. Ahead of Julian's return to Malaysia to perform at the CIMB Alumni Year-End Luncheon, Frauline Hor, Vice Secretary of CIMB Alumni sits down with CIMB alumna Jessica Loh on talent, sacrifice, letting go - and a journey that has now come full circle.

### "My life is for music."

It was a simple sentence written for a childhood school assignment.

While other children wrote of becoming doctors, teachers or pilots, a young Julian Chan had already decided what mattered most to him: "My life is for music."

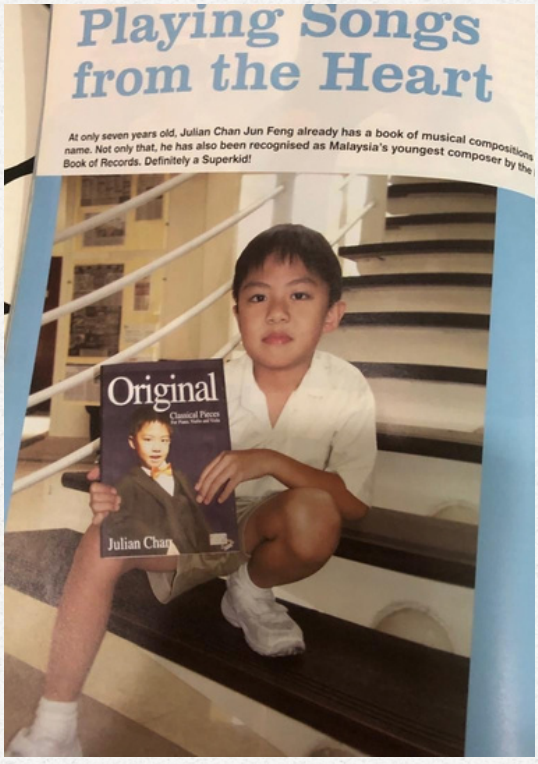
For his mother, Jessica Loh, the signs had appeared even earlier.

As a young boy at the tender age of 4, Julian could hear melodies on television and reproduce them on the piano entirely by ear. When formal lessons followed, so did the surprises. He began composing at an unusually young age and demonstrated an instinctive ability to recognise notes and chords without looking at the keyboard.

Before long, his teachers began telling Jessica what she was slowly coming to realise herself: her son had an exceptional gift.



*Julian Chan, age 5, performing in Italy.*




*Julian with his book of musical compositions that earned him recognition as "Malaysia's Youngest Composer" by The Malaysia Book of Records.*

### Recognising potential and making room for it

Recognising talent is one thing. Knowing what to do with it is another.

As Julian's musical ability developed, so did the commitment required from the family. Lessons turned into masterclasses, competitions and music camps. Opportunities increasingly took them places around the world as Jessica and her family sought out teachers and experiences that could challenge him and broaden his musical world.

Cempaka International School would become an important stepping stone of that journey. Recognising Julian's potential, the school awarded him a scholarship that would mark the beginning of a scholarship journey that would continue through his university years.

And through it all, music remained less an activity for Julian than an obsession.

*"When he was young, I had to drag him away from the piano to sleep!"* Jessica recalls.

It was an early glimpse of a passion that needed little encouragement - only the space, opportunity and support to grow.

## Two journeys unfolding at once

While Julian was finding his place in music, Jessica was building a career of her own at CIMB. She spent 23 years with the Group, serving as within CIMB Principal and CIMB Investment Bank, where she took part in helping CIMB through the mergers and acquisitions from Southern Bank, moving systems and introducing new digital technology to the company.

Her time with CIMB spanned some of the organisation's most dynamic years, including periods of merger, transformation and rapid change.

There was no neat separation between career and motherhood.

Weekdays could be long and demanding; weekends were filled with lessons, performances and competitions. Yet Jessica made it a priority to attend Julian's music lessons whenever she could. For her, supporting his passion meant understanding it too - by listening, learning and being present.

It was also never a journey she undertook alone. Jessica readily credits her husband, mother and siblings with making possible what would otherwise have been extraordinarily challenging to juggle with the demands of work at the same time. Behind one young musician's growing career, was a family quietly rearranging schedules, sharing responsibilities and creating opportunities.

Reflecting on her years in corporate life, Jessica recalls something else that was important to the equation: discipline, resilience and an appreciation of what sustained excellence.

On sharing the path she took in allowing Julian to pursue his passion was one of Jessica's most important decisions – that is knowing **not** to determine the outcome for him or influence him towards what is determined as the *right ambition.*

Her role, as she saw it, was to create the conditions in which Julian could flourish by providing the opportunities, stability and encouragement, while allowing the ambition itself to remain his and not hers.

## The hardest part: letting go

That philosophy would eventually be tested.

At just 11, Julian left Malaysia to continue his musical education in the United Kingdom, attending Wells Cathedral School from 2011 to 2018. His journey would later take him to London's prestigious Royal Academy of Music, an institution that has shaped generations of exceptional musicians, from Sir Elton John to Sheku Kanneh-Mason.

For Jessica, sending her young son halfway across the world at such a young age was among the hardest decisions she had to make as a mother.

There is a particular contradiction in parenting. Spending years giving a child the confidence to pursue their dreams, only to discover that succeeding may eventually take them away from you.

Jessica chose to let him go.

It was, in many ways, the ultimate expression of the support she had given him from the beginning. If she believed in his dream, she also had to give him the freedom to pursue it fully.











*A glimpse of Julian and Jessica in Wells, where Julian's UK journey began at Wells Cathedral School when he was just 10. From his first dorm, Hogwarts, to the city's striking historic architecture, the surroundings quickly captured his imagination.*

## Beyond the accolades

Today, Julian has established himself as an accomplished pianist and composer, performing on international stages across Europe and Asia. In December 2025, he reached another significant milestone with the release of his debut solo album, Godowsky: Java Suite, with Linn Records. The classical piano album explores Leopold Godowsky's celebrated 12 movement work inspired by the culture, landscapes and music of Java, bringing together Eastern and Western musical influences in a work particularly close to Julian's Southeast Asian roots. Released to mark the centenary of the suite's completion and publication, the album went on to receive international recognition, including Album of the Week by NPO Klassiek and Classical Record of the Day by Radio France.

Yet when Jessica speaks about what makes her proudest, the answer is not an award, performance or accolade.
It is the person her son has become. Caring. Disciplined. Independent. And still as deeply committed to music as the little boy who once declared, "My life is for music."

For Jessica, perhaps the most meaningful measure of all is seeing the little boy who fell in love with music so early in life grow into the person he is today, still every bit as devoted to the path he chose for himself.

## Coming home

This December, Julian returns home to Malaysia for a special performance at the CIMB Alumni Year End Luncheon, bringing his music to a community that has been an important part of Jessica's own life and career.

For Jessica, the occasion carries a deeper and more personal meaning. She remembers with gratitude the colleagues and friends at CIMB who were part of her life during those formative years, when she was balancing the demands of her career with raising a young son whose musical journey was beginning to take shape.

Now, many years later, Jessica and Julian see his return as their own small way of saying thank you. His performance is a gift from mother and son to the CIMB community that shared an important chapter of their lives, and a heartfelt expression of gratitude for the friendships, support and memories that have stayed with them through the years.



*Jessica and Julian now.*



**We look forward to welcoming our CIMB Alumni members and spouses to share this special occasion with Jessica and Julian at the CIMB Alumni Year End Luncheon on Saturday, 12 December 2026.**

**Come reconnect with familiar faces, celebrate the year together and enjoy a special performance by Julian as he returns home to Malaysia.**

# New Appointments

Our alumni represents a strong and enduring legacy shaped within the CIMB ecosystem. We take pride in seeing our former colleagues continue to thrive across diverse industries beyond their time at CIMB, making meaningful contributions to their organisations, the communities we serve, and the nation as a whole.

We are pleased to recognise and congratulate the following CIMB alumni on their recent appointments and achievements. Their continued success reflects the calibre of talent nurtured within our community, and stands as a testament to the strong foundation built at CIMB, while inspiring fellow alumni to pursue excellence.

If you or someone you know from the CIMB Alumni network has recently received a notable appointment, professional recognition, or career milestone, we would be delighted to celebrate it with the community. Please share the details with us at alumni@cimb.com.

## Tan Leng Hock

*Chief Executive Officer, Wawasan Education Foundation*



**From Banking to Building Futures**

Tan Leng Hock has taken on a new chapter as Chief Executive Officer of the Wawasan Education Foundation, bringing decades of leadership experience in banking to a mission centred on education and opportunity.

A familiar name to many within the CIMB community, Leng Hock's banking career spans more than three decades across Ban Hin Lee Bank, Southern Bank and CIMB. At CIMB, he served as Head of Business Banking, overseeing key customer segments including SMEs, mid sized corporates and micro enterprises, and was a member of the Group Management Committee.

Today, that wealth of experience is being channelled towards a different kind of impact. As CEO of Wawasan Education Foundation, the philanthropic and strategic foundation behind Wawasan Open University, Leng Hock is helping advance its mission to widen access to quality education, support scholarships and financial aid, and create greater opportunities for lifelong learning.

From enabling businesses to grow to helping open doors through education, we congratulate Leng Hock on this meaningful new chapter and wish him every success in the journey ahead.



## Datuk Iswaraan A/L Suppiah

*Independent Non Executive Director, CTOS Digital Berhad*

**Where Transformation Meets Data and Intelligence**

Datuk Iswaraan Suppiah has been appointed Independent Non Executive Director of CTOS Digital Berhad, effective 1 July 2026. He also assumes the role of Chairman of its Risk and Compliance Committee and serves as a member of the Audit Committee.

A familiar name within the CIMB community, Datuk Iswaraan's long association with CIMB began through Bank of Commerce and CIMB Securities, culminating in his role as Group Chief Information and Operations Officer of CIMB Group, where he oversaw technology, operations and transformation across the Group's regional footprint.

Previously serving as AmBank's Group Group Chief Operations Officer, his appointment to CTOS Digital brings depth of experience into the increasingly important space of credit data, analytics and digital decisioning, adding another dimension to a career shaped by the transformative role of technology in financial services.

Closer to home, Datuk Iswaraan serves as Treasurer of the CIMB Alumni Committee, where we continue to benefit from the depth of experience and perspective he has built over the course of his career.

We congratulate Datuk Iswaraan on his latest appointment and wish him every success as he brings his experience and perspective to CTOS Digital.