

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

## Tuesday English News Report:

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### Chinese University business major Jonathan Law has the **\*\*world on a string ... quartet**

Violinist Jonathan Law Wai-ting, 20, uses his marketing skills to turn his love of music into a real business

While most university students are planning a career path based on their **major**, former concertmaster for La Salle College Symphony Orchestra Jonathan Law Wai-ting, 20, has **carved** a very different **path** for himself. Studying Integrated BBA (Bachelor of Business Administration) in Chinese University of Hong Kong, Jonathan sees the business potential of music.

Two years ago, he **founded** The Strings Amarta, an **amateur** association of 20 musicians. *Young Post* caught up with Jonathan to find out more about The Strings Amarta, and to check in with this young gentleman on his musical journey.

“My mother used to play piano,” says Jonathan. “She stopped when she reached Grade 6, but she always hoped that I would complete her dreams for her.”

Today, Jonathan plays both the piano and violin at LTCL level (Licentiate of Trinity College London). But for Jonathan, certifications like these don't mean a lot.

“Music examination grades cannot fully describe a musician,” says Jonathan. “Grades **issued** by a specific institute can only show that the candidate has fulfilled ‘its’ requirements. And a lot of times these exams just make the students hate their instrument. And if that happens, then the exam itself is a failure. Sadly, this is very common here in Hong Kong.” But while many local students practise for **countless** hours just to get a certificate, Jonathan and his friends in The Strings Amarta play for a different reason.

Even before university, Jonathan had made a lot of friends through playing music. He thought it would be a pity to lose them after starting his new study. “So after finishing the DSE, I sent my music friends some Facebook messages asking whether they wanted to form a string group,” says Jonathan. “And The Strings Amarta was born.”

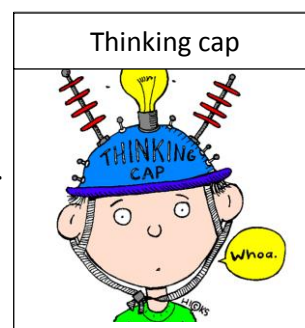
In its first two years, had only 20 commercial performances. But last month, when Jonathan decided to make The Strings Amarta a real business, something changed.

“Studying for a **degree** in business and marketing has taught me about developing a business,” says Jonathan. “Since drawing up a business **model** and making real plans, we've already been booked for four performances this month alone.”

One of Jonathan's business strategies was to make the music of string instruments more **accessible** to the public. He did this by offering more than just traditional classical music, and added some pop music into his selections. At first he wasn't sure if the idea would work, but the other musicians were all for the idea, and now The Strings Amarta performs everything from Mozart to Bruno Mars, as you can see from its [YouTube page](#). The Strings Amarta continues their online success offline, with concerts ranging from solo performances to the full 20-member Amarta Chamber Orchestra.

**1. Questions to think about:**

- What has this article taught you? / How can this article inspire or motivate you?
- What could be a problem with a mother or father wanting their son or daughter to complete their dreams for them?
- What is the joy of music for people?



**2. I: Understanding meaning of vocabulary from context:** Choose the word or phrase which most closely matches the meaning of the word in the article. Circle the correct letter.

Word from article	Meaning		
1. major (n)	A. a major key, interval or scale (music)	B. a rank in the army	C. a student's principle or main course of subject
2. carve(d) (v)	A. cut something	B. create something through a lot of effort	C. divide something
3. path (n)	A. a course of action/ plan for the future	B. a track for walking or hiking on	C. a schedule
4. found(ed) (v)	A. discover	B. build	C. start, establish or originate
5. amateur (adj)	A. paid work	B. non-paid work	C. inept, unskilful, no good
6. issue(d) (v)	A. an important topic or problem	B. to supply something for sale	C. to give out something (e.g for an achievement)
7. countless	A. many	B. very few	C. none
8. degree (n)	A. a unit of measurement (e.g. temperature)	B. an academic qualification/certificate	C. the amount or level to which something happens
9. model (n)	A. a person who shows off clothes	B. a design of a product	C. something to copy or follow
10. accessible (adj)	A. easily understood or liked/appreciated	B. able to be reached or entered	C. friendly and easy to talk to

**II: Usage of vocabulary:** Using the vocabulary from the table in Part I, fill in the missing words of the sentences. Make sure you use the correct part of speech.

- At one time, it was only \_\_\_\_\_, not professional athletes who could take part in the Olympics. These athletes competed for the love of the sport, not money.
- All types of music are \_\_\_\_\_ to people through Youtube.
- Musicians practise for \_\_\_\_\_ hours to reach the top of their profession.
- My university (a) \_\_\_\_\_ were Economics and Japanese, and at the end of 4 years, I was awarded a (b) \_\_\_\_\_ in Economics, the certificate which hangs on my bedroom wall. However, after going to Japan, I decided to (c) \_\_\_\_\_ out a career (d) \_\_\_\_\_ in teaching because I fell in love with this occupation. It has been an interesting journey.
- The company was (a) \_\_\_\_\_ in 1924 when my grandfather was still alive. The company is still going strong. It is (b) \_\_\_\_\_ on old-fashioned values.
- The Hong Kong Observatory \_\_\_\_\_ the typhoon signal 8 last Friday at 6:10 am.

**Challenge of the week:** Look at the heading of the article. What is meant by the phrase 'world on a string'?

(2) **Music Pop Crossword:** Come to the English Corner today to enjoy this week's fun vocab challenge for prizes.

**PRIZES & MORE PRIZES to be won!**