

= Kelvin Tan =

Kelvin Tan Wei Lian ( ??? ) is a blind Singaporean Mandopop singer who earned a living as a busker before he won the first edition of Project SuperStar in 2005 . He has released three albums , All I Want Is ... ( 2006 ) , i @-@ Weilian ( 2007 ) and Moving Notes ... Kelvin Tan ( 2009 ) . Other highlights of his career include a solo concert at the Singapore Expo , leading a choir at the 2008 Summer Paralympics and singing the NDP 2009 theme song .

= = Early life = =

Born blind due to Leber 's congenital amaurosis ( which causes the retina to disintegrate ) , Tan grew up listening to 1980s Mandopop ballads , which inspired him to learn to play the piano and guitar . He studied at the Singapore School for the Visually Handicapped and Dunearn Secondary School . After his O Levels , he worked as a massage therapist and a singer at a café . He also busked at Jurong East and Waterloo Street , playing his guitar and singing Mandopop ballads for two to eight hours per day . According to The New Paper reporter Mindy Tan , his performances drew large crowds ( including Malays and Indians ) , some of whom were so " impressed [ by ] his music " that they would " sit on the pavement nearby for up to an hour listening to him " .

= = Project SuperStar = =

Tan and four blind friends auditioned for the inaugural season of Project SuperStar , but only he was accepted as a contestant . Throughout the competition , there was extensive debate over whether viewers were voting for him out of sympathy and whether a blind man who could not dance deserved the title . Further controversy arose when his home address was posted online and fans offered him sex services . Nevertheless , he emerged as the male champion and entered the grand final against female champion Kelly Poon . The judges gave Poon more favourable reviews , but Tan garnered 64 % of the 533 @,@ 000 telephone votes . Both finalists also released limited edition singles ; Tan 's cover of ?? ( Fairytale ) by Michael Wong sold 12 @,@ 239 copies , while Poon 's cover of ????? ( Lost Goodness ) by Angela Chang sold 11 @,@ 319 copies . Thus Tan became the grand champion and was awarded a recording contract with Play Music ( later acquired by Warner Music ) .

= = Music albums = =

His debut album ????? ( All I Want Is ... ) , which contains four original songs and ten covers , was certified platinum in Singapore within five days of its release . Its title track topped the Singapore music charts in February 2006 , while another of its songs , ?? ( Touch ) , won Best Theme Song at the 2006 Star Awards . In total , the album sold 45 @,@ 000 copies in Singapore and 15 @,@ 000 copies in Malaysia . In 2007 , his second album i?? ( i @-@ Weilian ) was released and the song ???? ( Ordinary Man ) topped the Singapore charts that October . This album eventually sold 15 @,@ 000 copies in Singapore and 20 @,@ 000 copies in Taiwan . Several songs that Tan composed himself were included in his third album , ????? ( Moving Notes ... Kelvin Tan ) , which he promoted through busking appearances . Although its sales figures are not known , the songs ????? ( Forever Friends ) and ????? ( Break Up Letter ) topped the Singapore charts in October 2009 , while the album peaked at 5th in the Taiwan charts in February 2010 . In addition , ????? won two awards at the 2010 Singapore Entertainment Awards and ?? ( Together ) won Best Theme Song at the 2010 Star Awards . However , his contract with Warner Music expired in September 2010 and was not renewed .

= = Showbiz activities = =

In 2006 , Tan staged a solo concert at the Max Pavilion ( Singapore Expo ) , which sold 5 @,@ 000

seats . He acted in the getai movie 881 and several television serials ( notably The Dream Chasers ) , winning Most Popular Newcomer at the 2006 Star Awards . However , he declined further roles , describing acting as " not [ his ] cup of tea because there 's nothing else [ he ] could act as except a blind man " . He also participated in variety television shows in Singapore ( notably as a guest judge on Campus Superstar ) and Taiwan ( such as Happy Sunday ) , but some Taiwanese hosts rejected him over fears that their jokes would offend him . Another controversy arose when he was a contestant on the Singapore edition of Don 't Forget The Lyrics , as netizens were concerned that being unable to see the monitor would disadvantage him . In 2009 , he was selected to sing ???? ( Right Here ) , the Mandarin version of the National Day Parade theme song What Do You See ? , and four years later , he sang a tribute to Singapore named " Treasure Every Moment " .

= = Charity work = =

Due to his disability and achievements , Tan has been an ambassador for several local disability awareness campaigns and performed in various charity shows , including a concert to raise funds for victims of the 2008 Sichuan earthquake . He and Sun Yajun led a choir rendition of the song ??????? ( On The Same Blue Planet ) at the opening ceremony of the 2008 Summer Paralympics sailing regatta at Qingdao , China . In his spare time , he works as a guide for the Singapore edition of Dialogue in the Dark , an exhibition that helps sighted people understand the experiences of blind people .

= = Personal life = =

Tan lives in a four @-@ room HDB flat in western Singapore , together with his father ( a mechanic ) , mother ( a housewife ) and younger sister ( a research analyst ) ; he does not have a girlfriend . Despite his success , he continues to take public transport , eat at hawker centres and go out with friends . He enjoys bowling and was one of only two totally blind Singaporeans who played the sport competitively , even winning a competition organised by the blind associations of Singapore and Perth . In 2012 , he picked up running , joined RunningHour ( a running club for people with disabilities ) and participated in the 10 km run of the Singapore Marathon . His other hobbies include travelling to Kuala Lumpur , playing Street Fighter , chatting online with friends and updating his Twitter account .