

Singapore  
Indoor  
Stadium  
June 19  
2018

# Hillsong United X Young & Free

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*For the first time ever, multi-platinum-selling, award winning Hillsong United teamed up with the next generation of Hillsong music, Young & Free for this concert.*

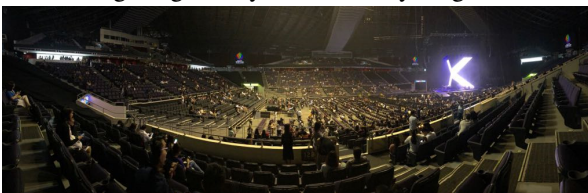
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For the uninitiated, Hillsong United is one of contemporary Christian music's most influential bands and surprise! We do use some of their songs in worship! They hold their yearly concerts in Singapore but I had never been to their concerts as I do not see myself as one of those who would go rapture singing for 2-3 hours, even if they are songs of praises. Last year, Alvin revealed that he was keen to attend one of their concerts, hoping to pick some things up since he serves as a drummer in our church's worship band. Therefore, I began keeping a lookout for their concert dates in Singapore. Once their tickets were made available, I told Alvin and he booked the tickets, choosing the side of the stage, hoping to get the best possible view of Hillsong's drummers.

### **Alicia's experience**

As expected, the crowd was made up of young people though we do see some of the older adults and an occasional elderly couple as we went looking for our seats. The

younger band started the concert with unfamiliar disco-sounding songs to my ears but the younger crowd



**Us taking a photo before the concert**

seemed to know them well, jumping and singing (lyrics were all at the top of the gigantic screen on stage). Not everyone was like the youths though. Some of us continued sitting on our seats, enjoying the music and the atmosphere. After an hour, there was intermission before a singer (Jonathon Douglass) from Hill-

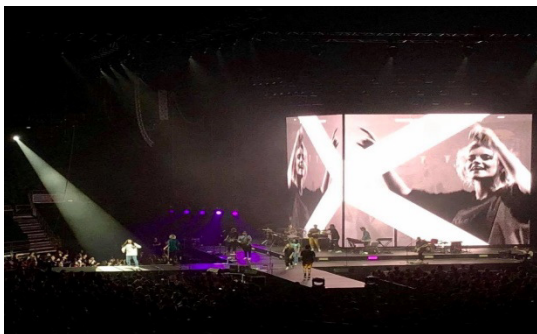


**During intermission: Audience switching on the torch in their handphones and waving it during a period of darkness.**

song United came up the stage to share about sponsoring children. At one part, he was expected to see details of the sponsorship on the screen but he saw his face still being projected on it. Instead of publicly shaming the projectionist by pointing out his mistake, Jonathon Douglass broke off his sharing and cracked some jokes about his hair being long and needing to be cut. Knowing his cue, the projectionist switched to the correct slide and the singer continued where he left off. I felt it was very tactful and Christ-like of the presenter and we can all learn a thing or two here.



**Jonathon Douglass who shared about sponsoring kids**



**One of the main singers Taya Smith**

When the main band came up after the intermission and began belting out familiar hits, some of those who were sitting started getting into the mood, standing up to sing, dance/jump and worship. I thought it was strategic having the younger band play to drain the energy of the younger audience so that when the main band came out with the slower songs, the lyrics of the songs would sink deeper in, drawing us into worship.

### Alvin's experience

I have been looking forward to attend a Hillsong worship concert since starting to play drums in Jurong Christian Church. Other than attending this concert to worship God, my main intention is still to learn and improve the way I play for worship. Hence my sharing will be more musically inclined.

Very strong bass and kick drums. Hillsong sound engineers boosted the low frequencies of kick drums (lowest sound from the drums) that our body resonance with every beat. This creates a very personal experience with the music as you can literally “feel” the beats and rhythm. However, this cannot be implemented in our church setting due to many factors, of which I will mention only two.

**One:** Acceptance by the congregation, especially the elderly. Not because they are backward thinking or such but rather their hearts may not be able to take the excitement. As our body “feel” the beats, it will speed up our heartbeat as a natural response because the experience is not natural and is preparing to run or flee. It is precisely this bodily experience that the young would particularly enjoy.

**Two:** Budget. To create such audio experience requires expensive equipment and high technical skills of sound engineers.

With all that said, my take away to improve my worship as a drummer: to have strong and consistent kick drums (the lowest drum sound). This will help the congregation by giving them a rhythm to move their body to a beat, hence making worship a more personal experience.