



July Interviews

Interviewee: Klya
Capacity: Club Leader

Hello Klya, how are you today? We are here to interview you as part of club leadership for the Singing Club. To start off, could you please introduce yourself?

I'm good, how are you? So, I am Klya. I'm bad at keeping dates so I'm actually not sure how long I've been on the server. I'd estimate it to be about a year. I'm actually looking at the history of the chat to find out. I think the Singing Club started in August. So, I've been on the server for about a year. [laughs] This is awkward. I came to the server when I was actively trying to find a discord group that would help me learn Korean. Coincidentally, when I joined clubs were just being implemented and I ended up becoming a part of the leadership.

Would you introduce your team as well, please?

Currently there are three (3) of us. I am the leader, Zainab (@Zainab#6533) is the co-leader, and Roo (@ROO#6336) is the secretary. I wasn't the original leader. Although I was the one to suggest the club, I declined becoming the leader as I thought I wouldn't be able to handle it. Three (3) months later, I stepped up. Both Zainab and Roo are new to leadership, Zainab having joined this year, and Roo more recently. One thing about this club is that we kinda see ourselves as a pseudo entertainment company. We introduce ourselves as CEO - Klya , COO - Zainab, and CIO - Roo.

Could you give us a general overview of the club? What have you guys been doing since you started?

I came up with the idea for the club because I've been an active user of the Smule app. I came to love K-pop more because of that app. It's the same as our club - a pseudo entertainment type. They hold auditions. For example, if they want to make a cover for BTS. auditions for Jungkook, Jimin, and Jin



would be held. Sometimes they would host contests and participants would be eliminated. I used to do this on the app too, but over time we drifted. We got to sing with people of many different nationalities so I find myself missing it. Thus, the goal of the Singing Club is for different nationalities to come together and sing. We are here to make covers of K-pop songs.

How long have you been a club leader for?

I have actually been a part of leadership since the beginning. Another member - Lia - was the leader for 3 months. Even though Lia was the leader, I was the one doing everything. My goal was to train her to lead the club when I became busy. But that didn't work out as she eventually left the server. Basically, I was the pseudo leader until I became the official leader 3 months later.

And how has your experience been?

To be honest, it's both great and a bit frustrating. I had this vision before of making good covers - not to say we don't have some great covers. Some members have had the experience of making good covers. Some members became busy, some left, some joined late, and some waited until the last moment.

When we make a cover, we aren't just singing. We're making our own color coded lyrics; we take note of harmony. We create layers and to do that we have to sing again and again. Sometimes, when people procrastinate, it doesn't come out that great. When members go and it doesn't come out consistently, it's hard to upgrade them,

We refer to our members as trainees. The aim is to train them until they become good with making covers. However, the consistency in learning isn't there. When members arrive, they are essentially clueless. So, I tell them to rely on their 선배s. Then it turns out the 선배s are clueless as well. I end up having to repeat information - particularly how to use the Smule again - constantly. It's also difficult to make consistent, good covers since some members are new and are not used to the app.



It makes you proud, though, when they eventually make good covers. It's fun. I'm sure other clubs have these feelings – maybe even actual entertainments and agencies. It's something you just get used to.

How many times have you had to repeat?

It's hard to say. I actually made a course that tackles everything - the different ways to make color coded lyrics and techniques on how to make their Smule journey easier. We have the course on Saturdays and Sundays. I made it two days so members would have more chances to join - if one can't join on Saturday, they might be able to join on Sunday. This is good as some members aren't able to come on all days. I'm actually in the process of recording some tutorials which will be shown on Saturday.

We dedicated two (2) weeks to the Smule 101 course. When someone new joins, they can just use the PowerPoints and teach themselves. Leadership doesn't have to rely on just me. We have our own Excel bulletin board where we add in the current artists (members), current trainees, past members, and leadership, and a literature tab for all the references we've used before. There are also past covers there. It makes everything organized. So, anyone who has just joined can browse through and acquaint themselves with everything.

How have you overcome these challenges?

It's actually kinda fun to introduce things again. Before, I used to just live stream and show it to them. Now, because I make PowerPoints, they can just go through them in their own time. We also have the course now which not only me, but the rest of the leadership can make use of as well. The reason why I made the literature tab on 아미 KSG Entertainment, (we are the Singing Club but we call ourselves 아미 KSG Entertainment) is so that if you're a new member, you can easily access what we've done before and you get acquainted with it. Leadership is also always open to help and, like I said, they can ask their 선배s for help as well.

What's your opinion on the clubs and how do you think you can improve the club?



There are times I wonder, “Is it actually working out fine? Is it not working out at all?” But, to be honest, whenever we do some great covers it encourages me. I think, “Yeah, this is working.” And it amazes me when members leave the club and return after some time. It just tells you that the club has made an impact and that they enjoy what we do here, even though it’s a fun club.

I guess Singing Club is not only about learning Korean; it’s also a good way of sharing your love for BTS and music. I’m sure a lot of people here love singing BTS or K-pop songs. It kinda gives you the encouragement to continue the club if you see it’s actually working.

How to improve the club... To be honest, since its only been a year, we are still learning. Like I told you before, I came up with the idea to just put it on the record for people to access. I’m sure the club has a lot to learn. We are open to suggestions from members. I just want to pass the Smule experience on to them. We can actually do this, not only talk about your bias but also sing songs together and create something just like your favorite idol groups.

What do you have planned for this month?

Usually, our calendar is made based on the events of BTS’ timeline. We cater to Korean or BTS events, and even holidays in Korea and around the world. It’s summer now, so this month’s theme is a summer festival. The idea is to release K-pop summer song covers. We can even continue this into the next month as well since it’ll still be summer then.

It’s going to be duets because a lot of our club members right now are new. I want them to get used to each other first because it’s difficult to get a hold of each with a lot of members and create layers if you don’t know what you’re doing. The purpose of the duets is to ease them into creating their own color coded lyrics and covers. They are given a partner, with whom they discuss and share ideas. This is all to get them used to it.



What are your goals for the club and what do you look forward to doing in the future?

The main goal is to actually create a group that's able to create good covers of K-pop music, just like I experienced in Smule years ago. Another goal is to create permanent groups. This is also something I experienced in Smule. I was a part of several cover groups there.

This isn't certain as yet but I want to create concept groups. For example, BTS cover groups. Badass groups, cute concept groups, high K-pop songs groups are some of the concepts I've thought about. I actually considered creating a contest with them but it's difficult right now because members keep leaving and joining.

A plan of mine is to create shows and stuff. For now, we focus more on the groups. I hope to create something fun not only for the members but for the rest of the server as well.

There have previously been collaborations between clubs on this server. Has your club ever had a collaboration?

That was a plan before. We wanted to collaborate with the Dance Club. "Maybe the Singing Club could sing and the Dance Club could dance" was what had been decided. but things happened and everyone got busy and we haven't been able to. Nothing has been set in stone yet. All the ideas were just that, ideas.

I am excited to collaborate with K-Entertainment Club in the future, though. They have actually already reached out to me so I am just waiting on them to settle in.

We also accept requests from other clubs. Song Analysis Club requested a cover for 'Run BTS' by BTS so we're working on that.

How do you come up with different and unique topics to talk about every month?

I listen to the members and what they want. If they are a new member, I ask them their expectations of the club. A lot of them say, "Oh, I want to improve my singing," so I prepare courses for singing. Most of them struggle in



rapping so I prepare short courses on how to rap. It's all about catering to what they want. And for the theme, as mentioned before we follow events to decide what kind of songs we will sing or release in a particular month.

What about the assignments? How do you try and make it different and unique?

I'm not sure if it's interesting for them.

Our assignments mostly consist of covers. They already like music, so I give them a certain theme (Halloween, for example), and they look up songs on that. That way they get to find new songs. I'm just projecting what I experienced with Smule, really. It gets me to look at awesome groups in K-pop I wouldn't look at otherwise. It's how I met BTS, actually.

Maybe the theme is a challenge for them to look for something combined with the joy of singing, and hopefully it helps with their Korean pronunciation. I told them it helped me to pronounce better. Maybe the discovery or the journey makes it exciting.

But to be honest, every month is the same - cover and color coded lyrics. The only things that change are the theme and whether it's a duet or group assignment. Some of them are already familiar with songs that they want to sing but haven't had the opportunity to do so, so this gets them excited as well.

For example, if I tell them the theme is Valentines, they would be like, "Oh finally! I have this song I've been waiting to sing."

Ladder game is a system we use to randomly make a group or duet in a non-biased way. I first learnt it on a Japanese site so I was surprised there was another version in Korean called 사다리 타기.

We noticed you guys make beautiful posters. How did that idea come about? And who makes them?

I make them. I recently got appointed with Canva so it's only recently that posters have been made. I don't know what made me decide to make them. I think the first time I did was last month when we did the ARMY Festa theme



and I basically just continued it. I thought it would make it more appealing for them to look at rather than looking at our Excel bulletin board.

Do you have any ideas or suggestions you would like organizers to implement regarding clubs?

Maybe a channel where members from other clubs can interact. I'm still not sure how the K-entertainment Club will happen. But it would be awesome for everyone to be able to join and see some activities, not just club members but members on the server as well. This would give club members the opportunity to showcase something. For example, I want to host a watch party for certain people to attend, so, a certain channel that everyone can join would be nice.

Maybe we could host something like a music show where all clubs come together to showcase something. People get to hear covers and give hearts for the ones they like. We could even do votes for contests which would encourage our members as well. For example, since I'm also the leader of the Art Club, we could do an art contest.

It's really just something all clubs can come together and showcase. I think it would be a driving force or motivation for them to have fun in the club since they wouldn't just keep it to themselves or do it just for quota.

You mentioned you joined suggested clubs before, which all clubs did you suggest?

I joined all the clubs I suggested. So, all the clubs I'm in right now - Art, Singing, Song Analysis, K-Culture - those were all my ideas.

You're in so many clubs not only as a member but a part of leadership too. How do you juggle it all?

This is something I am guilty about. With the Art Club, it has a different rule expected of it. I am at the 'Does It Make Sense?!' (DIMS) level. Since I was the one to suggest the club, I had a lot of ideas so the leadership suggested I join them. Most of what I do in the club is give ideas. They are amazing. They



have actually made their own Discord group to discuss and it's really well organized.

I've made presentations such as an Inktober presentation and a 'How to Draw Anime' presentation. If I have time, I step up and do, but my main role is to give ideas.

