

**Press Release
For Immediate Release**

The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts has conferred Honorary Doctorates and Honorary Fellowships

(Oct 22, 2021) – The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (the Academy) has conferred Honorary Awards on eleven outstanding individuals in recognition of their remarkable achievements and contributions to the performing arts and cultural industry and also the development of the Academy. The ceremony held today at the Academy Lyric Theatre was officiated by the Academy Council Chairman Professor Stephen Chow Chun-kay, *GBS SBS BBS JP*. Academy Director Professor Gillian Choa expressed her sincere gratitude for the Honorary Awardees' exemplary and valuable support to the Academy.

Recipients of Doctorate of the Academy *honoris causa*:

Mr Choo Heng-cheong

Mr Charles Chow Chan-lum *MH*

Ms Helen Lai *MH*

Mr Warren Mok *BBS MH*

Mr Jaap van Zweden *SBS*

Recipients of Honorary Fellowship:

Mr Chan Kinsun

Ms Candy Chea Shuk-mui *MH*

Professor Aquiles Delle Vigne

Mr Hong Ka-chun

Professor Liu Xinglin

Professor Alan Rosenthal

Page 3 to 12: Citations of the recipients of Doctorate of the Academy *honoris causa*

Page 13 to 20: Citations of the recipients of Honorary Fellowships

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About The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA) (www.hkapa.edu)

The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA), established by The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts Ordinance in 1984, is a leading tertiary institution in the performing arts in Asia. It provides professional undergraduate education and practice-based postgraduate studies. The study encompasses Chinese Opera, Dance, Drama, Film

and Television, Music, and Theatre and Entertainment Arts. Its educational philosophy reflects the cultural diversity of Hong Kong with emphasis on Chinese and Western traditions, and interdisciplinary learning.

Since 2008, the Academy has attained the Programme Area Accreditation (PAA) status awarded by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) to self-monitor and accredit its own Undergraduate and Post-secondary programmes in the five programme areas of Dance, Drama, Film and Television, Music, and Theatre and Entertainment Arts. Since 2016, the PAA status has been extended to cover Master's Degree programmes and below. The programmes operated by the School of Chinese Opera are accredited by HKCAAVQ for recognition under the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework.

Besides the main campus in Wanchai, Béthanie, the site of the Academy's Landmark Heritage Campus in Pokfulam, has housed training facilities for the School of Film and Television since 2006.

In the QS World University Rankings announced in 2021, the Academy is ranked 1st in Asia and 10th in the world in the Performing Arts category.

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Mr Choo Heng-cheong - Doctorate of the Academy *honoris causa*

Mr Choo Heng-cheong was born into a Cantonese opera family in 1927 in the Malaysian city of Ipoh. His father, Choo Ga-lok, and two elder brothers, Ngai-kong and Siu-cheung, were highly-regarded Cantonese opera musicians. The three brothers, known as the “Big Three of the Choo Family”, regularly participated in opera-troupe performances and oversaw instrumental accompaniment and recording. Their sister Choo Sau-ying was a Cantonese opera actress who played *huadan* (young maiden) and *chousheng* (male clown) roles. Mr Choo started learning musical instruments and accompaniment as a child. He is adept at playing violin, guzheng, erxian, erhu and percussion instruments.

Mr Choo made his stage debut when he was 9, and became a music leader at the age of 13. Since 1950, he has collaborated with numerous Cantonese opera performers. In 1951, he was appointed private music leader of Sit Kok-sin on a performance tour of Singapore and Malaysia. He has worked with many famous Cantonese opera stars including Fong Yim-fun, Hung Sin-nui, Lam Kar-sing, Lee Bo-ying, Chung Lai-yung, Lai Man-soh, Ho Fei-fan, Nam Hung, Mak Bing-wing, Yu Lai-zhen, Leung Sing-bo, Lan Chi-pat, Poon Yat-on, Fung Wong-nui, Wong Chin-sui and Law Kim-long.

Mr Choo moved to Hong Kong in 1959. He participated in music accompaniment of a new opera entitled *The Reincarnation of the Red Plum*, presented by the Sin Fung Ming Opera Troupe. He was also music leader and oversaw the recording for Yam Kim-fai and Pak Suet-sin’s timeless albums *The Flower Princess*, *Legend of the Purple Hairpin* and *The Reincarnation of the Red Plum*. Mr Choo was involved in the production of more than a hundred albums of Cantonese opera while working as a music leader for many record companies including Crown and Tien Shing. Starting in 1966, Mr Choo was music leader, vocal designer and vocal coach of the Chor Fung Ming Opera Troupe, which was mentored by Yam Kim-fai and Pak Suet-sin. He was also appointed music leader of other opera troupes including Tai Lung Fung, Hing Sun Sing, Chung Sun Sing and Sun Ma. In 1993, Mr Choo was again invited to take up the role of music leader by the newly-founded Hing Fung Ming Opera Troupe.

In 2005 and 2006, the Chor Fung Ming Opera Troupe presented 32 performances of the *False Dream of the West Chamber*, with Mr Choo serving as the music leader and musical designer. Over the years, Mr Choo has established a blueprint for the performance of various classic pieces while in charge of the musical and vocal arrangements of these famous opera troupes. For instance, he rearranged the musical accompaniment to a reinterpretation in 1983 of the *Dream of the Red Chamber* by playwright Yip Shiu-tuck.

Mr Choo is a pundit on traditional Cantonese opera *paichang* (sequences). He has a unique style of accompaniment and is able to fuse Chinese melodies with Western tones. As an icon of Cantonese-opera accompaniment and a prominent music leader in Hong Kong, he has mentored both musicians and opera stars. Mr Choo has been a fierce

advocate of Cantonese opera over the years, invited by many universities and institutions to deliver lectures and share his experiences. In 2020, Hong Kong Metropolitan University (formerly The Open University of Hong Kong) conferred him with an honorary fellowship, reflecting his contribution to Cantonese opera and education.

Mr Choo is a staunch supporter of and generous contributor to the Academy's School of Chinese Opera. He is passionate about nurturing younger generations. The School hosted a lecture by Mr Choo in April this year where he shared his insights on the subtleties of Cantonese opera and its musical performance. He also regularly offers invaluable advice to students of the School of Chinese Opera.

Mr Charles Chow Chan-lum MH - Doctorate of the Academy *honoris causa*

Mr Charles Chow Chan-lum, an Honorary Fellow of the Academy since 2017, has contributed significantly to the promotion and development of the Cantonese opera. He has been an active member of the Cantonese Opera Advisory Committee and the Cantonese Opera Development Fund Committee for many years, and was appointed Chairman of the Cantonese Opera Advisory Committee for 6 years from May 2010 to April 2016. Under his able leadership, he led the Committee to achieve its mission in facilitating further development of this heritage art form.

Mr Chow was the first chairman of the Hong Kong Inter-School Cantonese Operatic Singing Competition and an advisor to the Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong, also known as Barwo. Mr Chow is also a Director of Lam Kar Sing Foundation Limited, and one of the chief editors for the 5 publications about Dr Lam Kar Sing, the renowned Cantonese opera singer. He was a researcher of “*A Study of the Cantonese Opera Master Lam Kar Sing’s Vocal Techniques*”, published by the Academy’s School of Chinese Opera.

A staunch and loyal supporter of the Academy, Mr Chow served on the Academy Council for 9 years, taking the role of treasurer of the Academy Council from 2010 through 2015. Mr Chow has provided invaluable advice to the Academy Chinese Traditional Theatre programmes, as well as to EXCEL, the Academy’s continuing-education arm, enhancing their overall development, curricula, and operations. He has also given dedicated support to the School of Chinese Opera and the Young Academy Cantonese Opera Troupe, contributing greatly to the extension of the School’s undergraduate degree programmes from 3 to 4 years.

Mr Chow has served as an external member of the School of Chinese Opera Advisory Committee since 2018, and was a production advisor on a film produced by the Academy on Cantonese opera in 2021. He served as a co-opted member of the Academy Development Committee from 2016 to 2019, and has been a board member of the Young Academy Cantonese Opera Troupe since 2016. Mr Chow is currently serving as a member of the Audit Committee and the EXCEL Board of Governors of the Academy. He has been a scholarship donor and a seat sponsor of the Academy SAPA Ball for many years.

With great commitment to give back to the community, he is currently a member of the Chinese finance ministry’s Foreign Experts Consultative Committee on China Independent Auditing Standards. He is also a member of the RTHK Programme Advisory Panel. Mr Chow was a member of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Committee for Guangdong Province; the deputy chairman of the Auditing and Assurance Standards Committee; an examination panelist of the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants; former president of the Taxation Institute of Hong Kong; former chairman of the Chinese Entrepreneurs Organization; a former member of the Committee on Venue Partnership with the Hong Kong Leisure and Cultural Services Department; and the

honorary advisor to the Lions Club of Huaxia Hong Kong.

Mr Chow is a certified public accountant in Hong Kong as well as a chartered accountant in Scotland. He graduated from The Chinese University of Hong Kong with a bachelor's degree in business administration in 1974. He was awarded a postgraduate diploma in accountancy from the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, United Kingdom in 1975, and a postgraduate diploma in Chinese law from the University of Macau in 1987.

A renowned professional, Mr Chow has served on the boards of several publicly listed companies including an independent non-executive director and Audit Committee Chairman of Chinese Aerospace International Holdings Limited, an independent non-executive director of Pak Tak International Limited, an independent non-executive director of CEC Holdings Limited, and an independent non-executive director and Audit Committee Chairman of Maoye International Holdings Limited. In recognition of Mr Chow's contributions to the community, he was awarded the Medal of Honour by the Hong Kong SAR government in 2013.

Ms Helen Lai MH - Doctorate of the Academy *honoris causa*

Ms Helen Lai is one of Hong Kong's most-prominent choreographers, and an internationally celebrated dance artist who is widely recognised for her uniquely poetic choreographic style. Ms Lai began her ballet training in Hong Kong and then went on to train professionally at the London Contemporary Dance School. A founding member of the City Contemporary Dance Company (CCDC) in Hong Kong, Ms Lai served as the CCDC's Artistic Director in the 1980s and later as its Resident Choreographer for 20 years. As early as 1977, Hong Kong City Hall featured her choreographic work in a solo exhibition.

Ms Lai's works are cross-cultural and multidisciplinary. Well-versed in literature, Ms Lai is critically acclaimed for her delicate and sensitive touch in her creations. Her style is said to resemble that of the famous Song dynasty poet Li Qingzhao. Ms Lai has choreographed for many local dance and performing arts companies, including the Hong Kong Dance Company, the Hong Kong Repertory Theatre, the Hong Kong Ballet, and DanceArt, and for numerous stage and television productions. Outside Hong Kong, Ms Lai has choreographed for the Cloud Gate Theater and Taipei Crossover Dance Company, Contempodanza and the Ballet Estudio in Mexico City, the Guangdong Modern Dance Company, and the Singapore Dance Theatre.

Hailed as "a choreographer's choreographer", many of Ms Lai's works are regarded as classics in the dance scene. Her major works include *Nine Songs*, *The Rite of Spring*, *Invisible Cities*, *Loose Pages from a Woman's Diary*, *Revolutionary Pekinese Opera (Millennium Mix)*, *In the Beginning*, *Plaza X*, *The Tragedy of Mr O*, *The Comedy of K*, *Testimony*, *HerStory*, *Tales of Two Cities - Hong Kong-Shanghai-Eileen Chang*, *Soledad*, *While the Dream Unfolds*, and *Winterreise-The Rite of Spring*. She also worked as the director of the chamber opera *Heart of Coral*. Recently she directed and choreographed for the chamber opera *María de Buenos Aires*. A spirited choreographer, Ms Lai actively seeks to collaborate with artists from different backgrounds. Her works have featured in international festivals such as the Karmiel Dance Festival in Israel, the Festival of Cultures in Munich, and the Lyon Dance Biennale in France. Ms Lai's distinctive artistic and aesthetic style has also attracted dance scholars around the world to study her practice.

Ms Lai has been a pillar in the dance development of Hong Kong, and is a longtime supporter of the School of Dance at the Academy. Ms Lai has provided valuable advice to the School as its external examiner for choreographic courses. Our Dance students have also prized their opportunities to perform and restage many of her famous pieces, including *The Story of Nu Wa*, *Red*, and excerpts from *HerStory*. To acknowledge Ms Lai's outstanding achievements in dance and her contributions to the School of Dance, the Academy conferred an honorary fellowship on her in 2004.

Over the course of her career as a choreographer, dance artist and artistic director, Ms Lai has garnered many awards and accolades. In July 2000, Ms Lai was awarded the Medal of

Honour by the Hong Kong SAR government. Other awards include Choreographer of the Year from the Hong Kong Artists' Guild in 1990, and the Badge of Honour in 1995, a recognition of outstanding achievement from the British government. A multiple winner at the Hong Kong Dance Awards, Ms Lai took home the prize for Outstanding Choreography in 2020, 2017 and 2016 for, respectively, *Winterreise* in *Winterreise-The Rite of Spring*, *While the Dream Unfolds* and *Soledad*. She was awarded the Outstanding Achievement in Choreography in 2011, the Distinguished Achievement Award in 2002, and four more Hong Kong Dance Awards for her works. Ms Lai also received the Award for Outstanding Contribution in Arts in 2015 and the Award for Arts Achievement in Dance in 2003 from Hong Kong Arts Development Council, in recognition of her significant contributions to the development of the arts in Hong Kong.

Mr Warren Mok BBS MH - Doctorate of the Academy *honoris causa*

A prestigious operatic tenor with a distinguished international career, Mr Warren Mok holds a Master of Music Degree from Manhattan School of Music and is dubbed one of China's "Three Tenors". Since Mr Mok's European début in 1987 at the Deutsche Oper Berlin, he has made guest appearances in leading opera houses throughout the world, including the Paris Opéra, the Teatro dell'Opera di Roma, Opera Australia at Sydney Opera House, Carnegie Hall in New York City, the Royal Albert Hall in London, Teatro Comunale di Bologna, Teatro Carlo Felice Genova, Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, Opéra de Nice, Opéra de Lyon, Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires, Dutch National Opera, Leipzig Opera, Royal Danish Opera, Teatro di San Carlos Lisbon, Seattle Opera, Bolshoi Theatre, Warsaw Opera, Teatro Lirico di Cagliari in Italy, ABAO Bilbao, Opera Ireland, Teatro Principal de Palma de Mallorca, Nancy Opéra France, Bergen National Opera Norway, Latvian National Opera, Lithuanian National Opera, Opera Orlando in Florida, Hawaii Opera Theatre, Vienna Musikverein, Vienna Volksoper, Berliner Philharmonie, National Centre for the Performing Arts in Beijing and the Shanghai Opera House. *The Guardian*, a London newspaper, praised Mr Mok that "his technique is rock solid, with beautiful even timbre, and an engaging enthusiasm on stage; ringing top notes were attacked and held in rock-like Pavarotti vein."

Mr Mok's operatic repertoire has extended to more than 60 roles including Calaf in *Turandot*, Rodolfo in *La Bohème*, Radamès in *Aïda*, Cavaradossi in *Tosca*, Don José in *Carmen*, the Duke in *Rigoletto*, Alfredo in *La Traviata*, Don Carlo, Romeo, Faust, Werther and many others. He recently performed in *Tannhäuser* and *Andrea Chénier* in Beijing, at the National Centre for the Performing Arts.

Outside his role as a renowned opera singer, Mr Mok is active in promoting opera and classical music in Hong Kong, Macau and the Mainland. He is the founder and artistic director of Opera Hong Kong. He has served as the artistic director of the Macao International Music Festival, Fujian Grand Theatre and Zhuhai Huafa Grand Theatre. To enhance artistic and cultural exchange between Hong Kong and the Mainland, Mr Mok introduced original productions to Hong Kong audiences such as *The Chinese Orphan* first performed at the National Centre for Performing Arts of China, *Poet Li Bai* that debuted at the Central City Opera House in Colorado and *Dr. Sun Yat-sen* conceived by Opera Hong Kong. He is also an advisor to the Shanghai Opera House, the Shanghai Symphony, the China National Opera House and the Beijing Music Festival.

Appointed to both the Beijing and Zhuhai committees of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Mr Mok helps foster the development of Hong Kong and these cities. He has also dedicated himself to the musical education of younger generations, serving as a visiting professor at Peking University's Academy of Opera, the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, South China Normal University, and Southwest University in Chongqing. Mr Mok has been a great supporter of The Hong Kong Academy for

Performing Arts over the years.

Mr Mok received the Bronze Bauhinia Star from the Hong Kong SAR government in 2021, as well as the Medal of Honour in 2011. He was awarded an honorary fellowship by Hong Kong Baptist University in 2019, was appointed Officer of the Order of the Star of Italy in 2018, won the World Outstanding Chinese Award in 2010, and is both a Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella della Solidarietà Italiana and a Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres in France. The awards recognise Mr Mok's exceptional contributions to the cultural exchanges between Hong Kong, Italy, France and the Mainland. He was also the winner of the World Ten Outstanding Cantonese Award in 2015.

Mr Jaap van Zweden SBS - Doctorate of the Academy *honoris causa*

Mr Jaap van Zweden is one of the world's most-prominent orchestral conductors, holding top positions in the world's major orchestras. He has been the music director of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra since 2012 and music director of the New York Philharmonic starting 2018.

Born in Amsterdam, Mr Jaap van Zweden began his conducting career in 1996, going on at the age of 19 to become the youngest-ever concertmaster of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra. He remains honorary chief conductor of the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra, where he served as chief conductor from 2005 to 2013. He was chief conductor of the Royal Flanders from 2008 to 2011, and music director of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra from 2008 to 2018, where he remains conductor laureate. He was named *Musical America's* Conductor of the Year in 2012. In 2020, he was awarded the prestigious Concertgebouw Prize, while the Hong Kong SAR government presented him with the Silver Bauhinia Star. The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra was named *Gramophone's* 2019 Orchestra of the Year under his leadership.

Mr Jaap van Zweden has been a guest conductor with leading orchestras around the world, including the Orchestre de Paris, the Amsterdam's Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, the Leipzig Gewandhausorchester, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, The Cleveland Orchestra, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Vienna and Berlin philharmonics, and the London Symphony Orchestra.

His acclaimed recordings include the 2020 release of the world premiere of David Lang's *Prisoner of the state* with the New York Philharmonic, and the 2019 release of the world premiere of Julia Wolfe's *Fire in my mouth*, continuing the New York Philharmonic's partnership with Decca Gold. In 2018, he completed a four-year project with the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra conducting the first Hong Kong performances of all four parts of Wagner's *Ring* cycle. These were released on Naxos Records as individual recordings as well as a complete set. He conducted highly-praised performances of *Lohengrin* as well as *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*. *Parsifal* earned the prestigious Edison Award for Best Opera Recording in 2012.

In 1997, Mr Jaap van Zweden and his wife Aaltje established the Papageno Foundation, with the aim of supporting families of children with autism in the Netherlands. Over two decades, the foundation has grown into a multifaceted charity funding autism programmes and providing in-home music therapy to children through a national network of qualified music therapists. It opened the Papageno House in August 2015 as a place for young adults with autism to live, work and participate in the community. It also established a research centre for the early diagnosis and treatment of autism and for analysing the effects of music therapy on autism. The foundation plans to open a second home soon, with more in the works. It also launched the app TEAMPapageno, which

allows children with autism to communicate with each other through music composition.

Mr Jaap van Zweden is a staunch supporter of the School of Music of the Academy, inspiring young musicians of the School. He has been conducting annual orchestral workshops with the Academy Symphony Orchestra, and both staff and students say they benefit from his invaluable advice and tutelage. In 2021, the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra and the School of Music forged a partnership to found The Orchestra Academy Hong Kong with funding support from the “TrustTomorrow” of The Swire Group Charitable Trust. The Orchestra Academy is a major step forward for the School to link with the music industry. One facet of this scheme is to allow select graduates of the School to play with the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra for a full season. Mr Jaap van Zweden throws his full support behind the project, part of his commitment to nurturing young musicians.

Mr Chan Kinsun - Honorary Fellowship

Mr Chan Kinsun is a distinguished choreographer and designer who works internationally in a range of artistic disciplines. Mr Chan studied art, graphic design, and dance in the United States at Virginia Intermont College, Georgia State University, and the University of Louisville. He also began his professional dance career in the United States, making his debut as a ballet dancer. He later moved to Europe when he was invited to serve as a soloist with Heinz Spoerli at the Zürich Opera House, moving on to work with Richard Wherlock at the Theater Basel.

Mr Chan performed many soloist roles created by renowned choreographers including Jiří Kylián, William Forsythe, Nacho Duato, Heinz Spoerli, Hans van Manen, Richard Wherlock and Ed Wubbe. He has also been a choreographer since 2000. Mr Chan's works have been performed worldwide by the Basel Ballet, Singapore Dance Theatre, The Ballet of the State Opera Hanover, Tiroler Landestheater, Tanz Luzerner Theater, Hannover Ballet, Staatstheater Kassel, Royal Ballet School of Antwerp, John Cranko Ballet School, the Munich Ballet Academy, the Tanz Akademie Zürich, the Hong Kong Ballet and the Academy's School of Dance.

Renowned for deploying a diverse and dynamic visual language, Mr Chan's choreography brings full circle his work in art and design. His choreography *Black on Black* for the Hong Kong Ballet was then performed at the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival in the United States and Festival des Arts de Saint Sauveur in Canada. His prominence as a dance practitioner saw him participate as a member of the jury for the prestigious Prix de Lausanne in 2021.

Beyond his devotion to dance, Mr Chan also works in opera, film, television, and dance video production. As of the 2019/20 season, Mr Chan has taken over the management of the dance company of Theatre St. Gallen in Switzerland. He also worked as a set and costume designer for dance productions such as *X=Hase*, *Peer Gynt* and *Orfeo ed Euridice*.

Mr Chan has always worked very closely with the School of Dance at the Academy. As a dedicated educator and the School's artist-in-residence, he choreographed two new works, *Clique* and *The Grid*, for the School's annual productions in 2011 and 2018, respectively, sharing with students his experience and professional advice as a choreographer and as a designer of sets, costumes, and lighting. To encourage professional practice in premier dance institutions, Mr Chan has offered internship opportunities for School of Dance graduates and has engaged alumni as professional dancers with his company. In 2019, the School had extensive discussions with Mr Chan and Professor Samuel Wuersten at the Zurich University of the Arts on a partnership for internship exchange at Theatre St. Gallen.

Ms Candy Chea Shuk-mui MH - Honorary Fellowship

Ms Candy Chea Shuk-mui is a well-respected broadcaster in Hong Kong, hosting popular radio programmes covering music, news, entertainment and parenting over the past few decades. These include *Morning Suit* (晨光第一線), *Iceland Sunshine* (冰島陽光), *Happy Daily* (開心日報) and *Dreams Come True* (夢想成真).

Currently, Ms Chea hosts a long-running and highly-rated programme *Those were the days* (舊日的足跡) on Radio Television Hong Kong, which shares the inspiring stories of outstanding individuals from various sectors and industries. Throughout her long and distinguished career in broadcasting, Ms Chea has received numerous awards including the New Women's Award from Asia Television, and the Radio Broadcasting Most Outstanding Performing Artist Gold Award from the Hong Kong Performing Artistes Guild. Ms Chea was also elected the "Most Popular DJ" in Hong Kong for 8 consecutive years in recognition of her distinguished performance and strong commitment to work.

Due to a difficult upbringing, Ms Chea was not able to speak in standard Cantonese as a child. That did not stop her from pursuing her dreams. She worked on correcting her accent to become a successful broadcaster over the course of half a century. She is also very active in public and community service. She has devoted much of her time to serving the disadvantaged in society. That involves volunteer work at various charities including the Hong Kong Kidney Foundation, the Agency for Volunteer Service, the Hong Kong Disabled Youth Association, Taishan International, the Intellectually Disabled Education and Advocacy League, and the Hong Kong Youth Arts and Speech Association.

Ms Chea's passion and commitment to serve the community has earned her numerous accolades from organisations including the Ten Outstanding Young Persons Award, the Yan Oi Tong Outstanding Charitable Artist Award, the Excellent Social Contribution Award from the Regeneration Society, and the Hong Kong Volunteer Award. She has also received a commendation for community service from the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong SAR government and a commendation from the Secretary for Home Affairs.

As the Founding Chairperson and current honorary president of the Hong Kong Volunteer Awardees Society, Ms Chea motivates and encourages members of the public to take part in volunteer work and to give back to society. She was conferred with an honorary fellowship by Lingnan University in 2018 and awarded the Medal of Honour from the Hong Kong SAR government in July 2021.

Ms Chea is committed to serving the community and hopes to inspire people to strive for their dreams even amid adversity. She also supports the performing arts industry and cultural development of Hong Kong. Over the years, Ms Chea has always been very supportive of the further advancement of the Academy.

Professor Aquiles Delle Vigne - Honorary Fellowship

Born in Argentina in 1946, Professor Aquiles Delle Vigne gave his first recital at the age of 8. Under the artistic guidance of Claudio Arrau, he won the Grand Prix of the Albert Williams Competition. He then completed his training in Europe with Eduardo del Pueyo and György Cziffra.

Professor Delle Vigne has his own academy at the University of Coimbra in Portugal where more than 30 pianists of different nationalities follow his instruction. He also teaches at the Accademia del Ridotto, forming a team of professors alongside Andrzej Jasinski and Roberto Cappello.

Professor Delle Vigne is one of the most-respected piano professors in the world, serving as a jury member for prestigious international piano competitions and performing in tournées around the world. He has given masterclasses at the Moscow and Saint Petersburg conservatories, the Manhattan School of Music in New York, The Julliard School, Toho University in Tokyo, the University of Munich, the Mozarteum International Summer Academy in Salzburg, the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna, and the Academy's School of Music. He was a distinguished professor at the Codarts University for the Arts in Rotterdam as well as at the École Normale de Musique de Paris Alfred Cortot.

Besides his scholarship, Professor Delle Vigne is also highly regarded as a pianist. His concerts and records showcase his artistic talent, with a discography that includes recordings with EMI His Master's Voice, BASF Harmonia Mundi, BMG-RCA Victor, Naxos, Pavane and EMS. His performance of the *Préludes pour piano* by Olivier Messiaen for Pope John Paul II at the Vatican earned him high praise from the composer himself.

Professor Delle Vigne has returned to the School of Music at the Academy many times since 2008. He has made significant contributions to the standard of piano playing at the Academy. A knowledgeable and prestigious musician, he is always ready to share his piano skills and wisdom with students and faculty members alike. The students and staff say they look forward to his visits, gaining inspiration from his insightful and powerful teaching. Many students of the School have attended his masterclasses at the Mozarteum International Summer Academy in Salzburg. In 2019, Professor Delle Vigne joined the School of Music in launching the HKAPA Invitation to Music Summer Festival with great success. Many of his own followers joined the festival, making the keyboard section of the event a truly international affair.

Mr Hong Ka-chun - Honorary Fellowship

Mr Hong Ka-chun is a prolific producer of music concerts in Hong Kong. He has worked with many top musical artists over the course of hundreds of shows, ensuring he is a staple feature of the Hong Kong music and entertainment industry. Mr Hong is keen to promote the creation of original music, and has inspired many independent artists.

In 1994, Mr Hong joined Commercial Radio's English channel Quote 864 as a programme producer, after working in the promotions department at Warner Music (international repertoire) for 3 years. In 1999, he was promoted to programme and event producer at Commercial Radio 2. He was the producer of a series of notable large-scale events and concerts, including the Ultimate Song Chart Awards Presentation and Music Is Live after becoming the director of promotions and productions at Commercial Radio Productions.

Following his success at Commercial Radio, Mr Hong became an independent concert producer. In 2005, he introduced local independent music to the 33rd Hong Kong Arts Festival and presented the first local independent-music programme Come Out & Play, which set a milestone for the music industry in Hong Kong. He was also the designated producer of the year-round live-music series Moov Live from 2007 to 2018.

As an esteemed and experienced producer, Mr Hong has contributed significantly to the local arts-and-entertainment community. Over more than three decades in the music industry, he has encouraged many artists and young talents. In 2000, he established the arts and culture label 89268, which published more than 30 music albums for non-mainstream music artists. The label played a major role in the local music scene and brought many under-represented talents to the fore. Meanwhile, he launched the large-scale local music festival Wow & Flutter The Weekend, a series of outdoor music performances in 2016. His efforts to ensure that local musical talent breaks into the highly competitive live-music market received high praise from industry professionals.

In his capacity as a visiting guest artist to the School of Theatre and Entertainment Arts at the Academy, Mr Hong took part as creative lead and started the first pop-music concert Interstage, which was a highlight production of the School in 2018. By sharing his insights and musical knowledge, participating Theatre and Entertainment Arts students were given not only invaluable advice but also opportunities to work with many singer-songwriters, musicians and artists. The concerts held over the course of the past 3 years received a very positive response. Students and faculty members of the School are grateful to the support of Mr Hong.

Professor Liu Xinglin - Honorary Fellowship

Professor Liu Xinglin is a renowned designer and scenographer. His epochal works, profound knowledge of the field and remarkable achievements have earned him international recognition. He is the vice president of the China Scenography Association and the chairman of the Chinese centre of the International Organisation of Scenographers, Theatre Architects and Technicians, or OISTAT.

Professor Liu graduated from The Central Academy of Drama in Beijing with a bachelor's degree in theatre design in 1982 and a master's degree in theatre design in 1989, and is currently a professor at the same institution. Professor Liu has designed numerous productions including plays, musicals, opera, dance, different genres of Chinese traditional opera, and special events.

A seasoned professional with a global reputation, Professor Liu won the gold award in the 2009 World Stage Design competition, showcased in Seoul, and was shortlisted for set design when the World Stage Design awards next took place, in Cardiff in 2013. He was the curator of the Chinese national exhibition in 2015 at the Prague Quadrennial, the world's largest scenography event, where he received the Honorary PQ 2015 Award for Performance Design. He has also served on the international jury of the World Stage Design awards in 2017 and the Prague Quadrennial in 2019.

He is an accomplished scenographer in the Mainland and has received hordes of accolades including the Grand Prize at the Second China Scenography Exhibition, the Stage Design Awards at the Third Term Golden Lion Award of Chinese Drama Institute, the Best Stage Design at the 6th and 7th China Theatre Festival, the Award of China Ministry of Culture, the Best Stage Design at the Beijing International Experimental Theatre Festival and Forum, the Best Stage Design at Chinese Drama Festival and the Outstanding Drama Artist Award from the Chinese Ministry of Culture in 2007 in celebration of 100th anniversary of Chinese drama.

His 2010 Chinese-language publication *Stage Design Liu Xinglin* is a key set-design book that showcases a new aesthetic for scenography in the different genres of Chinese traditional opera. Drawing on years of research, he has also published a translated monograph *The Memoirs of Josef Svoboda: The Secret of Theatrical Space* (2016) and two Chinese monographs, *50 years of practice quadrennial* (2017) and *Ten notes of contemporary stage design of the world* (2019).

Professor Liu is very keen to pass on his vast experience and knowledge to younger generations, working closely with the School of Theatre and Entertainment Arts at the Academy. In 2020, the School invited Professor Liu to conduct a masterclass on Chinese opera design and a public seminar, both of which received very positive feedback from students, faculty members and participants. He also helped facilitate collaboration and

exchange between The Central Academy of Drama in Beijing and the Academy.

Professor Alan Rosenthal - Honorary Fellowship

Professor Alan Rosenthal is a distinguished film director, noteworthy for his expertise in documentary films. Born in England, Professor Rosenthal holds a master's degree in law from the University of Oxford, a master's degree in communications from Stanford University, and practised as a solicitor for several years, working in film financing. With a long career in documentary filmmaking, Professor Rosenthal has been director, writer, and producer of more than 60 films for broadcasting companies around the world, including ZDF in Germany, ARTE in France, the BBC, Channel 4, PBS, ABC, Israel TV, and the CBC.

Based in Jerusalem, Professor Rosenthal is a world expert on documentaries and docudramas, with historical and social matters at the heart of his work. Some of his important works include *The Fatal Clash*, *The First Fagin*, *Stalin's Last Purge*, *Adolf Eichmann - The Secret Memoirs*, *Waves of Freedom*, and *Heritage: Civilization and the Jews*, which won him an Emmy Award. Professor Rosenthal also received other major accolades including the Christopher Award, a Peabody Award for journalism, and the CINE Golden Eagle Award.

Held in high esteem in the field, Professor Rosenthal has been engaged by many prestigious film schools, including the Australian Film, Television and Radio School, the University of North Texas, New York University, Rowan University, the London School of Economics, Leeds Beckett University, London Film School, York University, and the Victorian College of the Arts at The University of Melbourne. Professor Rosenthal was instrumental in helping in the development of Stanford University's highly-regarded documentary programme. He was also a professor in the Department of Communication and Journalism at Hebrew University for more than 40 years.

Committed to passing on his experience to a younger generation of filmmakers and documentarians, Professor Rosenthal has published seminal textbooks in film, documentary, and non-fiction film production, sharing his observations in theory and in practice. His publications include *The Documentary Diaries: Working Experiences of a Non-Fiction Filmmaker*, *Writing, Directing, and Producing Documentary Films and Digital Videos*, and *Why Docudrama?: Fact-Fiction on Film and TV*.

A long-time supporter of the School of Film and Television at the Academy, Professor Rosenthal has contributed significantly to the academic development of the School. He has been regularly engaged as an advisor for the School, in his capacity as an external academic reviewer, and has assisted with the School's academic programme validation and accreditation. Professor Rosenthal first visited the Academy for an initial introduction to the Division of Television in the School of Technical Arts in 1993. His valuable advice in reviewing the curriculum greatly contributed to the design of the School's first degree programme. In his subsequent visits to Hong Kong over the years, he has delivered multiple workshops and seminars for Academy students, as well as providing professional

development for faculty members.
