



SCHOOL OF CHINESE OPERA

> *Learning in Diversity with Endurance and Focus*



INTRODUCTION

Chinese opera is recognised as a valuable part of Chinese culture, requiring the most profound refinement of skills in singing, acting, characterisation, movement, choreography and acrobatics.

Established in September 2013, the School of Chinese Opera offers the world's first accredited Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) in Chinese Opera.

At present, the School offers three programmes accredited by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications, all of which comprise two majors, namely Cantonese Opera Performance and Cantonese Opera Music:

- > **Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) in Chinese Opera (Four-year programme)**
Provide professional and comprehensive training in Chinese opera
- > **Diploma in Cantonese Opera Foundations (One-year programme)**
Provide foundational training in basic theories and practice in Cantonese opera art form and enhance academic profile
- > **Professional Diploma in Cantonese Opera (Two-year programme)**
Provide professional training and upskilling for senior secondary school graduates with prior practical experience of Cantonese Opera and current practitioners



VISION AND MISSION

The School of Chinese Opera aspires to provide students with professional and comprehensive training in Cantonese opera performance and music through a forward-looking, stimulating, highly integrated and innovative curriculum.



TEACHING AND LEARNING

The School provides professional and comprehensive training in Cantonese opera performance and music to form a solid foundation in Chinese opera performance with Major Studies, as well as broaden students' understanding of Chinese culture and their artistic horizons with Contextual Studies.

Major studies

Cantonese Opera Performance

- > Foundation Work (Acrobatic Skills)
- > Stage Movement and Performance Technique
- > Repertoire
- > Foundation Work & Weapon Skills
- > Cantonese Operatic Singing (Individual)
- > Practical Performance

Cantonese Opera Music

- > Major Instrument
- > Basic Percussion
- > Music Ensembleship
- > Major Percussion
- > Introduction to Suona
- > Percussion Ensembleship

Contextual studies

- > Chinese Opera and Culture
- > Music Theory of Cantonese Opera
- > History of Chinese Opera
- > Cantonese Operatic Music Composition
- > Makeup and Costume
- > Cantonese Operatic Percussion Composition

Using technology

The School is developing a Spatial Outcomes-Based Assessment System (SOBA) to enhance students' experience of Cantonese opera by using multi-dimensional digital technology. SOBA adopts technology such as motion capture, virtual reality, augmented reality to assist pedagogical delivery.

Visiting Artist

Every year, the School invites experienced Cantonese opera artists as Visiting Artists to practise selected repertoires with our students or launch Chinese opera workshops. Students can enjoy the opportunities of learning from masters of different genres of Chinese opera and better adapting to the performing and operational styles of the industry. Recent Visiting Artists include:

- We hosted a one-week Jingju & Kunqu Workshop, inviting three Visiting Artists, Geng Tianyuan, national first-class actor, Zhang Peicai, national first-class performer and Dr Tang Yuen-ha, winner of China Theatre Plum Blossom Award, to share their expertise in Chinese operatic acting and musical instrument performing skills with our students.
- The veteran Peking opera actor and Chinese opera director, Lau Shun, and renowned Cantonese opera performing artists, Wan Fai-yin, MH and Sun Kim-long, were invited to join the School as the Visiting Artist and the Guest Director of the school production *Gongs and Drums*.

Arts and Cultural Exchange

The School strives to provide outbound arts and cultural exchange experience for students to broaden their views. For example, in 2023, the School was invited by China Theatre Association to join the New Era International Showcase of Campus Theatre in Beijing, where our students performed the Cantonese Opera excerpt "Fengyi Pavilion" of *Lü Bu* and *Diaochan*.

INTERNATIONALISATION

The School co-organised international performances and study tours with overseas institutions. Our students performed "Quarrel on the Court" of *The Villain, the General and the Heroic Beauty* at Oberlin Conservatory of Music and the New York Chinese Community Centre.

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI

(By surname in alphabetical order)

> Cheng Nga-ki

Actress. Founded Nan Art Workshop. She performed in famous Cantonese opera such as *The Purple Hairpin*, as well as *Praying to the Moon* and new Cantonese opera *Love in the Bamboo Grove* in the 41st and 51st Hong Kong Arts Festival respectively.

> Cheng Wing-mui, Susanna

Actress. Founded Good Harvest Cantonese Opera Troupe. Her renowned performances include *Mermaid Legend*, *Legend of the White Snake*. She was the producer and the lead of *Realm of Trance: Tian Hacks the Coffin* of Xiqu Centre 5th Anniversary Celebrations.

> Lam Tin-yau

Actor. Founded Nan Art Workshop. Established Chung Sin Sing Cantonese Opera Troupe and produced new Cantonese opera such as *The Women's Kingdom*. He also performed in *Wu Song the Tiger Killer* and *The Guilded Fan* in the 42nd Hong Kong Arts Festival.

> Lee Tik-lun

Musician. Joined the Xiqu Centre Tea House Rising Stars Troupe, West Kowloon Cultural District (WKDC) as the Ensemble Leader. His performances include "Teahouse Theatre Experience," "Experimental Cantonese Opera: *Farewell My Concubine*."

> Lin Yingshi

Actress. Founded Alis Art Centre and her tea brand "Shicha." Further studied at the National Academy of Chinese Theatre Arts. She played the lead role in Hong Kong Arts Festival Cantonese opera for three years and performed in various multimedia performances.

> Song Hongbo

Actor. Joined Prosperity Cantonese Opera Production Studio. He performed in *Sacrificing the Son* in the 7th Chinese Opera Festival, *Emperor Wu of Han and his Jester Strategist* and *Farewell my Concubine* in the 45th and the 46th Hong Kong Arts Festival respectively.

> Wang Kit-ching, Karen

Actress. Founded Karen's Meadow Cantonese Opera Studio. She produced and played the lead role in *Diaochan*, *The Love Story of the Silk Road* and *Our Joyful Old 60's*. Received the Award for Young Artist (Xiqu) in Hong Kong Arts Development Awards 2011.

> Janet Wong

Actress. Founded Cantonese Opera Theatre. Received the Award for Young Artist (Xiqu) in Hong Kong Arts Development Awards 2014. She played the lead role in "Experimental Cantonese Opera: *Wenguang Explores the Valley*" at Xiqu Centre.

CAREER PROSPECTS

Our performance graduates can develop their career in Chinese opera through forming their own Chinese opera troupes or participating in the industry. Music graduates can also work in the troupes as music directors or music accompanists. Furthermore, our graduates may also teach Chinese opera in schools or in the community, or contribute themselves to art administration and marketing, for example, in the Xiqu Centre, West Kowloon Cultural District.



SCHOOL OF CHINESE OPERA - PROGRAMME

Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) in Chinese Opera

Major Study

- > Cantonese Opera Performance
- > Cantonese Opera Music

Diploma in Cantonese Opera Foundations

(Feeder programme to Undergraduate Programme)

Major Study

- > Performance
- > Music

Professional Diploma in Cantonese Opera


Major Study


- > Performance
- > Music



Admission & Audition

PROGRAMMES ENQUIRY

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