

To: Arts/Culture/Features Editor

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Press Release**

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**A Hilarious Operetta for all Ages to Enjoy**

***The Pirates of Penzance*, featuring young talented performers on stage!**

Programme Name: Opera Hong Kong Summer Opera School *The Pirates of Penzance*  
Venue: Theatre, Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre  
Date & Time: 8:00 pm on 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2010  
3:00 pm on 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2010  
Ticket Price: \$180 (Discounted tickets available)  
Tickets will be available at all the URB TIX outlets  
For more information: Please visit [www.operahongkong.org](http://www.operahongkong.org)

Following last year's successful debut of the children version of *The Magic Flute*, Opera Hong Kong Summer Opera School will present the enchanting operetta *The Pirates of Penzance* featuring a cast of over 50 Hong Kong music talents, aged between 5 and 18, and accompanied by a Youth Orchestra. *The Pirates of Penzance* will be staged on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2010 at the Theatre of Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre.

*The Pirates of Penzance* is the finale performance by young musical talents after they have completed a four-week intensive vocal training programme and rehearsals session at the summer school. Recommended by their music teachers, these young singers were carefully selected through auditions before they were qualified for admission.

According to Warren Mok, the world acclaimed tenor and artistic director of Opera Hong Kong, "*The Pirates of Penzance* is a perfect choice for our summer opera school. Kids will love not only the music but also the story. It is a custom-made operetta for children to participate and have fun in it."

*The Pirates of Penzance* by Gilbert & Sullivan is a two-act comic operetta. It is a swashbuckling comedy filled with sight gags and verbal buffoonery, deliriously catchy music and songs. *The Pirates of Penzance* is a tale about Frederic, who, having completed his 21st year, is released from his apprenticeship to a band of tenderhearted pirates. He meets Mabel, the daughter of Major-General Stanley, and the two young people fall instantly in love. Frederic finds out, however, that he was born on 29<sup>th</sup> February, and so, technically, he only has a birthday each leap year. His apprenticeship indentures state that he remains apprenticed to the pirates until his 21st birthday, and so he must serve for another 63 years!

The 85-minute performance is directed by Dr. Oliver Lo, a tenor and an adjunct associate professor at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and conducted by Apollo Wong, a bass-baritone and conductor and the Music Director of the Opera Hong Kong Children Chorus and The Learners Chorus. According to Dr. Oliver Lo, "We hope the opera will help inspire children to develop a life long interest in the performing arts. We encourage parents and teachers to bring along their children and students to see the performances."

Tickets for the performances will be available at all URBTIX outlets. Each ticket costs \$180, with 10% discount offered for any purchase of 10 or more tickets. There will be a 50% discount for full-time students, citizens aged 60 or above, persons with disabilities and Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients.

Opera Hong Kong has been committed to promoting local musical talents. The Summer Opera School is one of the major components of our education and outreach programme. We hope to nurture our local talents by giving them training and opportunities to perform.

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### **About Opera Hong Kong**

Opera Hong Kong was founded in 2003 by the internationally acclaimed Hong Kong tenor, Mr. Warren Mok and a group of opera and arts aficionados. Its missions are to enhance the appreciation of the art of opera in Hong Kong and to nurture and promote local musical talents.

Since its inception, Opera Hong Kong has produced 10 full-scale operas, namely *La Traviata*, *Turandot*, *Carmen*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Roméo et Juliette*, *Aïda*, *Werther*, *Don Carlo*, *The Magic Flute* and *Manon*. Apart from operas, the company has also presented the musical *Jinsha*, as well as concerts, including *Samson and Delilah*, *the Yellow River Cantata* and *Opera Highlights*, *Mozart Requiem and Favourite Arias*, *Liao Changyong Recital*, *Denyce Graves Recital*, *Verdi's Requiem*, *Opera and Musical Gala Concerts*, *Ode to Beethoven* and *Operas and Musicals for Families* as part of the education and outreach programme. Mini-opera school tours, summer camps and master classes are held regularly to reach the young population.

### **About Opera Hong Kong Children Chorus**

The Opera Hong Kong Children Chorus was established in January 2008 and made its debut in the opera *Werther*. The mission of the Chorus is to educate, develop and inspire children to enjoy the joy and excitement of opera singing and establish a commitment to excellence through collaboration with world renowned singers in grand scale opera productions.

The Opera Hong Kong Children Chorus is committed to learning and performing high quality repertoire from musicals and operas. Through choral, dance and movement training, chorus members will be able to enhance their musicianship, personal growth, teamwork, discipline and confidence.

Prince Jewellery & Watch is the Principal Patron of the Opera Hong Kong.