

PRESS RELEASE (FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)  
(9 August 2017)

Opera Hong Kong presents

**Jockey Club Opera Hong Kong Young Artist Development Programme**  
*Semi-staged concert - Opera Carnival*

**21 – 22 September 2017, 7:30pm**  
**Concert Hall, Hong Kong City Hall**

Opera Hong Kong proudly presents *Opera Carnival*, a semi-staged annual concert which comprises excerpts of ten popular operas, performed by local young artists from **Jockey Club Opera Hong Kong Young Artist Development Programme** (the Programme), which is funded by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust and a major effort by Opera Hong Kong to strive for a breakthrough in local operatic art development.

As the first-ever intensive opera training project partnered with a series of outreach activities in Hong Kong, the **Jockey Club Opera Hong Kong Young Artist Development Programme** aims to raise our young artists' abilities to an international level by providing tailor-made and intensive training, as well as more opportunities to perform on stage.

*Opera Carnival*, with a wide range of opera cuisine from Italian, German, French to Russian, is ready to serve the Hong Kong audience and opera lovers. You will have a taste of all-time opera favorites and at the same time, learn more about the operas' historical background, artistic and cultural aspects. Produced by the Programme Director Gong Dongjian, directed by David Li and conducted by conductor Brian Schembri, *Opera Carnival* will be performed by up-and-coming local artists from Jockey Club Opera Hong Kong Young Artist Development Programme, including Colette Lam (Soprano), Alison Lau (Soprano), Joyce Wong (Soprano), Li Yang (Soprano), Dominique Chan (Mezzo-soprano), Samantha Chong (Mezzo-soprano), Bobbie Zhang (Mezzo-soprano), Charlie Cha (Tenor), Chen Yong (Tenor) and Sammy Chien (Baritone).

*Opera Carnival* will be held on 21–22 September (Thursday to Friday), 7:30pm at the Concert Hall, Hong Kong City Hall, with The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust as Major Funder. Tickets are now available for booking at URB TIX ([www.urbtix.hk](http://www.urbtix.hk)), priced at \$220, \$180, \$120 and \$60. Half-price tickets are available for senior citizens aged 60 or above, persons with disabilities and their carers, full-time students and Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients. 5% discount for each purchase of 4–9 standard tickets; 10% discount of 10–19 standard tickets; 15% discount of 20 or more standard tickets.

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### **About Jockey Club Opera Hong Kong Young Artist Development Programme**

Jockey Club Opera Hong Kong Young Artist Development Programme (“the Programme”), a first-ever intensive opera training project accompanied by a series of outreach activities in Hong Kong. The three-year programme, commenced on 1 July 2015, has received generous support from The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust to benefit young vocal artists, Opera Hong Kong Chorus and the local community.

The Programme which aims at raising the professional standard of local opera artists by providing tailor-made yet intensive training programme, is a major effort by Opera Hong Kong to strive for a breakthrough in local operatic art development. Not limited to performance by Opera Hong Kong, beneficiaries can also apply the skills which they have acquired in other art groups’ performances throughout the territory of Hong Kong, hence promoting the art form as a whole and making opera more accessible to all. In fact, the impact brought about by the Programme will be accentuated by outreach activities in schools and regional performance venues.

In 2015–16, the Programme accompanied by a series of training and outreach activities, it has proved to be a fruitful and successful one! The highlight of the Programme in 2015–16 is *A Love Insight - Roméo et Juliette*, which is an abridged version of the French opera performed on May 28 and May 30 at the Grand Theatre of Hong Kong Cultural Centre. The two performances are a big success for the Programme in terms of artistic standard achieved, audience attendance and satisfaction. In addition, the Programme also reached out to approximately 3100 students from 9 secondary schools, where the young artists gave interactive presentations to introduce opera and conducted masterclasses.

The Programme will continue to nurture young artists to attain international level in their artistic skills.

### **About Opera Hong Kong**

Opera Hong Kong is the first opera company to have been established in Hong Kong. The company was formed in July 2003 as a non-profit organisation. Since its inception, Opera Hong Kong has become a firmly established part of Hong Kong’s cultural scene. Since our establishment, Opera Hong Kong has gone from strength to strength under the artistic direction of Warren Mok, the internationally acclaimed Hong Kong tenor, with many grand-scale productions of operas including *The Barber of Seville*, *Otello*, *Tosca*, *La Traviata*, *Turandot*, *Carmen*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Roméo et Juliette*, *Aïda*, *Werther*, *Don Carlo*, *The Magic Flute*, *Poet Li Bai*, *Manon*, *La Bohème* and many others. Apart from operas, Opera Hong Kong has also presented a significant number of musicals and concerts.

Opera Hong Kong (OHK) is committed to the mission of enhancing the appreciation of the art of opera in Hong Kong and promoting local musical talents. In 2015, OHK has launched *The Jockey Club Opera Hong Kong Young Artist Development Programme* (the Programme), a 3-year opera training programme funded by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, to nurture ten professional young local artists. The Programme is the first-ever intensive professional opera training project in Hong Kong accompanied by a series of outreach activities. Mr. Gong Dongjian, a famous bass and an experienced vocal coach, is the Programme Director of the Programme.

In addition to staging operas and concerts, opera school tours, summer camps and master classes are held regularly to reach the young population. Opera Hong Kong Chorus and Opera Hong Kong Children Chorus were established in 2004 and 2008 respectively and are becoming recognised forces in the local choral scene.