



PRESS RELEASE (FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

Life Through Tears And Laughter
Puccini's *Suor Angelica* and *Gianni Schicchi*
Semi-staged opera starring young Hong Kong singers
7:30pm, 25-26 August 2017
Concert Hall, Hong Kong City Hall



(26 July 2017, Hong Kong) In celebration of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Opera Hong Kong proudly presents Puccini's one-act operas [Suor Angelica and Gianni Schicchi](#) on August 25-26, 2017, at the Concert Hall, Hong Kong City Hall at 7:30pm. The double-bill contrasts the hope and pathos of *Suor Angelica* with the rollicking comedy, *Gianni Schicchi*.

Directed by award-winning director [Shen Liang](#), Resident Stage Director of The National Centre for The Performing Arts in Beijing, along with [Dejan Savick](#), Principal Conductor of the Belgrade Opera and Ballet Company, audiences will have the opportunity to see some of the Hong Kong's outstanding young artists. The operas will be presented as semi-staged – the characters, in costume, will perform in front of the orchestra.

Suor Angelica is a tale of loss and repentance and tells the heart-wrenching story of a young lady who is sent to a convent as punishment for having an illegitimate child. Composed for female voices alone, the music masterfully portrays each character through different singing styles. *Suor Angelica* is a powerful drama, made all the more moving by Puccini's music, which frames the young heroine's tragic destiny.

By contrast, the brisk and lively music of *Gianni Schicchi* perfectly matches the opera's intriguing plot. The most popular of Puccini's three one-act operas, which together are known as *Il Trittico* (The Triptych), *Gianni Schicchi* features the famous aria "O mio babbina caro" (My Dear Father). Sung by Laretta (Schicchi's daughter), the aria's haunting melody has captivated audiences worldwide.

Greedy members of a family are trying to gain control of the estate of a dying relative and Gianni Schicchi is hired to help secure the inheritance. He, however, has a plan of his own and turns the con on the family.

Together with *Il Tabarro*, *Il Trittico* debuted at the Metropolitan Opera in New York in 1918. However, the operas remain acutely relevant today. “Great works can always ring a few bells regardless of time and generation,” said Director Shen Liang.

Shen will set *Gianni Schicchi* in Shanghai at the beginning of 20th century. Focusing on the psychological drama of the characters, Shen will explore the common themes between the two contrasting works -- the underlying sorrow and dark side of humanity despite of the side-splitting farce and the joy and peace at the end of the tragic life of Suor Angelica.

Much-sought after soprano Louise Kwong (as Suor Angelica on 26 Aug) was recently presented with the Hong Kong Arts Development Council Young Artist Award (Music). In 2012, Kwong won the Second Prize, the Best Soprano Prize and the Audience Prize at the 18th Ferruccio Tagliavini International Competition in Graz, Austria.

A highly versatile singer who embraces a wide range of repertoire and operatic roles, Li Yang (as Suor Angelica on 25 Aug) has sung Liù in *Turandot*, Papagena in *Die Zauberflöte*, Micaëla in *Carmen*. Sammy Chien won first prize in the Operatic Aria competition at the Hong Kong Youth Singing Festival. He is a member of the Jockey Club Opera Hong Kong Young Artist Development Programme.

With support from the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, semi-staged operas *Suor Angelica* and *Gianni Schicchi* will be held on Friday, 25 Aug and Saturday, 26 Aug 2017 at 7:30 pm starring some of Hong Kong’s brightest operatic talents. Tickets are available now at URBTIX (www.urbtix.hk). Tickets are priced at HK\$350, HK\$250, HK\$150 and HK\$80. There is a limited number of half-price tickets for senior citizens aged 60 or above, persons with disabilities and their carers, full-time students and Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information about Opera Hong Kong, please visit www.operahongkong.org or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/operahongkonglimited.

Puccini’s *Suor Angelica* & *Gianni Schicchi* – semi- staged opera

Producer: [Warren Mok](#)
Conductor: [Dejan Savic](#)
Director: [Shen Liang](#)



Chorus Director: [Alex Tam](#)
Designer of Nun Costumes: Cindy Ho Pui-shan
Nun Costumes Production: Costume Shop of The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts

Suor Angelica Cast

Sister Angelica: [Li Yang](#) (25 Aug)/ [Louise Kwong](#) (26 Aug)
La Zia Principessa: [Carol Lin](#)
La Badessa: [Bobbie Zhang](#)
La Suora Zelatrice: [Dominique Chan](#)
The Mistress of the novices: [Bobbie Zhang](#)
Sister Genovieffa: [Joyce Wong](#)

Gianni Schicchi Cast

Gianni Schicchi: [Sammy Chien](#)
Lauretta: [Alison Lau](#) (25 Aug) / [Colette Lam](#) (26 Aug)
Zita: [Dominique Chan](#)
Rinuccio: [Chen Yong](#) (25 Aug)/ [Chen Chen](#) (26 Aug)

Programme Details

25-26 Aug 2017 (Fri-Sat) | 7:30pm
Concert Hall, Hong Kong City Hall

\$350, \$250, \$150, \$80

Tickets available at all URBTIX outlets.

Performed in Italian with Chinese and English surtitles

Ticketing: www.urbtix.hk/internet/en_US/eventDetail/33035
Credit Card Telephone Booking: 2111 5999
Ticketing Enquiries: 3761 6661
Programme Enquiries: 2234 0303

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Media Enquiries: (852) 2234 0303

Yvonne Sung/ Derek Wu yvonesung@operahongkong.org;
derekwu@operahongkong.org;

Opera Hong Kong www.operahongkong.org

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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 organization. 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, MH, the internationally acclaimed Hong Kong tenor, with 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, 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, *Opera Gala Concert*, *Musical Gala Concert*, *Verdi's Messa da Requiem*, *Ode to Beethoven*, Gong Dongjian Recital and *Celebrity Fundraising Concert*; and *Operas and Musicals for Families* as part of the education and outreach programme. Opera school tours, summer schools 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 recognized forces in the local choral scene.

Honourary Patron of Opera Hong Kong: K. Wah International Holdings Ltd

Opera Hong Kong is grateful to K. Wah International Holdings Limited (KWIH) for being the Honourary Patron since 2013. Through staging the grand opera productions and organizing educational and outreach programmes including opera tours to schools, opera concerts at tertiary institutions, vocal arts scholarships, summer school and Children Chorus, KWIH helps promote the appreciation of opera to a wider community especially the young generation.

As a longstanding advocate of art and culture in Hong Kong, KWIH actively sponsors various performing arts and educational projects to promote the popularity and diversity of Hong Kong's art scene and create a favorable environment for the budding talents.