

PRESS RELEASE

Opera Hong Kong proudly presents
The Annual Performance of
The Jockey Club Opera Hong Kong Young Artist Development Programme
Così fan tutte x The Magic Flute: Abridged Versions of Operas by Mozart



(Hong Kong · 23rd November, 2020) ***Così fan tutte x The Magic Flute: Abridged Versions of Operas by Mozart***, presented by Opera Hong Kong and funded by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, under the “**Jockey Club Opera Hong Kong Young Artist Development and Education Programme**” is about to raise its curtains. The two-day concert will be held between 4 and 5 December, 2020 at Tuen Mun Town Hall.

The two operas are often recommended for beginners as their first encounters with opera, as the two well-known pieces have heavenly tunes. After receiving intensive training for more than a year under the Jockey Club Opera Hong Kong Young Artist Development and Education Programme, Hong Kong’s first-ever all-round opera training project, the 12 local young artists will bring enchanting melodies and spectacular performances to the audience. Audience will be able to feel their energy and passion.

Love, an everlasting theme in both Eastern and Western art, has inspired infinite art creations out of artists’ perceptions and mastery. Mozart’s *Così fan tutte* is known not only for its daring and provocative story of fiancée swapping but also its fantastic music. The story talks about two army officers wagering with an old friend on the faithfulness of their fiancée, which opens to an absurdly funny development with the two men disguising as foreigners, faked suicides and feigned hallucinations. As the girls’ fidelity is tested, the men are shocked by an outcome they could never have expected. In true Mozart fashion, all ends happy and well, but not without a few lessons learned along the way.

Mozart’s last opera, *The Magic Flute*, is the most popular classic in the history of opera. A fairy tale of the forces of good versus evil, the Queen of the Night commands the handsome prince Tamino to rescue her daughter Pamina from Sarastro, a high priest. Accompanied by the lovable Papageno and the Magic Flute, Tamino embarks on a quest to save the princess, encountering many trials and tribulations along the way. Passing through the test and defeating the Queen of the Night after the dark and evil, they live happily ever after.

World Acclaimed Production Team

Led by Programme Director, **Alex Tam**, the 12 participants have attended intensive vocal training. Alex has taken leading roles in operas, concerts, and other productions worldwide and has performed over 30 operatic roles. He performed his first leading role at the age of 19 as Rinuccio (Gianni Schicchi) and many others. Alex has recently received the "Outstanding Musician Awards" from the Hong Kong Music and Dance Association; also the ARAM award from the Royal Academy of Music for he has made a significant contribution to the music profession.

Conductor, **Professor Johnny M Poon** has regularly appeared in concert halls and festivals across the globe, including Carnegie Hall, Glinka Cappella Hall, Novgorod Philharmonic Hall, National Centre for the Performing Arts, Forbidden City Concert Hall, Harlaxton International Music Festival, Manhattan Hong Kong Music Festival, Operafestival di Roma and Hong Kong Arts Festival. He has guest-conducted such ensembles as the Moscow State Philharmonic Orchestra, Südwestdeutsche Philharmonie, Slezske divadlo Opava, Kammerchor Stuttgart, Sinfonica dell' International Chamber Ensemble, New England Symphonic Ensemble, Beijing Central Conservatory Symphony Orchestra, Manhattan School of Music Symphony Orchestra, Xiamen Philharmonic Orchestra, Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra and the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra.

Director **Professor Nancy Yuen** was a top graduate from London's Royal Academy of Music, Nancy has made Cio-cio-san (Madama Butterfly) her signature role, winning great critical acclaim since her debut with the Welsh National Opera. Nancy has since repeated the role with English National Opera, West Australia Opera, Opera Queensland, Singapore Lyric Opera, New Zealand International Festival of Arts, and at the Royal Albert Hall in 1998, 2000 and 2003. Other operatic roles include Violetta, Gilda, Tosca, Aida, Liu, Desdemona, Mimi and Soong Chingling. The operas she has directed include: *Così fan tutte*, *The Merry Widow*, *Prima la Musica*, *Carmen* and *The Marriage of Figaro*. Nancy has been the Head of Vocal Studies with The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts since 2010 and Honorary Artistic Director of Singapore Lyric Opera since 2015. Nancy was elected Associate of the Royal Academy of Music in 2014 and was appointed as Professor by the HKAPA in 2018.

The 12 participating young artists of the Programme in 2019-22 are (in no particular order): **Yanna Chen**, Soprano; **Candice Chung**, Soprano; **Gladys Ho**, Soprano; **Rachel Kwok**, Soprano; **Jasmine Law**, Soprano; **Valentina Tao**, Soprano; **Ashley Chui**, Mezzo-Soprano; **Christy Li**, Mezzo-soprano; **Wesley Lam**, Tenor; **Henry Ngan**, Tenor; **Alex Kwok**, Baritone and **Lam Kwok Ho**, Baritone.

There were three free pre-performance talks provided by **Professor Chan Wing Wah** to the audience.

Programme Details

Date & Time: 4 Dec 2020 (Fri) 7:45pm
 5 Dec 2020 (Sat) 3pm and 7:45pm
 Venue: Auditorium, Tuen Mun Town Hall
 Language: Performed in Italian with Chinese and English surtitles (*Così fan tutte*)
 Performed in German with Chinese and English surtitles (*The Magic Flute*)
 Tickets: \$220 \$180 \$120 \$60
 Tickets available at all URBIX outlets and www.urbtix.hk on 6 Nov 2020
 Please visit <http://operahongkong.org> for more details.

Free Pre-performance Talk

Date: 4 – 5 DEC 2020 (Fri – Sat)
 Time: Fri 6:45pm, Sat 2pm & 6:45pm
 Speaker: Professor Chan Wing Wah
 Venue: Auditorium, Tuen Mun Town Hall
 Free admission with performance ticket

Production team

Programme Director Alex Tam
 Conductor Johnny Poon
 Director Nancy Yuen
 Chorus Master Albert Lim

Performers, Mozart's *Così fan tutte*

Libretto	Lorenzo Da Ponte
Fiordiligi	Candice Chung (4 Dec 7:45pm & 5 Dec 7:45pm) / Jasmine Law (5 Dec 3pm)
Dorabella	Ashley Chui (4 Dec 7:45pm & 5 Dec 7:45pm) / Christy Li (5 Dec 3pm)
Guglielmo	Lam Kwok Ho
Ferrando	Henry Ngan
Despina	Yanna Chen (4 Dec 7:45pm & 5 Dec 7:45pm) / Gladys Ho (5 Dec 3pm)
Don Alfonso	Alex Kwok

City Chamber Orchestra of Hong Kong
 Opera Hong Kong Chorus

Performers, Mozart's *The Magic Flute*

Libretto	Emanuel Schikaneder
Tamino	Wesley Lam
Papageno	Alex Kwok
Pamina	Yanna Chen
Queen of the Night	Rachel Kwok (4 Dec 7:45pm & 5 Dec 7:45pm) / Valentina Tao (5 Dec 3pm)
Sarastro	Lam Kwok Ho
Monostatos	Henry Ngan
Papagena	Gladys Ho
Ladies	Jasmine Law Candice Chung Ashley Chui (4 Dec 7:45pm & 5 Dec 7:45pm) Christy Li (5 Dec 3pm)

City Chamber Orchestra of Hong Kong
 Opera Hong Kong Chorus

Media Information

Bios of 12 young artists, press releases and high resolution photos can be downloaded at:
<https://bit.ly/3kySDO3>

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Media Enquiry

The press release is sent on behalf of Opera Hong Kong. For media enquiries, please contact **Dynamic Network Alliances PR:**

Kiwi Fong Tel: (852) 3792-0944 / 9663-6077 Email: kiwi.fong@dnahk.net
 Tracy Chan Tel: (852) 3792-0943 / 9735-2215 Email: tracy.chan@dnahk.net

About the Jockey Club Opera Hong Kong Young Artist Development Programme

Funded by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust since 2015, the Jockey Club Opera Hong Kong Young Artist Development and Education Programme (the Programme) is the Hong Kong's first-ever intensive opera training project to benefit local young singers, chorus members and enhance the public's appreciation of operatic music through a series of outreach activities. By providing tailor-made and intensive training, young artists will attend intensive voice training sessions and regular lectures given by local and international renowned vocal coaches, as well as acting classes by local acting teachers. The Programme aims at enhancing the stage experience and artistic attainments of the young artists, helping them pursue their career in the local and international stage, eventually benefits the opera industry - local and abroad.

About Opera Hong Kong

Founded in 2003 Opera Hong Kong (OHK) is Hong Kong's first professional opera company. Over the years, the company has gone from strength to strength under the Artistic Director Warren Mok, the internationally acclaimed Hong Kong tenor. OHK has elevated opera in the Asia's world city, with many world-class productions covering all major works in the operatic canon and has collaborated with opera houses and festivals including Teatro dell'Opera di Roma, Taormina Opera Festival, Theater Erfurt, Opéra de Nice, National Centre for the Performing Arts and Shanghai Opera House.

In 2019, OHK was selected by the Hong Kong Arts Development Council as one of the three recipients of the coveted "Eminent Arts Group Scheme". The Scheme's consecutive 5-year funding has become a boost to further the company's development.

OHK is committed to promoting the city's brightest, young opera singers. In 2015, OHK launched the Jockey Club Opera Hong Kong Young Artist Development Programme (the Programme), a three-year opera training programme designed to nurture ten young local artists. The success of the Programme led to its renewal by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust for another three years from 2019 to 2022, providing intensive training to 12 local artists.

OHK also places a strong emphasis on its education and community activities. Opera school tours, summer schools and master classes are held regularly to reach young audiences. The music centre in Wanchai provides a wide range of courses for early age children to adult in addition to Children Chorus classes. The OHK Chorus and the OHK Children Chorus were established in 2004 and 2008 respectively and are becoming recognised contributors on the local choral scene.

The recent development of the Greater Bay Area has created an environment for OHK to initiate more collaborations and bring the art of opera to a wider audience.

Official website: www.operahongkong.org

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/OperaHongKongLimited

Instagram: www.instagram.com/operahongkong

Instagram (Young Artist): www.instagram.com/ohkyoungartists