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Opera Hong Kong Celebrates French May Arts Fest with Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette*

Opera Hong Kong is proud to present as part of French May Arts Fest, Charles Gounod's acclaimed opera *Roméo et Juliette*, in a production that was first performed by Opera Hong Kong in 2016 to popular and critical acclaim. Join us at the Grand Theatre, Hong Kong Cultural Centre for performances on May 10th and 11th at 7:30 pm, with a special matinee performance on May 12th at 3:00 pm.

Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette* is one of the most successful adaptations of William Shakespeare's tragedy, *Romeo and Juliet*. The five-act opera, directed and designed by Arnaud Bernard, will be performed in French by some of France's leading young opera stars and feature the Opera Hong Kong Chorus and Opera Hong Kong Orchestra under the baton of Roberto Gianola.

Roméo et Juliette premiered in Paris in 1867 and quickly became a popular fixture of the operatic repertoire globally, with its soulful duets and powerful choruses combining Gounod's passionate music with a moving French libretto by Jules Barbier and Michel Carré. Filled with emotion and drama, *Roméo et Juliette* helped establish the operatic genre of "drame lyrique".

French shining opera stars Chloé Chaume / Aurélie Jarjaye as Juliette, and Thomas Bettinger / Kevin Amiel as Roméo, will join international and local singers in this production by Warren Mok.

Opera Hong Kong extends its special thanks for the continuous support of the Government of the HKSAR, Hong Kong Arts Development Council and Leisure and Cultural Services Department. We would also like to express our sincere appreciation to BNP Paribas as the title sponsor of the opening night's performance.

Tickets are available for booking online via URBTIX (www.urbtix.hk) from \$1,080, \$920, \$720, \$620, \$420 and \$220. Limited concession tickets are available for full-time students, citizens aged 60 or above, people with physical impairment and Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients.

- ENDS -

Roméo et Juliette

10-11 May 2024 | 7:30pm, 12 May 2024 | 3:00pm
Grand Theatre, Hong Kong Cultural Centre

Production Team

Producer	Warren Mok
Conductor	Roberto Gianola
Director	Arnaud Bernard

Cast*

Juliette	Chloé Chaume Aurélie Jarjaye
Roméo	Thomas Bettinger Kevin Amiel
Frère Laurent	Paul Gay
Mercutio	Yoann Dubruque
Capulet	Jean-Fernand Setti
Stéphano	Valentine Lemercier

Opera Hong Kong Orchestra

Opera Hong Kong Chorus

*Please refer to the artists' biographies in the Appendix.

About Opera Hong Kong

Founded in 2003, Opera Hong Kong (OHK) is the city's premier opera company, flourishing under the internationally acclaimed Hong Kong tenor Warren Mok's artistic leadership. OHK has enhanced the city's cultural scene with top-tier productions and collaborations with global institutions and festivals, including Teatro dell'Opera di Roma, Taormina Opera Festival, Theater Erfurt, Opéra de Nice, National Centre for the Performing Arts and the 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 been crucial in furthering the company's development.

OHK is committed to promoting the city's brightest, young opera singers. In 2015, with the support of the Hong Kong Jockey Club, OHK initiated a three-year training programme for young, local artists. The success of this programme led to its extension until 2022. In 2024, OHK launched the first-ever "LKSF-OHK Young Artist Overseas Fellowships" programme, generously sponsored by the Li Ka Shing Foundation to offer short term international residencies for promising young artists – the stars of tomorrow.

As OHK enters its third decade, we are deeply invested in educational and community outreach, offering regular school tours, summer schools, and master classes to engage the youth. Our music centre gives courses for all ages, including Children Chorus classes, and the OHK Chorus and OHK Children Chorus, started in 2004 and 2008, have become leading local choirs. With the Greater Bay Area's growth, OHK is determined to expand collaborations and bring opera to a wider audience.

Official website: www.operahongkong.org

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