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**Opera Hong Kong Presents Mozart's *The Abduction from the Seraglio*:  
A Blend of Youth, Adventure, and Comedy in a Semi-Staged Opera**

**Hong Kong, 11 July 2024** -- Opera Hong Kong will present *The Abduction from the Seraglio* (*Die entführung aus dem serail*) at Hong Kong City Hall on August 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm. Mozart, who composed 22 operas throughout his life, completed *The Abduction from the Seraglio* as his first opera when he moved to Vienna. Written in German as a commission from Emperor, Joseph II, this opera magnificently captures the exuberance and allure of youth, marking a significant milestone in his youth.

*The Abduction from the Seraglio* revolves around the theme of "rescue" featuring a riveting and plot-twisting narrative with vividly portrayed characters. The story follows the Spanish nobleman Belmonte, who, with the help of his servant Pedrillo, journeys to the harem of Bassa Selim in Turkey to rescue his beloved Konstanze and her maid Blonde, both kidnapped by pirates. Set against an exotic backdrop, this opera is light-hearted and humorous, standing as Mozart's first masterpiece of German comic opera. Premiering in 1782, it was an immediate success and became the most frequently performed opera during Mozart's lifetime.

Opera Hong Kong will present this comic opera in a semi-staged format. Without relying on elaborate stage designs, the semi-staged opera demands a high level of interpretative skill from the conductor, singers, and musicians, emphasizing the opera's core — the music itself.

For this production, the renowned German conductor, Michael Koehler will lead the Opera Hong Kong Orchestra and Chorus. Since 2000, Koehler has served as the Music Director and Artistic Director of the Leipzig Philharmonic Orchestra. The production will be directed by Tang Xinxin, who was resident director at the National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA) Beijing. Since relocating to Singapore in 2015, she has produced numerous opera works internationally. Her production of *Don Pasquale* was nominated as the Best Classical Music Production of 2019 by *The Straits Times* in Singapore.

This opera is produced by Opera Hong Kong Artistic Director, Warren Mok, the recent awardee of the 18th Hong Kong Arts Development Award for Outstanding Artistic Contribution from the Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC). We extend our heartfelt gratitude to HKADC for its unwavering support of opera. Opera Hong Kong has long been dedicated to nurturing opera singers in Hong Kong, providing them with performance opportunities and continuously contributing operatic talents to the world. The cast for this production consists entirely of outstanding young local artists. Tenors Henry Ngan and Chan Yong will portray the leading actor, Belmonte. Sopranos Colette Lam and Yanna Chen will play the female lead, Konstanze. Sopranos Valentina Tao and Vivian Yau will portray the spirited maid, Blonde. Their professional prowess and exceptional performances will bring the semi-staged opera *The Abduction from the Seraglio* to life for the audience.

Tickets are now available for booking online via URBIX ([www.urbtix.hk/](http://www.urbtix.hk/)) and UUTIX (<https://www.uutix.com/>) from \$480, \$380, \$280 and \$180, **early bird booking is 20% Off until 25 July.** 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 -

***The Abduction from the Seraglio (Die Entführung aus dem Serail)***

**17-18 August 2024 | 7:30 pm**  
**Concert Hall of Hong Kong City Hall**

Sung in German, dialogue in English with Chinese and English Surtitles

**Production Team**

Producer	Warren Mok
Conductor	Michael Koehler
Director	Tang Xinxin

**Cast\***

Belmonte	Henry Ngan (17/8) Chen Yong (18/8)
Konstanze	Colette Lam (17/8) Yanna Chen (18/8)
Blonde	Valentina Tao (17/8) Vivian Yau (18/8)
Pedrillo	Freddie Tsang



Osmín  
Bassa Selim (spoken role)

Freddie Tong  
Lam Kwok Ho

Opera Hong Kong Orchestra

Opera Hong Kong Chorus

The high-res photos can be downloaded from the link:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1VnecJguK1CLTYrbmYX3-4\\_oFJf2Bs32I?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1VnecJguK1CLTYrbmYX3-4_oFJf2Bs32I?usp=sharing)

## 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 direction of Warren Mok, the internationally acclaimed Hong Kong tenor. OHK has elevated opera in 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 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 five-year funding has become a boost to further the company's development. In 2024, OHK was named as a recipient of the "Eminent Arts Group Scheme" for a further five years.

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 and Education 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. In 2024 OHK launched the inaugural "LKSFHK Young Artist Overseas Fellowships" Programme, generously sponsored by the Li Ka Shing Foundation, to provide short-term international residencies for six selected young artists who are Hong Kong residents to elevate their vocal artistry.

OHK also places a strong emphasis on 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 adults in addition to Children Chorus classes. The OHK Chorus and the OHK Children Chorus were established in 2004 and 2008 respectively and are recognised contributors to 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](http://www.operahongkong.org)

Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/OperaHongKongLimited](https://www.facebook.com/OperaHongKongLimited)

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