

**Press Release  
For Immediate Release**

**The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts has conferred Honorary Doctorates and Honorary Fellowships**

(16 April 2021) – The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (the Academy) has conferred Honorary Awards on ten outstanding individuals for their remarkable achievements and contributions to the performing arts and cultural industry and also the development of the Academy, on 16 April 2021 at the Academy Lyric Theatre. The ceremony was officiated by the Academy Council Chairman Professor Stephen Chow Chun-kay, *GBS SBS BBS JP*. Academy Director Professor Gillian Choa expressed her sincere gratitude for the Honorary Awardees' exemplary and valuable support to the Academy.

Recipients of Doctorate of the Academy *honoris causa*:

Mr Cheung Hok-yau  
Ms Elina Leung

Recipients of Honorary Fellowship:

Prof Pamela Howard *OBE*  
Mr Jiang Huaxuan  
Mr Koo Tin Lok  
Mr Lau Shun  
Ms Leung So-kam  
Mr Sin Wai-sang  
Prof David Strange *MBE FRAM*  
Mr Wong Cho-lam

Page 3 to 6: Citations of the recipients of Doctorate of the Academy *honoris causa*

Page 7 to 17: Citations of the recipients of Honorary Fellowships

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**About The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA) ([www.hkapa.edu](http://www.hkapa.edu))**

The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA), established by The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts Ordinance in 1984, is a leading tertiary institution in the performing arts in Asia. It provides professional undergraduate education and practice-based postgraduate studies. The study encompasses Chinese Opera, Dance, Drama, Film and Television, Music, and Theatre and Entertainment Arts. Its educational philosophy

reflects the cultural diversity of Hong Kong with emphasis on Chinese and Western traditions, and interdisciplinary learning.

Since 2008, the Academy has attained the Programme Area Accreditation (PAA) status awarded by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) to self-monitor and accredit its own Undergraduate and Post-secondary programmes in the five programme areas of Dance, Drama, Film and Television, Music, and Theatre and Entertainment Arts. Since 2016, the PAA status has been extended to cover Master's Degree programmes and below. The programmes operated by the School of Chinese Opera are accredited by HKCAAVQ for recognition under the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework.

Besides the main campus in Wanchai, Béthanie, the site of the Academy's Landmark Heritage Campus in Pokfulam, has housed training facilities for the School of Film and Television since 2006.

In the QS World University Rankings announced in 2021, the Academy is ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in Asia and 10<sup>th</sup> in the world in the Performing Arts category.

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**Mr Cheung Hok-yau - Doctorate of the Academy *honoris causa***

Born and raised in Hong Kong, Mr Cheung Hok-yau Jacky is not only a household name but someone who is highly respected by professionals in the entertainment industry. His artistic journey began in 1984 when he beat 20,000 contestants in the Amateur 18-Hong Kong District Singing Contest and was signed by Polygram Records, which was later renamed Universal Music Hong Kong.

His rapid rise in Hong Kong, the Mainland and also Asia earned him the nickname “God of Songs”, with two albums released in 1992, *True Love Expression* and *Love Sparks*, each selling over 400,000 copies in Hong Kong alone. This was more than matched by his 1993 release, *The Goodbye Kiss*, which remains the best-selling album in many countries, with aggregate sales in Asia exceeding 4 million copies. Recognition followed, with induction into Universal Music Group’s Hall of Fame in 2000 and being named one of the “25 most impactful individuals in the new Hong Kong” by *Time Magazine* in 1996.

Mr Cheung is no stranger to music award ceremonies, whether in Hong Kong or overseas. After being crowned The Most Popular Singer in Asia at the 1994 US Billboard Music Awards, he went on to win two prestigious titles, namely, The Best-selling Asian Pop Musician in the World and The World’s Best-selling Chinese Singer, at Monaco’s World Music Awards in 1995 and 1996. His concert in Madison Square Garden in New York made him a record-breaker, as he became the first Asian singer to perform at this landmark venue.

Mr Cheung’s stellar career as a film actor is also noteworthy. Having starred in some 60 movies, he has impressed silver screen lovers with countless memorable characters and his acting has earned him many nominations and awards over the years. He is a two-time recipient of Best Supporting Actor, winning at the 8<sup>th</sup> Hong Kong Film Awards in 1998 for his performance in *As Tears Go By* and at Taiwan’s Golden Horse Awards in 1990 for his performance in *The Swordsman*. With five Best Actor nominations at the Hong Kong Film Awards, he was honoured with this title at the New Delhi Film Festival in 2002 for Ann Hui’s *July Rhapsody*.

In 1997, Mr Cheung, taking on the dual roles of artistic director and leading actor, embarked on a new initiative with his original musical *Snow. Wolf. Lake*, which played to 42 consecutive full houses in Hong Kong, still a record today. The Putonghua version, which premiered in 2004, ran for 103 performances and remains the record-holder in the history of Chinese musicals in terms of the number of shows. In *The Year of Jacky Cheung World Tour* in 2007, he became the first Chinese singer to stage 105 concerts in 58 cities in a year. This record was broken in 2010, when the *Jacky Cheung 1/2 Century World Tour* was staged. A whopping 146 concerts were held in 77 cities over 18 months. In the process, Mr Cheung set a Guinness World Record for the largest combined audience for a live act in a 12-month period. His latest record-setting world tour *Jacky Cheung A Classic Tour*, which began in Beijing on 21 October 2016 and ended in Hong Kong on 29 January 2019, comprised 233

shows in 97 cities across two years and three months.

Mr Cheung, who has been assiduous in his support of promising youngsters, stays humble despite his unprecedented success in the performing arts. In 2013, to show his support for Academy students, he volunteered to take part in the film *A Complicated Story*, the first thesis production of the Master of Fine Arts in Film Production Class in the Academy's School of Film and Television. His acting and participation not only added colour to the movie, but also served as a great encouragement to all the students involved. This cooperation, together with all his many other achievements, was acknowledged when the Academy conferred an honorary fellowship on him in 2015. In 2018, he attended the Graduation Ceremony of the Academy and delivered a speech to graduating students who were about to set off on their artistic adventure. These graduates were greatly touched and inspired by his words, in which he expressed his passion for the performing arts.

In recognition of his long-standing public service and participation in charity events, Mr Cheung was elected one of the Ten Outstanding Young Persons (TOYP) of Hong Kong and the World in 1998 and 1999 respectively. Another honour came in 2000 at RTHK's Top Ten Chinese Gold Songs Awards, where he received the Golden Needle Award, a *de facto* lifetime achievement award for his tremendous musical significance and immense contributions to society.

**Ms Elina Leung - Doctorate of the Academy *honoris causa***

Ms Elina Leung is a devoted philanthropist and a music enthusiast who is actively involved in the development of further education in Hong Kong. Having developed a passion for music at a very young age, she believes that music is a universal language that can aid health by helping people relax and reducing stress. Ms Leung channels her passion to benefit the community by helping musicians, in particular young talents, pursue their dreams, while performing at various charitable events herself.

Ms Leung believes that exposure to music can have a positive impact on young people, even helping to refine their character. As a patroness of music, she has been involved in supporting and nurturing young musicians from Hong Kong and overseas.

Born and raised in Hong Kong, Ms Leung received a bachelor's degree and an MBA degree in the United States. She returned to Hong Kong and worked for Morgan Stanley Asia Limited and BNP Private Banking. Currently, she is Chairman of the family-run AEG Investment. Besides pursuing a successful career, Ms Leung is an advocate of music and an ardent supporter of educational and cultural activities. She was an advisor to and a committee member of the First Hong Kong Open Music Competition (HKOMC), which provides opportunities for promising talents to perform across the globe and reach the summit of musical excellence. As an advisor, Ms Leung strengthened cultural exchange for future generations by opening the competition to musicians of all nationalities and all ages. She is a member of the board of directors of the Global Symphony Orchestra (GSO), an NGO with the mission of promoting peace and bringing harmony and happiness to the community through music, as well as supporting local professional musicians who have graduated from Hong Kong and overseas. She is also an advisor to the Hong Kong International Music Academy (HKIMA) and the founder of the Hong Kong Music School (HKMS), which aspires to provide an inclusive musical environment in which children, including those with special needs, can learn and enjoy music, as well as develop their interest in music. She also serves as a consultant to the HKIMA Junior Symphony Orchestra, helping children to enjoy the fun of music and develop an appreciation for music. As a lover of music, she has performed with an orchestra at City Hall and at various charity events.

Ms Leung is actively engaged in charity causes and philanthropy, focusing on the Catholic Church in Hong Kong. She is involved in the HK Caritas Institute of Higher Education (CIHE)'s ambition to become a fully fledged university - Saint Francis University. Ms Leung is a stalwart in nurturing the social and moral well-being of the younger generation, as well as their academic achievements. She embodies the vision of CIHE to enable learners to excel holistically, where "Service with Love" makes a difference. She is also a powerful advocate for underprivileged students to attend tertiary institutions. As a member of the Fundraising Committee of CIHE, she helps it reach out to the "the last, the least and the lost" to empower the less fortunate with a higher education and ultimately a professional career that enhances their chances of upward mobility and hope in life.



Ms Leung's contributions to the Academy have been most valuable and significant. Apart from dedicating her time, to mark the Academy's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2019, she established an endowment fund and scholarships in support of Academy students pursuing overseas and Mainland enrichment activities. This was a significant gift the Academy received in its anniversary year. The endowment fund provides sustainable and reliable support to the Academy in terms of talent development, which is essential in nurturing students to become well rounded performing artists. Ms Leung is also an organising committee member of the Academy Ball - a major charity event that aims to raise funds for scholarships for Academy students, as well as promote the cultural mission of the Academy to the community.

### Professor Pamela Howard OBE - Honorary Fellowship

Professor Pamela Howard OBE is an active Director and Scenographer working primarily in opera and contemporary music theatre. Her practice encompasses large and small scale productions in major opera houses and also “unloved and forgotten” spaces. Trained at Birmingham College of Art (1954-8) and the Slade School of Fine Art London (1958-9) Professor Howard has had a splendid career.

In 2013 she began one of her most important projects to date, where Life and Art meet of the Director and Scenographer for the new Canadian production of the singspiel *Charlotte – a Tri-Coloured Play with Music* with librettist/actor Alon Nashman, and composer Aleš Brezina. The production premiered in Toronto in June 2016 and was shown at World Stage Design in Taipei in July 2017. In June 2019 this production started its World Tour: The Jaffa International Music Festival; Theatre on the Podil Kiev and Lviv Ukraine; Prague National Opera/New Stage; finishing at the prestigious Litomyšl International Music Festival in Czech Republic; receiving everywhere great reviews and acclaim.

Professor Howard initiates collaborative projects that unite many countries through art and music. In 2019 and ongoing she became part of the yearlong UK-wide Festival Insiders/Outsiders celebrating the contribution of émigré artists to British Culture during World War II. Professor Howard’s new work *The Ballad of the Cosmo Café* was shown in London as part of this festival.

Professor Howard is the author of *What is Scenography?* which is now in seven languages and the third edition with new material is just published. This publication is highly regarded by industry professional worldwide as one of the most important readings for designers, directors, and theatre educators. Professor Howard is a living legend in design, scenography and arts education, and is regularly invited to educational events all over the world.

The School of Theatre and Entertainment Arts at The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts has been working closely with Professor Howard since the early 1990’s through her visits to work with students from the design department, as well as through contacts at theatre conferences in Europe, World Stage Design, and the Prague Quadrennial exhibitions. Some alumni of the School have been her students at Central Saint Martins London. Professor Howard has always been highly supportive of the School.

In the academic year of 2017/18 the Theatre Design Department of the School invited Professor Howard to lead Set and Costume Design students in a design project and to conduct a public seminar in January 2018. The chance to work with Professor Howard encouraged students to strive for excellence in their design process.

Professor Howard was awarded the OBE in 2008 for her contribution and outstanding services to Drama. She is International Chair in Drama at the Royal Welsh College of Music

and Drama, Visiting Professor at the Arts University Bournemouth, and Professor Emeritus at the Arts University London. Her work will be celebrated at World Stage Design in Calgary in August 2022, where as Director and Visual Artist she is creating a new music theatre work *Voices of Canada* on themes of cultural identity in the category “Living Legend”, and there will also be an exhibition of her artwork, publications and films.



### Mr Jiang Huaxuan - Honorary Fellowship

Known as “First Class Choreographer” on the Mainland, Mr Jiang Huaxuan is recognised by the Nation’s State Council as “An Outstanding Person Contributing to the Cultural and Artistic Development of China”. His remarkable achievements in dance, choreography, and dance education on the Mainland and Hong Kong have earned him nationwide acclaim. Professionally trained at Beijing Dance Institute (now Beijing Dance Academy) for seven years, Mr Jiang started out as a teacher and choreographer at his alma mater after graduating in 1963, later joining Television Corporation of Singapore as a choreographer. In 1985, Mr Jiang was the first Chinese artist sent to study modern dance at the American Dance Festival by the Chinese government.

A tireless choreographer, Mr Jiang created many award-winning works, including *Unbreakable String*, which won the Gold Medal in the Artistic Creation Awards for the Celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of the People’s Republic of China; *A Wedding at the Execution Ground*, which won Gold at the People’s Liberation Army Artistic Creation Awards; *The Flowing Sea*, which won the Grand Prize in Prague 2000; and *The Neighing War-horses*, which was named one of the Chinese Classics of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. As an active member of the Chinese dance scene, Mr Jiang has held a number of positions over the years, such as Executive Board Member of the Chinese Dancers’ Association, panel member of judges for Senior Ranking Officers of the Military Forces (Performing Arts), Director of the Hong Kong International Chinese Dance Federation, and Advisor to the Guangdong Modern Dance Company.

Mr Jiang’s association with Hong Kong began over 30 years ago, when he choreographed *The Three Inch Bound Feet & Others* and *A New Rendition of Chinese Folkloric Dances* for the Hong Kong Dance Company in 1989 and 1992 respectively. In 1996, Mr Jiang joined the Company as Assistant Artistic Director, becoming its Artistic Director from 1998 to 2004. During his tenure, he added several masterpieces to its repertoire, including the full-length dance dramas *The Butterfly Lovers*, *Journey to the West – The Monkey King Thrice Beats the Bony Ghost*, *Journey to the West - The Monkey King at Mount Inferno*, *Ju Dou* and *Yellow Earth Yellow River*. Under his leadership and through his artistic contributions, the Company established a first-class reputation locally and globally.

A long-time supporter of the School of Dance of the Academy, Mr Jiang has generously provided Dance students with the opportunity to perform his works in the past two decades, allowing students to test their limits and deepen their understanding of the development of Chinese dance. The School is also grateful to Mr Jiang for his dedication to nurturing next generation dance artists by sharing his insights through his roles as Accreditation Panel Member, Advisory Committee Member and External Examiner of the School.

### Mr Koo Tin Lok - Honorary Fellowship

Mr Koo Tin Lok is a Hong Kong-born actor and singer. Starting his career at Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB) in 1993, Mr Koo soon gained popularity for his role in the *wuxia* drama *The Condor Heroes 95*. His status as a top actor in the Chinese-speaking world was further strengthened by his performances in *Detective Investigation Files IV*, *At the Threshold of an Era II* and *A Step into the Past* between 1999 and 2001, which earned him two Most Favourite Character Awards and two Most Popular Actor Awards at the TVB Anniversary Awards.

Riding on his success on television, Mr Koo switched to the silver screen, where he became a prominent figure in the local film industry, starring in over 100 Chinese-speaking movies of different genres. His exceptional performances made him a frequent nominee at international film awards and festivals, including the Cannes Film Festival, the Venice International Film Festival, the Tokyo International Film Festival, Taiwan's Golden Horse Awards, the Hong Kong Film Awards, the Asian Film Awards, and the Macao International Movie Festival. He achieved a trifecta in 2018 when his performance in *Paradox* earned him Best Actor at the 12<sup>th</sup> Asian Film Awards, the 12<sup>th</sup> Hong Kong Film Directors' Guild Awards and the 37<sup>th</sup> Hong Kong Film Awards. In the same year, he received the My Favourite Male Singer Award from Commercial Radio.

Driven by his belief that with "Great power comes great responsibility", Mr Koo has been an active advocate of local movies. A five-time ambassador of the annual Hong Kong International Film Festival since 2014, he became a board member of the Fresh Wave International Short Film Festival in 2015 and the sponsor of Louis Koo Cinema at the Hong Kong Arts Centre in 2018. One of the winners at the 16<sup>th</sup> World Outstanding Chinese Awards in 2018, Mr Koo is President of the Federation of Hong Kong Filmmakers and the Hong Kong Performing Artistes Guild, with a commitment to supporting the development of the Hong Kong film industry and promoting Hong Kong films to international audiences.

In recent years, he has been promoting Asian films, opening the door of opportunity for promising and young local directors. His efforts have led to the production of award-winning works such as *Little Big Master* and *Men On the Dragon*, as well as an upcoming film named *Warriors of Future*. A keen supporter of the film sector and the Academy, Mr Koo has benefited the Academy's School of Film and Television not only by presenting graduates with more development opportunities, but also by sharing his insights and experiences in his former capacity as a member of the School's Advisory Committee.

Mr Koo keeps a low profile and stays humble despite his generous contributions to charity, including funding the construction of more than 100 schools on the Mainland. In 2018, astronomer William Yeung Kwong-yu named a minor planet after Mr Koo to acknowledge his outstanding achievements in the performing arts and his commitment to community service.

### Mr Lau Shun - Honorary Fellowship

Mr Lau Shun is a veteran Peking opera actor and Chinese opera director. He was a disciple of Peking opera masters like Li Wanchun, Li Shaochun and Gai Jiaotian. Upon graduation from Beijing's National Academy of Chinese Theatre Arts in 1958, he joined the China National Peking Opera Company as an actor. After relocating to Hong Kong in 1980, he embarked on a teaching career at the Hong Kong Dance Company and The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts. Among the signature repertoires he has performed are *Havoc in Heaven*, *Yandang Mountain* and *Wu Song*.

In 1986, Mr Lau served as the Chinese opera consultant for the blockbuster *Peking Opera Blues*. In 1990, he was nominated for Best Supporting Actor at the 10<sup>th</sup> Hong Kong Film Awards for his portrayal of the Eastern eunuch in *The Swordsman*. With over a hundred film credits to his name, his most recent film appearances includes *The Grandmaster* in 2013. Drawing on his rich Chinese opera experience, he has excelled in a wide range of cinematic genres and roles. Over the course of his film career, he has become known as the "Thousand-faced Buddha" as well as the "Golden Supporting Actor".

Since 2000, Mr Lau has been focusing on adapting and directing Chinese operas. He has directed the like of Yau Sing-po, Law Ka-ying, Wang Ming-chun, Chan Ho-kau, Lee Lung, Wan Fai-yin and Chan Ka-ming. In 2013, he directed a new Cantonese opera, *Battle at Wancheng*, for the Leisure and Cultural Services Department's Chinese Opera Festival. By infusing distinctively Cantonese opera elements such as "loud gong and drum, grand armour and robe" into the Peking opera system, he has paved the way for a new approach to contemporary Cantonese opera. In 2016, he directed *Sacrificing the Son* for the Festival. Mr Lau is devoted to the study of the performing arts and the development of Cantonese opera. His bold attempt to bring together Cantonese and Peking opera elements into his work has earned him much respect from the industry.

Mr Lau has played a key role in fashioning the Academy's Chinese Opera curriculum. Since his appointment as Programme Coordinator and Artistic Advisor in 2000, he has helped design the programme as well as better connect the Academy with the industry. He has taught fundamental techniques, repertoire studies and special topics courses. His directorial works for the Academy include *Five Daughters Offering Felicitations*, *Ping Gui Bids Farewell*, *Weiyang Palace*, *The Peach Blossom Fan*, *Heaven Shaking Bow* and *Cosmic Mirror*. He also took students from the programme to Europe on a performance tour. Committed to nurturing new talents, in 2011, Mr Lau wrote and directed a new work, *Arena*, for a troupe founded by graduates from the Academy.

For over three decades, Mr Lau has dedicated himself to the development of Cantonese opera. An important figure in the industry, he has also helped build a solid foundation for the Academy's School of Chinese Opera.

### Ms Leung So-kam - Honorary Fellowship

Ms Leung So-kam is a highly renowned Cantonese opera singer, actress and film star. Equally talented at both singing and acting, she has developed the unique singing style dubbed the “Kam Voice” and is known as “The Gifted Lady of Cantonese Opera” in Cantonese opera circles.

Ms Leung hails from a Cantonese opera family. Her father, Mr Leung Yi-chung, was a master in the field while her mother, Ms Cheung Yuk-king (stage name: King Sin), was a *zihou* (falsetto voice) specialist.

Ms Leung made her performing debut at six with a radio rendition of the Cantonese opera masterpiece, *Admonishing Her Husband*. Her unique singing style – tuneful with a scholarly flavour – is dubbed the “Kam Voice” by Cantonese opera enthusiasts. Her performance in *Gorgeous Dream in Tong Palace*, a recording made in collaboration with her father, is widely regarded as a Cantonese opera classic.

Ms Leung is also an exceptional actress. She became a disciple of the legendary Sit Kok-sin at the age of 12 and toured with the Kok Sin Sing Opera Troupe and Aroma Opera Troupe. She made her silver screen debut in *Meng Lijun* in 1949. Over the course of her cinematic career, she excelled in a diverse range of roles and appeared in approximately 50 films, including *Top Singers Two*, *A Poor Girl*, and *The Nine Ladies of Fragrant City*.

Ms Leung retired from performing in 1969. However, she has continued to devote time and energy to developing the Cantonese opera singing style and nurturing young talent. She was the Artistic Director of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department’s Chinese Opera Festival in 2014 and 2015. She also has trained young talent, including graduates of the Academy’s School of Chinese Opera, in the classic style.

In recent years, Ms Leung has dedicated herself to facilitating exchanges with Chinese Opera teachers and students of the Academy. In 2016, she released *Leung So-kam: Passing the Torch in Cantonese Opera Singing Style*, a recording featuring compositions by School of Chinese Opera lecturer Dr Boaz Chow. Ms Leung advised on the singing style in the recording, while the music was performed by the Academy’s teachers and students.

The contribution of Ms Leung to the performing arts world is widely recognised. In 2012, the Hong Kong Film Archive organised the retrospective *Actress, Singer, Opera Star: Leung So-kam* programme in her honour. In 2015, the Centre for Advancement of Chinese Language Education and Research of the Faculty of Education of The University of Hong Kong published the book *Cantonese Operatic Singing Art of Leung Yi-chung and Leung So-kam* to record the artistic achievements of Ms Leung and her father. The book also includes extensive analyses of the “Leung Voice” and the “Kam Voice”, and is an invaluable Cantonese opera educational resource.



### Mr Sin Wai-sang - Honorary Fellowship

Mr Sin Wai-sang is an experienced accounting and finance professional, who has served the community with his expertise for more than two decades. He is a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, and a member of The Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants. He graduated from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne in the UK with a degree in Accounting and Financial Analysis in 1985. From 1992 to 2000, he was Finance Director and Company Secretary of Fung Cheung Kee Holdings Ltd that later became Pyxis Group Limited. Mr Sin is a tireless person with vision and strong business acumen. He ventured into the fields of jewellery manufacturing and building construction, and is a director of Cheung Kee Fung Cheung Construction Co. Ltd.

Apart from his professional commitments, Mr Sin supports the Hong Kong community in the education and housing sectors. He has been a Society Member of the Hong Kong Housing Society since 2002. He is currently a Sponsoring Body Manager of the Incorporated Management Committee of Kowloon Tong School (Secondary Section), and a School Manager of Kowloon Tong School (Primary Section) and Kentville Kindergarten.

A long-standing supporter of The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, Mr Sin provided much valuable advice during his five years on the Academy Council, of which he was Treasurer from 1999 to 2003. He has been a Member of the Audit Committee, a sub-committee of the Council, since 2009 when the Committee was established.

Mr Sin has also made generous donations to the Academy for its development and the well-being of its young performing arts talents. He is currently a Silver Life Member of the Society of the Academy for Performing Arts, which is a major fundraising arm of the Academy. Most of the funds raised have been allocated to student scholarships, helping talented and deserving local and international students pursue studies in the performing arts. Mr Sin's service to the Academy is exceptional and his outstanding contributions have earned him respect from his friends and colleagues as well as members of the Academy community over the years.



### **Professor David Strange MBE FRAM - Honorary Fellowship**

Professor David Strange *MBE FRAM* is a distinguished orchestral musician and educator. As the former Principal Cellist of the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, Professor Strange is a well-respected musician of international reputation. He has also played a significant role in the musical education of young people, with experience and influence in all branches of the profession.

Professor Strange began his teaching career at the Royal Academy of Music in 1975, when he became a cello professor. He was Head of the Strings Department from 1997 to 2010, and was appointed Professor of the University of London in 2002. Many of his former students are principal players in Europe's finest orchestras, members of internationally renowned string quartets and hold teaching appointments at some of the world's leading Conservatoires.

Professor Strange has been associated with the European Union Youth Orchestra (EUYO) for over 30 years. He was the EUYO's Director of Studies, with responsibility for the selection and training of the orchestra in preparation for concerts with some of the world's most eminent conductors. He resigned from this position in December 2013.

Besides being invited to conduct and give masterclasses throughout Europe and Asia, Professor Strange has held visiting professorships at the Australian National Academy of Music, the Conservatorio Superior de Música, Salamanca, Spain, the Conservatory of Music, Groningen, Holland, and the Conservatorio Superior de Música, Madrid. He visits the Shanghai Conservatoire of Music as a visiting professor every year and was appointed External Examiner and External Academic Reviewer of the School of Music of The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts from 2013 to 2015.

Professor Strange has made significant contributions to the Academy's School of Music as Visiting Artist, External Examiner and External Academic Reviewer for over a decade. He has been a staunch supporter of the School at many levels, such as organising an extensive tour for the School's students in the UK, helping attract audiences to a number of sold-out performances for the School, as well as providing valuable advice and tutelage to students. Professor Strange also helped introduce students of the School to eminent practitioners and teachers in Europe, enabling them to gain places in top conservatoires.

With his notable success in inspiring the highest standards of musicianship in performance and teaching, Professor Strange has been a jury member of many prestigious competitions. To drive the development of major academic and artistic initiatives and promote musical excellence throughout the world, he has chaired the panel for the Max Rostal International Violin/Viola Competition in Berlin and the International Jeunesses Musicales Cello Competition in Belgrade. Professor Strange is Artistic Advisor to the Wells Cathedral

Specialist Music School and Founding Director of Eaton Square Concerts, London. In 2013 he was appointed Artistic Advisor and Director of Auditions of the National Youth Orchestra of Ireland. In the Queen's New Year's Honours 2020, Professor Strange was awarded the MBE for services to music.

## Mr Wong Cho-lam - Honorary Fellowship

A Hong Kong-nurtured performing artist with a strong presence in TV shows, movies and pop music, Mr Wong Cho-lam dazzles audiences with his superb skills, eloquence and good sense of humour. His life philosophy is summed up by his motto “A cheerful heart is good medicine”, which he first shared with the public when he was recognised as one of Hong Kong’s Ten Outstanding Young Persons in 2012. Mr Wong has always been aware of the need to get himself adequately prepared for the future. He treasured the opportunity to learn from veterans who have excelled in different performing art genres. Among those who inspired him in his youth, Mr Paul Lo, from whom he acquired voice acting skills to be used in movies and commercials when he was a secondary student, is of special significance, as this early professional training laid a solid foundation for his artistic endeavours.

Driven by his keen interest in the performing arts, Mr Wong, after finishing his secondary education, opted for the School of Drama at The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts. It was during his time with the Academy that Mr Wong was exposed to the beauty of Peking opera, studying the essence of Chinese opera in depth under the guidance of Mr He Mengli. All his hard work and effort paid off in the end. A recipient of the Academy’s Outstanding Student Award and Outstanding Actor Award, as well as several scholarships, he was nominated for Best Leading Actor and Best Supporting Actor for his performances in the musicals *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Starry, Starry Night* respectively at the 13<sup>th</sup> Hong Kong Drama Awards. In 2003, he was conferred with first-class honours, acknowledgement of his glittering achievements during his study at the Academy.

Shortly after graduation, Mr Wong kick-started his artistic journey at Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB) where he first hosted programmes for kids and later variety shows. *Inbound Troubles*, a well-received comedy-drama serial produced by TVB, perfectly exemplified Mr Wong’s talent on both the acting and script-writing fronts, as he was the television station’s first-ever actor to also be a script partner. He was the winner of TVB’s Best Presenter (twice) and Most Improved Actor at its Anniversary Awards. He also showcased his flair and enthusiasm for music, as he joined the Emperor Entertainment Group as a singer-songwriter. In 2016, Mr Wong set up Tailor Made Production Limited as his investment and artistic creation vehicle in the film and TV sectors – an initiative that has grown and evolved tremendously. His achievements, amid various acting awards he has earned throughout the years, also include accolades and recognition both from the Central and HKSAR Governments. Apart from serving as Secretary-General of The Association for Betterment of Hong Kong’s Entertainment Industry in Mainland China, he is also a Member of The Hong Kong Film Development Council’s Market Development Committee and The China Film Association.

An ardent supporter of his alma mater, Mr Wong invited over 50 Academy graduates to take part in his directorial debut *I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change!* in 2018, while more than 20 students from the Academy’s School of Drama were involved in singing and dancing

scenes. Mr Wong, taking up the position of Chief Creative Officer at TVB in 2021, is about to embark upon a new chapter in his career – empowering the local TV industry by capitalising on the era of digital media.

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