



The Hong Kong Academy  
for  
Performing Arts  
香港演藝學院



# SCHOOL OF MUSIC

> *In order to be a successful musician, we need to practice performing!*

## VISION AND MISSION

As the performing arts in Hong Kong have flourished incessantly in recent years, the demand for talents in the field is increasing continuously. With the objective of nurturing students with musical talents to become a new generation of performing artists, the School of Music has prepared an ideal learning environment for students, providing them with all-round training in performing arts and equipping students with the capability for entrepreneurship and the attributes of cultural leaders.





## OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

- In 2019 Thailand International Wind Symphony Competition (TIWSC) Open Class (Small Wind Ensemble Class), the Academy Wind Chamber Ensemble won the 1<sup>st</sup> Prize.
- Hannah Tam Wan-ching was awarded 2021 The Menuhin Competition (Richmond, USA) Junior 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize and Junior Audience Prize.
- Colleen Lee Ka-ling was invited to perform with London Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Sir Simon Rattle to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre.

# TEACHING AND LEARNING

The Bachelor of Music (Honours) programme has been designed in response to the industry's requirements and expectation upon new employees in the field. Students must go through aural training and consolidate their musical theory knowledge. They may select among western instruments, Chinese instruments, vocal music, or composition and electronic music for their major. Starting from academic year 2022/23, conducting is designated as a compulsory subject. Students in Year 3 and Year 4 may even select conducting as their major. The major programme in conducting includes a subject on "Cultural Leadership" which is specifically designed to nurture students to embrace a proactive attitude, a sense of purpose and a vision, to prepare them to be influential in the promotion of musical culture in the future.

In addition, the programme offers a variety of electives for students to choose freely. Among these electives, "Creative Entrepreneurship" is designed to help students explore their talents and potentials, other than those related to music, and to help them become more confident. By taking part in related creative work, students will learn to acquire the thinking skills and the techniques required for taking up positions in backstage production and to understand the role of musicians in society.

To achieve all-round performing arts training, the programme offers two courses "Concert Practice" and "Composers' Seminar", both requiring students to perform and exhibit their work every week. Students can participate in a variety of solo performances, chamber music, ensembles and choral performances, and also cooperate with students from the Schools of Film & TV and Theatre & Entertainment Arts to work on multimedia projects, including the yearly joint production of a complete operatic performance. Through continuous practice and performance, students will learn to build up team spirit.

The School of Music has a world-class faculty. Faculty members mainly come from the Royal Academy of Music, Royal College of Music and Curtis Institute of Music. Internationally renowned teachers include Prof. Ray Wang, Head of Strings, Prof. Michael Ma, Professor of Music (Strings), Prof. Yiu Song-lam, Head of Woodwind, Brass and Percussion, Prof. Yu Qiwei, Head of Chinese Music, Prof. Gabriel Kwok, Head of Keyboard Studies, Prof. Eleanor Wong, Professor of Music (Keyboard), Prof. Nancy Yuen, Head of Vocal Studies, Prof. Clarence Mak, Head of Composition and Electronic Music, and Prof. Sharon Choa, Head of Conducting and Cultural Leadership (Music).

The School has well-equipped teaching facilities. The Academy's Concert Hall supports orchestral performances. The Recital Hall supports piano and chamber music performances of a smaller scale. Furthermore, the School is equipped with a wide variety of musical instruments including Steinway grand pianos, valuable string instruments, percussion instruments, Chinese musical instruments, baroque instruments, and even a large pipe organ made by Rieger in Austria. All sorts of advanced recording facilities and electronic music rooms are available as well.

## GLOBALISATION

Every year, the School invites around 100 world-renowned musicians to the Academy for exchange and teaching. They come to deliver masterclasses, to provide lessons for individual students and to conduct orchestra. Renowned musicians whom the School has invited in recent years include cellist Yo-Yo Ma, pianist Aquiles Delle Vigne, violinist Cho-Liang Lin, Music Director of Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra Japp van Zweden, and Artistic Director and Principal Conductor for Life of Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra Prof. Yan Huichang. Despite the impact of the pandemic around the world, the School managed to hold more than ten international musical masterclasses in the past year. British operatic soprano Nelly Miricioiu, Principal Flute of the Orchestre de Paris Vincent Lucas, Jeff Nelson of Canadian Brass, renowned percussionist Evelyn Glennie, Guzheng player Wei Jun, Chaozhou Gongs and Drums player Chen Zuohui, Chinese woodwind instruments and Cantonese music master Chen Fangyi etc. have been invited to provide lessons for students to advance their performance techniques.

The School proactively encourages students to participate in external performances in addition to on-campus performances. From time to time, students perform individually or in groups while touring to countries such as the UK, the US, mainland China, Europe, Australia, Japan and various Southeast Asian cities. Head of Conducting and Cultural Leadership (Music), Prof. Sharon Choa was once invited by Gustavo Dudamel, a renowned conductor, and his foundation to perform together with three students from our Department of Strings in the celebration activities for the Nobel Prize in Sweden. These students together with young musicians from fourteen countries formed a "future orchestra" to perform under Dudamel on stage. The foundation also invited the School's teachers and students to perform in Barcelona. The School's Chamber Orchestra collaborated with the Orchestra of Taipei National University of the Arts in the 2019 Kuandu Arts Festival under the baton of the Dean of Music.



Photo: Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra

## OUTSTANDING ALUMNI

- Rachel Cheung (Piano)  
Hong Kong Arts Development Awards 2018  
Artist of the Year (Music)
- Chan Ming-chi (Composition)  
Hong Kong Arts Development Awards 2017  
Artist of the Year (Music)
- Ma Wai-him (Suona)  
Hong Kong Arts Development Awards 2016  
Award for Young Artist (Music)

# CAREER PROSPECTS

No matter locally or internationally, the graduates of the School of Music have been appointed to positions in various professional areas in music at different levels. Some of the graduates have joined institutions such as Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, Hong Kong Sinfonietta, Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, Music Office of the HKSAR Government, etc. as full-time performers or teachers. Quite a number of other graduates have become eminent performers, or have taken up jobs in accompaniment, teaching, composition, recording or arts administration. In short, our graduates enjoy a wide range of opportunities in career development.

In 2021, the School and the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) jointly launched The Orchestra Academy Hong Kong (TOA), funded by "TrustTomorrow" of The Swire Group Charitable Trust with a promising sponsorship of approximately HK\$9 million over a 3-year period. Each season, up to six music graduates are selected to join Fellowship Programme which allocates 70% participation in orchestral services with the HK Phil. The other scheme, Young Pro Platform offers a versatile season-long programme including full ensemble concerts with Philharmonia APA (PAPA) and a series of chamber performances. Formed by HKAPA music graduates in 2017, PAPA has an intimate size of 20-25 players which encourages each member to not only commit to high-calibre performances but also take an active role in curating specially designed concert programmes. Those who are admitted to TOA will contribute their talents to servicing the community through volunteering opportunities.



# SCHOOL OF MUSIC - PROGRAMME

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## Master of Music

### Major Study

- > Performance
- > Conducting
- > Composition

## Bachelor of Music (Honours)

### Major Study

- > Performance
- > Composition and Electronic Music

## Diploma in Music Foundations

(Feeder programme to Undergraduate Programme)



Admission & Audition

## PROGRAMMES ENQUIRY

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