



Conducting and Cultural Leadership

Speaker:

Professor Sharon CHOA,
Head of Conducting and Cultural Leadership (Music)

● Synopsis

Conducting is a skill not only for students who actually aspire to become professional conductors but a form of training that develops students to the highest level of musicianship and awareness of every aspect of performance. At the same time, a conductor needs also to be a leader and therefore alongside the training of conducting skills and techniques, it is imperative that the student also becomes acquainted with all facets of the creative industry and learn to self-manage in order to manage others. In putting forward such a course, we are offering our students a holistic education that prepares them not only for successfully completing our degree programmes but for the next 40 years of their lives!

● Professor Sharon Choa

Professor Sharon Choa is a conductor, musicologist and educator. She was educated at St. Paul's Co-educational College before entering the Royal Academy of Music in London as a violinist to study under the great quartet leader Sidney Griller. Since then, she had worked professionally in the United Kingdom until 2014 when she was offered the position as Dean of the School of Music at The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA).

While in the United Kingdom, Professor Choa has received many accolades in recognition of her achievement as musician, conductor and entrepreneur. In 2007, she was nominated an Inspirational Woman of the World with her portrait appearing in the National Gallery and is featured in Zerbanoo Giord's book Confessions to a Serial Womaniser. In 2001, Professor Choa founded Chamber Orchestra Anglia (COA). In the role as Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the Orchestra, she has presented many concerts that earned COA the reputation for its high-quality performances and innovative programming.

In her career as a conductor, she has worked with many European orchestras and internationally-renowned soloists. Since working in Hong Kong, she has been a guest conductor of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) and Principal Guest Conductor of the Hong Kong New Music Ensemble. In 2016 with her colleagues at the HKAPA, she has founded Philharmonia APA – an ensemble made up of HKAPA's gifted alumni. In 2020, Professor Choa collaborated with the HK Phil to found The Orchestra Academy HK – a project that enables young talented orchestral musicians to hone their skills to world-class levels and in line with 21st century practices.