

**Press Release
For Immediate Release**

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

(Oct 21, 2022) – The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (the Academy) has conferred Honorary Awards on seven outstanding individuals in recognition of their remarkable achievements and contributions to the performing arts and cultural industry and also the development of the Academy. The ceremony held today at the Academy Lyric Theatre was officiated by the Academy Council Chairman, Mr. Edward Cheng Wai-sun *GBS JP*. Academy Director, Professor Gillian Choa, expressed her heartfelt gratitude for the Honorary Awardees' exemplary and valuable support to the Academy.

Recipient of Doctorate of the Academy *honoris causa*:
Mr. Tang Shu-wing *MH*

Recipients of Honorary Fellowship:

Mr. Keith Anderson
Ms. Chow Pui-wan
Ms. Wan Fai Yin Christina *MH*
Dr. Betty Peh-T'i Wei
Ms. Yip Wing-sie *BBS JP*
Mr. Yu Kwok-lit *MH*

Page 3 to 4: Citation of the recipient of Doctorate of the Academy *honoris causa*

Page 5 to 10: Citations of the recipients of Honorary Fellowship

Download photos:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/rgbs37cna21t0uk/AADB11pqiTtNlvSuPF1gy7qla?dl=0>

About The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA) (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 2022, the Academy is ranked 1st in Asia and 10th in the world in the Performing Arts category.

Media enquiries:

Ms Angela Wong, Head of Communications

Ms Queency Yu, Assistant Communications Manager

Communications Office: communications@hkapa.edu

Tel: 2584 8955

Mr. Tang Shu-wing MH - Doctorate of the Academy *honoris causa*

Regarded as one of the most influential theatre directors in Hong Kong, Mr. Tang Shu-wing is a highly respected artist and educator who has served the theatre industry for more than 30 years, working in drama, dance and opera. Mr. Tang graduated from the School of Law at The University of Hong Kong in the 1980s and then pursued theatre studies at the Université de la Sorbonne Nouvelle in France.

In 2004, Mr. Tang joined the Academy's School of Drama, and became Dean of Drama in 2009. He directed major student productions including *Phaedra* (2005), *Hamlet* (2006) and *Princess Chang Ping* (2007), training many new performing artists along the way and won many awards for the Academy. Mr. Tang is a staunch supporter of the Academy and helped direct two recent operas from the Academy's School of Music: *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* in 2018, and *Idomeneo* in 2021.

To promote Hong Kong's theatre productions on the international stage, Mr. Tang founded the Tang Shu-wing Theatre Studio in 2011. The studio's works have strong cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural elements, and have been staged in cities across Europe and Asia. For instance, the studio presented *Titus Andronicus* and *Macbeth* in Cantonese at Shakespeare's Globe in London in 2012 and 2015 respectively. *Macbeth* also toured six European cities in 2017 and five cities in the Greater China Region in 2019. Under the able leadership of Mr. Tang, the studio was declared an Eminent Arts Group by the Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC) in 2019.

A firm believer in education, Mr. Tang is committed to serving the community through nurturing future artists. The Professional Physical Theatre Youth Training Programme that Mr. Tang established in 2014 has trained more than 250 students.

Mr. Tang also directed the opera *Datong* for the Hong Kong Arts Festival in 2015, which was selected for the highlights programme in London as part of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of HKSAR. In collaboration with Beijing's Baiguang Theatre Studio, Mr. Tang directed the Greek tragedy *Antigone* by Sophocles in 2016 and U.S. playwright Sarah Ruhl's play *Dead Man's Cell Phone* in 2018.

During the pandemic, Mr. Tang's creativity has extended to documentary and interactive online films, demonstrating his continuous innovative adventures.

In recognition of Mr. Tang's contributions to the performing arts, he has won many international and local awards such as the Distinguished Interpretative Performance at the Tashkent International Theatre Festival (1993), three times Best Director (2006, 2007 and 2011) at the Hong Kong Drama Awards, the Award for Arts Achievement in Drama from the HKADC (2008), the Arts and Cultural Figure of the Year at the Shenzhen and Hong Kong Lifestyle Awards presented by the *Southern Metropolis Daily* in Guangzhou (2012),

the Outstanding Achievement in Direction for Dance Award at the Hong Kong Dance Awards (2013), the Best Artist of the Year Award for Drama from the HKADC (2013), the “Next Big Thing” Award by *Muse* magazine (2010), and the Excellence Award at the Undercloud Festival in Romania (2018).

He was named a Jebsen Fellow at the Asian Cultural Council (1997), an Honorary Fellow of Lingnan University (2013), an Honorary Fellow of the Academy (2017), and an Honorary Fellow of the Hong Kong Arts Centre (2019). He has also been dubbed an Officier de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French Ministry of Culture and Communication (2007). The Hong Kong SAR government has awarded him a Certificate of Commendation from the Home Affairs Bureau (2007), the Chief Executive’s Commendation for Community Service Award (2012), and the Medal of Honour (2020).

More recent awards include Director of the Year of the IATC (HK) Critics’ Awards 2021, and Art and Culture Award of the first edition of the Grand Prix France-Hong Kong 2022.

In 2021, Mr. Tang received an award for his Outstanding Contribution in Arts from the HKADC, to acknowledge his remarkable accomplishments over the past decades.

Mr. Keith Anderson - Honorary Fellowship

Mr. Keith Anderson is an accomplished music professional who has dedicated his lifetime to serving music education. With a profound knowledge of and expertise in classical music, Mr. Anderson is hailed as a pioneer of music education in Hong Kong.

Mr. Anderson first came to Hong Kong in 1973 to serve as a lecturer in music at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. He subsequently served as the chairman of the Music Department from 1974 to 1977. Mr. Anderson then went on to teach at the Hong Kong Conservatory of Music. He gave a series of notable lectures that were broadcast live by Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK), with the material subsequently taught at the Academy in 1984. In the late 1980s, he taught music at Hong Kong Baptist College (later renamed Hong Kong Baptist University), and was appointed a visiting scholar for two years in the early 1990s.

Mr. Anderson is a respected educator as well as a dedicated musician, and his service to Hong Kong over the years contributed to the city's thriving arts scenes today.

Mr. Anderson joined the Academy at its inception in 1984. His contribution helped forge the path that the Academy followed in creating its School of Music. As of the very first cohort, Mr. Anderson's insights and musical knowledge have greatly inspired graduates of the Academy.

Mr. Anderson helped build the Academy's solid teaching foundation, nurturing many of the current faculty members, including some of the heads of departments at the School of Music. His book *An Introduction to Classical Music* and his thousands of notes on recording albums are used as teaching materials in music history. Over the years, Mr. Anderson has always been a great supporter of the School of Music of the Academy.

A highly regarded performer, Mr. Anderson was briefly in the viola section of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra. He was also a prolific broadcaster for RTHK Radio 4 between the late 1970s and the early 1990s, and has been the art critic for *The Star*, *the Hongkong Standard* and the *South China Morning Post*, in addition to being co-editor of *Hi-Fi* and *Music Magazine*. For more than three decades, he has been editor-in-chief for *Naxos Records*, during which time he has written liner notes for several thousand albums.

In addition to institutes of higher education, Mr. Anderson has taught at schools such as Ying Wah College and St. Catharine's School for Girls, providing opportunities to many students from humble backgrounds to take up a musical instrument. Many of his students have gone on to forge careers in music, both in performance and in music education.

Ms. Chow Pui-wan - Honorary Fellowship

Ms. Chow Pui-wan graduated among the first cohort of students from the Academy's School of Dance. She won a scholarship in 1988 from the London Contemporary Dance School to study choreography and performance, going on to receive a Master of Arts degree in choreography from the Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in 2003.

Ms. Chow spearheaded the restructuring of the Hong Kong dance group Passoverdance and has been its Artistic Director as of 2008. She is an avid advocate of dance education in Hong Kong, serving as adjudicator for the annual Schools Dance Festival. She was the Vice Chairman of Hong Kong Dance Alliance from 2012 to 2014, and has been an accessor at the Hong Kong Arts Development Council since 2008.

An acclaimed choreographer and dancer, Ms. Chow has garnered many accolades, including multiple triumphs at the Hong Kong Dance Awards. She won the Outstanding Achievement in Independent Production for *Homecoming* in 2010, Outstanding Independent Dance Production for *Maze* in 2013, Outstanding Achievement in Youth and Community Dance for *In Search of Space in a Cramped City: A Moving Exhibition Urban Bottling* in 2016, and Outstanding Dance Education for *In Search of Motion in a Virtual City: Grey Area* in 2018. Ms. Chow was also recognised as Artist of the Year for dance by the Hong Kong Arts Development Council in 2017, in recognition of her achievements in the dance scene.

Over the course of her career, she has created many exceptional choreographic works, including *Together* (2019), *Maze: Pushing Boundaries* (2018), *Grey Area* (2017), *In Search of Space in a Cramped City: A Moving Exhibition Urban Bottling* (2016), *Searchlight* (2014), *Maze* (2012), *Solo Act* (2012), *Homecoming* (2009), *Xin Xiang* (2007), *Concrete Forest* (2003) and *Execute I, II, III – Accomplish* (1990).

Ms. Chow has long-standing ties to the Academy. Having served as a full-time lecturer in contemporary dance at the Academy from 1991 to 2007, she continued as part-time lecturer and external examiner until 2020. She was one of the key staff members contributing to the study of choreography at the School of Dance, nurturing generations of choreographers. A longtime supporter of the Academy, Ms. Chow has engaged many School of Dance graduates to work at her dance company. She offered valuable opportunities for 2019 graduates to perform at her production *Maze: Shifting Boundaries*, live-streaming that performance from the Coda Festival in Oslo. She is also a generous scholarship donor, demonstrating her dedication to dance education and the development of arts in Hong Kong.

Ms. Wan Fai Yin Christina MH - Honorary Fellowship

A renowned actress taking on *huadan* (lead female) roles, Ms. Wan Fai Yin began her training in Cantonese opera in the 1960s. She studied voice and stylised movement under the guidance of Wong Yuet-sang, then learnt movements and gestures on stage and staged-fighting routines from Ng Sik-yi, Ng Kung-hap, Tam San-san, Yam Tai-fun and Ma Yuqi. Ms. Wan studied martial arts of the Northern School under the instruction of Lau Shun.

Noted for her mellifluous voice, Ms. Wan embarked on her artistic journey as a lead actress in 1968. She formed her own troupe, the Golden Phoenix Cantonese Opera Troupe, in 1987. Over the years, she has performed across the globe, working with preeminent Cantonese opera performers such as Mak Bing-wing, Sun Ma Sze Tsang, Tang Bik-wan, Ho Fei-fan, Lam Ka-sing, Law Kar-ying and Yuen Siu-fai.

In 2005, Ms. Wan presented a gala event, Wan Fai Yin – Forty Years of Acting, to commemorate her illustrious career, receiving both popular and critical acclaim. Drawing on her rich acting experience, Ms. Wan directed her first Cantonese opera in 2009. She has performed or directed more than 20 new works over her distinguished career, which has spanned six decades. Her recent notable works include *Empress Xiaozhuang*, *A Handful of Snow*, *Poetics of the Postal Pavilion*, and *Her Majesty Wu Zetian*, the latter performed for the Chinese Opera Festival in 2015.

Ms. Wan has been a staunch advocate of Cantonese opera, and is passionate about nurturing young talent. She was invited by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department to be the Artistic Advisor to the District Cantonese Opera Parade 2012/13. She served as a Vice Chairman of the Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong, and is currently a member of the Cantonese Opera Advisory Committee. She has since 2013 been the Artistic Director of the Cantonese Opera Young Talent Showcase that is part of the Yau Ma Tei Theatre Venue Partnership Scheme. In 2012, Ms. Wan was awarded a Medal of Honour by the Hong Kong SAR government as well as being named the Artist of the Year for Xiqu by the Hong Kong Arts Development Council, in recognition of her contribution to Cantonese opera.

An ardent supporter of the Academy's School of Chinese Opera, Ms. Wan has served on the School's advisory committee since 2018, offering invaluable advice for the School's academic and artistic development as an experienced industry practitioner. She also actively promotes the School's programmes. As a Visiting Artist to the School of Chinese Opera, she is always willing to share her knowledge and experience with students and faculty members alike. The students benefit not only from her artistic direction, but also from her professional presence.

Dr. Betty Peh-T'i Wei - Honorary Fellowship

A distinguished historian and educator, Dr. Betty Peh-T'i Wei has made invaluable contributions to academia, writing numerous papers and full-length works as an expert in history.

Dr. Wei served as the Head of Liberal Arts and Interdisciplinary Studies at The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts from the inauguration of the department in 1993 until her retirement in 2003. During her tenure, she established a strong foundation for liberal-arts education. An esteemed teacher and mentor, she developed relevant courses to enhance the knowledge of students in arts and culture, while bringing high-calibre guest teachers to campus to cultivate their interests in research and writing. Dr. Wei is dedicated to nurturing and broadening the horizons of young performing artists of all disciplines. Her teaching and guidance have influenced the way performing artists approach their life and creative work.

Dr. Wei's commitment to the Academy did not wane upon her retirement. Instead, she continues to raise scholarships and is an avid attendee of student concerts and performances, giving her time and unwavering support to the Academy students. It is a testimony to her accomplishment and contribution that her colleagues as well as members of the Academy community still give her the greatest respect today.

Dr. Wei holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Bryn Mawr College, a master's degree in international relations and law from New York University, and a doctorate degree in modern history at The University of Hong Kong (HKU). She is an honorary institute fellow of the Hong Kong Institute of the Humanities and Social Sciences at HKU as of 1981 and honorary professor at the Institute of Qing History at the Renmin University of China as of 1991. She also served as an honorary research fellow at the Centre of Asian Studies at HKU from 1981 to 2011.

Beyond her significant achievements as an acclaimed historian and dedicated educator, Dr. Wei is devoted to serving the community through her support of Hong Kong charities, educational institutes and performing-arts organisations. That includes her affiliation with the Heep Hong Society, Marco Polo World Foundation, Bryn Mawr College, Chinese International School, Lingnan University, Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong, International Women's Forum, Hong Kong Association of University Women, Musica Viva, and the Theatre Noir Foundation. She supports the Muses Foundation for Culture and Education, which finances Year 3 or 4 students from Hong Kong tertiary institutions, including the Academy, so they can visit European countries to learn practical skills that are not available in Hong Kong. Her nearly 50 years of sustained volunteer service is assuredly evidence of her passion and commitment to giving back to the community, which has earned her high praise and respect.

Ms. Yip Wing-sie BBS JP - Honorary Fellowship

Ms. Yip Wing-sie is a celebrated conductor, and one of the most influential and highly respected figures in Asia's orchestral scene.

Serving as Music Director of Hong Kong Sinfonietta from 2002 to 2020, and now its Music Director Emeritus, Ms. Yip became the first homegrown conductor to be in a leading position of a professional orchestra in Hong Kong. During her tenure, she developed the orchestra into one of the flagship arts groups in the city.

Ms. Yip comes from a prominent musical family. She graduated from the Royal College of Music in London and from Indiana University Bloomington in the United States, where she obtained her master's degree in violin performance and conducting. At the young age of 25, she was appointed Resident Conductor at the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, later holding the positions of Principal Conductor and Music Director of the Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra.

Ms. Yip has sustained an international reputation through her appearance at numerous venues and festivals, as well as collaborating with world-renowned artists and performing-arts groups. She has performed with leading orchestras around the globe including the Central Philharmonic Orchestra in China, Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra, Osaka Philharmonic Orchestra, New Japan Philharmonic, the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, and the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra. She was frequently engaged with orchestras in Europe, including the Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse and the Orchestre de Chambre de Besançon in France, the Warsaw Philharmonic in Poland, Tenerife Symphony Orchestra in Spain, and the Czecho-Slovak State Philharmonic Orchestra in Košice.

Ms. Yip's decades of devotion and accomplishments in music have earned her international accolades, including as Chevalier de l'Ordre national du Mérite bestowed by the nation of France and as Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres from the French Ministry of Culture. She was named a Fellow of the Royal College of Music (FRCM), and served as the Ong Teng Cheong Distinguished Visiting Professor at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music at the National University of Singapore. She was awarded the Bronze Bauhinia Star by the Hong Kong SAR government in 2013.

As the first female Asian conductor to rise to prominence in the world of conducting, Ms. Yip is an inspiration to young musicians. A staunch supporter of the Academy, she served as a part-time faculty in conducting at the School of Music for over 15 years and was a member of the Academy Council from 2008 to 2013. The Hong Kong Sinfonietta also offered invaluable performing opportunities to students and graduates of the School of Music over the years, showing her unfaltering support of the Academy as well as her commitment to nurturing young talent.

Mr. Yu Kwok-lit MH - Honorary Fellowship

With more than 30 years of experience in the administration of the arts, Mr. Louis Yu Kwok-lit is a pivotal figure for the performing-arts sector in Hong Kong.

Mr. Yu is the founding Executive Director for performing arts at the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority. During his leadership from 2010 to 2019, he spearheaded the planning of six performing-arts facilities, with the Xiqu Centre and Freespace already successfully open. Mr. Yu also put together a vibrant pre-opening programme and an opening team for the operations and programming of the facilities, which laid down a solid foundation for the District. His advocacy for and emphasis on encouraging collaboration between distinguished local artists and their overseas counterparts in the programming of the District is crucial to the long-term development of local culture in Hong Kong for the next decade and beyond.

Throughout his career, Mr. Yu has advocated the nurturing of local talent, pushing to expand resources for their professional development. Serving as Executive Director of the Hong Kong Arts Centre from 2000 to 2007, he started the Hong Kong Art School, created pioneering projects like the Little Asia theater and dance exchange networks, and the resident theatre project PIP Creative Partnership. Through rigorous fundraising, he refurbished the building.

As Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Arts Development Council from 2007 to 2010, he was actively involved in the conservation project for the Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre, the first factory to be turned into an artist village in Hong Kong. Under his leadership, the council started three annual projects: the Hong Kong Arts Development Awards; the Arts Ambassadors-in-School Scheme; and the Hong Kong Annual Arts Survey. Meanwhile, Mr. Yu revamped the overall grant scheme for project and administrative funding for small-to-medium art groups, benefiting the performing-arts sector widely.

Mr. Yu's contributions to the Academy have been significant. Numerous Academy students and graduates have been involved in many ways with the organisations that Mr. Yu has led over the last 20 years. The graduates of the School of Theatre and Entertainment Arts were deeply involved in the core team planning and designing all the theatres in the West Kowloon Cultural District. His vision for and efforts to put together a performing-arts blueprint for the West Kowloon Cultural District will surely benefit generations of Academy graduates to come.

In recent years, Mr. Yu has continued to research Hong Kong culture while serving as a board member for many performing-arts organisations. He has given lectures at multiple universities and organisations asking "What makes a city cultural?" Mr. Yu took up the position of director at the Hong Kong Art School as of 2021, to continue his efforts in nurturing young artists and the development of arts education. His first book *What Makes a City Cultural?* was published by Chung Hwa Book Company in 2022.
