

**Press Release
For Immediate Release**

Honorary Awards Ceremony of The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts 2025

(17 Oct 2025) – The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (the Academy) has conferred Honorary Awards on five outstanding individuals today in recognition of their significant achievements and contributions to the performing arts, the cultural industry, and the development of the Academy. The ceremony, officiated by the Academy Council Chairman Mr Charles Yang Chuen-liang *SBS JP*, was held at the Academy Lyric Theatre. Council Chairman Mr Charles Yang and the Academy Director Professor Anna CY Chan expressed their sincere gratitude for the Honorary Awardees' exemplary services and unwavering support to the Academy and the community.

Recipient of Doctorate of the Academy *honoris causa*:
Mr William Au Weng-hei *SBS JP*

Recipients of Honorary Fellowship:
Mr Chen Qing
Mr Leo Cheung Kwok-wing
Mrs Yvonne Law Shing Mo-han *BBS JP*
Ms Wu Han

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

Page 5 to 9: Citations of the recipients of Honorary Fellowship

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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 world-leading higher education institution for the performing arts. It provides professionally-oriented undergraduate education and postgraduate studies in Chinese Opera, Dance, Drama, Film and Television, Music, and Theatre and Entertainment Arts. Its educational philosophy reflects the cultural diversity of Hong Kong with an emphasis on Chinese and Western traditions, and interdisciplinary learning. In the QS University Rankings announced in 2025, the Academy ranks in the global top 20 for Performing Arts education.

The Academy has been granted Programme Area Accreditation status by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications to award its own Certificates, Diplomas, Bachelor's (Honours) Degrees and Master's Degrees. In the past four decades, more than 10,000 artists have graduated from the Academy, going on to become performing artists, creative arts practitioners, filmmakers, educators and cultural leaders with global impact – many have won international awards and shone in their respective artistic fields.

Besides the main campus in Wanchai, Béthanie, the Academy's Landmark Heritage Campus in Pokfulam, houses educational facilities for the School of Film and Television.

Media enquiries:

Ms Angela Wong, Head of Communications

Ms Sarah Yu, Assistant Communications Manager

Email: communications@hkapa.edu / angelawong@hkapa.edu

Tel: 2584 8955

Mr William Au Weng-hei SBS JP - Doctorate of the Academy *honoris causa*

Mr William Au Weng-hei is widely recognised as one of Hong Kong's most distinguished entrepreneurs and cultural visionaries. Mr Au moved to Macau at the age of two and the early phase of his adolescent life was shaped by the blend of Chinese and Portuguese influence. Under the care of his paternal grandmother, his upbringing instilled a particular appreciation of heritage, frugality and identity, which would later transcend to a passion in philanthropic and artistic pursuits.

Fast forward to the 1970s, when rapid economic growth and social development were fueled by the expansion of the manufacturing industry. At the age of 17, Mr Au relocated to Hong Kong to work in a small leather materials trading company. Through relentless dedication and perseverance to gain valuable experience in the industry, in 1979 he took the bold decision to start his own company. Within a decade, he transformed the enterprise into one of Hong Kong's largest suppliers of leather materials. In 1992, at the age of 34, he became one of the youngest chairmen of a company listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange – a distinction that secured his status as a pioneering force in the business world.

Despite the numerous remarkable accomplishments, Mr Au's aspirations extend far beyond corporate success. He has consistently demonstrated a profound commitment to lifelong learning, embracing educational opportunities both locally and internationally. He studied advance executive management at The Chinese University of Hong Kong and the graduate school of Central Connecticut State University where he received the advance executive management diploma and graduate diploma in management, and he also studied other programmes at HKU SPACE. To further this achievement, he achieved an executive master's degree in advanced management at the management school of the University of Liège, Belgium. The pursuit of continued knowledge reflects his belief that education is not only a tool for personal growth, but a critical necessity to empower and transform others.

Mr Au's contributions to Hong Kong's cultural landscape are equally noteworthy. Since the late 1980s, he has been a passionate advocate for initiatives that promote education, culture and the arts. In 1999, Mr Au established an education prize with the Ministry of Culture called "Ministry of Culture Au Weng Hei Distinguished Music Education Prize" in the Mainland to support distinguished teachers based in the country's prestigious schools of musical education. This prize was to acknowledge talent and cultural awareness of practitioners working within the cultural field with the objective to create richer dialogue of exchanges between professionals working across both Hong Kong and the Mainland. In the same year, Mr Au played a pivotal role in organising the first Hong Kong Culture and Arts Community event in celebration of National Day. His leadership as one of the two founders, co-sponsor and co-chairman, to drive the event as one of the most significant dates in Hong Kong's Cultural and Artistic calendar.

His influence spans across a myriad of cultural institutions and public bodies. Mr Au served as a Council member of the Academy and the Hong Kong Arts Development Council,

contributing to policy and funding decisions that shape the city's creative ecosystem. He also sat on the Home Affairs Bureau Committee responsible for allocating subventions to nine major local performing arts groups. In his current capacity, he holds important leadership roles as Chairman of the China Culture and Art Foundation and President of the Hong Kong Dance Federation Ltd – positions that enable him to champion artistic innovations and cultural exchange on a broader scale. Since 2012, he has been an active member of the Foundation Committee of HKU SPACE, which he is currently Vice-Chairman. Within foundation, he chairs its Fundraising Subcommittee, which strives to support educational initiatives and expand funding of learning opportunities to students. Most recently, he was ascended as President of HKU SPACE ALUMNI.

As a long-standing supporter of the Academy, Mr Au's generosity has been formally recognised through the naming of "Concert Hall" in his honour – William Au Concert Hall. This tribute exemplifies his unwavering dedication and substantial contributions, which have provided the essential resource to nurture future generational performing artists. In the Academy's 40th Anniversary Honorary Fundraising Organising Campaign Committee, Mr Au served as Honorary Chairman. His donations also help the Academy to realise its ambitious ten-year expansion plan – this includes the development of the Northern Metropolis campus.

Mr Au's philanthropic spirit and continuous effort to public service have earned him numerous prestigious accolades. In 1995, he was named as Honorary Life Fellow of the Institute of Commercial Management in the United Kingdom. He was awarded the Most Distinguished Cultural Exchange Contribution Award in 2000. In 2005, he was made an Honorary Fellow of The Academy of Chinese Studies. In 2018, he was made an Honorary Fellow of HKU SPACE. His honours from the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China include the award of Bronze Bauhinia Star in 2000 and Silver Bauhinia Star in 2014, and his appointment as Justice of Peace in 2002. He was also one of the electors of the election committee for Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China during the first to sixth terms. From 2003 to 2023, for 20 years he served as a Hong Kong Committee Member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

Through his remarkable business feats, his support for the arts, and his advocacy for continued education, Mr Au has shown how entrepreneurial vision can be integrated with cultural stewardship. His profound dedication, far-reaching impact, and enduring relevance will continue to enhance the social and cultural landscape of Hong Kong for generations to come.

Mr Chen Qing - Honorary Fellowship

Mr Chen Qing is an esteemed alumnus of the Academy, an eminent oboist and arts administrator. As a National Class One Performer, Principal Oboist of the Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra (GSO), and founder of the Guangzhou Wind Quintet, he is both an exceptionally accomplished performer and a prominent arts administrator. Since he assumed the reins of the GSO as its President, the orchestra has scaled new and impressive heights.

Mr Chen served as Principal Oboist of the GSO for 17 years, from 1993 to 2010. During this time, he performed in around a thousand concerts in various parts of the world, and won the respect of many leading conductors. He also played in the first performances in the Mainland of two important works, Richard Strauss's *Concerto in D major for Oboe* and Jean Françaix's *L'horloge de Flore (Flower Clock)*. He has performed at numerous music festivals both in the Mainland and abroad, and has played in prestigious performance venues all over the world.

Since becoming President of the GSO, Mr Chen has promoted cultural exchange and integration in the Greater Bay Area. He has not only brought excellent musicians from Hong Kong, Macau and overseas into the orchestra, but has also recommended young Hong Kong musicians to perform at the Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra Season and commissioned young Hong Kong composers to write new works for the orchestra. Mr Chen has also played a vital part in the Greater Bay Area Youth Orchestra presented by the Academy's School of Music and furthering the "Youth Music Culture: The Greater Bay Area" project. He has deepened collaboration with the Academy and various music groups in the region, and provided opportunities for young Hong Kong musicians to show off their talents. He has also organised several concerts, masterclasses and community outreach activities, with the aim of popularising classical music.

His support for the Academy has built sturdy bridges between music communities in Hong Kong and the Mainland, and has widened the opportunities available for the Academy's members. He has developed various training programmes and youth music projects to help aspiring musicians nurture their talents. His zealous efforts have created more performance opportunities for the Academy's teachers, students and alumni. He has enabled its representatives to participate more often in regional forums and conferences.

Mr Chen has been honoured as a "National Cultural Master" in the Mainland. In 2014, he was named a "Four Batches" Talent by the Publicity Department of the Communist Party's Central Committee and a "Guangdong Special Support Plan" Ideological and Cultural Leader by the Publicity Department of the Guangdong Provincial Party Committee. In 2022, he was honoured as an "Artist of Both Artistic and Moral Stature" in Guangdong Province. Mr Chen is currently Vice-Chair of the Guangdong Musicians Association and a Distinguished Visiting Professor at the Beijing Normal University-Hong Kong Baptist University United International College.

Mr Leo Cheung Kwok-wing - Honorary Fellowship

Mr Leo Cheung Kwok-wing is an eminent alumnus of the Academy's School of Theatre and Entertainment Arts. He is a luminary in the field of set and lighting design. His artistry has been placed at the service of dance, theatre, musical, opera and Chinese opera for many years, both in Hong Kong and elsewhere around the world.

Mr Cheung embarked on his professional journey at the Academy, where he majored in Theatre Lighting Design. He then took a master's degree in Lighting from Queensland University of Technology in Australia. His career has been distinguished by innovative use of light, shadows, spaces, and visual media. He has not only elevated productions aesthetically but also bridged art forms to reflect social and cultural narratives. During his professional journey, Mr Cheung has crafted acclaimed works for prestigious institutions. Early in his career, he designed lighting for *La Traviata* (1990), *Tosca* (1992), *Der Rosenkavalier* (1993), *The Magic Flute* (1994) and *Un Ballo in Maschera* (1995) for the Hong Kong Arts Festival. More recently, he fused modern lighting techniques with traditional aesthetics in *Sands and Beyond* (2017) by Wuji Ensemble and in *As It Were* (2018) by Gothenburg Opera Dance Company. Other notable works include *Testimony* (2006) and *Mr Blank* (2018) by City Contemporary Dance Company, and *Road to Damascus* (2021) by Hong Kong Repertory Theatre. His designs have adorned stages not only in Hong Kong and the Mainland, but also in Singapore, Japan, the United Kingdom, Israel and other international arenas.

His impressive attainments have been acknowledged by numerous awards. In 1994, he received the Outstanding Achievement of the Decade Award. He won the Best Lighting Design Award from the Hong Kong Federation of Drama Societies ten times between 1995 and 2022. He has also been honoured by the Hong Kong Dance Alliance, winning the Annual Dance Award for exceptional set and lighting design four times between 1999 and 2013. In 2014, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the development of arts and culture in Hong Kong, he received a Certificate of Commendation from the Home Affairs Bureau.

Besides being a creative designer, Mr Cheung is also a dedicated educator. He taught for 23 years, at the Academy's School of Theatre and Entertainment Arts, progressing from Senior Lecturer (Lighting) to Associate Professor. He has mentored several outstanding designers, who have since made a successful career in this art sector. As an advisor to the Academy's lighting design curriculum, Mr Cheung ensures that it reflects current industry standards and trends. By bridging the academic and professional realms, he has given students the opportunity to acquire valuable practical experience, preparing them for successful entry into the professional field.

Thanks to his exceptional artistry, technical expertise and commitment to nurturing talent, Mr Cheung is now one of Hong Kong's foremost masters in the field. His achievement exemplifies the extraordinary possibilities open to the Academy's graduates.

Mrs Yvonne Law Shing Mo-han BBS JP - Honorary Fellowship

Mrs Yvonne Law Shing Mo-han is a highly respected accounting professional whose work has significantly enriched Hong Kong's performing arts landscape. Her career has been characterised by integrity, selfless service and high standards of professionalism, coupled with a deep commitment to nurturing the arts and inspiring future generations.

As a Partner at Deloitte (1990–2016) and later as its Senior Advisor (2016–2019), Mrs Law has enjoyed a distinguished accounting career. She has been recognised as one of the World's Leading Women in Business Law. She was a founding member and past President of the Association of Women Accountants Hong Kong and also served as Chairman of the Taxation Committee of the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants. In these positions she has mentored numerous professionals.

Her accounting expertise has also been placed at the service of the Academy for many years. As the Treasurer and Board Member of the Academy Council from 2016 to 2021, Mrs Law provided invaluable financial oversight and advice, ensuring that resources were directed to where they could best advance the Academy's mission. Since 2016, she has been chairing the Main Tender Board, and from 2020 to 2021, she led the Staff Retirement Benefit Schemes Management Committee—roles in which her integrity, commitment to transparency and sense of service to the community were indispensable. More recently, she has joined the Academy's Audit Committee since 2022 and the EXCEL Board of Governors since 2023, contributing to the provision of world-class resources that improve the educational experience for faculty members and students. Her ongoing dedication in these capacities remain vital to the Academy's success and the Academy community is deeply grateful for her staunch support.

A fervent champion of performing arts education, Mrs Law has helped to nurture emerging talent both as a Council Member of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University from 2010 to 2016, and as a Court Member since 2016. By forging vital connections between academia and the performing arts, she has created transformative educational opportunities, kindling a deep appreciation for the arts among young people and helping to realise the Academy's wider vision.

Mrs Law's passion for the arts is further evidenced by her significant government appointments. As a Committee Member of the Hong Kong Film Development Council from 2009 to 2013 and Vice-Chairman of the CreateSmart Initiative Vetting Committee from 2011 to 2017, she played a pivotal role in promoting Hong Kong's creative industries, fostering innovation and growth in the arts.

As an accomplished vocalist and ardent opera enthusiast herself, Mrs Law has worked hard to promote these fields. Her remarkable contributions to education, the arts and community service have won her recognition. In 2007, she received the Outstanding PolyU Alumni Award from The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Appointed a Justice of Peace by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in 2013, she has consistently demonstrated her dedication to public service. In 2017, her exceptional contributions were

further recognised when she became an Honorary Fellow of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University and honoured with the Bronze Bauhinia Star by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Her visionary leadership and unwavering dedication have helped to transform the arts landscape in Hong Kong. Her work has enriched Hong Kong's cultural fabric and has played its part in ensuring that the arts remain an important aspect of the city's unique identity.

Ms Wu Han - Honorary Fellowship

Pianist Ms Wu Han is an influential figure in the classical music world who has won international acclaim as a concert performer, recording artist, educator, arts administrator and cultural entrepreneur.

A recipient of the prestigious Andrew Wolf Award and Musical America's Musician of the Year Award, Ms Wu is recognised worldwide for her artistic leadership, shaping the field through a remarkable series of directorships. In 2002, she co-founded Silicon Valley's innovative chamber music festival, Music@Menlo, where she continues to serve as Co-Artistic Director. Since 2004, she has also guided the Chamber Music Society (CMS) of Lincoln Center as Co-Artistic Director, expanding its reach through acclaimed performances, regional and international touring, education programmes, satellite series in nearly a dozen American cities, and groundbreaking media initiatives—making it the foremost institution of its kind. She also serves as Artistic Director for La Musica in Sarasota, Florida and Palm Beach's Society of the Four Arts. Most recently, in fall 2025, she was appointed Co-Artistic Director of the historic South Mountain Concerts in Massachusetts.

Her recent concert activities have taken her from New York's Lincoln Center stages to the most important concert halls in the United States, Europe, and Asia. Alongside countless performances of virtually the entire chamber repertoire, she has also appeared as a soloist with major orchestras including the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Atlanta Symphony, and the Aspen Festival Orchestra.

Ms Wu is the founder of "ArtistLed", the first artist-directed, internet-based recording label for classical music. Performing alongside cellist David Finckel, she has produced over 150 recordings, including the complete cello sonatas of Beethoven as well as works of Brahms, Mendelssohn, Schubert, Shostakovich, and Dvorák. She has helped to nurture talented young musicians by guiding the CMS's Bowers Programme and overseeing the Chamber Music Institute at Music@Menlo. Earlier in her career, she was a faculty member of the late Isaac Stern's historic Chamber Music Encounters in Israel, the United States and Japan. She also launched a chamber music studio at the Aspen Music Festival, further extending her commitment to mentoring young artists.

A passionate supporter of the Academy's School of Music, Ms Wu has captivated audiences in Hong Kong with her spellbinding performances. She has also been a visionary leader of the CMS's international touring. Through her masterclasses, she has inspired the Academy's students and kindled their artistic potential.

Born in Taiwan, Ms Wu began her musical studies in Taipei before continuing under the guidance of some of the greatest pianists of our time, including Lilian Kallir, Rudolf Serkin and Menahem Pressler. Ms Wu's work has helped shape the next generation of musicians, ensuring that her legacy as a trailblazer in classical music will resonate for years to come.