



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



SCHOOL OF CHINESE OPERA

> *Learning in Diversity with Endurance and Focus*



INTRODUCTION

Chinese opera is recognised as a valuable part of Chinese culture, requiring the most profound refinement of skills in singing, acting, characterisation, movement, choreography and acrobatics.

Established in September 2013, the School of Chinese Opera offers the world's first accredited Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) in Chinese Opera.

At present, the School offers three programmes accredited by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications, all of which comprise two majors, namely Cantonese Opera Performance and Cantonese Opera Music:

- **Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) in Chinese Opera (Four-year programme)**
Provides professional and comprehensive training in Chinese opera
- **Diploma in Cantonese Opera Foundations (One-year programme)**
Provides foundational training in basic theories and practice in Cantonese opera art form and enhances academic profile for articulation into undergraduate degree study
- **Professional Diploma in Cantonese Opera (Two-year programme)**
Provides professional training and upskilling for senior secondary school graduates with prior practical experience in Cantonese opera and current practitioners



VISION AND MISSION

The School of Chinese Opera aspires to provide students with professional and comprehensive training in Cantonese opera performance and music through a forward-looking, stimulating, highly integrated and innovative curriculum.



TEACHING AND LEARNING

The School provides professional and comprehensive training in Cantonese opera performance and music to form a solid foundation in Chinese opera performance with Major Studies, as well as broaden students' understanding of Chinese culture and their artistic horizons with Contextual Studies.

Major Studies

Cantonese Opera Performance

- ▲ Foundation Work (Acrobatic Skills)
- ▲ Stage Movement and Performance Technique
- ▲ Repertoire
- ▲ Foundation Work & Weapon Skills
- ▲ Cantonese Operatic Singing (Individual)
- ▲ Practical Performance

Cantonese Opera Music

- ▲ Major Instrument
- ▲ Basic Percussion
- ▲ Music Ensembleship
- ▲ Major Percussion
- ▲ Introduction to Suona
- ▲ Percussion Ensembleship

Contextual Studies

- ▲ Chinese Opera and Culture
- ▲ Music Theory of Cantonese Opera
- ▲ History of Chinese Opera
- ▲ Cantonese Operatic Music Composition
- ▲ Makeup and Costume
- ▲ Cantonese Operatic Percussion Composition

Using Technology

The School is developing a Spatial Outcomes-Based Assessment System (SOBA) to enhance students' experience of Cantonese opera by using multi-dimensional digital technology. SOBA adopts technology such as motion capture, virtual reality, augmented reality to assist pedagogical delivery.

Chinese Opera Productions

The School presents *Gongs and Drums* every semester, during which all students have the opportunity to perform selected excerpts of Cantonese opera. The performance venue is equipped with a professional stage, orchestra pit, lighting and sound equipment, creating a platform to showcase students' learning outcomes to the public and the industry.

Internship Opportunities

The School offers industry-related internship opportunities, allowing students to engage in stage performance, music playing, and event support. Internship opportunities are available at public institutions, including the Xiqu Centre in West Kowloon Cultural District, and RTHK Radio 5, as well as various Cantonese opera troupes and Cantonese operatic singing associations.

Visiting Artists

Every year, the School invites experienced Cantonese opera artists as visiting artists to practise selected repertoires with our students or launch Chinese opera workshops. Students can enjoy the opportunities to learn from masters of different genres of Chinese opera and better adapt to the performing and operational styles of the industry.

Arts and Cultural Exchange

The School strives to provide outbound arts and cultural exchange experiences for students to broaden their views. In 2025, the School collaborated with the National Academy of Chinese Theatre Arts in Beijing through campus visits and cultural exchange. Faculty and students from both institutions came together for open classes, forums, and student showcases. Moreover, with support from the National Arts Fund and the Hong Kong SAR Government, the School led students and graduates on a tour in 2025 and 2026, staging the original Cantonese opera *Pearl Bay* in Beijing, Guangzhou, Hong Kong, and Macau.

INTERNATIONALISATION

The School co-organised international performances and study tours with overseas institutions. Our students performed selected Cantonese opera excerpts at Oberlin Conservatory of Music and the New York Chinese Community Centre. In 2025, our students travelled to Italy to performed Cantonese opera excerpts at the Conservatory of Music “G. Nicolini”, Teatro Sanzio, and Teatro dei Rozzi. They also joined local faculty and students in interactive cultural exchange activities on Chinese opera. In 2026, our students collaborated with an Italian jazz ensemble Yut Quartet to present an intercultural concert *Anime in Viaggio* (English translation: Journey of Mind), blending Cantonese opera with Italian jazz and offering students a direct experience of East–West musical fusion.

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI

(In alphabetical order of surnames)

> Cheng Nga-ki

Actress. Founded Nan Art Workshop. She performed in famous Cantonese opera such as *The Purple Hairpin*, *Praying to the Moon*, and the new Cantonese opera *Love in the Bamboo Grove* in the 41st and 51st Hong Kong Arts Festival, respectively.

> Susanna Cheng Wing-mui

Actress. Founded Good Harvest Cantonese Opera Troupe. Her renowned performances include *Mermaid Legend* and *Legend of the White Snake*. She was the producer and the lead of *Realm of Trance: Tian Hacks the Coffin* of Xiqu Centre 5th Anniversary Celebrations.

> Lam Tin-yau

Actor. Founded Nan Art Workshop. Established Chung Sin Sing Cantonese Opera Troupe and produced new Cantonese operas such as *The Women's Kingdom*. He also performed in *Wu Song the Tiger Killer* and *The Guilded Fan* at the 42nd Hong Kong Arts Festival.

> Lee Tik-lun

Musician. Joined the Xiqu Centre Tea House Rising Stars Troupe, West Kowloon Cultural District, as the Ensemble Leader. His performances include "Teahouse Theatre Experience" and "Experimental Cantonese Opera: *Farewell My Concubine*."

> Lin Yingshi

Actress. Founded Alis Art Centre and her tea brand "Shicha." Further studied at the National Academy of Chinese Theatre Arts. She played the lead role in the Cantonese opera performances at the Hong Kong Arts Festival for three years and performed in various multimedia performances.

> Song Hongbo

Actor. Joined Prosperity Cantonese Opera Production Studio. He performed in *Sacrificing the Son* in the 7th Chinese Opera Festival, *Emperor Wu of Han and his Jester Strategist* and *Farewell my Concubine* in the 45th and the 46th Hong Kong Arts Festival, respectively.

> Karen Wang Kit-ching

Actress. Founded Karen's Meadow Cantonese Opera Studio. She produced and played the lead role in *Diaochan*, *The Love Story of the Silk Road* and *Our Joyful Old 60's*. Received the Award for Young Artist (*Xiqu*) in the Hong Kong Arts Development Awards 2011.

> Janet Wong

Actress. Founded Cantonese Opera Theatre. Received the Award for Young Artist (*Xiqu*) in Hong Kong Arts Development Awards 2014. She played the lead role in "Experimental Cantonese Opera: *Wenguang Explores the Valley*" at Xiqu Centre.

CAREER PROSPECTS

Our performance graduates have gone onto develop their careers in Chinese opera by forming their own Chinese opera troupes or participating in the industry. Music graduates also work in the troupes as music directors or music accompanists. Furthermore, our graduates also teach Chinese opera in schools or the community or contribute themselves to art administration and marketing, for example, in the Xiqu Centre, West Kowloon Cultural District.



SCHOOL OF CHINESE OPERA - PROGRAMME

Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) in Chinese Opera

Major Study

- > Cantonese Opera Performance
- > Cantonese Opera Music

Diploma in Cantonese Opera Foundations

(Feeder programme to Undergraduate Programme)

Major Study

- > Performance
- > Music

Professional Diploma in Cantonese Opera

Major Study

- > Performance
- > Music



Admission & Audition

PROGRAMMES ENQUIRY

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