

SCHOOL OF CHINESE OPERA

> *Learning in Diversity with Endurance and Focus*

INTRODUCTION

Chinese opera is designated by The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts as a specialised study area in Chinese performing arts. It is recognised as a unique and supreme example of total theatre and a valuable part of Chinese culture, requiring the most profound refinement of skills in singing, acting, characterisation, movement, choreography and acrobatics. With strong support from the Home Affairs Bureau of the Hong Kong Government, the Academy has launched tertiary education in Chinese opera to preserve and develop this traditional art form.

Established in September 2013, the School of Chinese Opera offers the world's first accredited Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) Degree in Chinese Opera, marking a milestone of the Academy's endeavour in developing Chinese opera. In 2018, the Diploma and the Advanced Diploma in Cantonese Opera and the Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) Degree in Chinese Opera were successfully revalidated for Hong Kong Qualifications Framework (HKQF) Level 3, 4 and 5 respectively. Starting from September 2020, the School has successfully been accredited by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) for a new programme, Diploma in Cantonese Opera Foundations (HKQF Level 4), to replace the existing Diploma programme.

Students are provided with comprehensive training in Cantonese opera performance and music to build a solid foundation and attain professional standards. The programmes focus on practical studies as well as contextual studies on Chinese culture and Chinese opera history, thereby widening students' artistic horizons and enhancing their abilities to understand, perform, analyse, evaluate and engage in creative works. In a step-by-step pedagogical structure, students can acquire the professional skills and artistic knowledge.

The School is distinctively positioned as a centre for nurturing Chinese opera talent, offering programmes of Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) Degree in Chinese Opera for grooming all-round professionals, and Diploma in Cantonese Opera Foundations and Advanced Diploma in Cantonese Opera for nurturing skilled talent.

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.

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

In 2017, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to China, a grand Cantonese opera performance, Cantonese Opera Extravaganza for Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of HKSAR, brought together members of the Young Cantonese Opera Troupe, students and alumni of the Academy and local Cantonese opera elites. There were a total of 13 performances showcased.



TEACHING AND LEARNING

The School focuses on the research on the practice and context of Chinese opera, extension of the artistic horizon of students and enhancement of their performance and their analytical and creative ability. Through a systematic curriculum, including artistic training and Chinese culture and history of Chinese opera as supportive subjects, the School provides students with an exploratory and experimental learning environment. Our teaching and learning framework develops the artistic, intellectual and professional skills of students, extends their horizon and strengthens their understanding, performance, analysis, assessment and participation in the composition of Chinese opera in an orderly way and helps the students to proceed step by step. Students will be able to master their professional skills and artistic knowledge and broaden their understanding of Chinese culture and appreciation of Chinese opera.

The School has also invited experienced Cantonese opera actors to be visiting artists to provide guidance for students to practise selected repertoires to help them adapt to the performing and operational styles of the industry effectively in the future. To help the students reflect upon their progress of performing practice, the School has installed a multi-angle simultaneous recording system, a means to incorporate technology in teaching and learning. The School will also develop a brand-new SOBA system to enhance students' experience of Cantonese opera by using multi-dimensional digital technology.

GLOBALISATION

The School co-organised international performances and study tours with overseas institutions. Our teachers, students and graduate troupe members performed at the Oberlin College in the US and at the Starlight Chinese Opera Performing Arts Centre in Canada. Students were invited to perform Cantonese Opera excerpts, *The Villain*, *the General* and *the Heroic Beauty*, and *Eight Divinities Crossing the Sea* respectively.





CAREER PROSPECTS

The School of Chinese Opera endeavours to nurture all-round professional talents, and at the same time, prepare them for academic and career developments in the future. Graduates can participate in the performance of professional Chinese opera troupes, taking up jobs as performers. They are also capable of teaching primary and secondary school students Chinese opera and music. Furthermore, graduates can undertake promotional and administrative work for arts and culture at West Kowloon Cultural Centre and Government departments. They can also write critiques on Chinese opera and Cantonese opera in magazines and newspapers columns. Apart from joining the workforce, pursuing master's degrees in local universities has been a popular choice among graduates recently.



OUTSTANDING ALUMNI

(by surname in alphabetical order)

- > Wang Kit Ching
- > Lee Tik Lun
- > Song Hong Bo
- > Share Ka Lok
- > Lin Yingshi
- > Cheng Wing Mui
- > Cheng Nga Ki
- > Lan Tienyou

SCHOOL OF CHINESE OPERA - PROGRAMME

Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) Degree in Chinese Opera Programme

Major Study

- > Cantonese Opera Performance
- > Cantonese Opera Music

Advanced Diploma in Cantonese Opera

Diploma in Cantonese Opera Foundations

(Feeder programme to Undergraduate Programme)



Admission & Audition

PROGRAMMES ENQUIRY

 (852) 2584 8895

 (852) 2584 8894

 co@hkapa.edu

 [hkapaco](#)

 www.hkapa.edu