

PRESS RELEASE (FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)
(23 July 2018)



Opera Hong Kong presents

Jockey Club Opera Hong Kong Young Artist Development Programme
Semi-staged Opera – Die Fledermaus (Act II)

31 July – 1 August 2018, 7:30pm
Jockey Club Auditorium, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Opera Hong Kong proudly presents *Die Fledermaus (Act II)*, a semi-staged annual performance performed by local young artists from **Jockey Club Opera Hong Kong Young Artist Development Programme** (the Programme), which is funded by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust and a major effort by Opera Hong Kong to strive for a breakthrough in local operatic art development. As the first-ever intensive opera training project partnered with a series of outreach activities in Hong Kong, the **Jockey Club Opera Hong Kong Young Artist Development Programme** aims to raise our young artists' abilities to an international level by providing tailor-made and intensive training, as well as more opportunities to perform on stage.

Die Fledermaus, composed by Johann Strauss II in 1874 and well known by its lively Viennese waltz and beautiful music, *Die Fledermaus* is the most famous and well-known masterpiece among all the Vienna operetta and loved by opera lovers all over the world! Act II of *Die Fledermaus* is the most vibrant and cheerful part of the operetta. It features a joyful evening ballroom party scene that take place at Orlofsky's villa where guests singing and dancing blissfully through the night.

Produced by the Programme Director Gong Dongjian, conducted by Pierre Vallet from the Metropolitan Opera, and directed by Yankov Wong, *Die Fledermaus (Act II)* will be performed by up-and-coming local artists from Jockey Club Opera Hong Kong Young Artist Development Programme, including Colette Lam (Soprano), Li Yang (Soprano), Phoebe Tam (Soprano), Joyce Wong (Soprano), Dominique Chan (Mezzo-soprano), Samantha Chong (Mezzo-soprano), Bobbie Zhang (Mezzo-soprano), Chen Yong (Tenor), Alexander Chen (Baritone) and Sammy Chien (Baritone).

Die Fledermaus (Act II) will be held on 31 July – 1 August 2018 (Tuesday to Wednesday), 7:30pm at the Jockey Club Auditorium, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, with The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust as Major Funder. Tickets are now available for booking at URBTIX (www.urbtix.hk), priced at \$220, \$180, \$120 and \$60. Half-price tickets are available for senior citizens aged 60 or above, persons with disabilities and their carers, full-time students and Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients. 5% discount for each purchase of 4–9 standard tickets; 10% discount of 10–19 standard tickets; 15% discount of 20 or more standard tickets.

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About Jockey Club Opera Hong Kong Young Artist Development Programme

Sponsored by The Jockey Club Charities Trust, the Jockey Club Opera Hong Kong Young Artist Development Programme (the Programme) is the first-ever intensive opera training project complemented with a series of outreach activities in Hong Kong. Inaugurated on 1 July 2015, this three-year programme aims at bridging the gap between school and performance stage. By providing tailor-made and intensive training, we aim to nurture our young artists to attain international level of artistry. They have received regular voice lessons from renowned bass-baritone Mr. Gong Dongjian, who is also the Programme Director, as well as coaching from overseas coaches. They also have the opportunities to perform in Opera Hong Kong's productions. In addition, the Programme strives for a breakthrough in popularizing operatic art in general public through its education and outreach programmes. They include Mini Opera School Tour and Master Class, where the young artists can bring first-hand opera experiences to secondary schools with interactive presentations and masterclasses.

About Opera Hong Kong

Opera Hong Kong is the first opera company to have been established in Hong Kong. The company was formed in July 2003 as a non-profit organisation. Since its inception, Opera Hong Kong has become a firmly established part of Hong Kong's cultural scene. Since our establishment, Opera Hong Kong has gone from strength to strength under the artistic direction of Warren Mok, the internationally acclaimed Hong Kong tenor, with many grand-scale productions of operas including *The Barber of Seville*, *Otello*, *Tosca*, *La Traviata*, *Turandot*, *Carmen*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Roméo et Juliette*, *Aïda*, *Werther*, *Don Carlo*, *The Magic Flute*, *Poet Li Bai*, *Manon*, *La Bohème* and many others. Apart from operas, Opera Hong Kong has also presented a significant number of musicals and concerts.

Opera Hong Kong (OHK) is committed to the mission of enhancing the appreciation of the art of opera in Hong Kong and promoting local musical talents. In 2015, OHK has launched *The Jockey Club Opera Hong Kong Young Artist Development Programme* (the Programme), a 3-year opera training programme funded by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, to nurture ten professional young local artists. The Programme is the first-ever intensive professional opera training project in Hong Kong accompanied by a series of outreach activities. Mr. Gong Dongjian, a famous bass and an experienced vocal coach, is the Programme Director of the Programme.

In addition to staging operas and concerts, opera school tours, summer camps and master classes are held regularly to reach the young population. Opera Hong Kong Chorus and Opera Hong Kong Children Chorus were established in 2004 and 2008 respectively and are becoming recognised forces in the local choral scene.