

PRESS RELEASE

**K. Wah Opera Hong Kong Summer Camp Presents
 Broadway's Classic *The Music Man Jr.***
The Best Family Entertainment Filled with Humour and Harmony


(11 Jul 2019, Hong Kong) **Opera Hong Kong** is delighted to announce that the annual **Opera Hong Kong Summer Camp** returns for its eleventh edition. With the support of the Hong Kong Arts Development Council, the **K. Wah Opera Hong Kong Summer Camp** will provide a 3-week intensive vocal training course with acting, and participants between 5 and 18 years old will have their graduation performance, a well-beloved Broadway's classic *The Music Man Jr.* Two finales will be put on stage in August at Shouson Theatre, Hong Kong Arts Centre, with **K. Wah International Holdings Ltd. (KWIH)** as the title sponsor of the 10 August performance. Being the Honorary Patron of Opera Hong Kong since 2013, KWIH has been supporting Opera Hong Kong's education and outreach programmes to promote local art education and cultivate art management talents.

K. Wah Opera Hong Kong Summer Camp aims to foster young local students the love of music and to nurture local music talents. Under the guidance of the professional coach team which includes **Dr. Amanda Li**, **Ms. Carman Tsang** and **Ms. Dominique Chan**, the participants will explore their potential in singing and acting; to broaden their artistic, intellectual and social capacities. Soprano **Amanda Wai-yin Li** is a doctoral student at the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University, studying with Prof. Teresa Kubiak. **Carman Tsang** received her musical training at Birmingham Conservatoire, supported by the Denis Matthews Scholarship. As for **Dominique Chan**, a Leeds College of Music postgraduate, was invited to perform in the chamber opera *Heart of Coral* (world premiere and Taipei re-run) and *Datong: The Chinese Utopia* (world premiere and London re-run) commissioned and produced by Hong Kong Arts Festival. Besides, Opera Hong Kong supports students in various ways including Opera Hong Kong Scholarship Programme and sponsorship for underprivileged children.

This year's finale is directed by **Dr. Oliver Lo**, an acclaimed tenor soloist who was stage director for **Opera Hong Kong's** summer and outreach programmes for five years. He has obtained tenure from East Tennessee State University as an Associate Professor in Voice and Director of Opera Theater. He was also the Founding Director of The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) Summer Musical and HKUST Staff Choir. As a music educator, he has brought operas and musicals to thousands of students in the United States and Hong Kong.

The Music Man Jr. features some of musical theatre's most iconic songs. The Music Director of this production, **Felix Suen**, is experienced in coaching Broadway musicals and operas in Hong Kong and England.

He joined the coach team of Opera Hong Kong Summer Camp in 2009 and has become the music director since 2014. He holds degrees from Hong Kong Baptist University (Piano Performance and Pedagogy), Guildhall School (Piano Accompaniment) and Trinity Laban Conservatoire (Vocal Performance). This summer, the Hong Kong audience will have a chance to enjoy this musical classic directed by the two talents.

The Music Man Jr. – A Musically Illiterate Con Man Plans to Defraud Money from Parents.

The story is about “Music Professor” Harold Hill, a con man and musically illiterate, arrives in River City of Iowa. Hill plans to convince the people there that their town needs a boy's band as the solution to the corrupting influence of some new modern games, however, his plans to skip town with the cash are foiled when he falls for Marian, she helps hide Hill's fraud and becomes the love of his life. Hill's plan is eventually exposed but his love for Marian makes him stay and be captured. Hill is brought before a town meeting, what will be his fate?

Programme Details

10 Aug 2019 (Sat), 8:00pm; 11 Aug 2019 (Sun), 3:00pm

Shouson Theatre, Hong Kong Arts Centre

\$350 / *\$175, \$280 / *\$140 - Tickets are available at URBIX on 19 Jul 2019

Performed in English with Chinese and English Surtitles.

The programme runs approximately 80 minutes. For age 3 or above.

Please visit <http://operahongkong.org/education-outreach/summer-school-2/> for more details.

*Half-price tickets are available for full-time students, senior citizens aged 60 or above, people with disabilities and the minder and Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients.

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Press information

Full version of press release and high-res photos can be downloaded from the link: <https://bit.ly/2SbUtHu>

Media Enquiry

This press release is published by **Dynamic Network Alliances PR**. For media enquiry, please contact:

Ice Ng Tel: (852) 3792-0942 / 6343-2848

Email: ice.ng@dnahk.net

Kiwi Fong Tel: (852) 3792-0944 / 9663-6077

Email: kiwi.fong@dnahk.net

Tracy Chan Tel: (852) 3792-0943 / 9735-2215

Email: tracy.chan@dnahk.net

About Opera Hong Kong Summer Camp

Following the successful performances of famous repertoires in previous summers, Opera Hong Kong Summer Camp celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2018 and is presenting a well-beloved musical *The Music Man JR.* this summer. The musical will be performed by young singers between 5 and 18 years old, who will attend 3-week intensive vocal training course with acting provided by Opera Hong Kong Summer Camp.

Opera Hong Kong Summer Camp is organized each year to offer youngsters an opportunity to perform lively repertoire full of musical worth and humour. We hope the participants can have their creativity and observation, expression, analytical and appreciation skills enhanced through such summer camp training.

About Opera Hong Kong

Established in 2003, Opera Hong Kong is a non-profit making organization committed to the mission of enhancing the appreciation of the art of opera and promoting local musical talents under the direction of Warren Mok, world-renowned Chinese tenor from Hong Kong. In addition to staging operas and concerts, education and outreach programme are also held regularly to reach the young population. Opera Hong Kong Chorus and Opera Hong Kong Children Chorus (OHKCC) were established in 2004 and 2008 respectively and are becoming recognized forces in the local choral scene.

In 2019, OHK has been selected by the Hong Kong Arts Development Council as one of the three recipients of the coveted “Eminent Arts Group Scheme”. The Scheme's consecutive 5-year funding has become the

company's steady financial support for its development in future.

Riding on the success of the Jockey Club Opera Hong Kong Young Artist Development Programme (the Programme) which commenced in 2015, The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust has renewed the programme with Opera Hong Kong for another 3 years. The programme, accompanied by a series of outreach activities, provides intensive vocal training to 12 local young artists.

The establishment of OHK's new music centre in Wanchai has marked a milestone for the development of our Education and Outreach endeavour. A wide range of courses are being organized for early age children to adults in addition to the OHKCC classes. The recent national policy of developing the Greater Bay Area, with its anticipated economic and population boom, will create an even better environment for OHK to initiate more collaborations and bring opera to an even bigger audience.

Official website: www.operahongkong.org

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/OperaHongKongLimited

Instagram: www.instagram.com/operahongkong

Honorary Patron of Opera Hong Kong: K. Wah International Holdings Ltd

Opera Hong Kong is grateful to K. Wah International Holdings Limited (KWIH) for being the Honorary Patron since 2013. Through staging grand opera productions and organising educational and outreach programmes including opera tours to schools, opera concerts at tertiary institutions, vocal arts scholarships, summer school and the Opera Hong Kong Children's Chorus, KWIH helps promote the appreciation of opera to a diverse section of the Hong Kong community, especially younger generations.

As a longstanding advocate of art and culture in Hong Kong, KWIH actively sponsors various performing arts and educational projects to promote the popularity and diversity of Hong Kong's arts scene and create a favorable environment for budding talents.