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Opera Hong Kong Gala Dinner 2026

Celebrating Future Stars of Opera and Cultural Excellence

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Hong Kong, 21 March 2026 - Opera Hong Kong hosted a Gala Dinner on 20 March 2026 at the prestigious St. Regis Hong Kong, uniting leaders from the arts, business and philanthropic communities to celebrate opera's enduring legacy and its future in Hong Kong. The evening highlighted the Li Ka Shing Foundation - Opera Hong Kong Young Artist Overseas Fellowship Programme, a landmark initiative empowering the next generation of opera talent in the city.

With exclusive performances by the six Fellowship recipients, members of the Opera Hong Kong Children Chorus, friends and supporters of Opera Hong Kong, the Gala Dinner served as both a showcase of Hong Kong's rising stars and a celebration of the power of opera to unite and inspire.

Empowering the Future of Opera

The Gala Dinner shone a spotlight on the Li Ka Shing Foundation - Opera Hong Kong Young Artist Overseas Fellowship Programme, which provides six talented young artists with overseas training opportunities. Each Fellow received a grant to design personalized study programmes, enabling them to refine their artistry under world-class mentors and gain international exposure.

In his welcoming speech, Ronald Kwok, Chairman of Opera Hong Kong, noted the power of opera "to bring us together, to make us feel good about ourselves and the world around us." He added: "These Fellows have carried with them not only their individual aspirations, but also the artistic identity of Hong Kong. They have demonstrated that Hong Kong is not only a global finance centre, but also a place where artistic excellence is fostered and celebrated".

Ronald Kwok, Chairman of Opera Hong Kong, raised a toast to all after his inspiring speech, officially kicking off a memorable Gala Dinner evening.

Chris Yeung, Chairman of the Development & Young Artist Committee, delivered an insightful yet humorous speech about AI that brought smiles and laughter to the audience.

Highlights of the evening included:

- **Solo Performances**

Je veux vivre from *Romeo and Juliet* sung by Dani Zhang. A spirited aria capturing the youthful joy and anticipation of love.

Caro Nome from *Rigoletto* sung by Tammy Shum. A tender aria expressing the purity and deep emotion of first love.

Les oiseaux dans la charmilles from *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* sung by Valentina Tao. A playful aria showcasing Olympia's lively yet mechanical charm.

Habanera from *Carmen* sung by Ashley Chui. The fiery and seductive anthem of one of opera's most iconic female characters.

Tornami a vagheggiar from *Alcina* sung by Nicole Chan. A radiant and enchanting aria expressing love's excitement and longing.

O madre dal cielo from *I Lombardi* sung by Rianne Lau. A heartfelt prayer for divine protection and hope.

- **Ensemble Performances**

Quando men vo from *La Bohème* sung by Valentina Tao & Dani Zhang.

O mio babbino caro from *Gianni Schicchi* sung by Nicole Chan & Tammy Shum.

Flower Duet from *Lakmé* sung by Ashley Chui & Rianne Lau.

A moving rendition of *You Raise Me Up*, performed by the Young Artists and members of Opera Hong Kong Children Chorus.

The Gala Dinner not only celebrated the immense talent of the Opera Hong Kong Young Artists but also gave attendees the opportunity to honour their favourites through two special awards.

Nicole Chan, winner of the Outstanding Artist Award (HKD 30,000), is recognized for her artistic vision, depth, and commitment to making a lasting contribution to the future of opera. With her are Board Directors Ms. Olivia Lo, Chevalier de l'Ordre national du Mérite (left) and Mr. Francis Liu (right).

Tammy Shum, winner of the Audience Choice Award (HKD 30,000), captivated attendees with her compelling performance, uniting musical skill, stage presence, and emotional depth as voted by the audience. With her are Mr. Chris Yeung (left) and Mr. Ronald Kwok (right).

These awards are a testament to Opera Hong Kong's dedication to nurturing talent and celebrating artists who inspire audiences and contribute to the future of opera.

Acknowledgments and Gratitude

Opera Hong Kong expressed its deepest appreciation to the Li Ka Shing Foundation for its visionary support, as well as to its Board members, Government sponsors, donors and corporate partners. Their steadfast support has been instrumental in nurturing local talent and enriching Hong Kong's cultural landscape with world-class productions.

Warren Mok, Artistic Director of Opera Hong Kong, expressed his heartfelt gratitude to everyone who joined and supported the development of opera in Hong Kong. He also introduced the talented tenors and invited them on stage to perform *Brindisi* from *La Traviata*, joined by six young female scholarship recipients. Their performance filled the room with joy and celebration.

Looking Ahead: *Carmen* in May

Opera Hong Kong also announced its upcoming production of Bizet's timeless masterpiece, *Carmen*. Scheduled to run from 7-10 May 2026 at the Grand Theatre of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, this fiery and passionate opera is part of the French May Arts Festival and promises an unforgettable experience for audiences. Tickets are now available, don't miss the chance to witness one of the world's most beloved operas live on stage.

Dates and Times:	7-9 May 2026 (Thu-Sat) 7:30 PM 10 May 2026 (Sun) 2:30 PM
Venue:	Grand Theatre, Hong Kong Cultural Centre
Language:	Sung in French with Chinese and English surtitles

#OperaHongKong #OHK #OperaHongKongGalaDinner @operahongkong

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About Opera Hong Kong

Founded in 2003, Opera Hong Kong (OHK) is Hong Kong's first professional opera company. Over the years, the company has gone from strength to strength under the artistic direction of Dr. Warren Mok, the internationally acclaimed Hong Kong tenor. OHK has elevated opera in Asia's world city, with many world-class productions covering all major works in the operatic canon and has collaborated with opera houses and festivals around the world.

In 2019, OHK was 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 five-year funding has become a boost to further the company’s development. In 2024, OHK was named as a recipient of the “Eminent Arts Group Scheme” for a further five years.

OHK is committed to promoting the city’s brightest, young opera singers. In 2015, OHK launched the Jockey Club Opera Hong Kong Young Artist Development and Education Programme, a three-year opera training programme designed to nurture ten young local artists. The success of the Programme led to its renewal by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust for another three years from 2019 to 2022. In 2024 OHK launched the inaugural “LKSF-OHK Young Artist Overseas Fellowships” Programme, generously sponsored by the Li Ka Shing Foundation, to provide short-term international bursaries for six selected young artists who are Hong Kong residents to elevate their vocal artistry.

OHK also places a strong emphasis on education and community activities. Opera school tours, summer schools and master classes are held regularly to reach young audiences. OHK provides a wide range of courses for early-age children to adults in addition to Children Chorus classes. The OHK Chorus and the OHK Children Chorus were established in 2004 and 2008 respectively and are recognised contributors to the local choral scene.

The development of the Greater Bay Area has created an environment for OHK to initiate more collaborations and bring the art of opera to a wider audience.

Official website: www.operahongkong.org
Facebook Page: OperaHongKongLimited
Instagram: operahongkong
YouTube: operahongkong
RedNote (Xiaohongshu): operahongkong

Media Contact:

General Manager
Scarlett Chan
scarlettchan@operahongkong.org

PR & Marketing Manager
Althea Kwok
altheakwok@operahongkong.org