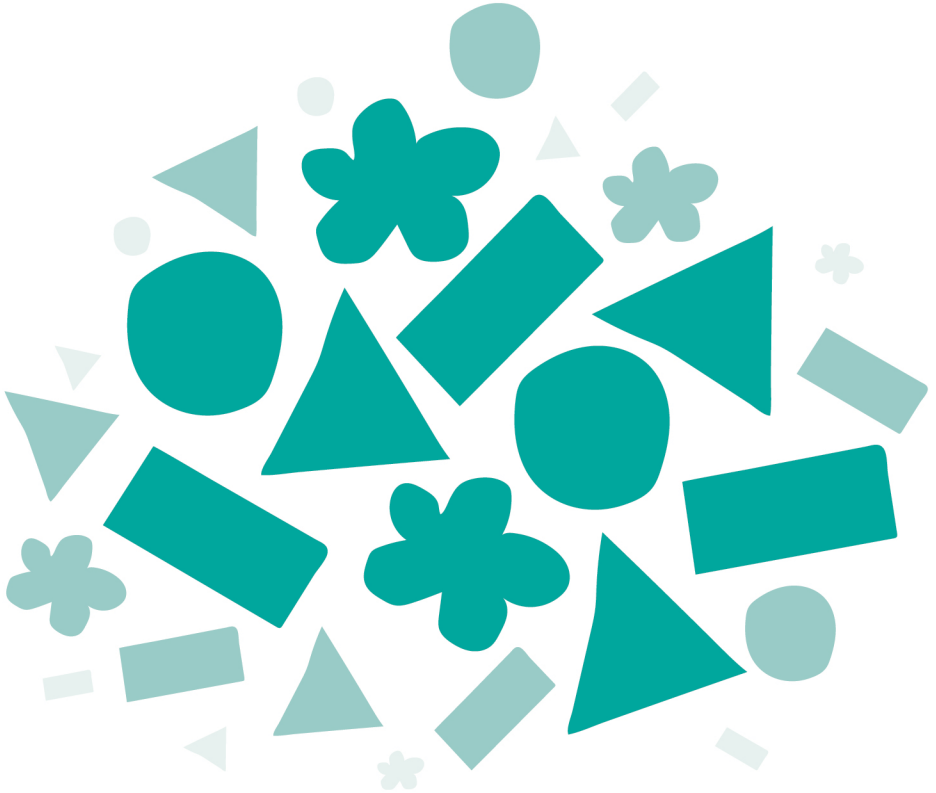




THE
HONG
KONG
VIRTUOSO
CHORUS



IMPACT REPORT

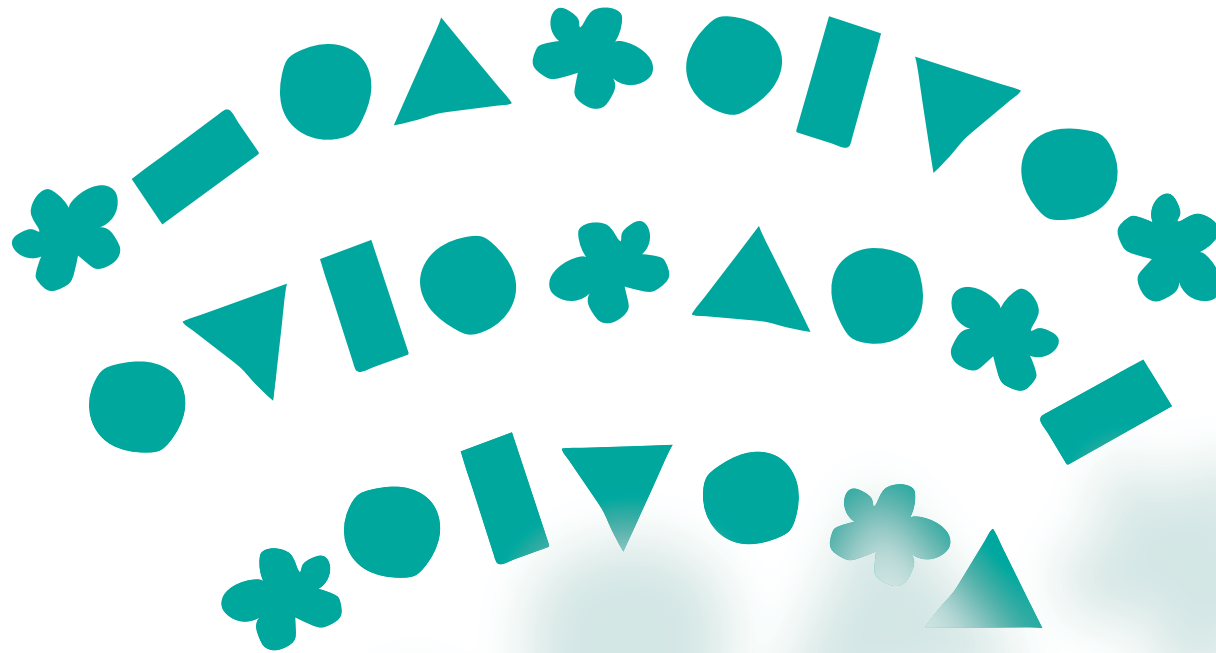
THE HONG KONG
VIRTUOSO CHORUS
LIMITED

Enriching Youths &
Transforming the
Inter-School Choral
Community



VISION

We hope to build a vibrant and sustainable choral culture in Hong Kong where our next generation can be empowered through choral singing.



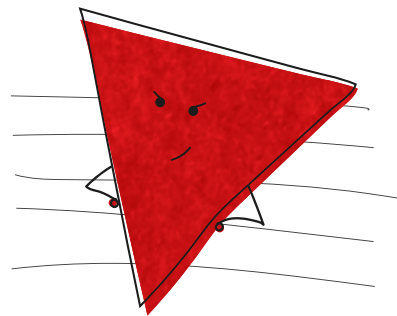
MISSION

Provide equal access to quality choral music education for all and develop an inter-school choral culture that prioritises learning, appreciation, and collaboration.

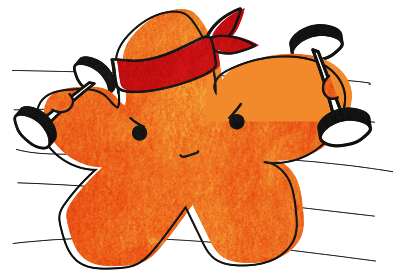


CORE VALUES

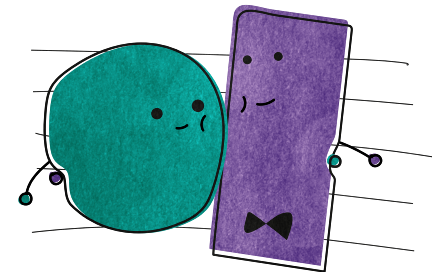
BEHIND CHORAL EDUCATION



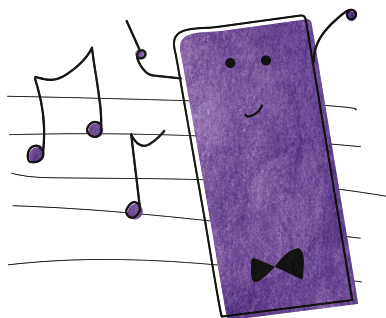
CONFIDENCE



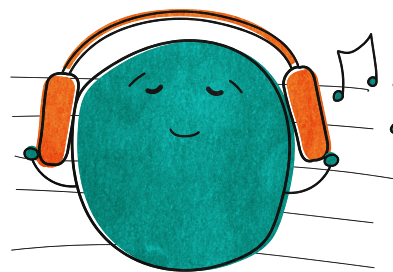
PERSEVERANCE



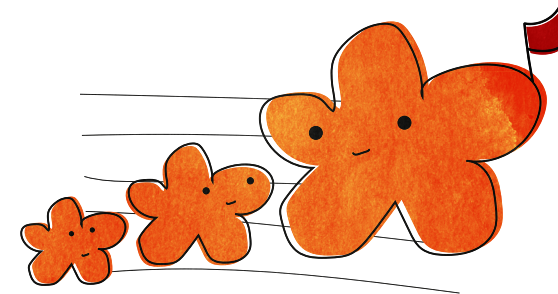
FRIENDSHIP



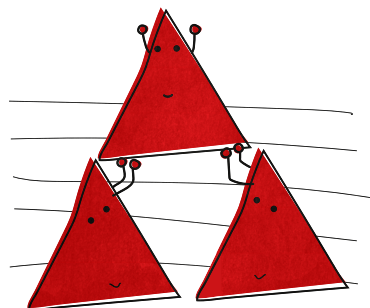
MUSICAL ABILITY



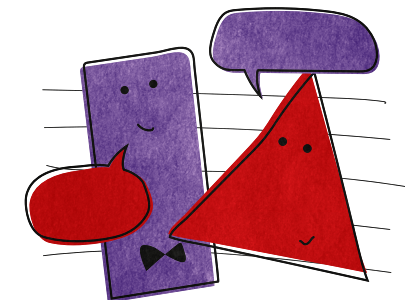
AESTHETIC APPRECIATION



LEADERSHIP



TEAMWORK



COMMUNICATION SKILLS

OUR ORGANISATION



The Hong Kong Virtuoso Chorus Limited (HKVC) was founded in 2011 as a youth choir, utilising proceeds from musical performances to support educational initiatives and community causes.

As the organisation evolved, HKVC attained s.88 charitable status, marking a milestone in its commitment to serving the community. Notably, since 2018, HKVC has organised the Hong Kong Inter-School Choral Festival (HKICF) on an annual basis, now serving over 25,000 participants annually. This festival has become a cornerstone event of HKVC, offering valuable learning and performance opportunities to student choristers and educators in Hong Kong through choral competitions, masterclasses, workshops, and concerts.

In addition to its flagship festival HKICF, HKVC has introduced other innovative programmes such as the School Choir Advancement Programme and Overseas Music Exchange Programme to broaden access to music education.

BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Suen Shing Yu	Chairman
Ms. Ching Hau Sze Elsie	Vice Chairman
Ms. Au Yuan Ting	Director
Mr. Fan Ho Yin Neal	Director
Mr. Lee Wai On Warren	Director
Dr. Suen Chun Hong Calix	Director

MESSAGE FROM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Dear Supporters and Friends,

It is with great pride and gratitude that I share with you the impact report of The Hong Kong Virtuoso Chorus Limited (HKVC), an organisation dedicated to advancing choral education and enriching the cultural landscape of Hong Kong since its founding in 2011.

Over the past 14 years, the HKVC has been a beacon of musical excellence and educational empowerment in our community. What started as a humble youth choir has blossomed into a powerhouse of choral education, thanks to the unwavering support of our board members, advisors, donors, partners, volunteers, and dedicated team members.

At the heart of our mission is the belief that music has the power to transform lives and bring the community together. Through our innovative initiatives such as the Hong Kong Inter-School Choral Festival (HKICF), the School Choir Advancement Programme, and the Overseas Music Exchange Programme, we have been able to break down barriers and provide vital opportunities for aspiring choristers across Hong Kong.

HKICF, in particular, has become a flagship event that not only showcases the talent and dedication of our young choristers but also fosters camaraderie



and collaboration among school choirs and music educators. Now with over 25,000 participants annually, this festival has become the largest choral education project in Hong Kong, offering a platform for growth, learning, and artistic expression.

As we reflect on our journey so far, we are filled with a sense of optimism for the future. With your support, we are confident that we can continue to make a meaningful impact in the lives of young people, empowering them through music and fostering a lifelong love for the choral arts.

Thank you for standing by us, believing in our mission, and being a part of the HKVC family. Together, we can continue to create a harmonious and vibrant future for choral education in Hong Kong.

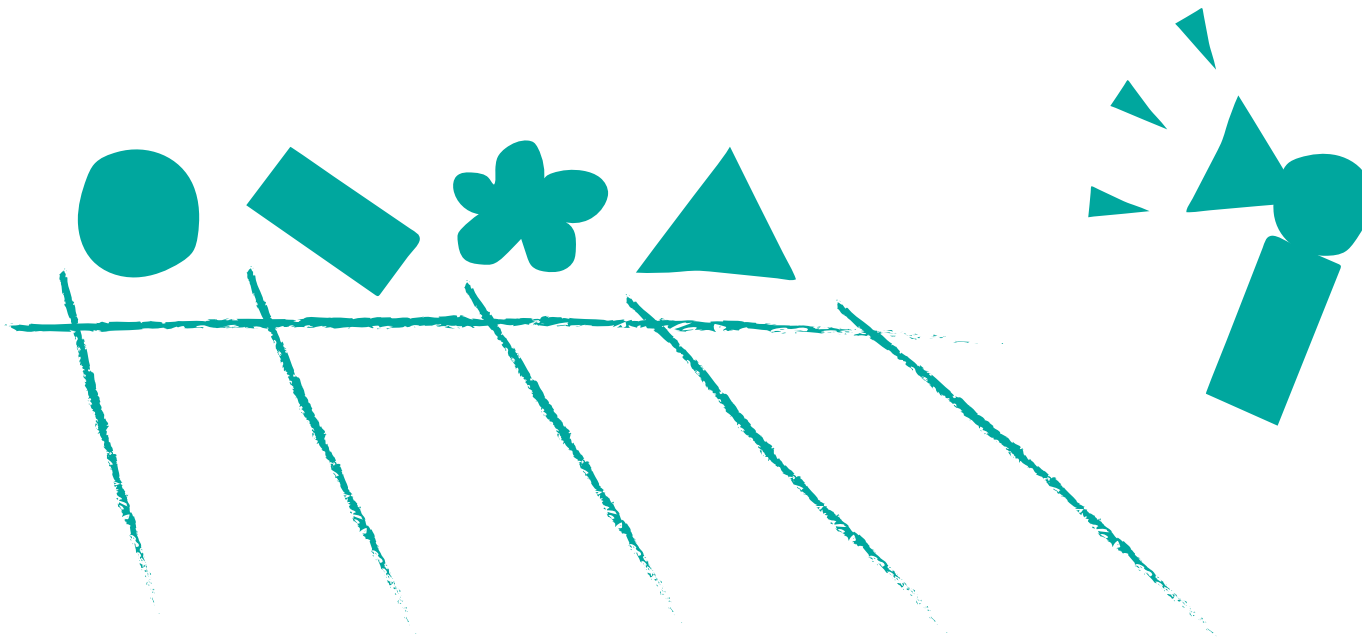
Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kelvin Lau'.

Kelvin Lau
Artistic Director
Hong Kong Inter-School Choral Festival
Founder and Conductor
The Hong Kong Virtuoso Chorus Limited

STATUS QUO 1:

ACADEMIC PRESSURE AND COMPETITIVE CULTURE



IS MUSIC EDUCATION MEANT TO BE UTILITARIAN?

In Hong Kong, despite the Education Bureau's initiatives to underscore the comprehensive benefits of music education, such as fostering aesthetic sensitivity, creative thinking, flexibility, and intellectual and moral development [1]*, the prevailing perspective on music education continues to focus on enhancing students' academic credentials [2]. A study on 1,493 music learners in Hong Kong aged 12-18 echoes the above, revealing that parents in general pay much more attention to learners' accreditation than their performance [3]. Their support on kids' music development also drops significantly once these teenagers hit academic bottlenecks (ibid).

Except for classroom music lessons, music education for Hong Kong students occurs mostly through private tutoring, and is often centred around examination and competition preparation. Recent data from the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) reveals that in 2020 alone, the authority administered 55,000 music, dance, and arts-related examinations, with the ABRSM exam as the most prevalent choice [4]. To contextualise this statistic, there were only 45,257 HKDSE school candidates during the same year [5]. Notably, ABRSM represents just one of the popular music examination boards in the region.

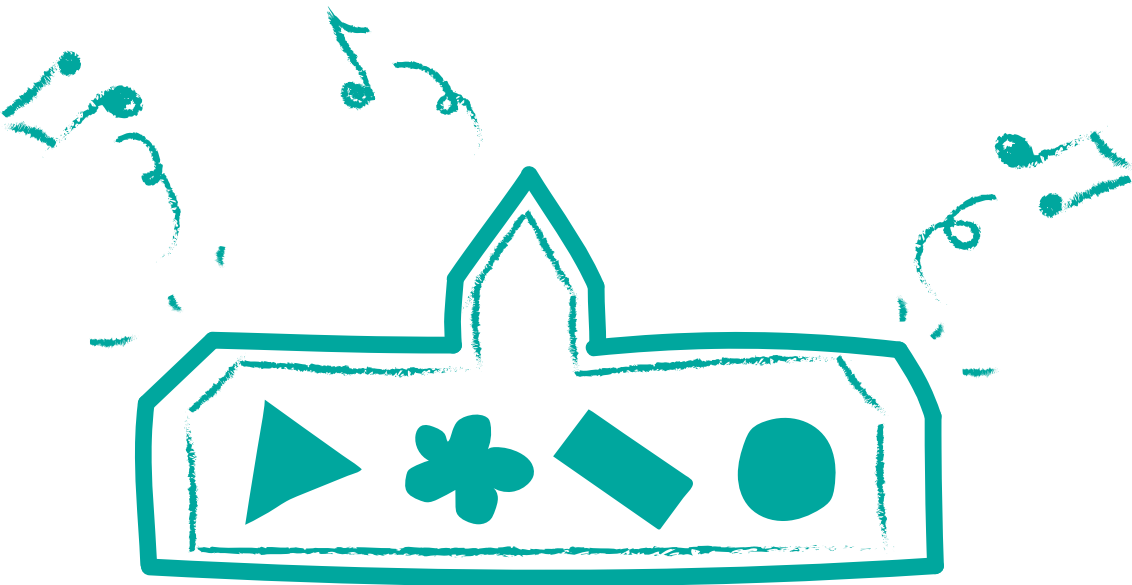
IS MUSIC EDUCATION MEANT TO BE COMPETITIVE?

The prevailing emphasis on acquiring prestigious certifications, often times contrary to students' genuine interests, compels young music learners in Hong Kong to approach music mechanically, leading to a gradual erosion of their intrinsic motivation. Even those who excel in music "academically" may develop a distaste for music, while the average learners, comprising the majority, experience diminished self-esteem due to delays in achieving these coveted accolades.

In addition to that, the competitive mindset has also engendered an unhealthy environment within inter-school music programmes. Conventional inter-school music competitions have transitioned from platforms for mutual learning and appreciation to arenas for school performance comparisons. The pursuit of championship titles has eclipsed the acknowledgment of individual efforts and progress, further dampening the enthusiasm of music learners and educators alike and veering away from the fundamental purpose of music education.

STATUS QUO 2:

LIMITED ACCESS TO MUSIC EDUCATION IN LESS PRIVILEGED SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES



DO WE HAVE ENOUGH RECOGNITION OF (AND THUS RESOURCES DEVOTED TO) MUSIC EDUCATION?

In our work to promote music education, we noted a significant challenge hindering students in less privileged schools. These students often face financial barriers that prevent them from participating in private instrumental or vocal classes and accessing quality music instruction. The high fees charged by music tutors in Hong Kong further exacerbate this issue, making it difficult for students from lower-income families to pursue their musical interests.

Moreover, many schools struggle to invest in their own music programmes due partly to the relatively little awareness and support from parents who may not recognise the value of music education. In a global journal on music education, Prof. Bo Wah Leung from EdUHK described the situation in Hong Kong as “very few stakeholders appreciate the value and functions of music learning; many of them consider that music lessons are for students’ relaxation rather than learning and as being important for the whole person’s development.” [6]. This lack of investment results in difficulties forming choral (and instrumental) ensembles or building teacher-artist partnership at school, a mechanism that has shown significant educational impact to students [7].

DO WE HAVE A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR MUSIC EDUCATORS?

Given that classroom music lessons are the primary avenue for music education in less privileged schools, the shortage of professionally-trained music teachers is concerning. Many teachers (particularly those in primary schools) responsible for music classes are core academic subject educators with limited music background, which directly affects the quality of music education provided to students. At the same time, school teachers in government and aided schools are often heavily occupied with administrative work that continuing professional development in music may be impractical (ibid).

These highlight the urgent need for greater support and investment in music education to create a more inclusive and equitable learning environment for all students to explore and nurture their musical talents.

THE RESULT: LOSING GROUND TO GLOBAL PEERS IN GROOMING OUR NEXT GENERATION



As a result of the problems articulated above, we are witnessing a concerning trend of Hong Kong trailing behind our global counterparts in nurturing the next generation through music education, despite conscientious efforts of our government. While countries like Singapore and the United Kingdom are prioritising music in their national curricula and reaping the benefits, we seem to be lagging behind.

SINGAPORE

Singapore's Ministry of Education has embraced music education as a catalyst for critical thinking, communication skills, and cultural literacy. Under the latest framework for 21st Century Competencies and Student Outcomes, Singapore has highlighted competencies such as critical, adaptive, and inventive thinking, communication, collaboration, and civic literacy [8]. Recognising the strong correlation between music education and these competencies, the Ministry of Education reformed the music education syllabus in 2022 to emphasise experiential learning, critical thinking, and student empowerment [9]. As part of its action plan, Singapore aims to introduce performing arts-based learning to all secondary schools by 2027 [10].

UNITED KINGDOM

Similarly, the United Kingdom's commitment to music education is evident through its efforts to improve accessibility and inclusivity. The Government, in partnership with Arts Council England and ABRSM, developed a 10-year Vision for UK's music learning with the main theme of supporting every young person, regardless of background, to realise their full musical potential [11]. The Department for Education refreshed the national plan for music education in 2022 [12] and established Music Education Hubs to provide tailored support to schools, local authorities, and the community, including early years children, students with special educational needs, and homeschooling [13].

RESULTS OF ON-GOING RESEARCH

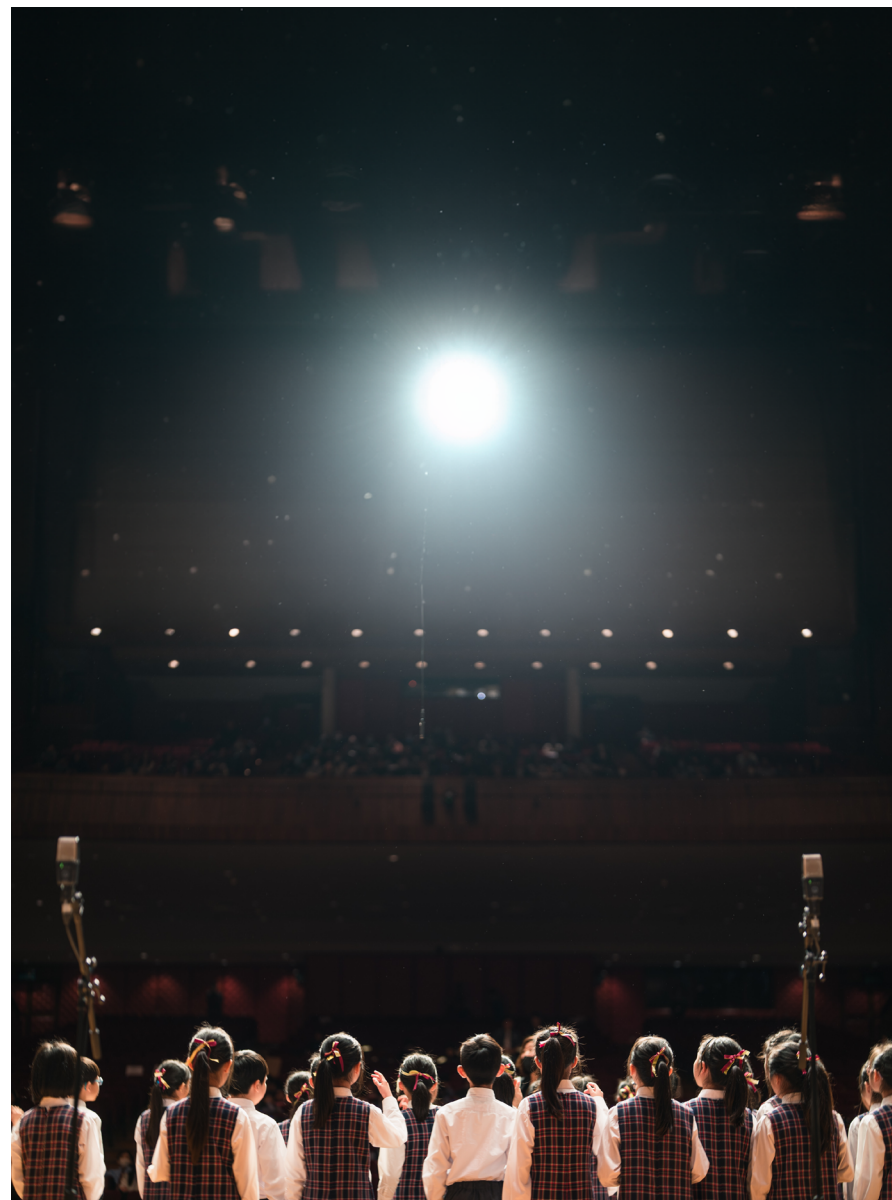
These reforms on music education in Singapore and the UK align with global studies on its benefits for youth beyond musicianship. Kokkidou concluded that music education's open learning nature and multiple manifestations of expression foster critical thinking and cognitive performance in students [14]. In a systematic literature review, Blasco-Magraner et al. summarised that music education improves emotional regulation, increases empathy, and promotes the development of social skills [15]. Ilari et al. suggested that songs, incorporating music and language, enrich enculturation and socialisation in education, with benefits for cross-cultural understanding of songs from different cultures taught [16].

THIS IS WHY WE ACT

As we witness these global advancements in music education, we are inspired to take action. Recognising the pressing need to bridge the gap in music education in our city, we are committed to leveraging the power of choral music education to create a more vibrant and inclusive learning environment for our youth.

With a firm belief in the transformative power of music, we are dedicated to nurturing a new generation of confident, creative, and culturally aware individuals through our choral programmes. Together, let us work towards a future where every child in Hong Kong has the opportunity to experience the joy and benefits of choral music education.

****Please refer to p.47 for the list of citations.***



OUR THEORY OF CHANGE THROUGH HKICF

The Hong Kong Inter-School Choral Festival (HKICF) is a platform developed to provide engaging and interactive music educational experiences serving all primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong, with students, music teachers, and school choirs being the key beneficiaries. Through HKICF, we strive to ensure equal access to high-quality choral music education, and to promote a culture of learning, appreciation, and collaboration among participants. Each HKICF programme is thoughtfully curated to foster the core values of choral education outlined on pages 6 and 7.



HKICF'S UNIQUE OFFERING

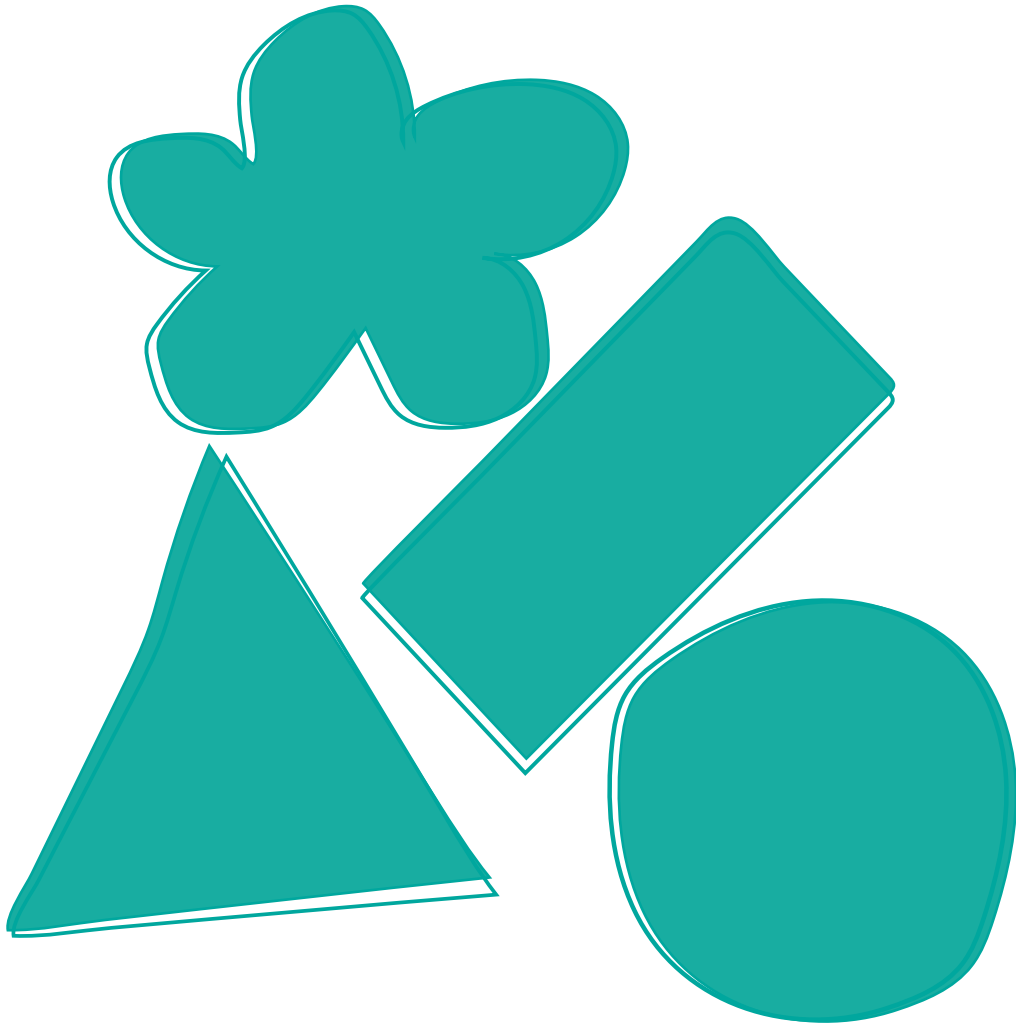
- Pursuit of excellence without cut-throat competition
- Right mix of programmes for choirs at all stages
- International exposure through overseas trainers and guest choirs
- Collaboration between students, schools and educators permeating all programmes
- Tailored learning opportunities for students, teachers and choirs
- Promote community involvement and charity
- Engage parents and the community-at-large to support students' development

INTENDED OUTCOMES

- Foster a healthy inter-school choral culture
- Enhance music education in schools
- Improve music accessibility
- Nurture city's future choral leaders
- Promote important core values through music
- Assist schools in setting up choirs

MEASURABLE IMPACT

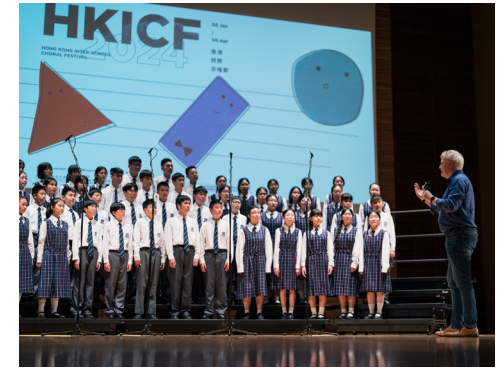
- a. Exponential growth in number of beneficiaries
- b. Recognition from media on our mission, including RTHK
- c. Successfully engaged music organisations and universities as partners
- d. New school choirs set up with our support



IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR MISSION

COMPETITION CUM MASTERCLASS

All HKICF choral competitions are innovatively held in a masterclass format, where choirs receive instant feedback after their performance, fostering a collaboration learning environment.



	TRADITIONAL COMPETITIONS	VS	HKICF
1. Awards	Contestants are ranked and 1st, 2nd, 3rd places are awarded		<p>Contestants are not ranked and are awarded Gold, Silver, Bronze prizes based on the level reached by each individual choir's performance</p> <p>[Benefit] Compete with oneself, not others</p>
2. Learning	Each choir receives feedback on its own performance only, and only via the scoresheet		<p>Masterclass - in addition to scoresheet, each choir receives instant, interactive feedback and coaching on stage while other contestants learn as audience</p> <p>[Benefit] Choirs learn from the adjudicators and also from each other</p>
3. Repertoire	At least one set piece		<p>Free choices</p> <p>[Benefit] Students are exposed to more new songs, music styles, and genres</p>
4. Feedback for conductors	Competition ends when result is announced		<p>Subsequent free optional 1:1 "Meet the jury" session for conductors</p> <p>[Benefit] Precious opportunity for conductors to learn and interact with jury</p>

SCHOOL CHOIR INCUBATOR PROGRAMME

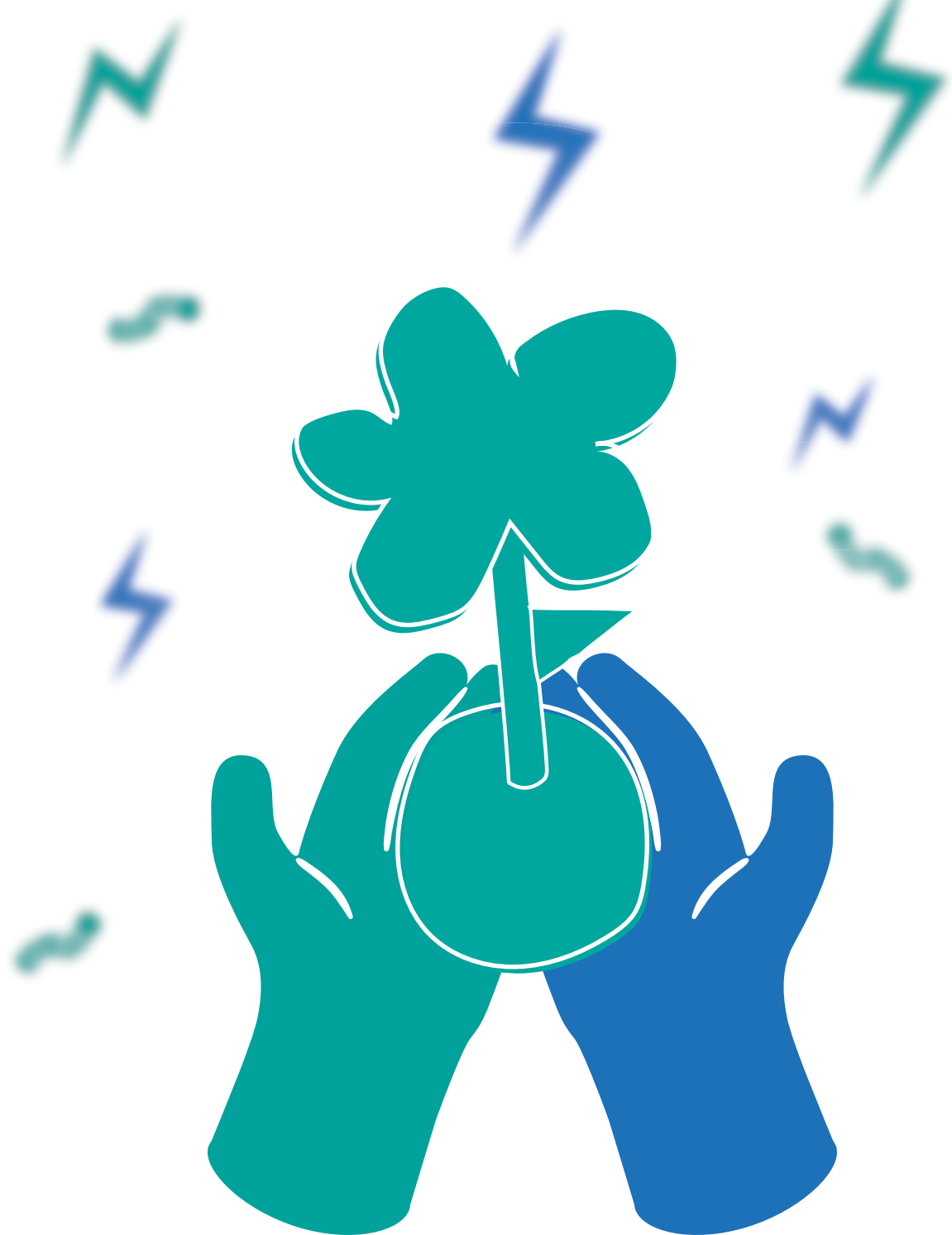
Launched in 2021, this year-long train-the-trainers programme offers professional training and mentorship for music teachers and conductors to enhance their effectiveness in leading their school choirs. The programme also provides performance opportunities for the participating school choirs, as well as comprehensive support for schools without existing choirs to establish one.

PROGRAMME FEATURES

- Continuing Professional Development: Workshops and lectures by renowned local and overseas conductors and educators
- Mentorship Support: Individualised guidance from the HKVC Artistic Panel
- School Visits: Regular school visits and choir clinics to enhance choir performance
- Performance Opportunities: Concerts to showcase school choirs' achievements and progress

MEASURABLE IMPACT

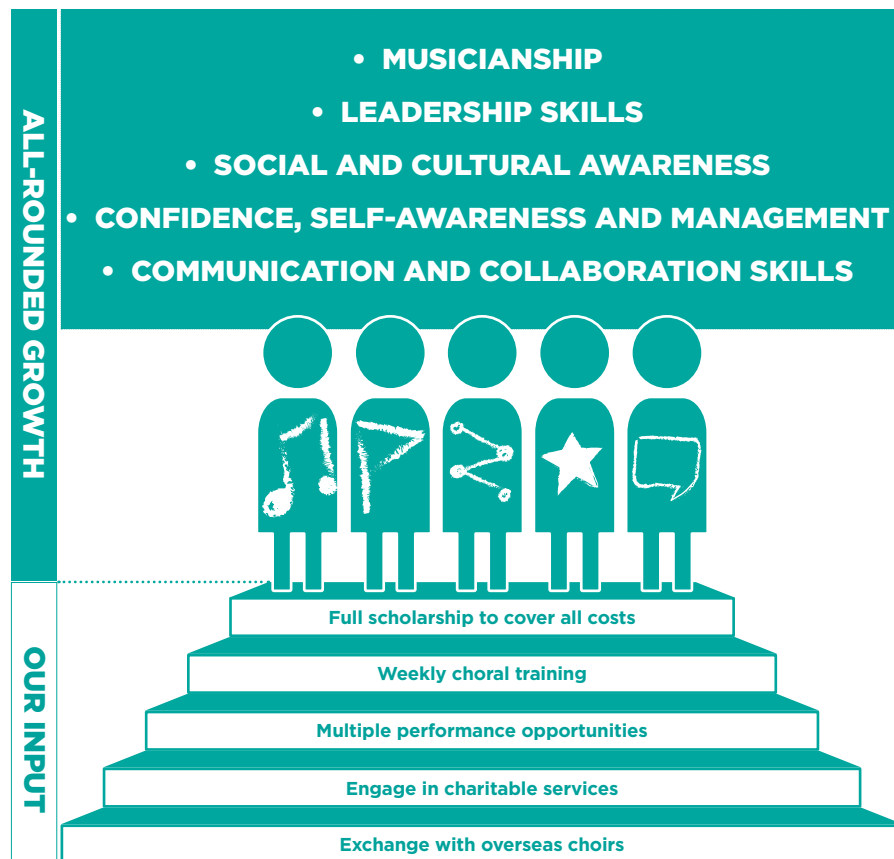
- Set up new choirs at five schools
- Nurtured 30 school choirs, benefiting more than 150 educators to date



HONG KONG INTER-SCHOOL CHOIR

Another first-of-its-kind programme, the Hong Kong Inter-School Choir gathers together singing talents from different schools in Hong Kong. Selected through auditions, students nominated by their schools join the Inter-School Choir to develop their music and leadership skills. Participants receive one year of comprehensive choral training and performance opportunities free of charge.

Students from 91 Schools have joined the Inter-School Choir 2024 - 2025



MASS SCHOOL CHOIR MASTERCLASS



Participants engage in a non-competitive masterclass led by choral experts, focusing on vocal exercises and learning new repertoire.

UNIQUE BENEFITS

- Learn new songs and singing techniques with choirs from other schools
- Gain cross-cultural exposure from international choral experts

CLINIC & EXCHANGE



This programme provides tailor-made guidance and exchange opportunities to choir members and new inspiration on choral pedagogy to educators.

UNIQUE BENEFITS

- Learn from choral experts based on individual choir's needs
- Learn from other school choirs in a fun and collaborative environment
- Learn pedagogies that encourage creative, critical and adaptive thinking

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAMME



This programme matches accomplished school choirs with overseas experts for intensive coaching sessions, culminating in a finale concert to promote musical exchange and collaboration.

UNIQUE BENEFITS

- Perform under the baton of world-class conductors for deeper artistic exploration
- Showcase the highest level of choral music in the finale concert
- Gain rare opportunities to collaborate with other choirs

GUEST CHOIR OF THE YEAR



The programme offers school choirs and students the opportunity to engage with reputable choirs outside of Hong Kong through concerts and school visits.

UNIQUE BENEFITS

- Bond with international peers who share singing as a common passion
- Gain inspiration on choral music methodologies
- Broaden musical and cultural horizons
- Guest choirs take home positive impressions and fond memories of Hong Kong

WORKSHOPS FOR MUSIC TEACHERS / CONDUCTORS



The workshops enhance choral education qualities and impact through holistic professional development of music teachers and choral conductors.

UNIQUE BENEFITS

- Rare opportunities to learn from renowned choral educators on various topics
- Get recognised "Continuing Professional Development of Teachers" (CPD) hours

TEACHERS' CHOIR



The choir fosters teachers' passion for singing, and to form an inter-school music teachers community.

UNIQUE BENEFITS

- Gain insight for their own teaching by reversing role and singing in a choir
- Reignite passion for singing
- Engage in a supportive network of music educators

VIRTUAL CHOIR PROJECT



This programme brings together choirs from Hong Kong and abroad to sing for a meaningful social cause each year.

UNIQUE BENEFITS

- Support worthy social causes through choral singing
- Reach the community-at-large via circulating the music video on social media platforms

SCHOOL CHOIR ADVANCEMENT PROGRAMME



This programme empowers more established school choirs to build on their strengths by receiving training from a renowned overseas conductor.

UNIQUE BENEFITS

- Gain advanced knowledge on choral pedagogy and choir development strategy
- Gain stage performance experience under the baton of their overseas instructor

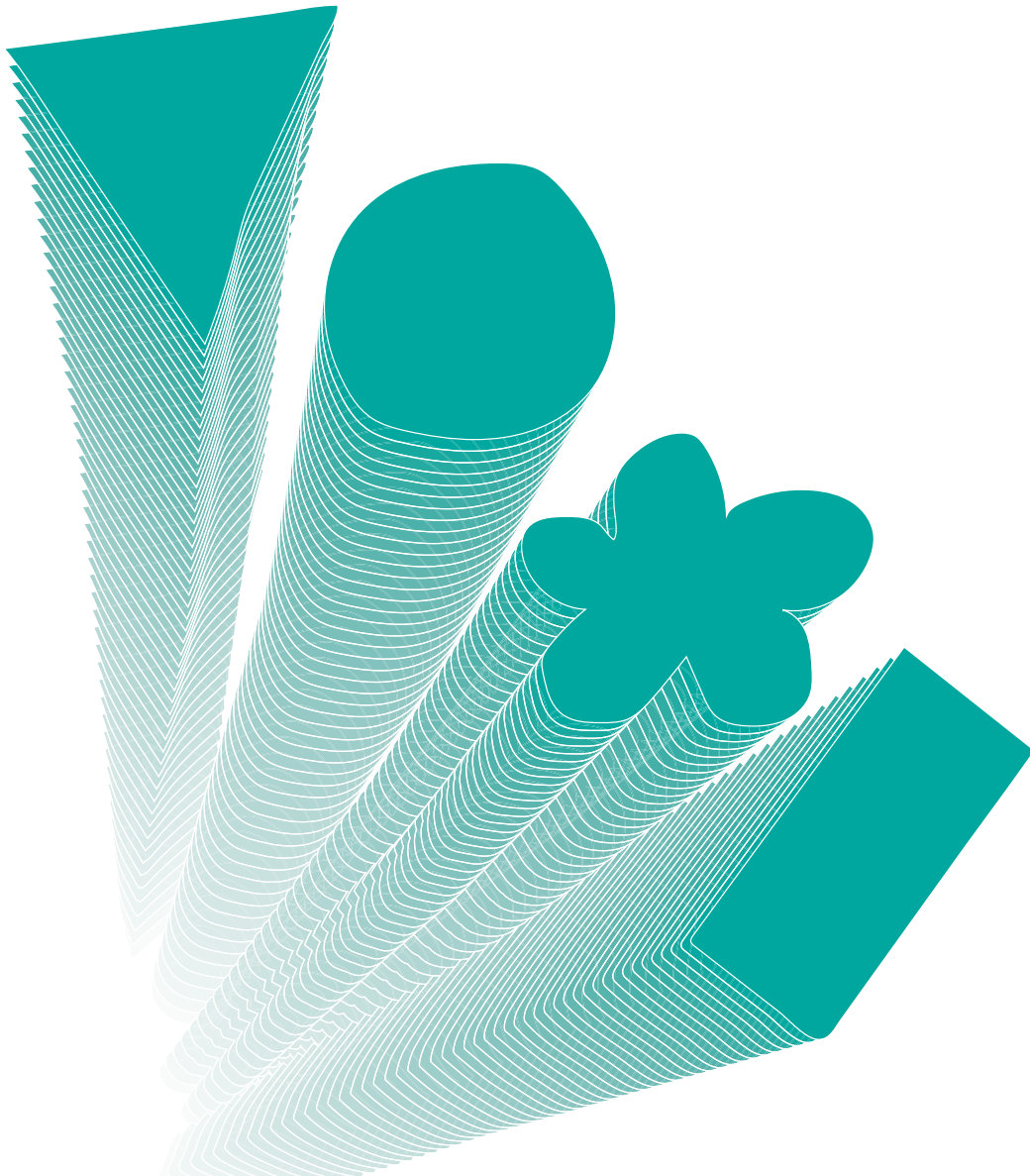
OVERSEAS MUSIC EXCHANGE PROGRAMME



Through this programme, we offer affordable music exchange experience to school choirs.

UNIQUE BENEFITS

- Learn from overseas choirs and choral experts
- Gain musical and cultural exposure through the exchange



IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

IN SEVEN YEARS, WE HAVE REACHED

54,182

Students and Teachers
(Cumulative)

1,183

Primary and Secondary Schools
(Cumulative)

942

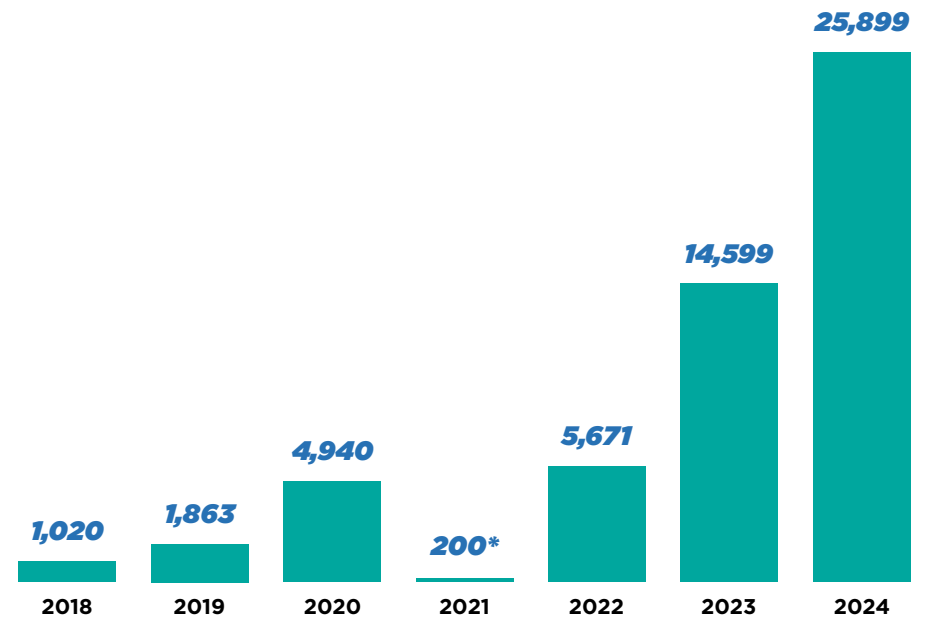
Choirs
(Cumulative)

2,370

Music Educators
(Cumulative)

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS OVER THE YEARS

Exponential growth is testament to how HKICF meets the needs for choral education in Hong Kong



*Scale was reduced because of the COVID-19 pandemic



2018

Inaugural edition served 19 choirs and 1020 students



2020

Obtained Project Grant from the Hong Kong Arts Development Council (ADC) for the first time; Pioneered the "Choir Exchange" programme



2023

1st HKICF Concert was held and multiple new initiatives were launched



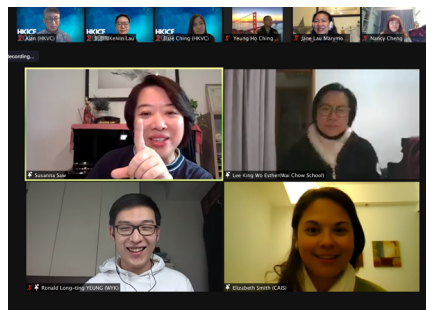
2019

Competition cum Masterclass held in the Hong Kong City Hall Concert Hall; 200 teachers took part in educational workshops



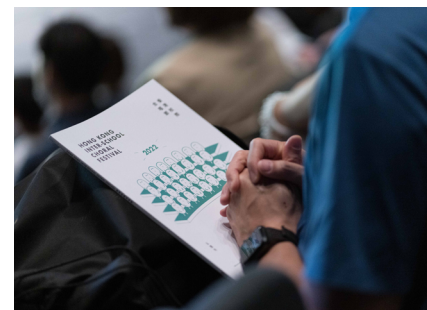
2021

Most festival activities were held virtually due to the Covid-19 Pandemic



2022

5th Anniversary; Received support from ADC matching fund scheme for the first time



2024

A record-high number of 25,000+ participants; The festival was supported by the Arts Capacity Development Funding Scheme for the first time



HKICF2024 AT A GLANCE



25,899
PARTICIPANTS

266 SCHOOLS 80% OF WHICH
ARE GOVERNMENT /
GOVERNMENT-AIDED
SCHOOLS

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

1. FOSTERING A HEALTHY INTER-SCHOOL CHOIR CULTURE

30 SESSIONS OF COMPETITION CUM MASTERCLASSES
serving **184** school choirs



An overwhelming majority of participants agreed that *they enjoyed watching performances by other school choirs in the competition*

2. ENHANCING MUSIC EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS



for *music teachers from 52 schools through 8 workshops*



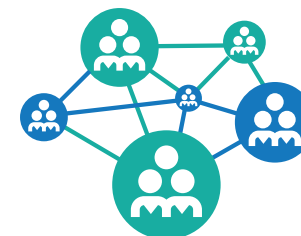
participated in *Mass School Choir Masterclasses*



3. IMPROVING MUSIC ACCESSIBILITY

Through the Guest Choir of the Year Programme, Norwegian Defrost Youth Choir met

~1,000 STUDENTS
from **3** primary schools, **2** secondary schools and **2** Universities



4. NURTURING CITY'S FUTURE CHORAL LEADERS

Weekly rehearsals and 8 performances for

110 MEMBERS OF HONG KONG
INTER-SCHOOL CHOIRS (HKISC)



5. PROMOTING IMPORTANT CORE VALUES THROUGH MUSIC

52 SCHOOL
CHOIRS **2,039** SINGERS
joined force performing virtually for the charity New Sight

20000+ REACHES MADE
ONLINE

through the 2023 virtual choir MV produced in collaboration with the Children's Cancer Foundation



OUR IMPACT STORIES

BRONSON LAU, *an alumnus from the first cohort of the Hong Kong Inter-School Choir pursuing music education in university*

Bronson loved singing since childhood despite coming from a family with modest means. He was active in choir until F.4 when he had to stop due to school restrictions. Unable to afford private choirs, he paused for a year until his teacher encouraged him to audition for the then newly formed Hong Kong Inter-School Choir (HKISC).

HKISC was certainly a unique experience for Bronson. **"HKISC is a more open choral environment, with more interactive music making.** I have befriended students from Tuen Mun, Tseung Kwan O, Hong Kong Island..., folks I could never have met otherwise".

Together with 50 choristers, the 1st HKISC secondary division performed many global choral pieces, acted on stage in a professionally-directed Cantonese musical "Like, So?", and founded the student-run HKISC Instagram. "One time after a show, we were so excited and wanted to record our precious moments together, so we made an Instagram page dedicated to this." The baton of the HKISC Instagram has now passed,



yet the friendship remains. **"We still meet regularly every couple of months, sharing and supporting each other in our music endeavours."**

Bronson's involvement with HKVC did not stop in his DSE year. He helped as a volunteer. "It's a fun experience witnessing the 2nd HKISC's performance as organiser. **It is when you once again experience the initial touching moment that drives you to devote yourself to music.**" These front-row-seat opportunities inspired Bronson's passion to be a music teacher. "I do hope to join the teachers' choir soon!" Now, as a freshman in EdUHK Music Department, his new journey has just begun.

Bronson's involvement with HKISC has profoundly impacted his music journey and career aspirations, providing him with invaluable experiences and connections that continue to shape his future in music.

HOW PARENTS THINK ABOUT THE HONG KONG INTER-SCHOOL CHOIR?

We have also interviewed a couple of parents from the Hong Kong Inter-School Choir (HKISC), and they have found different benefits through the 241-hour music journey:

Lau Chun Hei is a P.5 student from The Church of Christ in China Kei Tsun Primary School. A football lover and a mischievous type in the choir. With HKISC being his only regular music exposure, he loved it so much that he attended all activities and rehearsals and was awarded the best attendance prize for HKISC 2024.

Through this year-long journey of music-making with 60+ peer choir members, Chun Hei has transformed from an arrogant brat to a team player working well with others to reach a better outcome. **"You can sense his self-confidence and comfort from within, in any group setting,"** said his mother.

Through music, Chun Hei experienced firsthand how thoughts and emotions can be communicated, and this has in turn helped him express his feelings with others. "I feel Chun Hei shares more about how he feels nowadays" His mother smiled with relief.



Wan Pak Kiu from PLK Tin Ka Ping Millennium Primary School built his perseverance and proactivity from HKISC. **"Knowing that there are HKISC rehearsals every Wednesday, Pak Kiu starts working on his homework ahead of time during breaks at school,"** added his mother. Pak Kiu also treasured so much the new inter-school friendships that he prepared gifts for everyone at the last HKISC activity of the year.

Devasri Ramachandran is of Indian descent, and she studies in Po Leung Kuk Lam Man Chan English Primary School.

At first, she and her parents were concerned about the inter-school environment, where the majority of the choir members are Cantonese speakers. Yet the power of music has bridged the language gap. She met buddies who were willing to help her out in times when Cantonese translation is needed, and other friends who are not as fluent in English are nevertheless equally welcoming to her.

She gained exposure to Chinese songs and learned the beauty of the Cantonese language through HKISC's training. **"Now she is interested in learning more Cantonese,"** said her mother proudly.

**PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHER:
MS. JOYCE LEUNG**
(TWGHs Wong See Sum Primary School)



Ms. Leung from TWGHs Wong See Sum Primary School decided to establish a school choir from scratch in 2018, hoping to promote music exposure to students from low-income families. **“To these students, school choir is the most accessible, and in many cases the only, avenue to the world of music.”** She saw the transformation of students participating in this three-year journey as choir members from P3 - P6. “It is interesting to see how choir members grow their individual potential here. Leaders of the group do not have to be the best singers. The variety of roles in a choir such as soloists, MCs, and choirmasters ensure students of different strengths find their niche and grow together.”

Co-creation is a unique benefit of choral activities, Ms. Leung highlighted. “Each performance is like a challenge, to get it through, everyone, including also the conductor and accompanist, has to listen to each other and make adjustments. This ultimately creates the harmony in music the choir must have. **Such collaboration is rare**

in a classroom or other extra-curricular activities in primary schools.”

Participating in HKICF’s programmes inspired Ms. Leung to springboard her choir’s growth. “I have been a music educator for quite some years, yet I am still amazed at how effective peer observational learning can be”. Ms. Leung first joined HKICF’s Competition cum Masterclass in 2020, where she had her first experience spectating peer choirs’ coaching by overseas adjudicators. She has been active in HKICF’s educational workshops since then. “It was tough to find professional development opportunities in the past before HKICF.”

A choir is arguably the most cost-effective way to bring music education to a sizable group as one conductor and one accompanist can serve 60 or more students at a time. By springboarding beginning choirs on a sustainable track, Ms. Leung is hopeful that she will see more transformation of students’ lives through music.

**SECONDARY SCHOOL
TEACHER:
MS. LYDIA SHEUNG**
(Precious Blood Secondary School)



Ms. Sheung from Precious Blood Secondary School has been a seasoned choral conductor for two decades. “I was an English major who played some piano. When our music teachers retired and the school choir was about to disband. **I just felt so bad that our students would lose the opportunity to sing in a choir. To some students, that was their only chance to explore music and art.** Therefore, I decided to take up running the choir without much choral knowledge.”

After the initial couple of more challenging years, the school choir has been running well. Yet the choir hit a bottleneck in recent years. “I felt like the traditional way of choral music coaching was less effective to our girls nowadays.” Ms. Sheung found a gradual drop in participation in the choir, especially post-COVID, and had run out of ideas to energise the choir. “I was desperate for inspiration and often felt alone in this journey of choral music education.”

Ms. Sheung started participating in HKICF programmes in 2021. “The Incubator programme has been very helpful. This year

we have Mr. Chris Cheng as our mentor, who has not just brought in his own choral expertise, but also his whole choir from St. Joseph’s College.” Through the spark from this collaboration, Precious Blood Secondary School and St. Joseph’s College have formed a mixed choir to perform together.

Ms. Sheung has also met peer music educators from the HKICF Teachers’ Choir. **“It is great to know like-minded peers who share similar difficulties. We have learnt a lot from each other and life just seems easier knowing that you have company.”**

“The pursuit of art is always tough. You will never be perfect, yet your attempt to identify the beauty, to internalise it, then strive for this vision, is what matters in the end.”

Educators play a critical role in the long-term development of music education in Hong Kong. With the support of music teachers through our programmes, Ms. Sheung could go through the journey of choral music education resourcefully.

MEDIA COVERAGE

Full Media Coverage:



香港校際合唱節 2024 x 香港兒童合唱團音樂會



香港校際合唱節 2024 | 首以音樂會形式舉行開幕禮 全港 245 間中小學參加



校際歌唱比賽改制 不設冠亞季 淡化競爭 讓學生享受音樂主辦方：冀予更多空間表演進步



2024-02-25



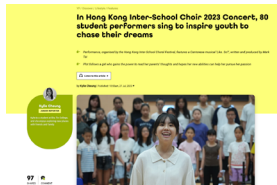
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有組織為基層學生 提供免費聲樂課程 冀有潛質學生 勿失學習音樂機會



South China Morning Post: In Hong Kong Inter-School Choir 2023 Concert, 80 student performers sing to inspire youth to chase their dreams



明報：音樂教育達人劉灝顯 另類合唱比賽 教學生不分勝負 做人唔使咁 mean



2023-12-25



South China Morning Post

2023-07-27



2023-02-12

OTHER TESTIMONIALS

I'm grateful for the opportunity for our children. Joining the **Hong Kong Inter-School Choir** was a life-changing event. His musical skills were cultivated, and he felt encouraged and worked hard on rehearsals. We truly appreciate all the efforts you all put in behind the scenes. I'm so incredibly touched.

Parent - Hong Kong Inter-School Choir



The format of the **Competition cum Masterclass** is very good, where we the adjudicators have a chance to share our immediate thoughts and inspire the participating choirs. This is also a great learning experience for all the other choirs sitting there, which is very rare in choir competitions. Here they can all hear every choir and they can learn from each other. So I think that is a beautiful concept, really, really well thought out.

Prof. Thomas Caplin - Overseas adjudicator



Big congrats to the **HKICF Artist-in-Residence finale concert**. I got a chance to witness a change in Hong Kong's choir scene. I can see the students are very engaging in their performance, also feeling relaxed and happy on stage without pressure. The voices of all these choirs sounded so much better. I appreciate the repertoire of the choir is tasteful and up to their ability to understand at their age, and not those vocally demanding, sound effect-oriented choral pieces.

Ms. Myra Chih - Renowned Vocalist



I am very pleased to witness the growth of the **Hong Kong Inter-School Choral Festival**. It has developed into an annual mega-event in the inter-school choral community. What I admire most about the HKICF is its interpretation of 'competition'. The participating teams in the competition are not rivals, but rather peers who observe and learn from each other. This aligns with the philosophy of the Hong Kong Children's Choir, where the camaraderie and connections gained through music are more valuable.

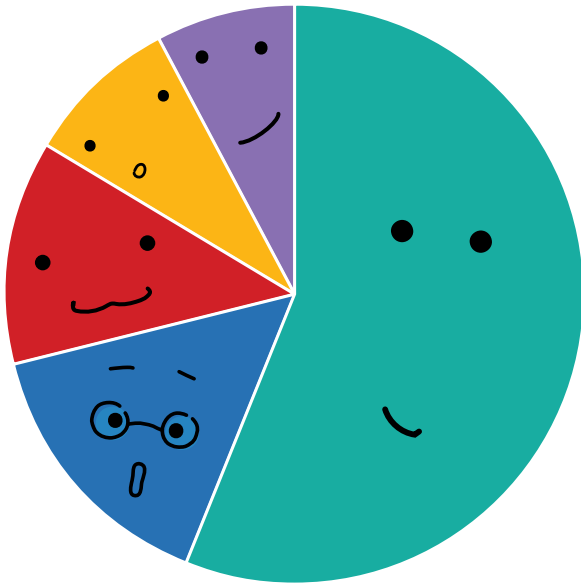
Ms. Kathy Fok - Music Director & Principal Conductor, The Hong Kong Children's Choir



KEY FINANCIALS

(FROM SEPT 2023 - AUG 2024)

HKVC SOURCES OF INCOME



Funding from Government Schemes

56.11%

Support from Family Foundations

15.07%

Revenue from Pilot Income Generative Programmes

12.53%

Revenue from Existing Programmes

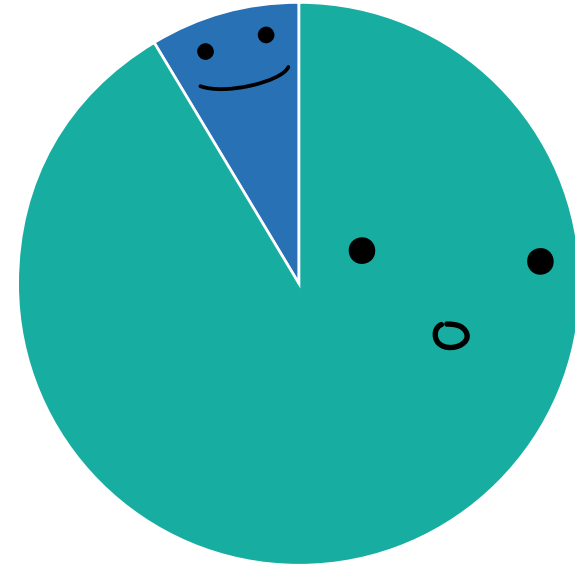
8.72%

Support from Private Donations

7.56%

Our income comes primarily from government funding (56.11%) and family charitable foundations (15.07%). These funds are granted on a year-to-year basis. This significantly limits the organisation's long-term planning and flexibility. Moreover, most of these grants are restricted to funding specific HKICF projects. As a result, we must rely on other unrestricted donations for operational expenses like office rent. To improve financial stability and to build reserves, we aim to increase unrestricted income to at least 50%, targeting an additional \$2.5 million annually.

EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN FOR THE ORGANISATION



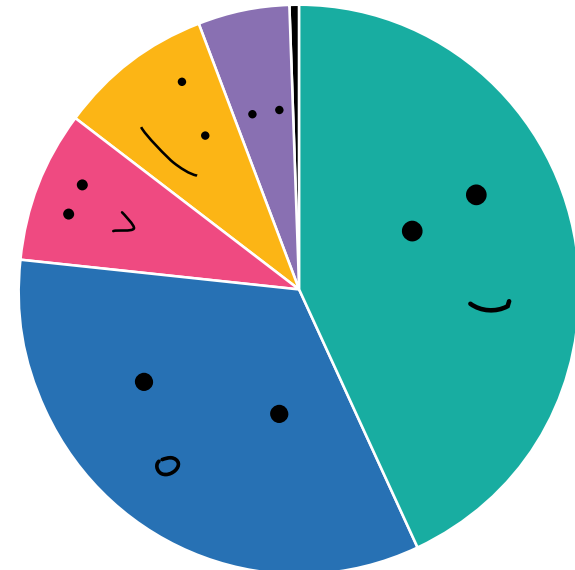
Programmes

91.54%

Operational Expenses

8.46%

EXPENDITURE SPILT ON PROGRAMMES



Production Cost

43.1%

Manpower

33.7%

Venue Rental

8.6%

Marketing & Promotion

8.9%

Videography & Photography

5.3%

Audit Fee

0.4%

SUPPORT US

We strive to keep participation fees low or free of charge for most of our programmes, fulfilling our mission to ensure accessibility for all. However, most of the funding we receive is restricted to project-related expenses, which means that we cannot allocate these funds to cover essential overhead costs such as office rentals, staff salaries, and administrative expenses. Additionally, the funds we receive from the government and family foundations are subject to annual approvals and may not continue. Your support is thus crucial in helping us sustain our operations and continue these valuable choral and educational programmes for our community. Together, we can ensure that our initiatives remain sustainable and impactful.

Your donations will go into HKVC's general funds to sustain our operations so we can carry out our activities, the appropriate costs of some of these activities are set forth below as reference.



DONATION TIER / IMPACT

HK\$50,000

A Competition cum Masterclass session can provide 400 choristers from 7 schools with the opportunity to learn and perform.

HK\$12,000

By giving the chance for a school choir to take part in our School Choir Incubator Programme, we expect to see transformative changes in one's choir capacity and culture.

HK\$5,000

A chorister can take part in Hong Kong Inter-School Choir for one year with a full scholarship, giving them a chance to become a choral leader.

HK\$1,500

Your contribution will fund 10 concert tickets for 5 families, promoting music appreciation and enhancing music accessibility.

**SUPPORT US BY
SCANNING THE QR CODE
TO FILL IN THE
DONATION FORM**



***Thank you for giving
our burgeoning choirs
a brighter future!***

CITATION LIST

Status Quo 1: Academic Pressure and Competitive Culture

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Status Quo 2: Limited Access to Music Education in Less Privileged Schools and Families

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躍進資助 Springboard Grant

藝能發展資助計劃
Arts Capacity Development Funding Scheme
HKSAR Government 香港特別行政區政府



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