

Belief of

Through the window of music, we aim for the continuation of a self- directed mode of learning, to refine our musical and generic life skills, as well as experiencing different genres of music.

Festive  *Chamber*

We
Sing

Festive Chamber is formed by a group of passionate and talented youth who are experienced choristers with a diversified singing repertoire, including religious music, choral jazz, classical choral music, contemporary works and ethnic folks.

We
Dance

Festive Chamber members believe that music is for appreciation, for expression, for mutual understanding, acceptance and support among human beings.

We
Explore
to Learn

Singing should be a tool to explore oneself and for celebration of life. Under the guidance of its advisors, Professor Victor Chan and Dr. Alison So, Festive Chamber provides a platform for young musicians to share their belief in choral singing and to pursue their common dreams through public concerts, church services, caroling performances, social service performances and participating in local and international music festivals.

We Celebrate Life

The main goal, of course, is for all members to enjoy singing together as a team, to share the joy of singing with their audience and to celebrate life.

Honorary Advisors



Dr Timothy Brimmer
Butler University



Prof Victor Chan
The Chinese University of Hong Kong



Dr Allison So
The Hong Kong Institute of Education

Director



Dr Joyce Chun
*The Speech and Hearing Sciences
The University of Hong Kong*

Honorary Consultant



Mrs Betty Tham

Pianist



Miss Annie Yuen



Festive Chamber was formed in 2010 by a group of passionate and talented young people. They are experienced choristers with a diversified singing repertoire, including religious music, choral jazz, classical choral music, contemporary works and ethnic folk. It provides a platform for young choristers to share their belief in choral singing and to pursue their common dreams.

Festive Chamber members believe that music is for appreciation, acceptance and support among human beings. They believe that singing should be a tool to explore oneself and for celebration of life.

Festive Chamber has the honor to be under the guidance of its advisors, Professor Victor Chan of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Dr. Allison So of The Hong Kong Institute of Education and Dr. Timothy Brimmer of Butler University, U.S.A.

They participated in the Taipei Choral Festival in July 2011, and was awarded the Champion of Ensemble Singing in Hong Kong International Children and Youth Choir Festival in the same year. Their public performances included, Mastero Doming Lam's Sacred Music Concert at The Hong Kong Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, annual caroling in the Mandarin Oriental Hotel and the Peninsula Hotel which met with the highest acclaim. Under the baton of Dr. Allison So, Festive Chamber had its debut concert "Festive Praises" in Nov 2012.

The latest achievements are successful fund-raising concerts, "Festive Musical Fanfare" for the Hong Kong Single Parents Association in 2013 at City Hall and "Wings of Life" for the Hong Kong Heredity Breast Cancer Family Registry in 2014 at Tsuen Wan Town Hall.



Again in November 2015, Festive Chamber put on another highly successful performance "World of Love" at the Academic Community Hall, Baptist University. It was a combination of singing, poetry recitation and choral-speaking and the performance helped raise funds for the University of Toronto (Hong Kong) Foundation.

Interview with Mr. Kelvin Ngai



he spends much of his time to serve as a conductor of choirs, orchestras and bands in many Christian churches, including the Psalm Wind Orchestra. Mr Ngai still gives private tutorials to trumpeters, serves as trumpeter to various orchestras on a freelance basis and serves as a faculty tutor of the Hong Kong Institute of Education.

Festive Chamber was delighted to interview Mr. Ngai on the 21 November 2015 and had the opportunity to know more about this very busy person:

*** Interviewer (I), Mr. Kelvin Ngai (N)*

Career in Music

I : *As soloist, tutor to trumpeters since your undergraduate studies and trumpeter of various orchestras, at what point did you embark on your career as a conductor?*

N : I studied conducting during my bachelor and master degree studies. As a tutor to trumpeters at different schools, I have to conduct various school bands/orchestras as well. There were not many conductors 10 years ago, thus, I had the opportunity to conduct.

Actually, I still serve as trumpeter in orchestras. As my picture is shown on concert booklets as a conductor many people may think I focus more on conducting.

I : *What satisfaction do you have as a soloist and as a conductor?*

Mr. Kelvin Ngai Lung Shing is currently one of the most popular conductors among secondary school bands and orchestras. He is now the band and orchestra conductor of La Salle College, Harrow International School (Hong Kong), Po Leung Kuk Choi Kai Yau School, La Salle Primary School, Wah Yan College Kowloon, Good Hope School.

Bands and orchestras under the baton of Mr. Ngai have won numerous gold and champion awards including the Hong Kong Youth Music Interflows, Hong Kong School Music Festival and International Band Festival. Recently, he was granted the best conductor award, the Ko Bongsik Award, of the 2014 Jeju International Wind Ensemble Festival in Korea. Despite his busy schedule,

N : As a professional trumpeter, you would need to focus on your own part, for instance, ensuring the notes you play are not out of tune. On the other hand, there are more things to manage as a conductor, for instance, you would have to attend to the needs of all members in the orchestra, and be sensitive to tone quality and the music as a whole.

I have to understand the mentality of members in an orchestra or bands and when I should give my opinions to them. I have had experience in various positions in orchestras and bands, and that, I suppose, is where my strength lies.

I : Which role (soloist or conductor) do you enjoy the most?

N : I enjoy and feel happy in all roles as they are very different.

Being a trumpeter is more about yourself and how well you play. As a conductor, you have more responsibilities and if anything goes wrong, you are the first to bear the consequences.

The satisfactions gained from different roles are quite different and I enjoy each and every role I perform.

Psalm Wind Orchestra (PWO)

I : PWO was established in 2003 by a group of Christians. What challenges did you and the PWO face over the years? What makes PWO members continue to participate?

N : PWO was initially formed by a group of musicians who played together in a church in 2003. One of our missions is to spread God’s message. But we do have members who are

not Christians joining the orchestra. At first, we did not have regular practice due to a lack of available venue. We only played together when PWO was invited to play in concerts. About 6 years ago, a primary school was able to provide us with the venue and lend us their percussion instruments. Since then, we have regular practice every Friday.

I : Why has PWO continued to stay together?

N : Most of our members are university undergraduates or full-time workers. Only one or two are secondary students. PWO members were very passionate about music even when in secondary school. As they grew older, there were less opportunities for them to play. PWO provided the platform for them to play music and have fun together. It does not aim to become a professional orchestra but wishes to reach out to the community and provide voluntary services as Christians.

The availability of a venue to practice is also the reason for PWO members to commit themselves as they can gather with their friends on a regular basis and have fun playing music. They do look forward to every rehearsal.

I : What are your expectations in relation to its future development?

N : I hope that PWO could do more voluntary work or have more outreach programmes, for instance, doing voluntary work in Sichuan, China. Also, it would be good if PWO members (who are also Christians) could join Christian medical teams to China and spread God’s Word.

Some members are majoring in conducting, so we are providing a training platform to them via the provision of opportunities to conduct.

I : Since PWO is formed partly based on a religious cause, will it restrict the music genres that PWO plays?

N : Not at all. Although we usually have a specific message to convey in our annual concerts, we are not restricted by any music genres. We like festive music and pop music.

The Young Generation

I : As you have been conducting in various secondary schools over the years, do you find any differences between the current young musicians and the young musicians in the past generations?

N : The students of the secondary schools I teach come from wealthier families. They genuinely enjoy playing music and have less pressure from their families in relation to their music. However, as students nowadays are always busy in various things, they have less time to practise when compared with the older generations.

I : What challenges do you face when teaching the current young musicians?

N : I think the current young generation is not as mature as those in the past. In the past there were two public exams, i.e. HKCEE and A-levels. Students naturally assumed leading roles after the HKCEE. Their experience in a public exam does make a difference in the sense that they usually become more mature.

I think the young should learn to take up more responsibilities and should endeavour to complete them.

I : Any advice to our young musicians?
N : One should know what is one's aim in learning music. Do not be carried away simply by wanting to join various social activities or to earn money.

Developing Musicianship

I : What makes a good musician?
N : One has to be humble and should be open in accepting new things. Always have a vision and plan in mind to push oneself to achieve more.
I : Do you think you have achieved your targets as a musician?

N : I aimed to become a professional musician. Of course, I experienced my ups and downs while developing my career. For instance, I was supposed to study for a Master's in the UK after obtaining my Bachelor's but due to



financial reasons, I had to start working after graduation from the APA. Eventually, I did get my Master's in the U.S. with U.S. and HK scholarships and the money I saved. I believe God has set my path for me. I decided not only to perform as a musician, but to teach music so as to contribute to society and share my experience.

Family Man

I : *What are your expectations for your children? Would you train them to become musicians?*

N : I have two daughters who are 5-years old and 2-years old respectively and my son is 1-year old. I would definitely see what their potentials are. The role of parents should be igniting their children's own potentials, be it art, music or sports. I shall explore with them.

My eldest daughter is now learning piano.

I : *What is relationship between music and the growth of your children?*

N : Learning music is a self-cultivating activity where you will become a well-mannered person. Through music children learn to communicate among peers and also learn to be obedient and work as a team.

I : *Do you consider yourself as a "Monster Parent"?*

N : Every parent would want to provide the best for their children.

In any event, I think the relationship between parents and parenting are of vital importance as it would affect the values of their children. I would want my children to fully explore their potentials.

Future plans

I : *Are there any upcoming events?*

N : I will be conducting in a pop religious concert soon. I am quite looking forward to it as I could catch up with many friends and the singers involved as their performances are always infectious.

I hope PWO would continue to have a stable practicing venue and that we can go on a music tour like we did in 2013.



Message from the Chairman of University of Toronto (Hong Kong) Foundation

The University of Toronto (Hong Kong) Foundation is a registered charity, founded in 1995 by a visionary group of University of Toronto alumni and friends. The Foundation opens doors for families in Hong Kong without the resources to send their children overseas for a University of Toronto (U of T) education.

The Foundation handed out its inaugural scholarship in 1996. Dr. Rosanna Wong Yick-ming, JP was the first Chair of the Foundation board, and worked with a sub-committee to assist the University in selecting scholarship recipients.

At the time, the Foundation Scholarship was the most comprehensive scholarship for Hong Kong students at any Canadian university. To date, 70 scholarships have been awarded to promising young leaders, who have demonstrated ability and need and expressed the desire to experience life abroad. Recipients have graduated from U of T and become successful professionals, with careers in finance, law, education, engineering, government, research and other fields, contributing significantly to civil society in Hong Kong, Canada and elsewhere.

The U of T (Hong Kong) Foundation is honoured to be the beneficiary of this wonderful charity concert “World of Love”, organised by Festive Chamber. The mission and vision of both Festive Chamber and the U of T (Hong Kong) Foundation is to provide life transforming opportunities for Hong Kong’s promising young students through new experiences, culture and context. We believe this is a wise investment for the future of Hong Kong.

We wish Festive Chamber a big success again this year and we deeply thank the organisers, patrons, school principals and all the student performers for making this event possible.

As the University of Toronto (Hong Kong) Foundation celebrates its 20th anniversary this year, I would also like to specially thank everyone who has made it possible, from the generous donations and support from members of the society to the dedicated contribution and involvement of volunteers, alumni and collaborating committees.

For further information and support to the University of Toronto (Hong Kong) Foundation please go to our website at www.utoronto.com.hk/foundation.

Ms. Daisy C. F. Ho

Chair, University of Toronto (Hong Kong) Foundation



Words from Chair of Festive Chamber

As the chairperson of the organizing committee, I am truly thankful to my committee members and our honorary advisor, Mrs. Betty Tham, who have volunteered their time, talent and effort.

This year, we were most fortunate to have five participating schools, where more than 40 performers joined our concert.

I am also very happy to see that each of us have developed both musically and personally as we went through the rigors of learning new songs, challenging ourselves in choral-verse speaking, striving for better tone quality as a choir and memorizing stage movements over the past five months. It has been a rigorous and exhilarating five months indeed.

Staging a full concert has also been a challenge for me, and without the help from our Stage Manager, Miss Evette Chan, our deputy Stage Manager, Miss Heeki Wong and our Lighting Manager, Mr Steve Chan, this concert would not have been successful.

My heartfelt gratitude must also go to Dr Lesley Chan and Mr Alvin Chu. Their beautiful compositions and arrangements led us into the "World of Love" and allowed us to share our love of music with the audience to the best of our ability.

Love can be expressed through many means and in any language. I wish our love of music will continue to be expressed through different means in the coming future and influence all those around us.

Miss Stephanie Au

Chair of Festive Chamber





World of Love









Making of ...







Words from New Members

Sophie Cheung

In the concert I felt the "World of Love" of Festive Chamber. The senior members were always supportive. I have learnt different skills, I do not only follow instructions but need to express my personal feelings through music. In Festive Chamber, everyone is unique, but we are joined when singing together. I have enjoyed singing in FC very much for I found different valuable experiences.



Cassandra Ngai

I truly believe that music and singing can break through all boundaries and walls among different people with different nationalities, religions and age. It is the language that all of us can understand and through music we become one.

Let me express my great thanks to Festive Chamber, which has given me so many opportunities to excel in drama, choral speaking and singing.

I have found my value and importance in choir singing and the importance of time and self management. Thank you for giving me such a great opportunity to learn and to serve!

Anson Lam

From the moment I became a new member of Festive Chamber, my life has lighted up. Not only did I acquire knowledge and widen my exposure through the practice, but I also gained lots of valuable experience which I could never gain from the classroom or the textbook. Through practice every Sunday, I had trained to be more proactive and self-disciplined, to have good time management which could facilitate my balance between my study and my passion in choral singing. It has also been a great opportunity to help the needy by my voice.



胡穎詩

我是胡穎詩，在這次菁蒼雅頌音樂會中，我學會了如何在一個團體中作領袖。這是我從來都不曉得的。在菁蒼雅頌大家庭中，我除學會唱歌的技巧外，更看到作為領袖應有的態度和行為。我會以她們為榜樣，將菁蒼雅頌的精神發揚光大。我更會將我校合唱團帶領得更好，繼續努力和教好下一輩的成員。



劉月明

我是劉月明，是今年剛剛加入菁蒼雅頌這大家庭的新人。在老師的推介下，我有幸參與演出了 World of love 慈善音樂會。在半年嚴格訓下，我學到了很多不同的唱歌技巧，以及作為其中一分子應有的態度。



在這學期里，我亦成了學校合唱團的聲部長，將從菁蒼雅頌學到的和學校合唱團員分享。我會在以後的時間里，努力追上菁蒼雅頌前輩們的腳步，做得更好。

Message from Parent

陳太 (Cassandra 的媽媽)

從來沒有想到音樂對女兒的成長有着如此深遠的影響。

回想兩年前女兒剛升到中一，她先被挑選入學校合唱團，之後她又嚷着參加校際音樂節的獨唱比賽，然後又要參加學校音樂劇的演出，又再參與菁菁雅頌的慈善籌款演出。每次我都要求她三思，唯恐她沒有時間應付功課，又怕她會辛苦，更怕她面對失敗，打擊她已不多的自信心。但因着她的堅持，我只好接受她的要求。還記得她第一次出席校際音樂節的獨唱比賽，我坐在觀眾席上看着她踏上台上面對評判，我的心跳開始加速，手心冒汗，害怕她出亂子，獻醜人前。直至她完唱那首歌曲，我才深深舒一口氣！

過去兩年在菁菁雅頌的歌唱訓練，除了身體不適外，她每次必會出席，從不間斷，她的堅持和負責，我欣賞！在十一月廿一日欣賞菁菁雅頌慈善籌款演出，為他們的演出成功而感到驕傲。團員之間合作和唱美妙歌聲、朗誦優美的詩歌、做出不同的排位變化等等都是各團員一直以來努力練習的成果，這一切都令我感動！但我作為母親，最重要是看到女兒的成長，她在歌唱訓練中學習到成功必需付出努力、團隊的合作、溝通的重要、自律承責和自信心的培養，這些更令我安慰和感恩。

在這裡讓我衷心的多謝菁菁雅頌給予小女機會向你們學習並與你們一起成長，更祝願菁菁雅頌發揮它的力量，用音樂教育和感染更多年輕人！