

A Fruitful Year of Festive Chamber

Festive Chamber

Festive Chamber



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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 a non-profit making organization, newly 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



Pro. 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



Mr Pierre Tang

Interview with Dr. Tim Brimmer our Advisor

(Part I)



Q: Would you mind sharing with us why you have chosen Jordan Jazz as your major field among different music genres?

B: Well, I don't know if I chose it or if it chose me, because I did not start out in this area. I studied classic, voice, conducting, then education, and then, I fell into jazz. One of my heroes, my voice professor, was also a jazz bassist, a fabulous man. He introduced me to Chuk Man Jion, and then we tried to sing vocal jazz in his choir, and it was

so difficult, it was so hard, but that's what inspired me. It was impossible, just impossible, and then the whole semester we learned three pieces and that was when I was 21. Since then, it has been a wonderful and challenging journey to meet and work with some of the world's greatest vocal jazz musicians. So, it has not been a clean clear decision, it has been an evolution.



Q: What are your philosophies when working on Choral Jazz music education?

B: I think that vocal jazz is the ultimate international language. It is appropriate for all ages, countries, skill levels and tastes. It can be done with one child, or it can be done with a hundred highly skilled adults; it can be done a cappella, it can be done with only instrument or any combinations of voices and instruments.

Q: As a founder and director of the Jordan College's Multisensory Learning Faculty and the Butler University Music Leadership Institute, you have proposed to have arts and technology merged in the education curriculum. Could you tell us what makes you come up with such an idea?



B: I realized that what we are offering now in music education is very limited and often inaccurate. I am interested in these areas. Music Leadership Institute, Multisensory Learning Faculty and even Jordan Jazz, have been based upon the first hand experience of watching carefully how people learn, how children become mature, how we all become artistic, and how we become world citizens. We do not learn music just by itself, we do not become artistic in individual pockets; we are complete humans and we approach all of the arts, in a



very curious, athletic and integrated way. One thing affects the other, and everything affects everything else. There was a famous, native American, his name is Chief Seattle and he said, "We are all a part of the web of life." That is my observation; it is a very profound difference from what many of my colleagues believe the way music education should be taught.

Q: We have heard that you are working with Apple on some program about learning English in the Jazz way.

B: I use many technologies, because children use technologies. I have discovered that, yes, there are technologies that help people become accelerated learners of oral and visual literacy. After working with Apple closely on many projects for 35 years, I was invited to become an Official Apple Distinguished Educator. They have selected 50 people from the whole of the United States, and I am one of these 50 people. I get special emails, special soft wares, invitations for special training, and they ask me to fly around the country. I am here with Apple Asia

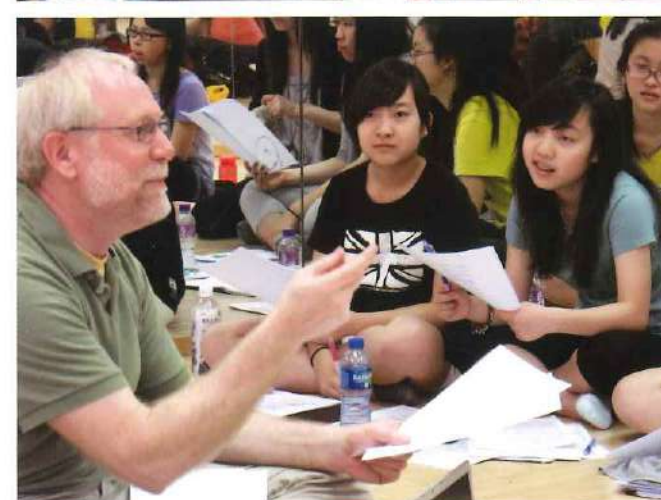
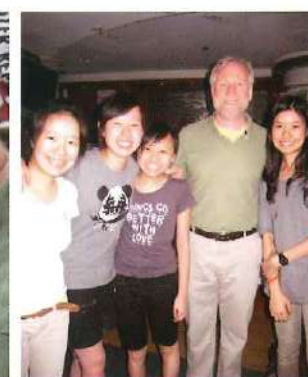


to work with leading educators, to see what is possible in bold, innovative ways. It is very thrilling, it is an honor, but it is also scary, to be working with such great technology experts, master teachers, innovative brilliant people of public and private education, government and business.

Q: You have been collaborating with quite a number of ensemble groups. What advice would you give Festive Chamber to become a successful self-directed ensemble?

B: Festive Chamber is an amazing organization, full of very gifted, hard working, disciplined artists. Keep doing what you're doing. Your approach, your philosophy, your music making is so healthy, so good. It will last you a lifetime, it won't just prepare you for school, or it won't just prepare you for your career, it's preparing you for life.

End of Part I



Interview with Miss Nancy Loo



Miss Nancy Loo, who devotes herself in the field of music, is actively involved in guiding youngsters to pursue their dreams and explore the world. It is an honor to have Miss Nancy Loo as our interviewee today. Below is an extract from the interview.

1. *Why were you so interested in music when you were small? Could you share with us some of the experiences of your pursuit of music?*

My mother studied Music and was also a pianist. She was an accompanist of a radio station. She then knew a pianist from England, Betty Drown, who had taught many musical talents before. When I was very young, Miss Drown came to Hong Kong and lived in a hotel near my home. Miss Drown wanted to teach piano; however, she could not teach piano in a hotel, so she taught piano at my home. I had nothing to

do because at that time there were no computers, television and other technological devices, so I just watched Miss Drown teaching piano. One day, one of Miss Drown's students did not show up, and Miss Drown asked me to fill the vacancy. That was how I started learning the piano. I didn't even know the alphabet at that time so Miss Drown started to teach me with the names of my family members, my dog, etc. Then, I went for a competition after 3 months, and came third in the competition. So I continued learning the piano and I also loved joining competitions as I thought it was exciting, joyful and amazing.

I always aimed at the championship and won in many competitions until I was 10. I lost the champion title and only came second or third in the competitions two years later. I then questioned myself whether I really loved music, and if I really enjoyed music. I later realized that this talent was a gift from God, which I should have glorified.



Then, I started playing the piano with a very different attitude. I would like to glorify God through playing music. I went to Julliard but I had an accident and my hand was seriously hurt. At the same time, I realized that friendship was only measured by one's success. When I really needed support and encouragement from others, nobody came to me and cared about me. I was very depressed but luckily my strength was recovered through the support I got joining a Chinese fellowship in a church. I met a teacher who recruited me to attend an audition. I joined a summer camp and met another teacher and I fell in love with this teacher.

I started learning with that teacher and went for a competition in three months. I won the competition and after that there were many people coming and talking to me, including those who had never spoken to me before. Then, I started blaming God for giving me this talent. I hoped my music could enter

into people's hearts. People would be deeply touched by my music, or they were even moved to tears because of their reflection triggered by my music. However, this could hardly happen. I doubted whether I should continue to play the piano but there were no other choices that I could think of. Coincidentally, the Music Office in Hong Kong was established. The Music Office aimed to bring music to all places and it recruited professional musicians to do the administrative and promotion work of classical music. So, I became one of them. I taught the poor children and felt very satisfied after seeing the pride and hope in the children. I read a passage which says that "It is important not to estimate your achievement in relation to how you love God. The more important thing is what He wants to do through you. That can be something very big or very insignificant." This

passage as well as the experiences from teaching children changed me a lot. I treated every concert and performance as a blessed privilege and I just try to do my best. Sometimes the best is not the very best for me, but the outcome is no longer important for me.

2. *We know that you are a renowned pianist, but what motivated you to become a radio programme host, and a writer?*

I do not like the format of a concert as an artist on the stage seems to keep a distance from the audience. I like to talk to people about music. I want to tell others what music really is. I would like to express my feelings towards music and how particular pieces of music influenced me rather than just performing them on the stage. Then, the chance to work in a radio station came up.



I find most people regard playing the piano as a skill; they only aim at playing well and winning competitions. In fact, this is just a means to an end. I think everyone should know what they are aiming at, and why they need to aim high and the reason behind them.

Why I want to play well? My answer is five words – reverence, humility, passion, love and gratitude. First of all, I have the utmost reverence for music. We also need to have humility in front of the music; we can't help but remind ourselves how insignificant we are. We should be humble. We need to have passion about what we do. We should have love towards our lives, people around us, and our country as well. If our music has no compassion, you might impress people, but never inspire them. Finally, we need to have gratitude towards our talents and opportunities.

3. *You actively involve yourself in guiding young people to explore the world through music and share your life with young people. Can you tell us why?*

This is because this can transform youngsters, through not only transforming their lives, but also by bringing them closer to God. I think everyone has a good and bad side; we can all be sinners or saints. Putting different people in different environments will determine what type of people they will become.



I have been able to get in touch with many prisoners and was also touched by them. I think their perseverance and kindness are far better than mine. The only issue was that they were influenced by the environment they were brought up in and those people around them. I would say, "Life has Take-2" as I could see that they really felt sorry for what they did. Instead of indulging in their self-pity, they have tried to rebuild their lives despite the poor environment in the prison. For example, they have to work much harder at their studies compared with those who are outside as they do not have many resources, like teachers and computers, to ask for information or to answer their queries. Amazingly, some of them have acquired five degrees, regardless of the adverse situation in the prison.

4. *We all have the desire to pursue our dreams. If your superiors object to your plans for carrying out your dreams, how do you resolve them?*

Some people did object to my plan to visit prisoners. They commented that I was not going to change anything. Despite the objection, I still insisted on visiting them. This is because I think that having a chance to visit the prisoners is a kind of blessing.

I once read a story, which was about a boy who was picking up star fish on the beach which was full of star fish, and throwing them back into the sea. Someone told him, "It is no use throwing them back as the whole beach is full of star fish and it is not going to make any difference." The boy then answered, "But it is going to make a difference for me." Similarly for me, I do not know what I will get after visiting the prisoners, but I think it is worth doing, and I will accept whatever outcome.

Caroling at the Element

This was our first performance since the establishment of Festive Chamber. We performed songs such as "White Christmas", "Silver Bells", "Love in Any Language" as well as "Mississippi Mud". It was a remarkable event for all the Festive Chamber members as we successfully spread the joy of Christmas to the audience. The children in the audience were even influenced by us and followed us in song and dance.

Although it was fun, we also encountered difficulties in preparing for the performance as there was not enough time for practice and not every member could attend every practice. Fortunately, with the cooperation of all, we were able to stage a wonderful performance.

We hope that we will have similar performances in future where we can continue to share the love and joy of Christmas to people around the world.

By Candy Tsang





performance at Lane Crawford

As members of Festive Chamber, we share joy with each other and our audience through singing at various occasions. On 2nd December 2010, we were honoured to be invited as guest performers to celebrate Lane Crawford's 160th Anniversary.

To celebrate life is to appreciate the past and strive for the future. Lane Crawford has stood long and strong in Hong Kong for 160 years; we were glad to have a place in the celebration of its vibrant life. Although time was tight and we barely

had enough time to practise, we were able to stand before the audience with confidence. It was a real challenge because everything depended on our real time performance. Fortunately, the unspoken understanding that was developed as we trained and sang together, served us well.

When the last note had subsided, we were delighted to see happiness radiating from the smiles around us. The applause rang around the hall. We thus knew we had reached our goal – to enjoy singing as a team, to share the joy of music with our audience to celebrate life. Happy Birthday, Lane Crawford!

By Jamie Leung



Caroling at Mandarin Hotel and the Peninsula Hotel

In the 2010 Christmas we
performed at the Mandarin Hotel and the Peninsula Hotel.
We sang with passion. Everyone had a warm and beautiful smile. We
wanted to share the Christmas message on that meaningful day.

Despite the cold weather, Festive Chamber spread warmth and love. We touched peoples'
hearts through our singing. Our beautiful singing, coupled with our graceful dancing
brought a smile to all and a round of applause for us.

By Hayley Tong



Pipe Organ Concert

Festive Chamber
was the Guest
Performer in a Pipe

Organ Concert, held on the 8th of January 2011 in Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall. Festive Chamber joined Dr. Allison So to perform two songs, namely, "Panis Angelicus" and "Kyrie".

Dr. So is an experienced conductor and pianist. He has experience working in different cities in Mainland China and overseas in both music and other kinds of performances, including a number of premiere performances. We were very honoured to be able to join Dr. So in performing in the Pipe Organ Concert

because we believe that through this experience we would be able to learn from him. From this Concert, we could gain more insights in performing with a pipe organ as normally we can hardly have such an opportunity. The pipe organ in the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall is very special as it was hand-made with 4 manuals, 93 stops and 8000 pipes. It is the largest mechanically operated instrument of its kind throughout Southeast Asia.

During our practices, we encountered various difficulties. Singing in the concert hall was a challenge in itself. To



perform better, we chose to stand near the pipe organ with Dr. So but there was no microphone available. So, we had to project our voices loudly and clearly.

Dr. So and Mrs. Betty Tham helped us to project our voices and reminded us of some of the singing techniques we had forgotten.

By Christie Yung



A Cappella Workshop

The A Cappella Workshop was held from January to March 2011, by our guest instructor Mr Ernest Hui. We worked on three songs, namely, "Somewhere Out There", "I Could Have Danced All Night" and "Chili con Carne". We decided to handle the songs differently so as to present the most favorable intonation and mood of the songs.

Mr Hui reminded us of the importance of doing warm-up exercises by relaxing the muscles of every part of our body, as singing requires good coordination among muscles, something we seemed to have forgotten. We also had the chance to learn Beatbox, which some of our members had long desired to learn. Being able to make the sound of a drumset was fascinating for us and it gave us a great feeling of success.

In the beginning, members did not take the initiative to ask questions or answer Mr Hui's questions and this hindered our progress. The low attendance and mismatch of attendants each time were also troublesome and time consuming as Mr Hui had to repeat things he taught in the previous lessons. Thus, in an evaluation session, we identified the reasons for the delayed progress and made timely improvements.

By Kristy Wong



Voluntary Service

Every member from Festive Chamber learns to serve and not to be served. We fulfill our mission by spreading our joyous moments to people in need by taking part in voluntary services.

On the 22nd May (Sunday), we went to a home for the aged to visit them and to have fun with them. We sang songs together and played games with the elderly inhabitants of the home. We also taught them to do some stretching exercises and distributed presents to them. When we saw their sweet smiles we felt gratified and contented.

Our greatest reward was when we received encouraging comments from the audience.

Through this experience, members of FC have learnt to organize a whole service. It was an opportunity to learn as we thought carefully about the details of each section of the service. For instance, we had to think over carefully how to distribute the presents to the elderly audience while we were singing. We planned ahead so as to carry out the event smoothly.

We are glad and satisfied for having the chance to serve others. We like to serve through singing and giving hope to others. We look forward to having more chances to give a helping hand!

By Hayley Tong





Jazz Festival

What is Jazz? Individuality!

This was the second time I participated in the Jazz Festival. In the previous Jazz Festival, we sang many songs and focused more on singing techniques and body movements.

This time, we were asked to sing some strange songs which were composed of just a few notes out of many pages of scores. In the beginning I felt bored. I did not realize that I was missing so much till Mrs Tham told us that it was a new way of composing and this was what we should learn from this Festival.

Eventually, I really enjoyed our performance in the Jazz Festival. All the participating choirs performed what

they thought jazz was. We exchanged ideas and musical knowledge and also learned from each other.

Now I think I am less ignorant and hope we can have more opportunities to explore the world and learn the latest trends in music so that we can keep abreast of the newest developments of World Music.

By Vivian Lin





HONG KONG INT'L YOUTH & CHILDREN'S CHOIR FESTIVAL 2011

THIS CERTIFICATE IS PRESENTED TO 茲頒發

Festive Chamber (Hong Kong, China)

GOLD AWARD

金獎

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH & CHILDREN'S CHOIR FESTIVAL • 2011 HONG KONG

FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF GOLD AWARD
IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORY 於以下類別榮獲金獎

Category F- Vocal Ensemble (age 29 and under)

Dr. Michael J. ANDERSON, DMA
VICE PRESIDENT & SECRETARY-GENERAL
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR CHORAL MUSIC

Dr. Wong Wai CHAN, JP
HONORARY ADVISOR AND CHIEF ADJUDICATOR
2011 HONG KONG

Paul Ip, Shing Wai TONG
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AND
ORGANIZING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, 2011 HKCFCE

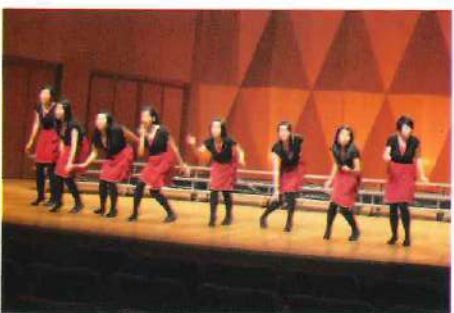
2011 香港國際青少年合唱節籌委會主席及嘉賓評審主席

吳斌 Michael Anderson 張偉偉

Choir Festival







By joining this Choir Festival, I have benefited in other areas, such as communicating with people and handling documents. I was put in charge of most of the signing up process, and it was also the first time I helped a group of people to get started in an event. At first, everything was quite messy – the participating members could not confirm whether they could attend or not which resulted in insufficient participants. However, things soon fell into place after a lot of hard work from different people, and I was glad to see that most things went smoothly by the time I wrote this piece.

I had also come across new challenges with my singing. Singing two different pieces as an ensemble group was a new experience. A 16-member choir trying to project the feeling of 60 people really requires huge amount of technique and co-operation among the different parts. The control of dynamics and breathing was the most difficult part for me in the first piece, as I usually lost control of the balance when I became too conscious of myself and forgot when to breathe. Soon I learned to be more aware of the

other members in the ensemble and to open my ears to listen to voices other than my own. Furthermore, I believe we began to understand the importance of staggered breathing in this piece in order to sustain a note. Mutual understanding of one another and loads of practice were also important. We need to continue to work harder in this area when we encounter similar works. 'Como' means to maintain a steady rhythm which again requires a lot of interaction among parts, especially on stage when the distance between the singers is widened. On the stage, we cannot trust our ears and we need to rely on our eyes to understand one another.

We need to learn from our mistakes and strive for improvement. We should not limit ourselves to the things in front of us. We should look further and strive higher. I hope we will sing as a true team for a long time.

By Jade Wong



I did not regret participating in this competition even though we had a very tight practice schedule. In the beginning, we faced difficulties in our musical techniques and our peer relationships. We overcame these challenges as we concentrated on practicing.

I have not only learnt new skills in singing but was also inspired to learn how to become a better person. I came to know more about how to try my best to aim higher, to strive for excellence. Also, I have learnt how to perform better. I was reminded of the importance of musical elements and also the true meaning of team spirit. I look upon this opportunity to participate in the competition as a life experience. This is also one of the stages for me to grow up.

When we knew we had the second chance to perform on stage in the Finalist concert, we all were glad to have one more chance to correct our mistakes. I was most concerned about my pitch accuracy. We were too nervous to care about the pitch and rhythm, so

I reminded myself that we needed to multi-task.

This competition provided us many new experiences. Our bonding has been strengthened as well. We are very glad to have the opportunity to be on the stage of Hong Kong Cultural Centre.

For me, my emotions trouble me the most. During the acoustic check, I did not make full use of the 5 minutes allowed. My brain went blank and my heart just kept thumping. It was only at the last moment before our turn to be on stage came did I decide not to let me be distracted by unnecessary thoughts. So mastering my emotions and thoughts at the right time is what I learnt. I shall try not to let my emotions affect my performance and those of others on stage.

Singing is similar to thinking. Our brains have to cope with hundreds of things at the same time. Besides the musical requirements, our facial expressions and body movements contribute a lot to make a performance appealing. We have to be conscious of both ourselves and other teammates, as every look and

signal is the only way to communicate on stage and missing any of them may ruin the mood and atmosphere built and of course the performance!

Singing with only 15 teammates on stage to create the sound of a professional choir is definitely challenging. Our voices matter, and our movement on stage counts. Hearts and beliefs must be linked and our voices synchronized and blended. This is the tough yet fun part of singing.

This is part of the wonderful memories of our FC life.

By Hayley Tong

Taipei Choral Festival



The trip to Taiwan in July this year was my first choral singing tour that did not involve any competitions. In Taiwan, we participated in the Taipei International Choral Festival 2011, to sing and perform "African Sanctus", a set of songs that we had previously sung. To make sure that we would produce the best singing quality, we had choir practice every day, from early morning till noon. Though most of us were quite familiar with the songs, we still needed to pay attention during practice as different conductors generally have different interpretations of the same composition. We had a lot of fun making music with all the new people and making new friends along the way. These joyous moments made the intensive practices less tiring.

During these 11 days, apart from daily practice of "African Sanctus", we also attended workshops conducted by professional singers and watched concerts of choirs from all over the world. We were very fortunate to see performances of the Cantemus Mixed Choir from Hungary, OMMM from France, and APZ Tone Tomšič from Slovenia. All these new experiences have widened our horizons in music and choral singing.

The workshops were also truly inspiring, as we had the chance to sing in front of professionals, who in turn gave us valuable advice on making improvements in our use of our voices and also generously answered our queries on sound projection. It would indeed have been wonderful if we had been offered a few more hours of the same workshops, where I am sure that we could have learned much more from the singers.



As for the concerts, one of our favorites was the performance from OMMM. OMMM is an a capella singing group which consists of five members. Each member is exceptionally talented and we were very surprised as well as in awe to learn that they composed their own songs. They rarely have a score and almost everything is impromptu! Apart from that, they are so familiar with the human voice that this allows their performance to have a wide range of variety, ranging from Jazz to Hip Hop. And they all rely solely on the human voice. We were extremely amazed by their talent and ability and felt so fortunate to have this opportunity to hear and meet them.

It was indeed a blessing to be allowed to go on this trip which provided us with an opportunity to learn, see and experience so many new things without the pressure of any kind of competitions. We were there just to learn!

By Jade Wong

We participated in the Taipei International Choral Festival 2011 from 22/7-31/7/2011 and it was an opportunity for me to broaden my horizon.

The first thing I noticed during practices was that the other participants (mostly from Taipei) used so fa names to read the scores with which they were not familiar, so that they could read the scores quickly. I was very impressed by that as using so fa names to read scores is such a difficult task for me.

They were all very diligent. They sacrificed their lunch time to practice the parts which they had not mastered well yet. Their dedication to their performance impressed me a lot.



I also made friends with some of the participants from Taipei. They were all very friendly to us and they also introduced to us some of the famous places in Taipei.

One more memorial moment was that we went to the night markets to try different kinds of snacks in Taipei. This night markets excursion was such an interesting experience!

All in all, joining this tour provided me with a chance not only to learn more about the singing skills of other countries, but also to make new friends. I hope that I can join another tour in the coming summer!

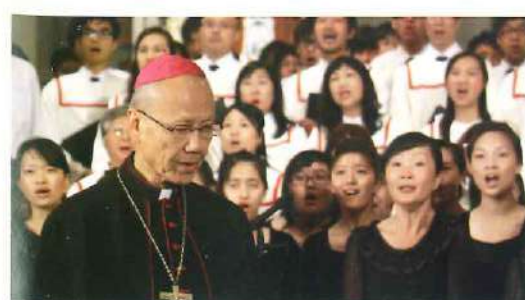
By Candy Tsang

Joint Performance in Celebration of Doming Lam's 85th Birthday



With the kind support from Professor Chan Wing Wah, Dr. Alison So, Mr Lesley Chan and Mr Ivan Yuen, with the whole-hearted dedication from all members and with the blessing from the ABOVE, FC experienced another musical journey.

It is indeed our honour to meet Maestro Doming Lam and to share his great compositions.



Words from New members

Melody
Lam



Festive Chamber provides a channel for us to perform. It can help us to become more confident.

Before joining Festive Chamber, I have never joined any choir. As everything was new to me, I was nervous at first. Luckily, members of Festive Chamber were very nice. They helped me a lot.

I am honored to be a member of Festive Chamber, because I can meet new friends. Besides, I can learn many singing skills. I enjoy singing in Festive Chamber.

Eugenai
Lai



Through Festive Chamber, I have learnt to be more independent and responsible. As things are mainly managed by ourselves, we need to handle or react to them quickly and neatly. There is a positive influence towards my growing and learning. Moreover, old members are so kind and helpful to offer assistance when I am confused, that makes the practice easier and happier.

Yat Man
Lam



Joining Festive Chamber provides me a great opportunity to improve my singing skills and to sing as a group. It is a channel to gather people who have a passionate interest in choral singing. Apart from singing, I can also learn to be more independent and proactive. Singing in FC is not just following the instructions given by teachers, but also co-operating with one another in different parts, as we need to work as a team.

Veronica
Cheung



"Music is enough for a lifetime, but a lifetime is not enough for music"
Sergei Rachmaninov (1873 -1943)

I cannot agree more with this famous Russian composer. Music never fails to help expressing and giving relief to millions of souls. It is a universal language that connects people of different races and beliefs. Festive Chamber is formed by a group of passionate singers with diversified backgrounds and age groups. I enjoy the synergy among members in organizing practices, learning different genres of music and bring good quality performances to the community. Apart from aesthetic pursuits, Festive Chamber provides members an opportunity to gain effective communication skills and cooperative skills when engaging in community services. Therefore, Festive Chamber nurtures a group of musical, capable and enthusiastic singers. I look forward to every performing opportunity with Festive Chamber!

Briony
Chan



I have just joined FC for a few months. Through singing, I think I can learn many useful singing and music techniques. I can also feel joyful when I sing different kinds of songs. I hope during singing in the choir, I can learn to sing well and keep this joyful heart to sing.

Jasmine
Lau



After joining Festive Chamber, I have lot of chances to learn and try. I have various occasions to perform, which is a valuable experience for me. Festive Chamber helps me improve my singing skills and self-confidence. To connect people through melody is my will.

Words from Parents

Parents long to see their own child grow up. After Jaime had joined FC, we saw her become very independent in a short period of time. My daughter always has a busy and exciting schedule. She is upbeat to participate in those activities. Her participation in activities has enlarged her social boundary and she has many opportunities to meet friends other than her classmates.

The participation of activities outside that of the school requires my daughter to fast track her learning with better time management. She is now able to prioritize conflicting activities and know what is "First Things First".

Through the participation of a greater variety of activities, she has enhanced her ability in taking responsibility. Once she has taken up a role in an activity, she has the enthusiasm to excel in her role. The most difficult situation was that frequently she had different roles and tasks simultaneously in various aspects such as the academic, school activities and outside activities. To strike a balance in these roles again demands enormous effort and dedication.

As an amateur musician in Chinese music, I fully appreciate that music is the window of communication that is not limited by geographic space, culture and age. Through music, we could communicate with a great variety of people and greatly enrich our exposure with people from different places.

I am sure that music has become an indispensable part of Jaime's life. Keep the music flowing and further lighting up her life.

Mrs Cheung

parents of Jaime Cheung

I am happy with Jade's participation with Festive Chamber since it has always been my wish that my children should be able to look at as many good pictures and hear as much good music as they can in order to live life to its fullness. The value in music education is clear due to its association with higher culture and the discipline involved. Great arts and music are the results of the distillation of men's imagination and often they bring heal and comfort to the soul. It also helps to relax them and allow them to let loose and have fun, while they also learn to overcome their fears in front of an audience, and to accept criticism from others. During their competition, my daughter has learned the importance of hard work. They have a great mentor and a wonderful coach, and sometimes they learn to embrace disappointment, which is part and parcel of being human.

Miss Mary Waye

parent of Jade Wong

Although I am now a parent, I was also a school choir member in my past school life. We spent time on practicing, challenging on every competition and performance. It is no doubt to say that those memorable and precious memories have brightened my life.

Music is to express our feelings with melodies and rhythms. No matter it is sad or happy. It acts as a medium for interaction and communication between one another.

The establishment of Festive Chamber has provided a very good opportunity for my daughter to perform and share music in public. Moreover, she can enjoy singing in a comfortable atmosphere without any pressure and concern, full of confidence and happiness. Music really made her change a lot.

And I want to thank again Mrs. Betty Tham. You are a wonderful person who devoted all you have in an ideal of music. And with my wholehearted support, I am looking forward to their performances and wish Festive Chamber every success in the future.

Mrs Lam

parent of Vivien Lam

Festive Chamber

Festive Chamber is a non-profit making organization, formed by a group of passionate and talented young people, who are experienced choristers, with a diversified singing repertoire, including religious music, choral jazz, classical choral music, contemporary works and ethnic folk.

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

Under the guidance of its advisors, Professor Victor Chan of Hong Kong Chinese University, Dr. Alison So of Hong Kong Institute of Education and Dr Timothy

Brimmer of Butler University, USA.

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

Their latest award was the Champion of Ensemble Singing in the 2011 Hong Kong International Children and Youth Choir Festival. Their participation and presentation in Taipei Choral Festival in July 2011 also received high acclaim.

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