



**Asian Composers League
Hong Kong Section Country/Region Report 2009
(January 2008 - March 2009)**

The Hong Kong Composers' Guild (the Hong Kong Section of the ACL) launched a series of projects on new music in the past 15 months from January 2008 to March 2009, the details of which are as follows:

Schools Creative Music Showcase 2007/08

Collaborating with the Education Bureau of Hong Kong, this annual event began in the autumn of 2007 when participating primary schools chose from one of the three set pieces available and secondary schools started to design their music projects. In December 2007, a jury panel formed by Daniel Chong, Ada Lai, Lam Kin-ye, Li Chi-man, Lo Hau-man, Lo Ka-ming and Pang Chun-kit visited 16 primary and seven secondary schools to comment on the projects and select the finalists.

As in the Showcase of previous years, the set pieces for 2007/08 (primary schools division) were written by Hong Kong composers: *Feast of Sounds* by Lo Hau-man, *Musical Fountain* by Lo Ka-ming and *An MTR Trip* by Daniel Chong. These set pieces were, in fact, not fully composed pieces but guidelines for creating music projects. Two schools might be working on the same set piece, yet the content and style of presentation would be different. No set pieces were provided for the secondary schools. Students created every aspect of their project, from the choice of topic to music vocabulary and instrumentation to lighting, props, costumes, and even dance choreography.

The final round of 2007/08 Showcase took place on 15th January 2008 at the Auditorium of Shatin Town Hall. The programme that evening featured the music projects of seven primary schools and four secondary schools competing for eleven prizes, including Best Sound Design, Best Music Composition, Best Musical Interpretation, Best Overall Performance, Most Original Creative Idea, Individual Composition, and Merit prizes. Members of the jury panel included Daniel Chong, Ada Lai, Tang Man-ngai, Leung Chi-cheung and Joshua Chan. The video of the whole event, together with additional interviews made at the end of the concert, were uploaded to a Hong Kong government website www.youth.gov.hk.

Schools Creative Music Showcase 2008/09

The set pieces for 2008/09 (primary schools division) were *Big Tree Orchestra* by Hui Cheung-wai, *A Song of Mountains' Praise* by Ng Chun-hoi and *Classroom Carnival* by Leung Chi-cheung. 19 primary and seven secondary schools participated in the preliminary round. Members of the preliminary jury panel were Hui Cheung-wai, Leung Chi-cheung, Li Chi-man, Lo Ka-ming, Ng Chun-hoi. They chose nine primary schools and three secondary schools to enter the final round. Joshua Chan, Hui Cheung-wai, Leung Chi-cheung, Lo Hau-man and Lo Ka-ming formed the jury panel for the final performance on 20th January 2009.

Voices of Hong Kong Composers: Encounter of Word and Music

The Guild jointly organised a lunchtime concert "Voices of Hong Kong Composers: Encounter of Word and Music" with the Department of Music, the University of Hong Kong. It was held at the T. T. Tsui Gallery of the University Museum and Art Gallery on 27th February 2008. The concert programme included poetry-reading by four HKU student poets and seven compositions of Hong Kong composers:



Jing-zhe by Chin King (performed by Hulala), *Stretch* by Joyce Tang (performed by Letty Poon and Chin King), *Wind Chime* by Michael Leung (performed by Swinging Ensemble), *Deep in My Hallucination* by Adrian Lam (performed by Elements of Pitch), an excerpt from *Cantata My Hearts Longs for Thee* by Victor Chan (performed by Jovita Leung and Peter Fan), *Moon Light* by David Leung, and Lai Sheung-ping's *The Past Cannot Be Returned* (both works performed by Jovita Leung and Peter Fan).

Vocal Music Development Symposium

The Guild organised the "Symposium on Chinese Vocal Music: Its Development in the Second Half of the Twentieth Century" from 16th to 18th May 2008 in collaboration with the Hong Kong Association of Choral Societies. Teaching, composing and the promotion of Chinese vocal music in the Greater China area were the key discussion topics. Speakers from China, Taiwan and Hong Kong delivered papers at the Lecture Theatre of the Hong Kong Central Library. This three-day programme was a Proactive Project initiated by the Hong Kong Arts Development Council. The symposium was well-received by choral music lovers, school music teachers and composers.

International Rostrum of Composers 2008

Participation at the International Rostrum of Composers was a joint initiative with the Radio Television Hong Kong Channel 4, fine music channel in Hong Kong. Clarence Mak was the Hong Kong delegate at the IRC 2008 held in Dublin, Ireland from 9th to 13th June 2008. Mak presented *Flow with the Stream* (for orchestra) by Cheung Pui-shan, *City Instinct* (for chamber ensemble) by Lam Kwan-fai and *But for the Heart* (for 13 players) by Richard Tsang. To follow up on the event, RTHK Radio 4 broadcast selections of works from other countries in a series of programmes. Mak also reported on the event in *Fine Music Magazine* (October 2008 issue), the official magazine of RTHK Radio 4.

New Generation 2008

Leung Chi-cheung coordinated the New Generation 2008 which was held in Studio 1, RTHK on 12th June 2008. The project was jointly presented by the Guild and RTHK Radio 4.

To mark the 20th occasion of the New Generation, the Guild appointed the City Chamber Orchestra of Hong Kong to perform the pieces written by young composers. Prior to the concert, Victor Chan, Daniel Chong, Christopher Coleman, Lai Sheung-ping and Joyce Tang screened the entries and shortlisted nine pieces: *Frozen World* by Lam Lan-chee, *Duo* by Kwong Chin-wai Charles, *Soliloquy of the Seaside Sleuth* by Brian Charles Grimm, *SCAR* by Yip Ho-kwen Austin, *Whirling in the Ocean* by Leung Chi-hin, *Vine's Allure* by Chen Yeung-ping Desmond, *When Vincent is Looking at the Sea* by Yip Tin-wai Viola, *Galactic Fantasy* by Leung Hok-kiu Johnson, and *Eldamar* by Wu Guan-qing Chris.

Hui Cheung-wai, Christopher Keyes, Doming Lam, Lo Hau-man and a representative from the City Chamber Orchestra of Hong Kong selected *Galactic Fantasy* as the winning composition. Priscilla Chu, the winner of New Generation 2007, presented her commissioned work *Impromptu*. The recording of the concert was broadcast on RTHK Radio 4 subsequently on 19th & 26th June 2008. Doming Lam published a detailed report on the event in *CASHFLOW* (September 2008, Issue 57), the official magazine of the Composers and Authors Society of Hong Kong.



Hong Kong Composers' Guild Silver Jubilee Anniversary: Logo Design Competition

The year 2008 was the silver jubilee anniversary of the Guild. A number of events initiated and led by Ada Lai were held in the second half of 2008 to mark this occasion, the first of which was a logo design competition that targeted young designers and students age 25 or under. The project committee was formed by Ada Lai, Joyce Tang and Tsang Yiu-kwan. Competition information was made available in early April 2008 on the website of the Guild. By the submission deadline, the Guild received more than 80 submissions. The adjudicators, Yu Shu-tak (Manager – Assessment and Development, Art and Music, Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority) and Guild Directors Hui Cheung-wai and Joyce Tang, selected four outstanding designs to receive the Gold, Silver, Bronze Awards and Honorary Mention. The winning designs were presented to concert-goers on large display boards as well as in the house programmes of the Musicarama 2008 festival. The award presentation ceremony was held at the third concert of the Musicarama festival at the City Hall Theatre on 25th October 2008.

Hong Kong Composers' Guild Silver Jubilee Anniversary: Exhibition at the Hong Kong Central Library

The second event which marked the silver jubilee of the Guild was a small-scale exhibition on the theme "From Tradition to Innovation: The Vitality of Modern Music Composition in Hong Kong". The Guild partnered with the Arts Resource Centre of the Hong Kong Central Library which funded the event and provided venue as well as technical assistance. The exhibition was held from August to September 2008. Exhibition items included an article on the development of Hong Kong contemporary music (printed on display panels) and an exclusive collection of manuscripts of Hong Kong composers from different generations deposited at the archive of the Arts Resource Centre.

LCSD School Arts Animateur Scheme 2008/09

The Guild was successful in bidding for another new project, the School Arts Animateur Scheme, which was funded by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) of Hong Kong. The scheme provided a platform for professional performing arts organisations to provide training workshops to students. For the year 2008/09, the Guild was chosen with 11 other professional performing arts organisations to take part in this scheme. Known as "Creative Sounds and Creative Music", this project required each of the 20 students from each participating school to write individual compositions. The instrumentation for primary students was either flute and cello or clarinet and violin. Secondary students would write for all four instruments. At the end of the training in July 2009, students' pieces would be performed by professional musicians in concerts held at the participating schools. The overall best pieces would be presented at a concert open to the public.

On 13th May 2008, a presentation was made to call for interested schools to enrol in the project. The response was overwhelming and school visits were conducted to select the best four schools to join the pilot scheme. In September 2008, four composers (Poly Ng, Joyce Tang, Ada Lai and Tang Man-ngai) started delivering workshops at two primary schools (Holy Angels Canossian School, Central and Western District St. Anthony's School) and two secondary schools (Shatin Pui Ying College, Wah Yan College Kowloon).

Musicarama 2008

The Musicarama 2008 festival took place from 23rd October to 1st November 2008. A total of 28 compositions were featured in four concerts, showcasing the latest creations by 14 Hong Kong composers and 8 premieres. The distinguished Korean Ensemble TIMF based in Tongyeong and Korean-Austrian conductor Christopher Lee were invited to give two programmes of Asian new music written by Australian,



Hong Kong and Korean composers: Isang Yun, Brenton Broadstock, Kang Jiyoung, Lam Kwan-fai, Stephen Yip, Joyce Tang, Cheung Pui-shan, Andrián Pertout, Lim Jiesun, Chan Ming-chi, Lam Fung and Tang Man-ngai.

For the second concert "Asian Modern Music II", the Guild commissioned three Hong Kong composers to write pieces for the TIMF ensemble and one Chinese instrument (sanxian, pipa and erhu). Gao Guanlin (from Tianjin, China), Lam Tsan-tong (from Wuji Ensemble, Hong Kong) and Wong Lok-ting (from the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra) were the Chinese instrumental soloists.

The Guild had been working on the idea of widening the listening experience of audience with different instrumentation in recent Musicarama festivals. The Musicarama 2006 featured the harmonica. For Musicarama 2008, the handbells were chosen. This move brought about a new venture with the Hong Kong Hand Bell Academy and the Gloves Handbell. Handbell virtuoso Emily Li and her colleagues staged seven pieces of new handbell music (by Leung Chi-hin, Hui Cheung-wai, Ada Lai, Sierra Tse, Mui Kwong-chiu, Cathy Moklebus and Kazuko Okamoto), including one that featured Johnny Kuan on the harmonica. The well-known Heep Yunn School Choir, conducted by Joyce Yu, premiered Ada Lai's commissioned piece *Le rappel de l'arc-en-ciel* scored for handbell solo and treble choir. The Heep Yunn School Choir also performed a choral piece *The Song of Love* by Wong Kong-yu. Performers also included the Belilios Public School Choir, the Wah Yan College Kowloon Boys' Choir and the Wah Yan College Kowloon Treble Choir (conducted by Lesley Chan) and the Hong Kong Youth Handbell Ensemble.

Another unique feature of Musicarama 2008 was the keen participation of the Hong Kong Sinfonietta, conducted by Music Director Yip Wing-sie, in a special concert called "The First Chinese Symphonic Music Season – Hong Kong Exhibition Concert" held at Shatin Town Hall Auditorium. This concert was part of a large-scale project that included publications and concerts in mainland China produced by the Chinese Musicians' Association, a national music organisation in China, in celebrating one hundred years of Chinese symphonic music. The Hong Kong Sinfonietta performed a repertoire ranging from as early as the late 1920s to the 1990s, featuring works of Huang Zi, Jiang Wenye, He Luting, Chan Pui-fan, Zhu Jianer, Chen Qigang and Victor Chan. Distinguished local scholars and musicians participated in a pre-concert talk on Chinese symphonic music.

Composition Workshop with Ensemble Modern

In collaboration with the Leisure and Cultural Services Department of Hong Kong and the Music Department of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the Guild organised a three-hour composition workshop with the Ensemble Modern (Germany) on 5th November 2008 at the Lee Hysan Concert Hall at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. A call-for-scores was arranged in September 2008 and the Guild selected *String Quartet No.2* by Chris Hung, *Quintet* (for bassoon, 2 violins, viola and cello) by Wong Kong-yu, *Loch Ness* (for clarinet, bassoon, violin, cello, piano and percussion) by Austin Yip, and Leung Chi-hin's *Whirling in the Ocean* (for flute/piccolo, oboe, clarinet, bassoon/double bassoon, trombone, 2 violins, viola, 2 cellos).

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