

Local artists to share experiences on production of operas in Chinese

"Operas in Chinese Lecture Demonstration Series" will be held in October, featuring tenor David Quah as host. Guest speakers and local artists will be invited to join the lectures to share their experiences in performing and producing operas in Chinese, accompanied by live music demonstrations.

Details of the lecture series are as follows:

October 2 (Wednesday)

Topic: From Western Opera to Opera in Chinese

Content: David Quah will share the differences between singing operas in Putonghua and European languages. He will also discuss different techniques when it comes to interpretation, supported by his demonstration.

Speaker and demonstration artist: David Quah

Pianist: Dennis Tam

October 9 (Wednesday)

Topic: Composing for Operas in Chinese

Content: Recognised as having created the largest output of Hong Kong opera compositions, composer Chan Hing-yan will explore various aspects of writing operas in the Chinese language by drawing examples from his works.

Speaker: Chan Hing-yan

Demonstration artist: David Quah

Pianist: Dennis Tam

October 16 (Wednesday)

Topic: Is Composing Operas in Cantonese an Impossible Task?

Content: Setting operas to the nine tones of Cantonese is not an easy feat. Composer Chan Hing-yan and librettist Mak Su-yin will share their views and expertise with us.

Speakers: Chan Hing-yan and Mak Su-yin

Demonstration artists: David Quah and Candice Chung

Pianist: Dennis Tam

October 23 (Wednesday)

Topic: The Evolution of Opera

Content: Professor Law Wing-fai will share his vision of operas in Chinese, which deviate from conventional Western operas, with an emphasis on atmospheric creation that comes from an oriental aesthetic point of view.

Speaker: Law Wing-fai

Demonstration artist: David Quah

Pipa player: Lam Tsan-tong

Presented by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, all lectures will be held at 7.30pm at the Lecture Hall of the Space Museum. Tickets priced at \$50 (free seating) are now available at URB TIX (www.urbtix.hk). For telephone credit card bookings, please call 2111 5999. For programme

enquiries and concessionary schemes, please call 2268 7321 or visit www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/CulturalService/Programme/en/music/programs_859.html.

Marine Department announcement

Attention duty announcers, radio and TV stations:

Please broadcast the following message as soon as possible and repeat it at suitable intervals:

As Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal No.1 has been issued, the Marine Department reminds vessel owners, masters and persons-in-charge of vessels that they should take precautionary measures immediately and properly secure their vessels at safe locations.

In case of an accident, a report should be made immediately to the Vessel Traffic Centre at 2233 7801.

Lifesaving services at Golden Beach resume

Attention TV/Radio Announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible and repeat it at regular intervals:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department has announced that the lifesaving services at Golden Beach in Tuen Mun District resumed today (August 28). The lifesaving services at the beach were suspended earlier due to an insufficient number of lifeguards on duty.

Applications invited for Research

Fellowship Scheme

The Food and Health Bureau today (August 28) invited interested parties to apply for the Research Fellowship Scheme under the Health and Medical Research Fund.

The scheme aims to support researchers or professionals in their early to mid-career, particularly healthcare professionals, to enhance their skills in public health research, in particular public health policy.

To tie in with the launch of the Government's "Towards 2025: Strategy and Action Plan to Prevent and Control Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs) in Hong Kong" and the Hong Kong Cancer Strategy 2019, higher priority will be accorded to applications which address the preventable or modifiable risk factors for NCDs, namely smoking, alcohol drinking, unhealthy diet and physical inactivity. Subject to the quality of the applications, at least four of the eight awards will be granted to applications which can address the aforementioned four factors for NCDs, with one award in each area.

In addition, as the main purpose of this research fellowship scheme is to equip fellowship awardees with the knowledge and skills to become independent scientists/researchers, starting from this round of application, more emphasis will be put on the training plan by raising the budget ceiling and weighting on assessment of the training programme.

The grant ceiling per award is \$1.2 million inclusive of \$400,000 for training. Tertiary institutions funded by the University Grants Committee can each nominate up to five fellowship applicants. Each applicant can only submit one application.

The application should cover:

- * a local or overseas training programme (regular programmes for higher academic qualifications, e.g. Master or PhD degree will not be considered); and
- * a research project relating to the proposed training programme which could be a small-scale study, preferably with no more than three research objectives. Pilot studies are also welcomed.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited for an interview. Applications will be subject to peer review. The vetting will take into account the capability of the applicant and his or her performance at the interview, the support by the mentor and administering institution, the importance of the training proposal and its relevance to the proposed research project. The proposed research project will be evaluated on its scientific merit, local relevance, translational potential or value, value for money of the proposals, research ethics and the track record of the applicant.

The closing date for application is 6pm on November 19, 2019. Application guidelines can be downloaded from the [website of Research Fund Secretariat](#). Enquiries can be made by fax at 2102 2444 or by email to rfs@fhb.gov.hk.

Students reminded to attend school early on first school day

The Transport Department (TD) today (August 28) reminded students to attend school early on the first school day next Monday (September 2) as traffic is expected to be busier than normal.

"Students, especially those attending a new school, should familiarise themselves with the public transport routes to be taken to school and allow more travelling time on the first school day. Students living on the outlying islands or attending schools on the outlying islands should check the ferry schedules, the vessel types to be used and journey times for their intended ferry trips beforehand. Students are also reminded to pay attention to road safety when attending school," a department spokesman said.

Major public transport operators have been reminded to provide adequate public transport services to meet the transport demand on the first school day.

"The TD's Emergency Transport Co-ordination Centre (ETCC) will closely monitor the traffic situation and public transport services on September 2. The department will maintain close liaison with major public transport operators and relevant government departments. Staff will be deployed at various major locations throughout the territory to observe the traffic conditions and provide on-site information to the ETCC for arranging public transport service enhancement or informing the Police for traffic regulation when necessary," the spokesman added.

More information may be obtained through the following hotlines and websites of major public transport operators:

Operator	Hotline	Website
MTR Corporation Limited	2881 8888	www.mtr.com.hk
New World First Bus	2136 8888	www.nwstbus.com.hk
Citybus	2873 0818	www.nwstbus.com.hk
Kowloon Motor Bus	2745 4466	www.kmb.hk
Long Win Bus	2261 2791	www.lwb.hk

New Lantao Bus	2984 9848	www.newlantaobus.com
New World First Ferry	2131 8181	www.nwff.com.hk
Hong Kong and Kowloon Ferry	2815 6063	www.hkkf.com.hk

Motorists are advised not to drive to the school areas if possible. Drivers of nanny vans and school buses should not carry excess passengers or leave schoolchildren in vehicles unattended. An escort should be provided on board when serving kindergarten or primary school students. Parents should agree well in advance with schools, operators of nanny vans or school buses on the locations for picking up and dropping off their children.

Members of the public are advised to pay attention to the latest transport and traffic news on radio and television before leaving home. For enquiries, please call the department's hotline at 2804 2600 or the 1823 Call Centre.