

Heredity of Love and Musical Moments Charity Concerts

~ Dr. Timothy Yuk-Yau LAI, Trumpet, The HKMA Orchestra,



The HKMA Orchestra had a very busy schedule in October 2007 with a total three performances. The first concert was the Heredity of Love Charity Concert held at the Jockey Club Auditorium of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University on 8 October. The concert raised around HK\$1 million for the Hong Kong Mucopolysaccharidoses & Rare Genetic Diseases Mutual Aid Group. This was followed by two Musical Moments concerts at the concert hall of the Hong Kong Cultural Center on 22 and 23 October. These two concerts raised more than HK\$2.8 million for the Lifeline Express to provide free cataract operations for patients on Mainland China.

Despite having less than eight weeks to prepare and rehearse for the Heredity of Love Charity Concert, the concert was a great success. The evening started with the HKMA orchestra playing three movements from Handel's Water Music. This was followed by familiar movements from various concertos with section principles of the orchestra playing as soloists. These included clarinet concerto by Mozart, double violin concerto by Vivaldi, trumpet concerto by Haydn, flute concerto by Bach, and oboe concerto by Albinoni.

The second half of the concert was performed by the star of the evening, the internationally acclaimed "Four Fingered Pianist" Lee Hee-Ah from Korea. With only two fingers in each hand and very much shortened lower limbs, Hee-Ah touched the hearts of the audience with music by Beethoven, Pachelbel and Brahms. She even played Chopin's Fantasia Impromptu, one of the most difficult pieces in the piano repertoire. In addition to her piano performance, Hee-Ah also sang two songs for the audience including Ahrirang (a Korean Folk Song) and 月亮代表我的心 in Putonghua.

The evening ended with HKMA orchestra accompanying Hee Ah and nine mucopolysaccharidosis patients singing Amazing Grace. At the end of the song, the auditorium was filled by a standing ovation from the audience. For many members of the orchestra and the audience, the evening was certainly one of the most memorable concerts ever.

Following the success of last year's Musical Moments Concert, the HKMA Orchestra was again invited to participate in this year's Musical Moments Concerts for Lifeline Express. Together with the Songsingers Choir, we accompanied a team of musical professionals in an extravaganza of Broadway and West End musicals hits. In addition, Mrs Linda Wong and Dr.

David Fan also joined our performance as special guests on the first Gala night. We played more than 30 musical favorites from Les Miserables, Miss Saigon, Jesus Christ Superstar, Phantom of the Opera, Dreamgirls, the Lion King, Mamma Mia, etc... Preparing for the Musical Moments Concerts was quite a challenging task for many of us as we were mostly trained in playing classical music. Our conductor, maestro Mr. Woo Zun-Hin did an excellent job in transforming us into playing pop music. The atmosphere of the concert reached a climax as the audience joined the cast in singing and dancing in the finale together. Both concerts were very well received by the audience.

