



Music in the community

With the help of "HSBC Insurance Creative Notes" music education program, the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra has been spreading the wonders of music for four years. A community concert was held in March to bring music to residents of Tung Chung.



Following the success of its first ever community concert in Tin Shui Wai last year, the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HKPO) is eager to reach out to other outlying communities in Hong Kong. In late March, the HKPO presented a community concert at Ching Chung Hau Po Woon Primary School in Tung Chung.

Integrating music and drawing

Under the baton of conductor Philip Chu, the HKPO performed a popular work by Russian composer Modest Mussorgsky, Pictures at an Exhibition, while 30 students from the School displayed nearly 100 creative and beautiful drawings inspired by the music.

To equip the primary students with a basic understanding on the musical piece and the surroundings that inspired Mussorgsky to compose Pictures at an Exhibition, the music and art teachers had led students in gathering reference materials online. As Ms. Chow Lokar, music panel of the school explained, the preparation was conducted during class time. Students had gained understanding such as the composer's background and the reason of the creation of the pieces, then they were given a period of time to unleash their creativity and work on their own drawings. They were thrilled to be participating in the concert and feel honored to be able to display their works in front of a large audience. Mr. Lee Tak-wing, the school's visual art panel, attributed the success to the school's commitment to art education.

"Students are nurtured from a young age to express their emotions through various drawing techniques. From the hues they choose, to the amount of force applied to each brush or dots, students will be able to channel

their feelings easily," said Mr. Lee.

According to Ms. Chan Yee-wah, Vice Principal of the school, arts education is highly valued in their curriculum and they have directed huge resources to this aspect. Students at the school have established a solid foundation over the years and are exposed to various fields of music, drawing and drama.

"Art helps build confidence in students as well. We often witness improvements in academic results in those who perform well in arts. They also show patience during studies," said Ms. Chan.

The spread of music

Mr. Raff Wilson, Director of Artistic Planning at the HKPO, explained their choice of Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition and how they think the concert will benefit students.

"This particular piece is very well suited to the concert since the music itself was inspired by paintings and drawings... We play the music to the children and they get to respond in their own way," he said.

"It's a great thing to have our first concert in Tung Chung," he said, "when you hear music live, it's a very different experience. You feel the resonance, you feel much more of the physical sound being made. That's why coming to Tung Chung to play for the students who otherwise may not get a chance to hear it is very important."

Seeing the importance of making music part of people's daily lives, HKPO has been advancing music education in Hong Kong for decades, and

so is HSBC Insurance, the program's sponsor since the inception.

According to Mr. David Fried, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, HSBC Insurance (Asia-Pacific) Holdings Limited, HSBC Insurance believes that music can enrich everyone's life and improve their physical and mental wellbeing. He highly appreciated the concert and the "HSBC Insurance Creative Notes" music education program.

"The fact that they can actually just blend the children and the pictures in the music makes the concert very distinctive... Music is very special and it can be adapted. You can do so many things with music. This allows the students to adapt their learning to the



program," he said.

"We have been involved in this for the last four years. We expect to continue spreading music and education to the students throughout Hong Kong," he added.

Sowing musical seeds



While the community concert held earlier in Tung Chung created a buzz among students and residents in the community, the "HSBC Insurance Creative Notes" program is also bringing the joy of music to over 50,000 students from 381 local schools through 15 student concerts, 50 school visits by HKPO ensembles and 10 instrumental master-classes.

One of the school visits was held at T.K.D.S. Fong Shu Chuen School in mid April. Some students expressed that it was the first time for them to benefit from an HKPO performance. As instrument players themselves, some primary

six students said they see plenty of room for improvement and that the performance has allowed them appreciate individual instruments' specialities.

"It's quite rare for our students to have close encounters with musicians from the HKPO. This visit allowed them to gain exposure to music and we can see that they enjoyed themselves. To promote music across the school, we also sponsor some of our students and encourage them to take part in various musical instrument classes," said Ms. Lo Chi-yun, music panel of the school.

