

Calvin Lai to host appreciation talks on Italian Baroque vocal music

"Italian Baroque – Appreciation Talks with Live Choral Music", hosted by Calvin Lai, will be held in December. Presented by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, the live music demonstration will be performed by SingFest Choral Academy featuring Dominic Lam as chorus master.

Calvin Lai, a broadcaster of RTHK Radio 4, speaker, tutor, and writer, has gained a wealth of experience in producing and presenting classical music and educational programmes to a wide audience. Lai also honed his skills and served as a technical score advisor for filming classical music performances. He is a co-author of a collection of articles about classical music and related stories published in 2007.

The series consists of three talks. Lai will guide the audience through three topics of vocal music in the Italian Baroque era, from its origin, development and propagation.

Details are as follows:

December 4 (Friday)

Topic: Where it All Started

To trace the origin of Baroque music, the focus is on two epoch-making composers – Claudio Monteverdi, who put new energy into opera as a genre, and Giovanni Gabrieli who excelled in the use of space and contrast.

December 11 (Friday)

Topic: Among Italian City-States

To introduce remarkable composers from various Italian city-states in history, and the characteristics of their works, with a special focus on Giovanni Battista Pergolesi, composer of Stabat Mater. He was a genius of great talent and influence who unfortunately died at a young age.

December 12 (Saturday)

Topic: Reaching High and Far

To focus on the propagation and changes of the Italian style in Europe at an earlier time, and how it transformed into the Baroque style.

The talks, to be conducted in Cantonese, will be held at 7.30pm at the Lecture Hall of the Hong Kong Space Museum. Tickets priced at \$60 (each talk) 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_1046.html.