

Four young talents awarded Hong Kong Jockey Club Music and Dance Fund scholarships (with photo)

The following is issued on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Hong Kong Jockey Club Music and Dance Fund:

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Music and Dance Fund held a ceremony today (August 9) to award scholarships to four young talents in music and dance.

Scholarships were awarded to four recipients this year, namely, Mr Wayson Poon, Miss Laurentia Woo, Miss Judy Yiu and Miss Helen Yu. Three of the awardees or their representatives attended the award ceremony and shared their thoughts. They thanked the Fund for its support and committed themselves to making the best use of their opportunity to pursue further studies in Hong Kong or abroad.

This year's scholarships, totalling \$2.35 million, will support the awardees to pursue further education in the field of music or dance in Hong Kong or overseas, enabling them to contribute to the development of arts in Hong Kong upon the completion of their studies. This year, the Fund also supports awardees to study music or dance education in Hong Kong with an aim to nurture educators in the music or dance field.

Attending the ceremony were the Board Chairman of the Fund, Mr Douglas So; Deputy Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism Mrs Vicki Kwok; Senior Charities Manager of the Hong Kong Jockey Club Ms Meiyee Wong; Board members of the Fund, Dr Lesley Chan, Miss Lisa Marie Djeng and Ms Iona Sham; past Board members of the Fund, Mr Philip Kan, Dr Qin Rong and Ms Selina Tsang; the Chairperson of the Music Audition Panel, Mr Warren Lee; the Chairperson of the Dance Audition Panel, Ms Tania Tang; member of the Dance Audition Panel Professor Anna Chan; Pre-screening Panel members Ms Amelia Chan, Professor Carmen Koon, Dr Michael Leung and Mr Andrew Ling; and the Executive Committee Chairperson of the Fund's Awardees Association, Ms Carol Yu; Vice-Chairperson (Dance) Mr Allen Lam and members (Dance) Mr Li Long-hin and Mr Ronny Wong.

The Fund was set up in 1980 with a \$10 million donation from the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust for the promotion and development of music and dance education and training in Hong Kong. In 1994, a further capital injection of \$22 million was provided by the Trust to meet an increasing demand for financial support. In 2014, the Trust approved an additional funding of more than \$16 million to implement a six-year pilot project which included the launching of a local scholarship scheme for post-graduate studies in addition to the established non-local studies music and dance scholarship scheme, and the setting up of the Hong Kong Jockey Club Music and Dance Fund Awardees Association. Upon the completion of the pilot project in

2020, the Trust provided a three-year funding of \$5.68 million to enable the Fund to sustain the local scholarship scheme and support the operation of the Awardees Association. To date (including this year), the Fund has awarded 367 scholarships amounting to about \$80.95 million.

