

Guangdong and Local Chiu Chow opera troupes to perform in March and April

The Raoping Chiu Chow Opera Troupe of Guangdong will collaborate with the Sun Hon Kwong Chiu Chow Opera Troupe for three performances in March and April. Details of the performances are as follows:

"A Comedy of Betrothals"
March 30 (Saturday), 7.30pm
Auditorium, Ko Shan Theatre New Wing

"Qin Xianglian"
March 31 (Sunday), 7.30pm
Theatre, Sheung Wan Civic Centre

"Cheng Ying Saves the Orphan of Zhao"
April 1 (Monday), 7.30pm
Theatre, Sheung Wan Civic Centre

The main cast from the Raoping Chiu Chow Opera Troupe of Guangdong includes Wang Guojun, Yu Yuyun, Yang Rongyu, Huang Chengzhong, Li Muming, Shen Mingtong, Shen Shaojun and Shen Xinge.

Chiu Chow opera is performed in the Chiu Chow dialect and is one of the principal Chinese operatic genres. The genre's repertory origins lie in South China's operatic plays of the Song and Yuan periods, and are characterised by vivid, affable dialogue and lyrics, making the performances highly accessible and enjoyable.

Founded in 1956, the Raoping Chiu Chow Opera Troupe of Guangdong has built up a repertoire of distinctly colourful opera works, in the form of both new productions and adaptations. Most works, with new ideas merged, are performed by budding young actors. The troupe is committed to promoting the heritage and development of the art of Chiu Chow opera.

The Sun Hon Kwong Chiu Chow Opera Troupe, formerly the Hon Kwong Chiu Chow Opera Troupe, was founded in 1959 and turned professional in 1987. Its members consist of virtuosi in Chiu Chow opera in Hong Kong, as well as young artists groomed in recent years. The troupe has maintained close contacts with other troupes in the Mainland and often collaborates with them in giving joint performances. The artistic exchanges are conducive to the development of the genre.

The above-mentioned performances are presented by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, with Chinese surtitles while English synopsis will be available upon request. Tickets priced at \$140, \$180 and \$220 are now available at URBTIX (www.urbtix.hk). For telephone credit card bookings, please call 2111 5999. For programme enquiries and concessionary schemes,

please call 2268 7325 or visit

www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/CulturalService/Programme/en/chinese_opera/programs_721.html.