

Outreach Music Interest Courses open for applications

The Outreach Music Interest Courses organised by the Music Office of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) are now open for applications. Members of the public are welcome to apply for over 80 courses, ranging from basic Chinese and Western musical instrument classes to music workshops, which will be held from March to August.

The Outreach Music Interest Courses will launch two new courses. One new course, the "Music Creation Series: Workshop on Composition and Orchestration for Symphonic Band (Advanced)", will cover topics on selecting suitable music pieces to arrange for symphonic bands, orchestration, arrangement and composition of wind ensemble music, and the role and application of percussion. The course welcomes school music teachers, trainee teachers, symphonic band directors, composers and music arrangers of wind music, and music students of tertiary institutes to apply. The other new adult course is an elementary course on folk guitar playing. The fees of the new courses are \$480 and \$670 respectively.

In addition, the Music Office will offer the "'Soundtrap' Online Music Making Workshop", introducing the use of a free music app in music improvisation and creation, and online collaboration between different participants. The "Let's e-Orch!" face-to-face workshop will offer ensemble training with a free music app, GarageBand, and introduce the sounds and characteristics of different instruments. Adults are welcome to join the courses for fees of \$430 and \$805 respectively.

The Music Office will also offer elementary courses on kalimba, the little harp, keyboard, ukulele and classical guitar; Western music theory (Grades 1 and 2); aural training; instrumental enrichment courses of liuyeqin, zhong-ruan, pipa, yangqin, zheng, erhu, violin, viola, cello and percussion (glockenspiel and practice pad); and ensemble training of Western strings and Chinese instruments. The course fees range from \$320 to \$1,005.

The Outreach Music Interest Courses will continue to provide basic training on liuyeqin, zhong-ruan, pipa, yangqin, zheng, erhu, violin, viola, cello and percussion (glockenspiel and practice pad). The course fee is \$1,070.

All courses are conducted in small groups in Cantonese. Participants of online courses are required to prepare their own electronic device equipped with a wireless or broadband data connection, a webcam and Zoom software in advance. Other courses will be held at different venues across the territory, namely the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, Sha Tin Town Hall, Tsuen Wan Town Hall, Tuen Mun Town Hall, North District Town Hall, Yuen Long Theatre, Sheung Wan Civic Centre, Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre, Kwai Tsing Theatre, Ko Shan Theatre, Hong Kong Central Library and the Music Office's music centres in Wan Chai, Mong Kok, Kwun Tong, Sha Tin and Tsuen Wan.

Online applications are now available at the Music Office website www.lcsd.gov.hk/musicoffice. Course prospectuses and application forms are also available at various performance venues of the LCSD and music centres of the Music Office. The deadline for applications is January 25. Oversubscribed courses will be processed by ballot. For courses not fully taken up after the first round of application, places will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis from March 2.

For enquiries, please call 3842 7773, 2596 0898 or 2598 8335.

All persons are required to use the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile application to scan the venue QR code before they are allowed to enter offices and venues under the LCSD, except for exempted persons who are aged below 12 or aged 65 or above and those with disabilities that render use of the app difficult. Exemptions will also be granted to individual persons depending on the actual circumstances. All exempted persons are required to complete a record form to register their personal particulars and the date and time of their visit. As it will take time to verify personal particulars of exempted persons under the arrangement, their waiting time for using public services or entering the relevant venues may be lengthened. The LCSD suggests that members of the public arrive early, and appeals for their understanding. The department also encourages the exempted persons to use the app as far as possible to save time.