

SFETO supports premiere of “Mila” in San Francisco (with photos)

"Mila", a chamber opera presented by the Hong Kong Arts Development Council and the Asia Society Hong Kong Center, was performed in San Francisco, the United States on December 12 (San Francisco time). Called "quirky, quintessentially Hong Kong, and bold" by Time magazine, "Mila" explores the cultural richness and diversity of Hong Kong and was produced by an international cast and creative team from the US, Hong Kong and the Philippines.

Supported by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in San Francisco (SFETO), a pre-performance reception was held to welcome the San Francisco audience. Addressing the audience before the performance, the Director of the SFETO, Mr Ivanhoe Chang, said this one-act opera has not only brought together a contemporary narrative that is pertinent in Hong Kong, but also promotes a meaningful cultural connection between East and West.

"Hong Kong is a dynamic and diverse cultural metropolis and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government is very committed to the development of the arts. Our office also strives to promote the cultural exchanges between Hong Kong and the western part of the US," Mr Chang said.

He thanked the Asia Society for taking the production to San Francisco. The four-member cast comprises Hong Kong-born sopranos Amanda Li and Joanna Shao, New York-based bass-baritone Joseph Beutel and Manila-based soprano Stefanie Quintin. The creative team includes American-born composer Eli Marshall, New York-based music director Neal Goren, award-winning playwright Candace Chong and Hong Kong theatre director Chan Chu-hei.

