

Xinqin opera and traditional Cantonese opera to tell tale of two genres

The Chinese Opera Festival, presented by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, will stage "A Tale of Two Genres – Xiqin Opera and Traditional Cantonese Opera" in August. Featuring Lu Weiping, a Representative Bearer of Xiqin Opera as a National Intangible Cultural Heritage, and Cantonese opera virtuosi Law Ka-ying, Wan Fai-yin, Cheng Wing-mui, the performances will highlight interrelated aspects of the two genres while revealing elements of their shared origin.

Xiqin opera is a regional genre that originated from the Xiqin singing style of the Ming dynasty (i.e. qinqiang and Gansu singing styles). It spread to the Hai (Lu) Feng area of Shanwei and evolved along with local folk arts and customs. The genre gradually developed its own form during the early Qing dynasty. It was inscribed in the first listing of National Intangible Cultural Heritage in China in 2006. The Haifeng County Xiqin Opera Heritage Centre (formerly Haifeng Xiqin Operatic Troupe) is at present the only professional group specialising in Xiqin opera. Its Director, Lu Weiping, will lead the troupe's performance in Hong Kong.

In this programme, shared aspects of classic plays of Xiqin opera and traditional Cantonese opera will be performed on stage. "Executing Own Son at the Gate", a "pihuang" play of Xiqin opera, shares similar content with "Liulang Executing His Son", a Cantonese opera play in the classic singing style. The former is also a representative play of the "laosheng" (old male) role, while the latter has its own distinctive singing styles, including the reprimanding tone of Yang Liulang and the singing style of Mu Gua. "Executing Zheng En", which is sung in "xipi", resembles the Cantonese opera play "Executing the Duke's Second Brother", which is sung in the classic singing style. "Executing the Duke's Second Brother" is one of the "Eighteen Plays of Cantonese Opera" of the Qing dynasty, as well as one of the earliest great Cantonese opera plays in the classic singing style of Guangdong. Traditional skilful routines will be demonstrated in excerpts of Xiqin opera. In "Liu Xi Chastising His Sons", for example, Liu Xi performs the traditional chair stunt, using only his waist, hips and legs to move and turn the chair.

Details of the programme are as follow:

August 3 (Friday) 7.30pm

Cantonese opera in classic singing style "Liulang Executing His Son" and Xiqin opera "Executing Zheng En"

August 4 (Saturday) 7.30pm

Xiqin opera "Executing Own Son at the Gate" and Cantonese opera in classic singing style "Executing the Duke's Second Brother"

August 5 (Sunday) 2.30pm

Xiqin opera Excerpts: "Beating Hands", "Grasping the Vanity Case", "Returning to Xiqi", "Liu Xi Chastising His Sons" and
Cantonese opera in classic singing style "A Blood Oath Sworn in Grotto"

All performances will be staged at Theatre, Ko Shan Theatre. Tickets priced at \$150, \$220, \$280 and \$340 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.cof.gov.hk).

A Meet-the-Artists session on "Xinqin opera and Cantonese opera with Analogous Repertories" featuring Law Ka-ying and Lu Weiping will be held at 7.30pm on August 2 (Thursday) at AC2, Level 4, Administration Building, Hong Kong Cultural Centre. Admission is free. Limited seats will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Monday, June 25, 2018 is 101.4 (up 0.3 against last Saturday's index).

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Saturday, June 23, 2018 is 101.1 (up 0.1 against last Friday's index).

LegCo Public Accounts Committee to hold public hearing tomorrow

The following is issued on behalf of the Legislative Council Secretariat:

The Legislative Council (LegCo) Public Accounts Committee (PAC) will hold a public hearing on "Management of restored landfills" (Chapter 1) of the Director of Audit's Report No.70 at 9am tomorrow (June 26) in Conference Room 2 of the LegCo Complex.

Fifteen witnesses have been invited to appear before the above hearing to respond to points raised in the Report and answer questions asked by PAC members.

The programme for the public hearing is as follows:

Date: June 26 (Tuesday)

Time: 9am

Venue: Conference Room 2

Subject: Management of restored landfills (Chapter 1 of the Director of Audit's Report No.70)

Witnesses:

Secretary for the Environment

Mr Wong Kam-sing

Under Secretary for Home Affairs

Mr Jack Chan

Principal Assistant Secretary (Recreation and Sport) 2, Home Affairs Bureau

Ms Linda Law

Director of Environmental Protection

Mr Donald Tong

Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (2)

Mrs Vicki Kwok

Acting Assistant Director (Environmental Infrastructure), Environmental Protection Department

Mr Fong Kin-wa

Assistant Director (Nature Conservation and Infrastructure Planning), Environmental Protection Department

Dr Samuel Chui

Officer-in-charge (Restored Landfill Revitalisation), Environmental Protection Department

Mr Alfred Ng

Acting Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Ms Ida Lee

Chief Executive Officer (Planning) 2, Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Ms Linda Cheung

Director of Architectural Services

Mrs Sylvia Lam

Project Director 3, Architectural Services Department

Mr Edward Tse

Chief Project Manager 302, Architectural Services Department

Mr Chris Liu

Deputy Director (1), Home Affairs Department
Miss Charmaine Wong

Assistant Director (2), Home Affairs Department
Ms Eugenia Chung

PAC is chaired by Mr Abraham Shek, and its Deputy Chairman is Mr Kenneth Leung. Other members include Mr Paul Tse, Mr Steven Ho, Mr Lam Cheuk-ting, Mr Shiu Ka-fai and Ms Tanya Chan.

Toll ticket arrangements for Tate's Cairn Tunnel upon franchise expiry

The Transport Department (TD) today (June 25) announced the toll ticket arrangements upon the expiry of the Tate's Cairn Tunnel (TCT) franchise.

The TCT will be taken over by the Government on July 11 and become a government tunnel. The toll tickets issued by the current franchisee (i.e. the Tate's Cairn Tunnel Company Limited) will not be accepted for payment of tolls at the TCT from July 11. At the same time, government tunnel toll tickets can be used at the TCT. Eligible drivers with disabilities can produce free tickets for government tunnels to toll collectors when using the TCT from the same day.

The government tunnel toll tickets for the TCT, which can be used from July 11, are now available for sale at the government tunnel ticket sale outlets.

For enquiries on the toll levels of the TCT, members of the public may browse the TD's website at www.td.gov.hk. For enquiries on the toll tickets issued by the current franchisee, please contact the Tate's Cairn Tunnel Company Limited at 2632 5214.

Red flag hoisted at Silverstrand Beach

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (June 25) that due to inclement weather, the red flag has been hoisted at Silverstrand Beach in Sai Kung District. Beach-goers are advised not to swim at the beach.