

Young artists from Cantonese Opera Academy to showcase their talent in end of term performance

The Cantonese Opera Academy of Hong Kong Training Course – End of Term Performance 2017/18, presented by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, will be held on July 21. The programme will offer an opportunity for the Academy's young Cantonese opera performers to showcase their talent and achievements onstage.

The performance will present excerpts from three operas, namely "First Encounter" from "The Story of the Purple Hairpin", "A Startling Change" and "Stealing the Magical Plant" from "The Legend of the White Snake", and "The Hunt War" from "Never-ending Love". The performances will feature current students of the Academy including Harumi Lau, Chan Shuk-lai, Mock Sum-ye, Chung Hei-man, Hon Tak-kwong, Yip Wing-yi, Vanessa Lung, Lam Kei-tung, Kwok Chun-hang, Wong Yeuk-ning, Houston Chan, Roy Cheung, Lui Chi-fung, Wong Cheuk-ki, Jackie Leung, Ho Wing-yan and Chan Sze-wa.

The Cantonese Opera Academy of Hong Kong organises different training courses to train up performers, playwrights and instrument accompanists. Among the courses is a four-year programme in which young performers are trained in a progressive way by professional tutors and senior artists.

The Cantonese Opera Academy of Hong Kong – End of Term Performance 2017/18 will be staged at 7.30pm on July 21 (Saturday) at the Auditorium of the Ko Shan Theatre New Wing. Tickets priced at \$60 and \$90 are available at www.urbtix.hk. For credit card telephone bookings, please call 2111 5999.

For programme enquiries and concessionary schemes, please call 2591 1300 or visit www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/CulturalService/ab/en/CT0C1718.php.

Fraudulent website and phishing email related to Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority:

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) wishes to alert members of the public to a press release issued by Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited on fraudulent website and phishing email, which has been reported to the HKMA.

Hyperlink to the press release is available on the [HKMA website](#) for ease of reference by members of the public.

Anyone who has provided his or her personal information to the website concerned or has conducted any financial transactions through the website should contact the bank concerned using the contact information provided in the press release, and report to the Police or contact the Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau of the Hong Kong Police Force at 2860 5012.

Applications selected for 36th personalised vehicle registration marks exercise

The Transport Department (TD) announced today (June 21) that the application numbers of the 1 500 personalised vehicle registration mark (PVRM) applications selected by lot for the 36th exercise have been published on its website (www.td.gov.hk) and posted on the notice boards of the department's licensing offices.

"The applicants have already been sent an acknowledgement of receipt bearing an application number. They may check the list to see whether their applications have been selected. Applicants will also be notified of the ballot results by post in batches," a department spokesman said.

The department will later check the proposed PVRMs selected against the basic combination requirements. If, among the selected applications, more than one applicant proposes the same PVRM, only the one on which the lot falls first out of those applications will be further processed.

If the selected PVRMs meet the basic requirements, the department will send notices by registered mail to the applicants in batches, requiring them to pay a deposit of \$5,000 within the period specified in the notice. If an applicant fails to pay the deposit within that period, his or her application will be cancelled automatically and will not be further processed.

Upon receipt of the deposit, the Commissioner for Transport will determine, with the assistance of a vetting committee, whether an application should be approved or rejected. PVRMs approved in the 36th exercise will be put up for auction in batches. Auction details will be published in newspapers and on the department's website in due course.

For enquiries, applicants can call TD Hotline at 2804 2600.

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New Practice Direction on restrictions on use of mobile phones in courtrooms

for jury proceedings issued

The following is issued on behalf of the Judiciary:

The Judiciary announced today (June 21) that, with effect from July 19, court users must not use mobile phones or any other devices with photo-taking or video-recording abilities (prohibited devices) inside courtrooms where jury proceedings are held. These proceedings cover civil or criminal trials by jury at the High Court and inquests before the Coroner's Court involving a jury. The parties, legal representatives, members of the law enforcement agencies and members of the media in designated areas will be exempted from the restrictions.

The spokesman for the Judiciary said, "The due administration of justice is of paramount importance for all court proceedings, including jury proceedings. An important safeguard is the prohibition of photography and video-recording inside court premises without permission.

"In particular, trial by jury is an important part of the administration of justice under the common law, which is constitutionally protected under Article 86 of the Basic Law. Jurors must be free from all actual or perceived interference, pressure or distraction. For this reason, the prohibition of photography and video-recording assumes even greater importance inside courtrooms where jury proceedings are being held."

To provide guidelines on the use of prohibited devices, the Chief Justice has issued a new Practice Direction entitled "Use of Mobile Phones and Other Devices in Courtrooms for Court Proceedings Involving Jury".

The Practice Direction, which sets out restrictions on the use of prohibited devices in courtrooms for court proceedings involving a jury, specifies that unless with the permission of the judge or judicial officer, court users will have to completely switch off all their prohibited devices and put such devices in their bags or pockets whenever they are inside a courtroom, regardless of whether the courtroom is in session.

The spokesman said, "If court users have no suitable bag or pocket, they should put the prohibited devices in a bag to be provided by the court."

The Practice Direction also stipulates that by and upon entering the courtroom for a jury proceeding, all court users, including aforementioned exempted court users, will be deemed to have given a general consent to the court to order any search or inspection of their prohibited devices for the purpose of ascertaining or investigating whether any restrictions on the use of prohibited devices and the prohibition of photo-taking or video-recording in courtrooms have been complied with.

The spokesman said, "For the same purpose of ensuring the proper administration of justice, courts in respect of proceedings other than jury

proceedings may also direct similar or other restrictions on the use of prohibited devices for individual proceedings as appropriate."

The spokesman added, "Subject to applicable law and house rules, these restrictions do not affect the freedom at all times to use mobile phones lawfully at other public parts of court buildings."

In addition, the Judiciary has recently introduced a few enhancement support measures to better remind court users of the prohibition of practices including photo-taking in general. A public reminder announcement is broadcast inside courtrooms before court proceedings commence, additional notices and signage have been placed in more prominent areas, court users are reminded of the prohibition more extensively by Judiciary staff verbally or through written notices as appropriate, and security personnel manpower during court proceedings has been strengthened for monitoring the situation as necessary.

The spokesman said, "Judiciary staff will be deployed at the entrance of courtrooms to remind court users to put prohibited devices inside bags or pockets for jury proceedings."

The Practice Direction will take effect on July 19. Members of the public are welcome to visit the Judiciary's website www.judiciary.hk for details of the Practice Direction.