

Press Release (6 pages in total)  
11<sup>th</sup> July 2019 (Thursday)

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## String Music Dance Theatre *Dance of Strings*

A Dance Performance Where the Wave of Rhyme Meets the Shape of Emotion  
Yang Yuntao x Fung Lam x Yao Jue



Yang Yuntao, Artistic Director of Hong Kong Dance Company, works closely with Yao Jue, world-renowned violinist and Fung Lam, top Asia composer, to examine with familiar Chinese folks music which emerged from the encounters of the bow and the strings. The dance steps weaved the encounters into endless intersections that prompt resonating emotinos...

It has been 5 years since Yang's last cooperation with Yao in the Grand Dance Peom of *The Butterfly Lovers*. Once again, they create a beautiful performance that delights and enchants the audiences.

**String Music Dance Theatre *Dance of Strings* will be launched from 16 to 18 August in Hong Kong Cultural Centre, Studio Theatre. Tickets available now at URBIX.**

The graceful dance steps are combined with the delightful folk songs in a new manner, resulting in a dance that embodies unique qualities of Hong Kong.

The newly arranged music does not only give us pleasurable melody, but also guide the audience to explore the treasures of ethnicity from new angles.

## Programme Information

<b>String Music Dance Theatre <i>Dance of Strings</i></b>	
Date & Time	16-18.8.2019 (Fri to Sun) 7:45pm 17-18.8.2019 (Sat to Sun) 3:00pm
Venue	Hong Kong Cultural Centre Studio Theatre
Ticket Price	\$320、\$220 Hong Kong Cultural Central Studio Theatre (Full-time student, people with disabilities and the minder, senior citizens aged over 60 or above and CSSA recipient enjoy 50 % off discount – limited offer)
Internet Ticketing	<a href="http://www.urbtix.hk">www.urbtix.hk</a>
Mobile Ticketing App	My URB TIX
Telephone Credit Card Booking	2111 5999
Ticketing Enquiries	3761 6661
Programme Enquiries	3103 1810   <a href="mailto:hkdance@hkdance.com">hkdance@hkdance.com</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.hkdance.com">www.hkdance.com</a>
Suitable for aged 6 or above   Hong Kong Dance Company reserves the right to change programme details and substitute artists	

## Creative Team

Concept & Choreographer	Yang Yuntao
Music Director & Composer	Fung Lam
Concept & Guest Violin Soloist	Yao Jue
Assistant Choreographer	Huang Lei
Live Dance Performance	Hong Kong Dance Company
Live Music Performance	Hong Kong String Orchestra

[More Information](#)

[Programme Trailer](#)

## Introduction of Creative Team



### Yang Yuntao

Accomplished dancer and choreographer Yang Yuntao was a winner in the Hong Kong Dance Awards in 2003 and 2006 for his outstanding dance performance, and was awarded Best Artist (Dance) in the Hong Kong Arts Development Awards 2009. He joined HKDC in 2002 as Principal Dancer. He has been HKDC's Artistic Director since November 2013.

Yang has choreographed for various dance companies. His award-winning choreography credits for HKDC include: *Spring Ritual · Eulogy*, winner of Outstanding Achievement in Production at the 2013 Hong Kong Dance Awards and presented in Beijing and Taipei in 2013; *The Legend of Mulan*, winner of Outstanding Production and Outstanding Ensemble Performance in the 2014 Hong Kong Dance Awards and presented in New York and Sydney in 2015 and in London in 2017; *Storm Clouds*, winner of three awards in the 2015 Hong Kong Dance Awards; and *L'Amour Immortel*, winner of three awards in the 2016 Hong Kong Dance Awards and presented in Beijing and Guangzhou in 2017.



### Fung Lam (born 1979)

Described by The Independent as a composer with "a distinctive voice", Fung Lam has established himself as one of the foremost Asian composers of his generation. His music has been performed in some of the most prestigious venues in the world, including Carnegie Hall in New York, Konzerthaus Berlin, Sydney Opera House, Royal Albert Hall and South Bank Centre in London.

Fung Lam holds the distinction of being the youngest Chinese composer and the first Hong Kong composer ever commissioned by BBC Radio 3. He has to date written over ten orchestral works, including three commissions for BBC Radio 3 (Unlocking, BE and Endless Forms) and two commissions for the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) (Rong and Quintessence). The world première of Endless Forms at the BBC Proms in 2012 received critical acclaims, taking his music to a global audience. An excerpt from Evening Standard's review reads, "... Lam, working with a carefully constructed minimum of material, shapes his musical world with dreamy individuality."

Quintessence, which was composed to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the HK Phil, has been performed, under Jaap van Zweden, in Hong Kong and on tour in 12 major cities in Europe (2015), China (2016) and Asia/Australia (2017) by the HK Phil, where he served as the Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Composer-in-Residence in 2013-14 and the Director of Artistic Planning in 2017-19.

Fung Lam was awarded a Doctor of Philosophy degree in composition from the University of Sussex in 2012. In the same year he received the Young Artist Award 2011 from the Hong Kong Arts Development Council.

## Yao Jue



Yao Jue's professional career has been punctuated by widely acclaimed performances throughout Asia, Europe and the United States. Music critics have universally employed phrases such as, "technically impressive and intensely moving", "impeccable technique", "captivating", "poetic", "stylish" and "lustrous" to describe her performance. She is the only violinist to be included in the 1995 book "China's Famous Females" published by the International Women's Congress in Beijing. Her photo graces the cover with the caption "Jue Yao's playing shows that the Chinese have reached a world class level in music making." Yao plays a 1713 Stradivarius violin.

Yao was awarded a full scholarship by the San Francisco Conservatory of Music to continue her violin studies with Zaven Melikian. Later she graduated from the Juilliard School in New York where she studied under Dorothy DeLay. Yao has performed numerous concerts and at music festivals world-wide. Her expanding discography includes many classic works of the Chinese repertoire. Her most popular compact disc, Butterfly Lovers Violin Concert, with the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra was also filmed as an MTV music video. Up to now, Ms. Yao has released total of 9 CD & DVD solo albums.

[Know More](#)

## Huang Lei



A graduate of the Beijing Dance Academy, Huang Lei joined the Hong Kong Dance Company in 2001 and has performed in *Dream Dances*, *Water Margin*, *Princess Changpin*, *Everlasting Love*, *Seven Sages of the Bamboo Grove*, *Spring Ritual*, *Eulogy*, *The Legend of Mulan*, *The Butterfly Lovers*, *Chinese Hero: A Lone Exile* and *Lady White of West Lake*. He was Co-choreographer of several 8/F Platform productions such as *Min Jian Chuan Qi*, *Dancers' Creation*, *Silk-Stocking Milk Tea*, *Embrace and Dancing Seoul to Soul - Korea. Hong Kong*, *Encounter*. He was also Assistant Choreographer for *Desperately Seeking Miss Blossom*, *Romance of the Three Kingdoms* and Associate Choreographer for *Voices and Dances of the Distant Land*.

Huang has performed with many other companies in Hong Kong, including the Hong Kong Sinfonietta (A Soldier's Story), Zuni Icosahedron (B.O.B) and Tang Shu-wing Theatre Studio's Thunderstorm presented at the New Vision Arts Festival and Kuandu Arts Festival. He also choreographed for Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra's 35th Anniversary Season Opening Concert Ode to Water, Puzzle for the Hong Kong Arts Festival and Passing Shadows for Seoul's International Dance Duet Festival.

Huang has received three Hong Kong Dance Awards: for his choreography of *Min Jian Chuan Qi* (with Yuri Ng and other dancers, 2006), and for his performance in *Dream Dances* (2007) and *Everlasting Love* (2010). He was awarded the Asian Cultural Council's International Choreographer Residence Scholarship to participate in the American Dance Festival in 2010. In the same year, he was also awarded the Hong Kong Arts Development Awards for Young Artist (Dance).

## Collaborator

### About Hong Kong String Orchestra

Founded by Virtuoso Yao Jue BBS, JP, Hong Kong String Orchestra (HKSO) has achieved significant recognition locally and internationally for its “music uniqueness fusing Eastern and Western influences”. HKSO strives to expand musical horizon and promote new music, since its establishment, it has become a string orchestra with the best local strings elites in Hong Kong.

Since 2013, the Orchestra has been enjoyed successful artistic collaborations with array of international musicians and groups, including Tan Dun, Sarah Chang, Qin Li-wei, Hayley Westenra, David Ehrlich, Andrés Cárdenes, Jay Liu, Suk Chamber Orchestra etc.

Under the leadership of Artistic Director Yao Jue, HKSO showcases the talents to audience all over the world. On tour, HKSO has been represented Hong Kong for the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of HKSAR and invited to perform in many different countries and cities such as the U.S., Finland, Sweden etc. The Orchestra has been invited to participate in the 19th China Shanghai International Arts Festival, the China International Youth Arts Festival etc. and perform at the concert hall in the John F. Kennedy Centre for the Performing Arts. In 2019 January to February, the Orchestra embarked on a Belt and Road Initiative concert tour in South East Asia..

HKSO continues to cultivate strong bonds among music students, gifted players and international maestros in order to create a virtuous circle of success in the music sector. Being the first to launch musical project lining up eight local universities, partnering with Youku to do the first live video streaming allows over 280,000 audiences from around the globe to participate the interactive masterclass by Oscar-winning composer Tan Dun etc., the Orchestra has won widespread praise. In May 2018, HKSO breaks the Guinness World Records of “the Largest String Instrument Ensemble”. In September of the same year, HKSO was honoured to be the only performing group at the opening ceremony of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (Hong Kong Section).

### Meet-the-Artists

17<sup>th</sup> August | 3PM

To be held after the performances

Guest: Yang Yuntao, Fung Lam, Austin Yip (Lecturer in Music Department, Hong Kong Baptist University)

18<sup>th</sup> August | 3PM

To be held after the performances

Guest: Yang Yuntao, Yao Jue



## **Hong Kong Dance Company**

“Dancing across East and West, Moving to the Tempo of Hong Kong”

### **Mission Statement**

We are nurtured in the cultural tradition of China, combining with the creativity of contemporary art, to impress the world with Chinese dance of Hong Kong character.

Established in 1981 with the aim of promoting Chinese dance, the Hong Kong Dance Company was incorporated in 2001 as a charitable and non-profit-making institution, and is financially supported by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Since its inception, the Hong Kong Dance Company has staged over 100 productions, many of which were highly popular with critical acclaim. Recent productions include ***Qingming Riverside***, ***Snow Fox***, ***Two Swallows – Ode to Wu Guanzhong***, ***Spring Ritual-Eulogy***, ***Pop Classics: Joseph Koo's Dance Melodies 2013***, ***The Legend of Mulan***, ***The Butterfly Lovers***, ***Storm Clouds***, ***L'Amour Immortel***, ***Reveries of the Red Chamber***, ***Chinese Hero: A Lone Exile***, ***Kaleidoscope of Dance from Yunnan***, ***Vipassana*** and ***Lady White of West Lake***.

The Company has toured internationally as well as around Mainland China as a way to encourage cultural exchange. The Company was invited to perform at the “Meet in Beijing 2008” Arts Festival to celebrate the Beijing Olympics, and took part in the opening ceremony of the East Asian Games in 2009. In 2010, the Company participated in “The Ninth China Art Festival” in Guangzhou and the World Expo in Shanghai. In January 2013, the Hong Kong Dance Company presented ***Qingming Riverside*** at The Sony Centre for the Performing Arts in Toronto and The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. ***Spring Ritual-Eulogy*** was presented at the National Centre for the Performing Arts in Beijing in September 2013, and the Novel Hall for Performing Arts in Taipei in December 2013 as part of Hong Kong Week 2013. The Butterfly Lovers was showcased at the Korea Dance Festival in April 2016. ***The Legend of Mulan*** was presented at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York in March 2015, in Sydney in September 2015, and in London in April 2017. The three-time Hong Kong Dance Award winner ***L'Amour Immortel*** was presented at Beijing Tianqiao Performing Arts Center and Guangzhou Opera House in July 2017 respectively. ***Vipassana - In the Beginning*** was presented at the International Buddhism Dance Festival in Seoul this April.

### **Media Enquiries::**

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