



### HONG KONG CULTURAL CENTRE

# 2009/10

Annual Report









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## Vision · Mission · Values



#### Vision

We aim to be the premier arts centre in Asia commensurate with Hong Kong's development as a world-class city and events capital.

#### Mission

#### Serving our Hirers

By providing quality facilities and services to meet the needs and artistic requirements of local and visiting performing artists/groups.

#### Achieving a High Level of Customer Satisfaction

By creating a welcoming and friendly environment, offering high quality services and making sure that all our audience and visitors are fully satisfied with our services.

#### **Values**

These values underpin everything we do from strategic planning to day-to-day operations.

#### Customer-oriented

We are ready to listen, understand and provide quality facilities and services to satisfy customers' needs.

#### Arts Promotion

Our success depends on your participation in the arts.

#### Creativity and Flexibility

All our staff possess good knowledge of the performing arts and are fully aware of the importance of creativity and flexibility.

#### Continuous Improvement

We strive for excellence by constantly reviewing our services to satisfy customers' needs.

## In Retrospect



Since its opening in 1989, the Hong Kong Cultural Centre has showcased numerous programmes by renowned artists and performing arts groups from all over the world. It has not only enhanced cultural exchange at an international level, but also broadened our audience's experience in the arts. More significantly, the Centre has, over the past two decades, been a platform for local performing arts groups and individual artists, supporting them in their pursuit of artistic growth. The Centre has undoubtedly played an important role in promoting the development of the arts in Hong Kong.

2009 marked the 20th anniversary of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre. The celebration programme was a star-studded roster of events featuring top performers from all over the world. In addition to overseas artists and groups, the Centre's four Venue Partners – the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, the Hong Kong Ballet and Zuni Icosahedron – also lined up special events for the occasion. Together with the celebratory programmes of local groups and artists as well as the active participation of the community in the Fun Day festivities organised by the Centre, it was a "birthday party" for all that lasted for many months. Here, I would like to thank all those who contributed to the shows, whether on stage or back stage, for their enthusiastic support. I am especially proud of all my colleagues at the Centre for their diligence and hard work in carrying out their duties. They have served with professionalism and excellence, tackling various challenges and working towards continuing improvement over the last twenty years.

Another achievement highlight for the Centre last year was its involvement in the "Hong Kong 2009 East Asian Games". Following a series of events in the run-up to the Games, the Centre went into full gear in December. The stage was set up on the Victoria Harbour, with the dazzling harbour view at night and the cityscape as backdrop. All sections and offices of the Centre showed exemplary team spirit as they joined forces to make the many themed activities a success. Together, we have helped Hong Kong achieve another milestone in the city's history.

I believe that many citizens of Hong Kong who have attended the shows, concerts, dances and drama productions at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre would be equally delighted in witnessing the creative growth of our artists and groups. We at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre are also delighted to have shared with you all, as performer or audience, the vibrant artistic life for the last twenty years.

Thank you, once again, for your continuous support to the Hong Kong Cultural Centre.

Linus FUNG Chief Manager (Urban/Cultural Services) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

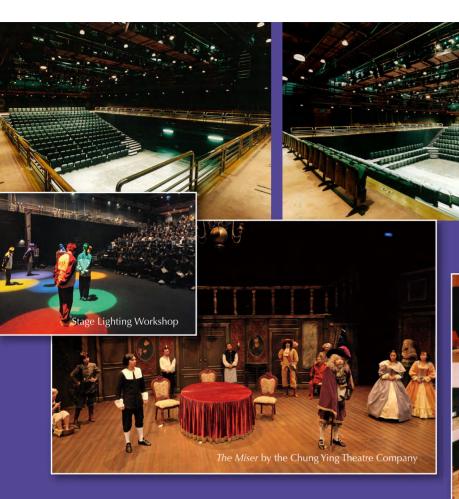
## Facilities I

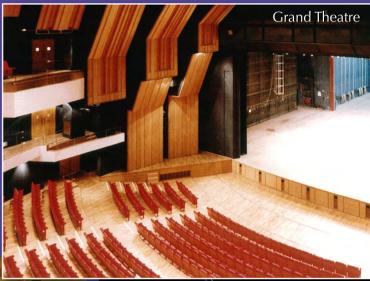
Opened in 1989, the Hong Kong Cultural Centre comprises an Auditoria Building, an Administration Building, a Restaurant Block and a Piazza. The three major performance venues in the Auditoria Building, namely, the Concert Hall, the Grand Theatre and the Studio Theatre, cater for a wide range of music, dance, operatic and theatrical performances including both traditional and contemporary works.

In addition to the main stages, the Centre also provides places for visual art displays, practice rooms and rehearsal rooms for rehearsals of activities in various art forms as well as function rooms for meetings and seminars. Together with the Performing Arts Shop and the catering facilities, the Centre provides a comprehensive range of services to visitors. The four catering outlets including a Chinese restaurant, a restaurant serving western dishes, a coffee shop and a foyer café offer a range of choices of cuisine, so that visitors can relax and enjoy a fine culinary experience before or after watching a performance.

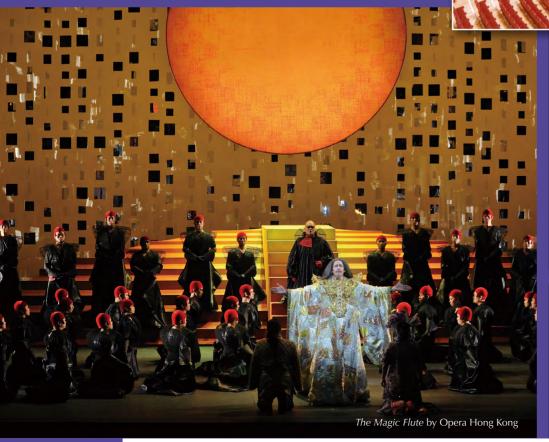
Located on Tsim Sha Tsui's waterfront, the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Piazza offers a fascinating backdrop for big outdoor events with its panoramic view of layers of architecture silhouetted on the opposite side of the Victoria Harbour. Not only is it a popular tourist spot, it is also a favourite gathering place for local residents to take time out to relax, to gather or to celebrate festive occasions.





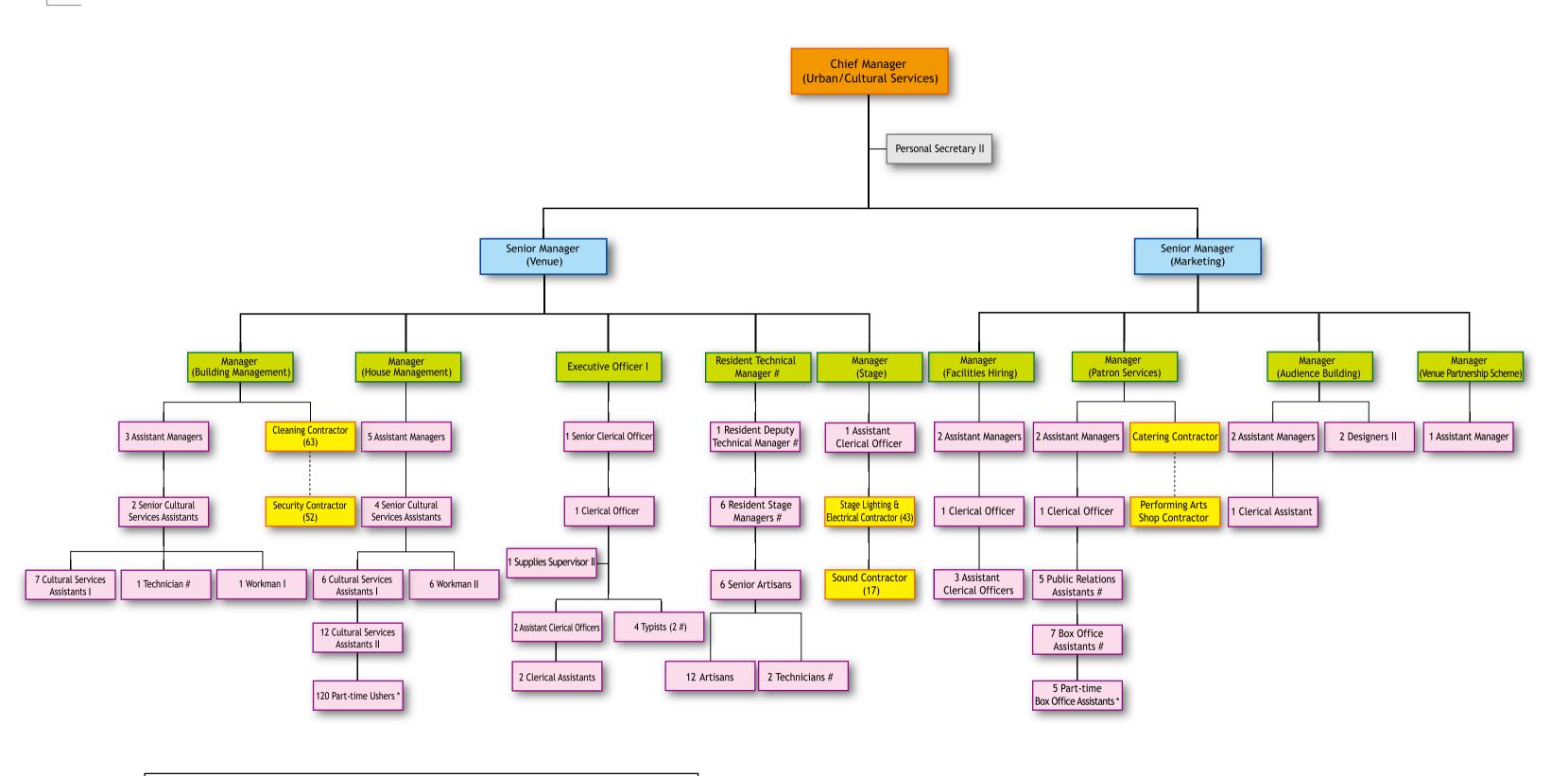


StudioTheatre





## Establishment as at 31.3.2010



[6]

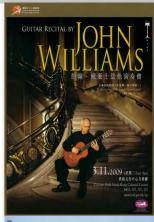
## Highlights of the Year

2009/10 had been a joyful year for the audience of Hong Kong as they applauded their way through one spectacular programme after another at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre.

#### **Major Programmes**

Over 40 programmes conglomerating top performers from overseas and Hong Kong were presented in 2009 in celebration of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre's 20th Anniversary. These programmes included performances by the Centre's four Venue Partners and homegrown artists and groups, who have matured with the Centre over the years and seen the development of arts and culture in Hong Kong. Their participation, therefore, lent special significance to the occasion. Other highlights included the drama production *Red Rose and White Rose* by the National Theatre of China, a concert by Orchester der KlangVerwaltung and Chorgemeinschaft Neubeuern, a guitar recital by John Williams, *The Magic Flute* by Opera Hong Kong, a concert by Gidon Kremer and Kremerata Baltica, a duo recital by Yo-Yo Ma (cello) and Kathryn Stott (piano) etc. There were events that brought together old friends and new for the "birthday party", such as the HKCC "King of the Instruments" Pipe Organ Education Series 1999-2008 Graduates Concerts, the 20th Anniversary Celebration Fun Day and the four-piano concert *Piano Pals Singing Happy Birthday*.

Shortly after the 20th Anniversary programmes followed the Opening Ceremony of the "Hong Kong 2009 East Asian Games" and a series of "Cultural EAG" events which comprised *Poet Li Bai*, an original opera by Guo Wenjing, *Sound of the Ocean* by U Theatre of Taiwan, *Ki Kon Ichi Da* by the Japanese drumming troupe Za Ondekoza, and the "EAG Cultural Extravaganza". Together, they made up a sumptuous feast of programmes for the audience. Other attractions of the year included a recital by pianist Maurizio Pollini, and concerts by the Sächsische Staatskapelle Dresden and the Choir of King's College, Cambridge.





- John Williams and Yo-Yo Ma, who appeared in the opening programmes of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, returned to celebrate the Centre's 20th Anniversary
- After 20 years, Tam Ka Kit, Nancy Loo, Gabriel Kwok and Eva Lue came together again in *Piano* Pals Singing Happy Birthday for celebrating the 20th birthday of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre.
- 3. With the cityscape as a backdrop, the Opening Ceremony of the "Hong Kong 2009 East Asian Games" was taken place at the Centre's Piazza.
- 4. Hong Kong Arts Festival: The festive *Don Quixote* by the Mariinsky Ballet.
- 5. Hong Kong Arts Festival: "Cantonese Opera Treasures" opened the festival with the rarely performed *Luk Long Reprimands His Son*.
- 6. "Cultural EAG" presented U Theatre of Taiwan with *Sound of the Ocean* in the Grand Theatre and an outdoor drum performance in the Piazza.





#### Major Festivals

The 33rd Hong Kong International Film Festival, the large-scale, non-competitive and hugely popular film festival, presented more than two weeks of movie screenings at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre during March and April. Over 47 screenings were held at the Grand Theatre, attracting an attendance of 37 402 from movie aficionados.

The International Arts Carnival 2009 once again added colourful fun to the summer season for children and their families. It opened with the acrobatic extravaganza, *Genghis Khan*, which told the story of the great historical figure through the extraordinary acrobatic skills of the Inner Mongolia Acrobatic Troupe of China. Other exciting programmes included *The Trick Brain* by Harry Wong's Magic Theatre, *The Legend of Nu Wa* by the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra and Chung Ying Theatre Company, and the musical *Aroma in the Dust* by The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts.

The month-long Silk Road Arts Festival took audiences on a splendorous cultural journey that crossed borders. The opening programme *Splendours of the Tang Dynasty* by Shaanxi Provincial Song and Dance Theatre unveiled scene after scene the glorious culture of the Tang Dynasty, and marked the starting point of the Festival's Silk Road journey. *New & Old Myths of Tuva* created a dialogue between traditional Tuva throat-singing and avant-garde music and created a most unusual musical experience. *The Silk Road Journey* by the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra revisited the civilisations along the Silk Road, capturing the sights and sounds and the peoples all the way from the Tang capital of Chang'an to Xinjiang in China's far west.

The 38th Hong Kong Arts Festival featured local and international talents, renowned artists and performing groups in a series of programmes of the highest calibre, held in February and March 2010 at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre. "Cantonese Opera Treasures" kicked off the festival, with other programmes such as Britten's opera classic *The Turn of the Screw* presented by the Mariinsky Opera, Valery Gergiev and the Mariinsky Orchestra, a performance by the Philharmonia Orchestra, the concert "Sing the Truth: Nina Simone Remembered", and performances by Café de los Maestros (Argentina), David Murray Black Saint Quartet, and Ojos de Brujo (Spain). Other highlights included six dance pieces by famous choreographer Hans Van Manen as interpreted by the Dutch National Ballet, *Don Quixote* by the Mariinsky Ballet, three essential works from the kunqu repertoire by Suzhou Kun Opera Theater of Jiangsu Province, and the drama *Five Days in March* by chelfitsch Theatre Company.





## Building Awareness





To popularize and encourage community participation in the performing arts, the Hong Kong Cultural Centre frequently organises free and educational programmes. These include the regular free foyer performances "Thursday Happy Hour", held once a month, and "Saturday Arts Delights", held twice a month. The programmes are of a diverse variety, spanning Chinese and Western genres to cater to different tastes. Special music performances are also organised at the Piazza on selected Sundays.

To promote the Centre's magnificent 8 000-pipe Rieger organ, free organ concerts by overseas and local organists are held at the Concert Hall on selected Saturday afternoons. The Centre also develops a half-year organ education curriculum to provide students with structured training in foundation techniques. In 2009/10, a series of lecture demonstrations were held, conducted by overseas organist-educators, to further levels of performance and appreciation. These activities greatly helped promote organ music education and nurture organ talents in Hong Kong.

The Centre also works in conjunction with veteran arts practitioners to organise guided music concerts, stagecraft workshops and lecture demonstrations with the specific goal of helping students and the community to cultivate an interest in the arts.



Details of the free and educational programmes organised in 2009/10 are shown below:

	No. of Performances	Attendance
Foyer Programmes	60	39 030
Educational Programmes	39	9 589
Pipe Organ Concerts	8	3 543
Piazza Performances	20	15 450
HKCC 20th Anniversary Celebration Programmes	21	15 070
Total	148	82 682

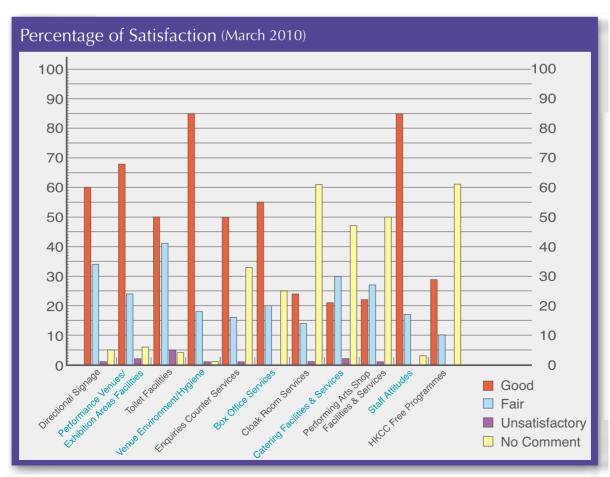
## Venue Support

The Hong Kong Cultural Centre encourages private presenters to pursue arts and cultural projects. Under its Rental Subsidy Scheme, non-profit making hirers organising arts-related activities are eligible for a rental reduction of up to 65% of the basic hiring charges. In 2009/10, out of a total of 1 026 hirers, 304 benefited from the scheme and enjoyed a rental subsidy of over HK\$5.32 million.



## Striving for Excellence

We strive to provide quality services to meet the expectations of the venue users. To strengthen direct communication with our users and to gauge their views on our services, a Customer Liaison Meeting was held in 2009/10. The customers' feedback which indicated a high level of satisfaction with our service provisions was most encouraging. We will continue to strive for excellence and provide high quality services for the citizens in return for their support.



### Venue Partners





#### Venue Partnership Scheme

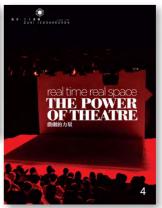
To foster partnerships between performing arts venues and groups, to promote the continued development of the performing arts and to optimise the use of existing resources, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department launched the Venue Partnership Scheme at eleven performing arts venues under its management. The Three-year Scheme has been in full implementation since April 2009.

#### Our Four Venue Partners

All four Venue Partners of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre are noted local arts groups. They are the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, the Hong Kong Ballet and Zuni Icosahedron. The Centre meets with them regularly to explore and exchange views on ways to utilise the Centre's spaces and facilities creatively and flexibly to strengthen image building and promotional efforts.

In 2009/10, our four Venue Partners presented innovative stage productions of various art forms, and organised many audience outreach and arts educational activities at the Centre. In July 2009, the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra held in the foyer the Centre's first overnight music activity in the form of relay performances – the "Global Huqin Relay", which featured the orchestra in a marathon performance that lasted over ten hours, broadcast live worldwide through the Internet. From September to October 2009, Zuni Icosahedron organised an "Architecture is Art Festival 09". Its theme exhibition The Forbidden City made clever use of the Centre's foyer exhibition area, combining visual elements with multi-media and installations to recreate the architecture of the Forbidden City in Beijing. The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra organised small-scale concerts in the foyer, while the Hong Kong Ballet offered preperformance talks and lecture demonstrations, to help enhance appreciation of orchestral music and ballet. These programmes not only helped cultivate an interest in the arts among the public, but also served to broaden the audience base. The Centre and its four Venue Partners continued to maintain a close partnership for community outreach, and to maximise the use of resources available at respective venues. In 2009/10, the four Venue Partners presented a total of 149 stage performances and 129 audience outreach and educational activities, attracting an attendance of 383 404.





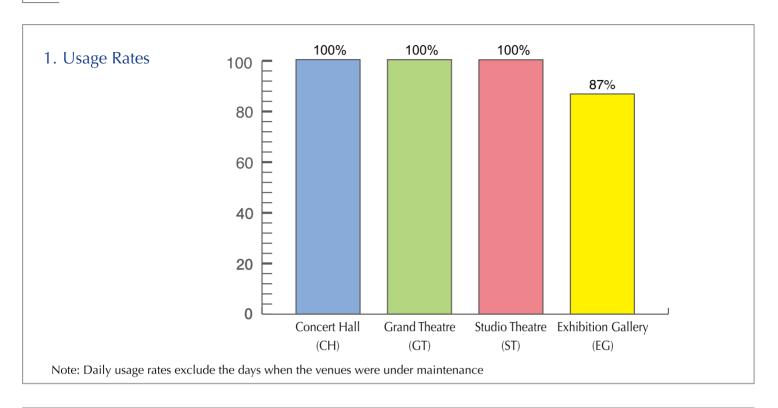


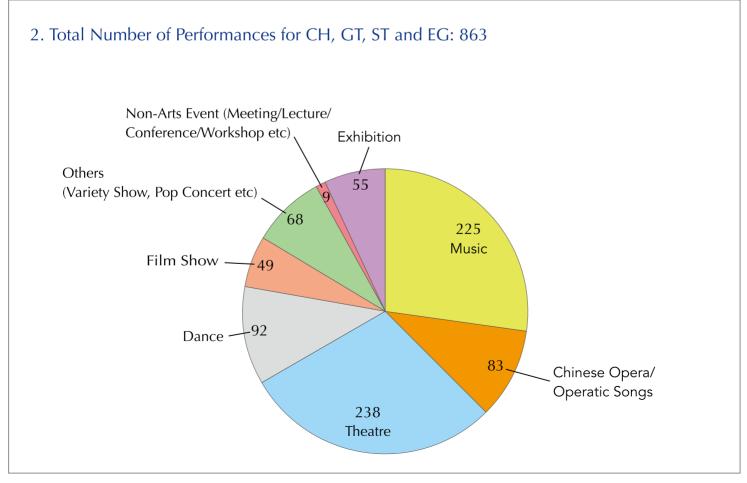
- Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra
   Hong Kong Ballet
   Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra
   Zuni Icosahedron
- 5. Small-scale concert by the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra
  6. "Global Huqin Relay" by the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra
  7. Exhibition *The Forbidden City* by Zuni Icosahedron
  8. Lecture demonstration by the Hong Kong Ballet



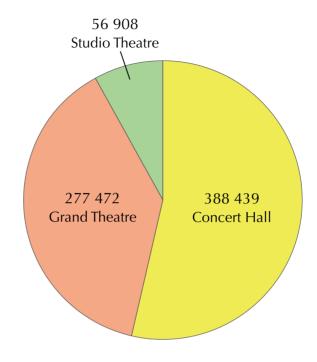


## Statistical Information (2009/10)

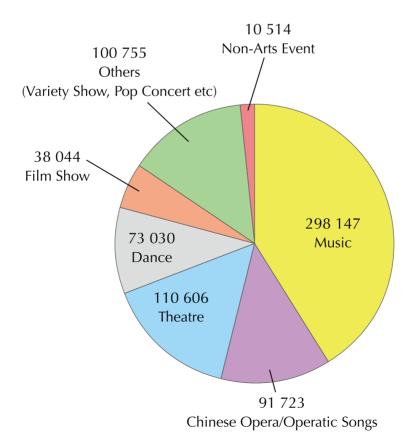




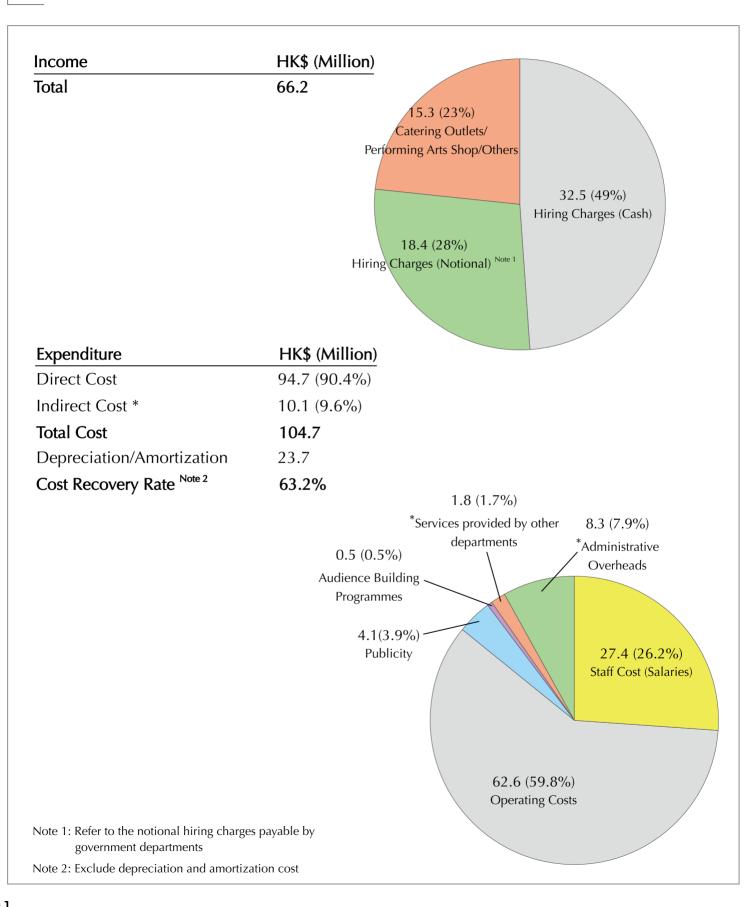
## 3. Total Audience (for events held in CH, GT and ST): 722 819 By Venue



By Art Form



### Financial Statements (2009/10)



## Major Events

## 2009



#### March 30 – April 13

The 33rd Hong Kong International Film Festival

#### April 15

Encore Series – Piano Recital by Maurizio Pollini

#### May 3 – 4

The Sächsische Staatskapelle Dresden

#### May 15 – 16

Le French May 2009 – The Seven Boards of Skill

#### **June** 5 – 6

"New Approach to Traditional Peking Opera" by the Taipei Li-yuan Peking Opera Theatre and the Shanghai Peking Opera Theatre

#### July 3 – 5

International Arts Carnival 2009 – *Genghis Khan* by Inner Mongolia Acrobatic Troupe of China

#### July 28 – 29

Choir of King's College, Cambridge

#### September 11 – 13

Red Rose and White Rose by National Theatre of China

#### October 9 – 10

Silk Road Arts Festival – Splendours of the Tang Dynasty by Shaanxi Provincial Song and Dance Theatre

#### October 19

Ochester der KlangVerwaltung & Chorgemeinschaft Neubeuern

#### November 1

HKCC "King of the Instruments" Organ Education Series 1999-2008 Graduates Concerts







## Major Events



#### November 3

Encore Series – Guitar Recital by John Williams



#### November 5 - 9

Opera The Magic Flute by Opera Hong Kong



#### November 8

HKCC 20th Anniversary Celebration Fun Day



#### November 12

A 4-piano Concert Piano Pals Singing Happy Birthday



#### November 13

Gidon Kremer & Kremerata Baltica





#### November 20

Duo Recital by Yo-Yo Ma (Cello) & Kathryn Stott (Piano)



#### November 29

Cantonese Opera Day



#### December 4 & 6

Guo Wenjing's Opera Poet Li Bai



#### December 5

The Opening Ceremony of the "Hong Kong 2009 East Asian Games"

#### December 11

Sound of the Ocean by U-Theatre

#### December 12

"EAG Cultural Extravaganza"



Ki Kon Ichi Da by Za Ondekoza



## 2010



#### February 25 – 26

Hong Kong Arts Festival 2010 – "Sing the Truth: Nina Simone Remembered"

#### February 25 – 27

Hong Kong Arts Festival 2010 – "Cantonese Opera Treasures"



#### March 5-7

Hong Kong Arts Festival 2010 – Café de los Maestro

#### March 5 – 7

Hong Kong Arts Festival 2010 – Suzhou Kun Opera Theater of Jiangsu Province



#### March 9

Hong Kong Arts Festival 2010 - David Murray Black Saint Quartet



Hong Kong Arts Festival 2010 – Dutch National Ballet



Hong Kong Arts Festival 2010 – Ojos de Brujo



Hong Kong Arts Festival 2010 – Philharmonia Orchestra



#### March 19 - 21

Hong Kong Arts Festival 2010 – *Five Days in March* by chelfitsch Theatre Company

#### March 20 - 24

Hong Kong Arts Festival 2010 – Don Quixote by the Mariinsky Ballet



Hong Kong Arts Festival 2010 – Britten's *The Turn of the Screw* by the Mariinsky Opera



Hong Kong Arts Festival 2010 – Valery Gergiev and the Mariinsky Orchestra





Programmes commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre



The Hong Kong Cultural Centre would like to thank all programme organisers for granting us permission to capture the memorable moments of the performances and have the photos shared for use in this Annual Report.

Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Cultural Presentations Section
Festivals Office

Venue Partners
The Hong Kong Ballet
The Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra
The Hong Kong Philharmonic
Zuni Icosahedron

2009 East Asian Games (Hong Kong) Limited
Chung Ying Theatre Company
Consulate General of France in Hong Kong & Macau
Hong Kong Arts Festival Society



Staff List					
Chief Manager (Urban/Cultural Services) Senior Manager (Venue)	Linus FUNG Randa WAN Elida CHIANG	(until Feb 10) (since Feb 10)	Worker	LEUNG Chun-wan WAN Che-ming HO Tat-yin	(until Nov 00)
Senior Manager (Marketing)	Elida CHIANG Shirley CHOI	(until Feb 10) (since Feb 10)	Stage —	TIN Chun-wah	(until Nov 09) (since Nov 09)
Personal Secretary II Administration and General Registry	Sally ĹAU	(Since Feb To)	Resident Technical Manager Manager	Peter LI Alex CHEUNG	(until Feb 10)
Executive Officer I Senior Clerical Officer Clerical Officer Supplies Supervisor II Logistic Assistant Assistant Clerical Officer	Catherine WONG Sylvia YIP CHEUNG Shing-hoi Ricky WOO Tom CHAN Jenny LO Heidi LEUNG	(since Dec 09) (until Jan 10)	Resident Deputy Technical Manager Resident Stage Manager	Kevin LEUNG Ruby TSUI Agnes LEE Joanne TSANG Sherlock YEUNG Gary LEE Nancy WONG	(since Feb 10)
Clerical Assistant  Typist	Amy WONG Joyce CHAN Carmen WU		Assistant Clerical Officer Senior Artisan	Erloy LO Christine TAM CHAN Wing-sum	(until Mar 10)
туры	Winnie CHUNG Alice LEE		Selloi Atusan	FAN Shui-cheung FUNG Tat-kwan	(until mai 10)
Office Helper	Victor CHAN Able LAU Panda CHAN	(until Sep 09) (Sep to Nov 09) (since Nov 09)	Artisan	CHAN Wai-ming NG Hon-yu CHAN Wai-ming TSANG Kam-chung	(since Feb 10) (since Feb 10) (until Jan 10)
Building Management Manager Assistant Manager	Shirley CHOI Zoe TANG Wallace LO Wendy TANG	(until Feb 10) (since Feb 10)		MAK Chi-kwong CHAN Loi-yau* TSANG Pun-kwong NG Hon-yu	(until Jan 10)
Senior Cultural Services Assistant	Heidi SIU FAN Sai-moon CHAN Kwai-hong LUK Kwok-ming WONG Chi-ping	(until Oct 09) (Nov to Dec 09) (since Dec 09)		TANG Kam-chuen TANG Kwok-leung CHENG Sui-fu WONG Chi-kin LEUNG Fuk-chuen	(and jan 10)
Cultural Services Assistant I	LIU Lai-fun WONG Yiu Fai PANG Kin-man TANG Chun-moon YUEN Hing-kwong	(since Nov 09)	Technician	LEE Sheung-kong HO Ka-yiu TANG Man-chun LAI Chun-man CHUNG Po-fat MA Chi-kai	(since Apr 09) (since Feb 10) (since Feb 10)
Technician Workman I	LAM Yuet-man WONG Chi-ping HUNG Lun CHAN Wai-cheong WU Wai-choy	(until Dec 09) (since Dec 09)	*Acting Senior Artisan Facilities Hiring	LI Ka-yin SO Wing-king	(since Feb 10) (since Feb 10) (since Mar 10)
House Management — Manager	Tina CHENG		Manager Assistant Manager	Janet YOUNG Lilian LUK	
Assistant Manager	Viola LEUNG Jimmy FONG Chris LEE Cinnie WONG		Clerical Officer Assistant Clerical Officer	Paris CHAN Ada CHUNG Eliza FONG Ivy CHAN Phyllis TSUI	(until Sep 09) (since Oct 09)
House Management Officer	Anthea MOK Shawn LAM Wayne LEE	(Aug 09 to Jan 10) (Feb to Mar 10)	Patron Services —	Linda POON	
Senior Cultural Services Assistant	Terence CHOW SIU Kin-man CHAN Wai-shing HUI Woo-hing	(since Mar 10)	Manager Assistant Manager Clerical Officer	Veron LAM David POON Winnie TSE Binky CHEUNG	(until Mar 10)
Cultural Services Assistant I	KUNG Chiu-ha LAM Man-sum FOK Wing-yee		Public Relations Assistant	Grace WONG Agnes CHAN Ian CHAN	(since Mar 10) (until May 09) (May to Dec 09)
	LIT Kai-hung CHENG Wai-ling WONG Mun-yu TANG Man-hon YAU Wai-ying	(until Nov 09) (since Nov 09)		Michelle YU LAI Sin-mei YEUNG Sau-shan PANG Siu-lin CHAN Ho-yee	(since Jan 10)
Cultural Services Assistant II	LUK Sau-kuen IP Chui-man CHENG Che-wa LI Ka-ming WAN Tsz-shan CHENG Siu-king	(until Oct 00)	Box Office Assistant	LAM Kim-hung LUK Kai-cheong LAI Ching-yin CHAN Peek-woon TSE Shuk-man WONG Hok-sze HO Siu-mui	
	NG Wai-yee HO Chi-hung YU Mou-fan WONG Chi-shing	(until Oct 09)	Audience Building — Manager	CHEUNG Yuk-yu Gloria LAM	(until Sep 09) (since Sep 09)
Customer Service Assistant Workman II	WONG Ka-yin CHAN Kit-ling CHAN Kit-yi LAI Yee-kai CHONG Lan-kam YU Seung	(since Nov 09)	Assistant Manager  Designer II  Clerical Assistant  Venue Partnership Scheme	Cathy CHAN Alice TSANG Junior YEUNG Caren CHAU WONG Ching-man	(until Mar 10)
	CHOI Yau-tai LEUNG Sum CHAN Sui-ngor		Manager Assistant Manager	Rowena TSANG Mon TSE	



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