

The Music Office, formerly known as the Music Administrator's Office, was established by the Government in October 1977 to coordinate the **Instrumental Music Training Scheme** for young people aged 23 or below. The Instrumental Music Training Scheme covers a wide range of musical instruments, including Western strings, winds and percussion, as well as Chinese bowed-strings, plucked-strings, winds and percussion. The **Musical Instruments Hire Scheme** allows trainees to rent lesser-known or expensive musical instruments for practice at a modest hire charge, with a view to promoting music and popularising such musical instruments in the community.

The Music Office also provides ensemble training as an extension to the Instrumental Music Training Scheme to allow trainees to experience the joy of playing music together while fostering team spirit. The **Hong Kong Youth Symphony Orchestra**, the **Hong Kong Youth Chinese Orchestra** and the **Hong Kong Youth Symphonic Band** were established by the Music Office in 1978, while the **Music Office Youth Choir** and the **Hong Kong Youth Strings** were established in the early 1980s. Apart from these advanced level music groups, the Music Office also set up a number of district ensembles of different levels in order to provide all-round music training for young people.

Promoting music is one of the essential missions of the Music Office. The “**Music for the Millions**” concert, first staged in December 1977, has been a regular programme of the Music Office with the objective of cultivating interest in fine music among young people through entertaining and educational music programme. The “Music for the Millions” theme song was composed by Joseph Koo, the “Godfather of Cantopop”. The delightful tune was proven to be the staple of this ever popular series. The lyrics were a collective creation by the staff of the Music Office. “The sound of music is carried by the wind, joyful and relaxing. Singing and playing musical instruments bring you joy and fun” reflect the mission and objectives of the Music Office. The “Music for the Millions” concerts have been well-received over the years, and the theme song, as a symbol of the Music Office, has been performed regularly in its concerts and various activities.

NURTURING NEW GENERATIONS OF MUSICIANS

Learning Music through Lessons and Practice

Instrumental Music Training Scheme

Targeting local young people aged 6 to 23, the scheme offers beginner to advanced level training for more than 30 Chinese and Western musical instruments to about 5 000 trainees each year in group lessons. Musicianship training is also provided to develop young people's interest and potential in music.

Band, Choir and Orchestra Training

The Music Office currently runs 17 youth orchestras/ bands, including a symphony orchestra, string orchestras, symphonic bands, Chinese orchestras, as well as 2 choirs. Members are recruited through open auditions. Eligible applicants will be invited to attend an audition.

Outreach Music Interest Courses

The programme provides short-term fundamental music training for people of all ages. Apart from group lessons in Chinese and Western musical instruments, the programme also conducts workshops covering various music topics with the aim of cultivating the public's interest in music.

Learning Music through Music Exchanges

Hong Kong Youth Music Interflows

Annually held in November/ December, school music groups can share their musical experience and learn from one another, through contests of Chinese orchestras, string orchestras, symphonic bands, and symphony orchestras. Overseas and local veteran musicians are invited to serve as adjudicators, and their comments on the performances help heighten the participants' performing standards.

International Youth Music Exchange

Apart from local exchange activities, the Music Office also regularly sends its advanced level orchestras, bands, or choirs on concert tours. The areas visited include major cities in Europe, America, Australia and Asia. In addition, the Music Office assists visiting youth music groups from around the world in organising exchange activities in Hong Kong.

DIVERSIFIED MUSIC ACTIVITIES

Learning Music through Music Promotion

Hong Kong Youth Music Camp

Every summer, the Youth Music Camp provides intensive training for some 400 young musicians from Hong Kong, overseas and Mainland China, in a local campsite embraced by greenery. Masterclasses and sharing sessions are arranged as well for enhancing campers' performance skills. Members of the public may also join the day camp for visiting rehearsals and taking part in other activities to share the joyful atmosphere in the Camp.

“Music for the Millions” Concerts

Since inception, the Music Office Instructors' Orchestras and Ensembles have been giving “Music for the Millions” concerts regularly in primary and secondary schools with the aim of stimulating students' interest in fine music and promoting Chinese and Western musical instruments. Some concerts may also take place in the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) performing venues. In the first 10 years, more than 3.3 million people had attended over 3 600 concerts.

School Programmes

The Music Office organises various music workshops of diversified topics for schools to develop students' interest in music. Every year, Joint School Concerts of different themes invite students to showcase their music creativity through musical performances on the themes, and facilitate exchange among schools.

Summer Music Workshops

Music lessons are held during summer vacation for children who receive no previous music training to learn some basic music knowledge, and to develop their interest in music through guidance and directions given by instructors.

Community Programmes

Apart from community concerts in territory-wide events (such as the Hong Kong Flower Show and the Mid-Autumn Lantern Carnival) and community facilities, the Music Office also stages Care and Concern Concerts to bring warmth and blessing to people in need, raise civic awareness among students through music performances, and promote social inclusion. In addition, Roving Music Exhibitions are presented with lavish words and vivid pictures at different corners of Hong Kong to introduce folk music around the world.

MUSIC OFFICE AND YOU

Do you want to join these diverse activities presented by the Music Office? No matter you are an adult or a child, there will always be an activity that suits you. Stay tuned for the activities and application details!

I am...

aged 4 to 9

- **Summer Music Workshops** aim to strengthen children's sense of rhythm, listening skills and attentiveness through musical games and interactive activities, and enhance their basic music knowledge. The workshops are held annually during summer vacation. Applications are open from May to mid-June.

aged 6 to 23

Without any instrumental experience

- **Elementary Course of the Instrumental Music Training Scheme** is a two-year programme which accepts applications from July to mid-August every year.

With some instrumental experience

- **Intermediate/ Advanced Course of the Instrumental Music Training Scheme** is a three-year programme which accepts applications from April to May every year.
- **Orchestras/ Bands/ Choirs** open recruitment is held annually in April.
- **Hong Kong Youth Music Camp** is a one-week summer event which accepts applications in March every year.

a parent

- Your child may join the **Instrumental Music Training Scheme** or receive **ensemble training** in the **orchestras/ bands/ choirs** or **music camps**.
- In addition, you may learn music and attend topic workshops by joining the **Outreach Music Interest Courses**. Some topic workshops involve both parents and children. Each programme may range from 2 to 20 sessions. Applications are open from December to January and from June to July every year.

a child/ a parent/ an adult/ a retiree

- **Outreach Music Interest Courses** provide short-term instrumental training on general Chinese and Western musical instruments as well as interest classes on guitar and ukulele (Hawaii's little guitar) and various music topics. People of all ages are welcome. Each programme may range from 2 to 20 sessions. Applications are open from December to January and from June to July every year.
- **“Hong Kong Youth Music Camp” Day Camp** also provides an opportunity to you to visit music rehearsals, attend mini-concerts, play music games and enjoy facilities in the outdoor recreation centre. Day camp programmes are open for application in May every year.

a school teacher

- **“Music for the Millions” concerts** are regularly given by the Music Office Instructors’ Orchestras and Ensembles in schools to promote Chinese and Western orchestral instruments and to develop students’ interest in fine music. Some concerts also take place in LCSD performing venues. Schools are welcome to apply.
- **Music Workshops** and **Joint School Concerts** covering various topics are designed to cultivate students’ interest in music. Joint School Concerts encourage students to perform on relevant themes, to showcase their music creativity, and to facilitate exchanges among schools.
- **“School Care Subsidy Scheme”** aims to encourage school students to bring warmth and blessing to the underprivileged, to raise their civic awareness through music performances, and to promote social inclusion. Schools are welcome to apply for subsidy.

a Chinese or Western music fan

- About 40 concerts are presented by the Music Office every year. Concert information is available at the Music Office webpage. You may also provide your email address to musicoffice@lcsd.gov.hk so that you can regularly receive information on concerts and latest activities by email.

