

# PREMIERE PERFORMANCES

## ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2024 - 30 June 2025



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# Message from Our Founder & Executive Director

I am very happy that this past fiscal year, we were able to continue the positive momentum coming out of two record-breaking years in a row. We were able to maintain high attendance rates and ticket sales results, proving that we have a consistent and growing audience for our programmes. We continued to add more concerts to our calendar, with an expanded Recital Series and Family Concert Series. We also successfully launched our Jazz Series, with eight sold-out concerts by two groups from New York, through our collaboration with Jazz at Lincoln Center.

As I write this message, we are busy preparing for the final edition of the Beare's Premiere Music Festival, our annual chamber music festival. Before we launched our festival in 2009, chamber music was almost unheard of in Hong Kong. Today, the scene flourishes with many new local ensembles and regular visits from world-renowned groups. We are proud to have accomplished our mission to introduce Hong Kong audiences to this exquisite art form.

Instead, we are going to focus on discovering emerging talents worldwide and introducing them to Hong Kong audiences for the first time. Through our campaign "You Heard Them Here First - at Premiere Performances!", we are returning to our original focus. In fact, that is where the name "Premiere Performances" comes from—the double meaning of "premiere" as both debut and world class.

We are so grateful to the Culture, Sports & Tourism Bureau for their continued support under the Art Development Matching Grants Scheme, whereby every dollar we are able to raise in donations and net sponsorship is matched 180%. As this is a Matching Grant, we would receive nothing from the government were it not for the generous and unwavering support of our donor base. Thank you to every individual who donated this past year. Every amount, large and small, is greatly appreciated.

See you in the concert hall!



## Administration (as of 30 June, 2025)

### Board of Governors

Andrea Fessler, Chair  
Winnie Kwan  
Shu Yin Lee  
Ester Li  
Radhika Mahidhara  
Janana Suleymanli

### Staff

Andrea Fessler, Founder and Executive Director  
Henry Leung, General Manager (since 19 Sep 2024)  
Loretta Cheung, Box Office & Finance Manager  
Sharen Lau, Marketing Manager  
Eddie Chan, Programme Manager (since 1 Apr 2025)  
Prudence Lee, Assistant Programme Manager (until 3 Apr 2025)  
Hoffmann Lai, Senior Arts Administration Officer (until 31 Dec 2024)  
Anna Cheung, Arts Administration Officer (until 31 Dec 2024)  
Eva Chen, Arts Administration Officer  
Stella O, Programme Officer (since 1 Jun 2025)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrea Fessler".

### Volunteers

If you would like to join one of our committees or volunteer in any capacity, please contact [info@pphk.org](mailto:info@pphk.org).

# About Premiere Performances

## Mission

Premiere Performances brings the best classical musicians in the world to Hong Kong for performances and outreach, building a vibrant local arts scene, nurturing local artists, and making the inspiration of a live music performance accessible to all.

## Vision

Premiere Performances is sparking a musical movement. We want to enliven the imagination of Hong Kong audiences through extraordinary performances, inspire those who play to pick up their instruments and play with joy and love, and enable those who listen to have a concert experience like no other.

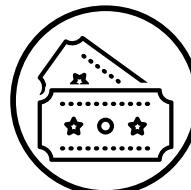
## Overview

Founded in 2007 as a registered charity by Andrea D. Fessler, Premiere Performances aims to establish Hong Kong as a leader in the international cultural landscape. Premiere Performances is a presenter of the world's best performers of recitals and chamber music with over 100 events each year, featuring a dynamic array of instruments, performance styles and musical genres.

## Beneficiaries

From special needs students through to the elite of Hong Kong, we have programmes aimed at all demographics of society. We believe that everybody, regardless of social class or education level, ethnicity or language, will be moved by the power of a live music performance presented at a world class level.

**In 2024/25, Premiere Performances organised:**



**29**

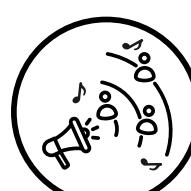
Public Ticketed Concerts  
(Recitals, Beare's Premiere Music Festival, Family Concerts, Jazz Series)



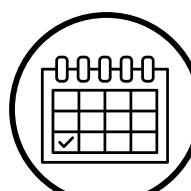
**8 Family Concerts**



**40 School Concerts**



**13 Outreach & Education Events**



**15**

Private Events (Salons)



**90**

Musicians

**Impacting over**

**28,000**

people

# Audience Reach 2024/25

Events	Concert & Salon Attendance	Outreach Attendance
Private Salon for Young Music Lovers Circle with Chelsea Guo	50	-
Sean Shibe Guitar Recital: "Unplugged"	942	20
Karim Sulayman & Sean Shibe: "Broken Branches"	884	-
Family Concert: Musical Fairy Tales: "The King, the Cat and the Fiddle" (2 shows)	908	-
Clara-Jumi Kang Violin Recital, with Yekwon Sunwoo, piano	1058	-
Narek Hakhnazaryan Cello Recital, with Rachel Cheung, piano	1267	-
Beare's Premiere Music Festival (BPMF) 2025 Outreach Events	-	762
BPMF 2025: Jakob Josef Orlinski & il Pomo d'Oro: "Beyond"	1196	-
BPMF 2025: Avi Avital & il Pomo d'Oro: "The Baroque Mandolin"	1067	-
BPMF 2025: An Afternoon with the Verona Quartet	196	-
BPMF 2025: Musical Fairy Tales: "Goldipeg & the Three Cellos" (2 shows)	894	-
BPMF 2025: Romantic Potpourri	1031	-
BPMF 2025: Festival Finale: "La Belle Époque"	942	-
Family Concert: Romer String Quartet	452	-
Premiere Performances Jazz: Ekep Nkwelle Quartet	396	-
David Greilsammer: "Labyrinth"	940	-
Family Concert: Rhythmaker Percussion Quintet (2 shows)	479	434
Rising Star Guitarist: Raphaël Feuillâtre	888	-
Premiere Performances Jazz: Benny Benack III Quartet	601	-
Dover Quartet & Haochen Zhang: "Dvorak & Franck"	935	-
Young Piano Virtuoso: Tony Siqi Yun	633	-
Private Salon with Ulysses Quartet	57	-
Family Concert: Romer String Quartet (additional shows)	565	-
Harp Superstar Emmanuel Ceysson: "Images"	942	-
Viva! Pipers School Tour	-	3120
Fiesta Brass School Tour	-	4155
Rhythmaker School Tour	-	2575
<strong>TOTAL</strong>	<strong>17,323</strong>	<strong>11,066</strong>

# Chamber Music in Schools

Making classical music accessible to all is central to Premiere Performances' mission. As one of the few organizations in the city that specializes in chamber music, we are proud to be building a vibrant local arts scene and nurturing young audiences with our wide range of Outreach & Education Programmes.

Since the establishment of our Chamber Music in Schools (CMIS) programme in 2013, we have brought 15 different overseas and local ensembles to Hong Kong schools, organising over **600** school performances, and reaching almost **140,000** kindergarten, primary, secondary and special educational needs students and **7000** teachers.

In 2024/25, we had three active groups, which were our local ensembles (Viva! Pipers, Fiesta Brass, and Rhythmaker).

In total, these groups gave a total of 40 school performances at 38 schools during 2024/25 including 1 kindergarten, 22 primary schools, 7 secondary schools, and 8 special needs schools. With these school visits, our groups performed for 9,225 students and 625 teachers.

## IN 2024/25, WE REACHED

▶ **9,225** students & **625** teachers in **40** school concerts

### Viva! Pipers Wind Quintet

Choi Hung Estate Catholic Secondary School  
P.L.K Riverain Primary School  
S.J.S Belcher Kindergarten  
Lee Chi Tat Memorial School  
S.K.H. Holy Carpenter Primary School  
Po Chiu Catholic Secondary School  
Yan Oi Tong Madam Lau Wong Fat Primary School  
Tung Chung Catholic School (Primary Section)  
St. Edward's Catholic Primary School  
S.K.H. St. Mary's Church Mok Hing Yiu College  
Hong Chi Morninghope School, Tuen Mun  
Immaculate Heart Of Mary School  
The C.C.C Mongkok Church Kai Oi School  
Caritas Lok Yi School

### Fiesta Brass Quintet

S.K.H. St. Peter's Primary School  
S.K.H. Chu Yan Primary School  
Kowloon Tong Government Primary School  
S.K.H. St. Peter's Primary School  
Hong Kong Red Cross John F. Kennedy Centre  
Hong Kong Christian Service Pui Oi School  
Po Kok Primary School  
The Hong Kong Chinese Christian Churches Union Logos Academy  
Hong Kong and Macau Lutheran Church Primary School  
S.R.B.C.E.P.S.A. Lu Kwong Fai Memorial School  
S.K.H. Tang Shiu Kin Secondary School  
Shek Lei Catholic Secondary School  
Yan Chai Hospital Chan Iu Seng Primary School  
Aberdeen Baptist Lui Ming Choi College  
The C.C.C Mongkok Church Kai Oi School

### Rhythmaker Percussion Quintet

Ho Shun Primary School (Sponsored by Sik Sik Yuen)  
Po Yan Oblate Primary School  
Fresh Fish Traders' School  
Shek Lei Catholic Primary School  
Law Ting Pong Secondary School  
Shap Pat Heung Rural Committee Kung Yik She Secondary School  
S.K.H. Ma On Shan Holy Spirit Primary School  
The True Light School of Hong Kong Primary and Kindergarten Section  
SAHK Ko Fook Iu Memorial School





“

### FEEDBACK FROM TEACHERS

We sincerely appreciate the team's hard work and their willingness to communicate with our teachers and adapt the programme according to our students' needs. This made it possible for the students to fully enjoy the musical experience. We look forward to inviting your groups to perform at our school again in the future.”

- Teacher from Caritas Lok Yi School

“I like that the musicians also included pop music so that students can enjoy different music styles and feel the power of live brass music! The whole performance is full of interaction and was very informative. Students and teachers enjoy it a lot!”

- Teacher from Aberdeen Baptist Lui Ming Choi College

“

### FEEDBACK FROM STUDENTS

I think they're really funny and brought lots of smiles to our faces!”

- Student from S.K.H Tang Shiu Kin Secondary School

“I hope our music teacher can organize similar activities for my classmates and me again, so that we can enhance our musical knowledge!”

- Student from S.P.H.R.C Kung Yik She Secondary Schol



# Outreach & Education

## Audience of Tomorrow Project

To make world-class music accessible to all, Premiere Performances donated 655 tickets to local NGOs and students in 2024/25.



### This year's partner organizations included:

Aberdeen Kai-Fong Welfare Association Social Service Centre  
Caritas Community Centre  
Grace and Joy Integrated Family Service Centre  
Music Chaos Foundation  
Po Leung Kuk Foster Care Service  
Po Leung Kuk Small Group Homes  
St. James' Settlement  
Sprouts Foundation  
Hong Kong Baptist University  
Saint Francis University  
The Chinese University Hong Kong  
The University of Hong Kong  
Tung Wah Group of Hospitals - E Major

# Recital Series

We had our biggest Recital Series to date in 2024/25 with 9 successful concerts featuring a wide range of instruments and repertoires, including piano, violin, cello, guitar, harp, tenor, and string quartet/quintet. All Recitals took place in Hong Kong City Hall Concert Hall.

## Sean Shibe Guitar Recital

**“Unplugged”** 29 September 2024 (Sunday)

Scottish guitarist Sean Shibe made his triumphant Hong Kong debut, with a programme featuring acoustic guitar repertoire including works by Bach, Barrios, Villa-Lobos and the HK premiere of a new work by British composer Thomas Adès called “Forgotten Dances”. There were 892 tickets out and an 86% attendance rate. This concert was sponsored by Elia Mourtzanou.



“

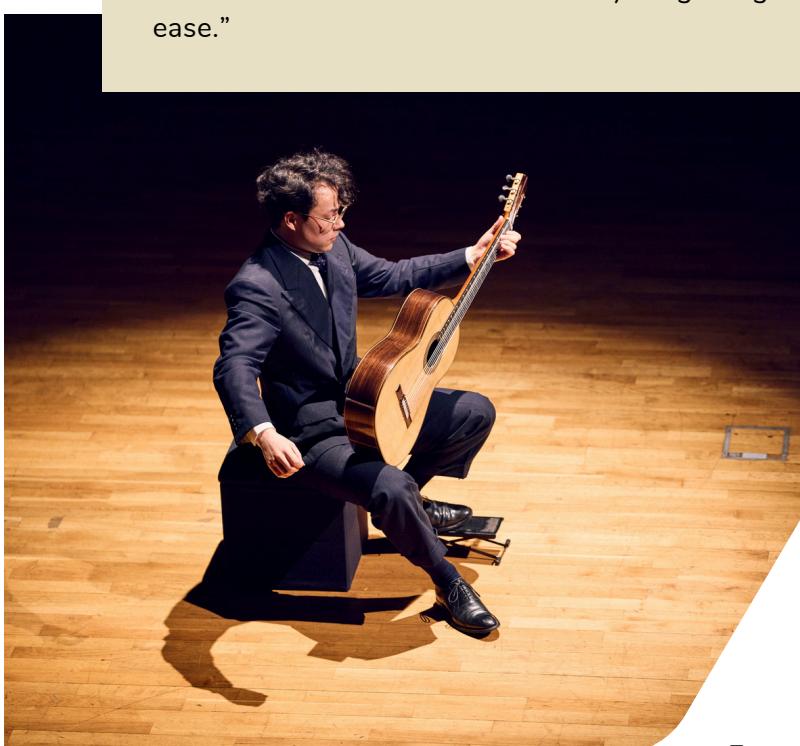
I was absolutely blown away by Sean Shibe’s performance of Thomas Adès’ ‘Forgotten Dances.’ His technical prowess on the guitar was truly impressive... Sean’s ability to navigate the quicksilver passages with such precision and fluidity was mesmerizing.”

- Audience member

“

Sean Shibe's endlessly delicate guitar notes possess a unique allure. At times, I even felt as though he exists in another realm—wholly forgetting the audience, wholly forgetting himself, serenely at ease.”

- Tina Fu, *Master Insight* (translated from Chinese)



“

Thank you for giving us the chance to see such talented young artists. More power to Premiere Performances!”

- Audience member

“

Sean’s performance is charming and subtle, with excellent sound quality and technical control, making it a memorable night.”

- Audience member

## Karim Sulayman & Sean Shibe: “Broken Branches”

4 October 2024 (Friday)

In his Hong Kong debut, American tenor Karim Sulayman and Scottish guitarist Sean Shibe presented “Broken Branches”, a conceptual recital that explored the cultural and musical ties between the East and the West. The programme ranged from Monteverdi and Purcell to Britten and Middle East folk songs, exploring music that tied in with the artists’ mixed identity, as they each grew up in the West (United States and Scotland) but with ethnic roots in the East (Lebanon and Japan). There were 884 tickets out and an 85% attendance rate.

“

This was a memorable performance! Beautiful, beautiful concert! The musicality and finesse of these two musicians are incredible... Mr. Sulayman’s singing brought us from big smiles to tears. And Mr. Shibe’s playing is exquisite!”

- Audience member



“

I enjoyed the wonderful performance and thank you for the talented performers and the organiser for bringing the heartfelt and delicate experience.”

- Audience member

“

The performers’ skills are outstanding, the performance excellent. Being able to watch such distinguished artists at a reasonable ticket price is a very rare opportunity!”

- Audience member



# Clara-Jumi Kang Violin Recital, with Yekwon Sunwoo, piano

5 November 2024 (Tuesday)



Superstar Korean violinist Clara-Jumi Kang started her stunning recital programme with the immensely technical and emotional Bach Chaconne for solo violin. She was then joined by Van Cliburn gold medal-winner Yekwon Sunwoo in the remarkable Weinberg Sonata No. 4, followed by the expressive and romantic Strauss Violin Sonata. The Korean Cultural Centre in Hong Kong was a concert collaborator. There were 968 tickets out and a 93% attendance rate.

“Fine playing and innovative format — short programme without interval, well suited to HK lifestyle.”

- Audience member

“Clara-Jumi Kang and Yekwon Sunwoo were more than perfect. The concert was like a dream. Please invite them again!”

- Audience member

“

Amazing programme and performance. Not easy to bring together exceptional soloists together in one concert. Well done!”

- Audience member



# Narek Hakhnazaryan Cello Recital, with Rachel Cheung, piano

18 November 2024 (Monday)

Following the cancellation of Sol Gabetta, Tchaikovsky Competition Gold Medal Winner Narek Hakhnazaryan stepped into her place and kept Gabetta's original programme which included sonatas by Schumann and Shostakovich. He was joined by local star pianist Rachel Cheung. This was Narek's fourth appearance with Premiere Performances. There were 1267 tickets out, with an 89% attendance rate. This concert was sponsored by a private individual.



“Though I planned to see Gabetta, thanks for substituting with such an exceptional yet not very famous cellist. He's by far much better than some "star" cellists I witnessed in the recent month. This is a testament to the flexibility / determination / hard work of your team. Well done!”

- Audience member



“Best interpretation of Shostakovich I have heard live.”

- Audience member

“The performance of both Narek Hakhnazaryan and Rachel Cheung was brilliant and made up for Sol Gabetta's absence. Well done the organiser!”

- Audience member



## David Greilsammer: “Labyrinth”

22 April 2025 (Tuesday)

Co-presented by the French May Arts Festival, French-Israeli pianist David Greilsammer performed an innovative programme entitled “Labyrinth”, a musical representation of a recurring dream of an infinite labyrinth. The concert was structured in seven musical chapters, each featuring music from different periods, styles and genres. This concert was supported by SystematicEdge and the Israel Consulate for Hong Kong and Macau. There were 840 tickets out and an 81% attendance rate.

“

Excellent programme. The first time I find listening to modern pieces to be intriguing.”

- Audience member

“

I must say the strength and concentration to play 60 minutes non-stop is exceptional...In terms of trying to break away from a conventional recital, it's good to try a new experience. Thank you.”

- Audience member



## Rising Star Guitarist Raphaël Feuillâtre

28 April 2025 (Monday)

For his Hong Kong debut, French guitarist and Deutsche Grammophon artist Raphaël Feuillâtre performed music by Bach, Barrios, Piazzolla and more. The concert was co-presented by the French May Arts Festival and supported by SystematicEdge. There were 838 tickets out and an 81% attendance rate.

“

Raphaël Feuillâtre's performance was fantastic and I had tears many times. Really touched and emotional.”

- Audience member



“

The music is very beautiful and the concert is very high quality. I love the guitarist and his artistry.”

- Audience member

“

This concert was very good; the performer's performance moved me deeply. I will buy his album and look forward to hearing him again.”

“A very impressive and jaw-dropping performance.”

- Audience members



## Dover Quartet & Haochen Zhang: “Dvořák & Franck”

12 May 2025 (Monday)



Long-time collaborators (since their student days at the Curtis School of Music), the two-time Grammy-award nominee Dover Quartet and the Van Cliburn gold medal winning pianist Haochen Zhang joined forces to perform pieces by Bright Sheng and César Franck. The Dover Quartet also performed a string quartet by Dvořák. The concert was co-presented by the French May Arts Festival and supported by SystematicEdge. There were 855 tickets out and an 82% attendance rate.

“Amazing — what a privilege to attend tonight's performance.”

“Well chosen composers and performed in excellent artistic teamwork”

“The performers were fantastic, really captivating.”

- Audience members

**2025 Recital Series**  
PREMIERE PERFORMANCES  
飛躍演奏香港  
演奏系列 World class chamber music and recitals  
世界級室內樂及獨奏音樂會

“High-contrast, high-calibre performance of Franck piano quintet caps evening of memorable music-making... the group's voices were like single grape varieties in a finely balanced wine cuvée, each retaining their distinct character amid the density of Franck's music.”

- **Christopher Hall, South China Morning Post**

## Young Piano Virtuoso: Tony Siqi Yun

4 June 2025 (Wednesday)

Canadian-Chinese young piano virtuoso Tony Siqi Yun returned for an exciting programme of Brahms, Bach, Schumann and Liszt. The concert was supported by SystematicEdge. There were 583 tickets out and a 56% attendance rate.

“

His powerfully sustained reading of the work showed virtuosity, but also delicacy and inspired moments of introspection.”

*- Christopher Hall,  
South China Morning Post*

“

Exceptional - what a privilege for music lovers in Hong Kong - thank you for programming that rivals that of any major cultural capital.”

“I appreciate your wonderful introduction of such a promising and gifted yet relatively unknown artist genius to Hong Kong.”

*- Audience members*

“

The young pianist was very impressive!! What a talent!! Feeling blessed to have attended that concert.”

*- Audience member*



## Harp Superstar Emmanuel Ceysson: “Images”

16 June 2025 (Monday)

The long-awaited return of harp superstar Emmanuel Ceysson did not disappoint, with a special programme dedicated to French music written specifically for the harp, including by composers Tournier and Caplet. The concert was co-presented by the French May Arts Festival and supported by SystematicEdge. The harp was provided by Harp Chamber Society. There were 892 tickets out and an 86% attendance rate.



“

Wonderful. Quite gutsy to have a harp solo recital (as it's not a mainstream instrument) but I thoroughly enjoyed it - this was my first time hearing a harp in concert / recital.”

“As a harp learner, it is a valuable chance and experience to watch, listen and experience a master's performance like Ceysson's.”

- Audience members



“

What an extraordinary and captivating performance! I feel fortunate to have experienced this concert in Hong Kong—I am now a devoted fan!”

“I wished that concert would never end!”

- Audience members

# Beare's Premiere Music Festival 2025

Title Sponsor



The Beare's Premiere Music Festival 2025 took place from 8-25 January 2025. The Festival featured a total of 38 musicians, performing in 7 concerts, 3 private events and 12 engaging outreach activities for music students and the general public. Title Sponsor J & A Beare also created a special exhibition at the Liang Yi Museum entitled "Stradivari Violins and the Journey of Musical Craftsmanship" for the duration of the Beare's Premiere Music Festival which also included talks, workshops and performances.

We are very grateful to our Title Sponsor **J & A Beare**, as well as Concert Sponsor **Interlude** for their continued support of the Beare's Premiere Music Festival.



## In 2025 Beare's Premiere Music Festival, there were:

23 events in January 2025 (8-25 January, 2025). These events involved:

- 23 International Musicians
- 15 Local Musicians
- 7 ticketed concerts in 3 different venues including 2 engaging Family Concerts
- 12 free Outreach & Education events including:
  - 4 Open Rehearsals
  - 3 Masterclasses/Chamber Music Coaching
  - 3 Workshops about Violin Making
  - 1 Harpsichord Demonstration
  - 1 Salon Performance
- Museum Exhibition entitled "Stradivari Violins and the Journey of Musical Craftsmanship" at the Liang Yi Museum
- 3 Private Events
- 5 Sponsors & Collaborators

There were:

**5,326** tickets out for 7 ticketed concerts, and  
**762** registered participants for 16 outreach  
and private events

making a total of **6,088** people reached.

**100%**

of the audience thought our concerts  
were enjoyable and high quality.



“I would also like to extend my thanks to J&A Beare for bringing so many precious instruments to Hong Kong.... I learned a lot from the exhibition.”

- Audience member

**“Beyond”**  
**Jakub Józef Orliński, countertenor**  
**il Pomo d’Oro**

13 January 2025 (Monday)  
Concert Hall, Hong Kong City Hall

“The thoughtful arrangement, the delivery,  
the voice... 90 minutes has never been so fast.  
Definitely will attend again if we have the  
privilege to invite him to HK again.”

- Audience member



Operatic phenomenon, Jakub Józef Orliński, together with the illustrious ensemble il Pomo d’Oro opened the 2025 Beare’s Premiere Music Festival with a performance entitled “Beyond”, featuring a treasure trove of musical gems from the 17th century, including a dozen world premieres, rare finds and timeless classics. There were 1,196 tickets out and an 84% attendance rate (including the balcony at City Hall).

## “The Baroque Mandolin” Avi Avital, mandolin il Pomo d’Oro

14 January 2025 (Tuesday)  
Concert Hall, Hong Kong City Hall

“

A very enjoyable programme with a fantastic choice of baroque music that truly demonstrates the versatility of mandolin

- Audience member

Mandolin superstar Avi Avital joined forces with musicians from il Pomo d’Oro for a concert of exquisite Baroque masterpieces from Venice and Naples, including concertos by Vivaldi, Galuppi, Durante and more. There were 1,067 tickets out and a 75% attendance rate (including the balcony).



## An Afternoon with the Verona Quartet

18 January 2025 (Saturday)  
JC Cube, Tai Kwun

“

Outstanding leading violin and excellent choice of repertoire. Perfect acoustics in the venue.”

- Audience member



This afternoon concert was an intimate chamber music experience with the Verona Quartet, one of the leading chamber music ensembles today, renowned for their exceptional cohesion and passionate performances. The concert featured pieces by Mendelssohn, Shostakovich and Gershwin. There were 196 tickets out and a 96% attendance rate.

## Romantic Potpourri

21 January 2025 (Tuesday)  
Concert Hall, Hong Kong City Hall

“

I had an amazing time. The artists were excellent, the masterpieces they played, brilliant, and the pianist had such a style! Thank you for organising this lovely concert.”

- Audience member



Our marvelous festival roster, including Ning Feng, So-Ock Kim, Adrien La Marca, the Verona Quartet, and the Sitkovetsky Trio performed gems of Romantic chamber music, including Louis Spohr's enchanting Potpourri "On Themes of Mozart", followed by the powerful Mendelssohn Piano Trio No. 2 and selections from Bruch's stunning "Eight Pieces". The crowning jewel of the evening was the iconic Mendelssohn Octet. There were 1031 tickets out and a 99% attendance rate.

## Festival Finale: "La Belle Époque"

22 January 2025 (Wednesday)  
Concert Hall, Hong Kong City Hall

“

Good selection of genres from string quartet, piano trio to quartet, especially the introduction of Cecile Chaminade. Loved the interpretation of Sitkovetsky Trio.”

- Audience member

A truly glimmering night of chamber music with music chosen from the enchanting era of La Belle Époque (1871-1914). The concert showcased the masterful musicianship of our visiting ensembles, with the Verona Quartet playing the only string quartet by Giuseppe Verdi, and the Sitkovetsky Trio playing the second trio by French Romantic composer Cécile Chaminade. The second half featured Fauré's evocative Piano Quartet, and the grand finale of our Festival, the fireworks of Bizet's Carmen Fantasy. There were 942 tickets out and a 91% attendance rate.





“

It was a wonderful concert for both children and parents. I'd love to see more performances like this in the future.”

- Audience member

## Musical Fairy Tales: “Goldipegs & the Three Cellos”

19 January 2025 (Sunday)  
2:30pm (Cantonese) 4:30pm (English)  
Theatre, Hong Kong City Hall

As part of the Beare's Premiere Music Festival, a new set of Musical Fairy Tales were truly a family friendly delight. Performer Lynn Yau provided lively narrations alongside wind quintet Viva! Pipers, Romer String Quartet, and Hannah Tam, Richard Bamping, Anna Kwan, Eric Yip and Evelyn Chang for three entertaining stories, including “The Frog Prince”, “Ferdinand the Bull”, and Steven Isserlis & Anne Dudley's brilliant “Goldipegs & the Three Cellos”. There were 447 tickets out for both the English and Cantonese shows, and a 97% attendance rate.

## Family Concerts

We had a very successful season of Family Concerts, featuring our local ensembles. These are specially designed one hour concerts for kids aged 5-11 and their families, and typically take place on Sunday afternoons. In 2024/2025, we had eight ticketed Family Concerts (including two during the Beare's Premiere Music Festival).

### Musical Fairy Tales: “The King, the Cat and the Fiddle”

3 November 2024 (Sunday)  
2:30pm (Cantonese) 4:30pm (English)  
Theatre, Hong Kong City Hall

This installment of our popular Musical Fairy Tales series included three charming stories featuring six musicians including James Cuddeford, Kiann Chow, Ringo Chan, Laurent Perrin, Masami Nagai and Evelyn Chang. There were two performances, one with Cantonese narration and one with English narration, by local actor Lucas Yung Yin Sing. There were 455 tickets out and 99% attendance rate for the 2:30 Cantonese show, and 453 tickets out and 98% attendance rate for the 4:30 English show.



“

The storytelling part was very wonderful and helped create the atmosphere!”

“The first and second stories were very wonderful!”

- Audience members

## Romer String Quartet

2 March & 15 June 2025 (Sunday) 2:30pm & 4:30pm

Concert Hall, Sheung Wan Civic Centre & Cultural Activities Hall, Sha Tin Town Hall

This Cantonese-only interactive show featured the popular Romer String Quartet introducing kids to a string quartet. The musicians explained their instruments, techniques and demonstrated the cool things a string quartet can do with music by Ravel, Puccini, Debussy, Piazzolla and George Crumb. After the show in March at the Sheung Wan Civic Centre Concert Hall sold out (452 tickets out, 98% attendance rate), we added two additional shows in Sha Tin Town Hall, Cultural Activities Hall (with an aggregate of 565 tickets out, 95% attendance rate).



“Thank you so much; my 7-year-old daughter enjoyed it a lot, and it inspired her interest in learning viola. We thought the program was easy to follow and learned a lot of new knowledge about the string quartet.”

- Audience member

“Excellent concert for introducing young kids to quartet/string instruments. Very thoughtful, fun and engaging. My 5-year-old daughter and I both enjoyed it a lot! The duration (~1hr) is just right too! Thank you!”

- Audience member

“Very interesting and highly interactive—my child enjoyed it very much!”

“Educational and entertaining, very good.”

- Audience members

## Rhythmaker Percussion Quintet

27 April 2025 (Sunday)

2:30pm (NGO concert) & 4:30pm

Concert Hall, Sheung Wan Civic Centre

Our local percussion ensemble, Rhythmaker, performed two shows (in Cantonese) at the Sheung Wan Civic Centre. Instruments played included the marimba, xylophone, cabasa, drums, and various household objects transformed into percussion instruments. The 2:30pm free concert was specifically designated for beneficiaries of NGO partners, with 434 tickets out. The sold-out 4:30pm show had 479 tickets out, with a 100% attendance rate.



# Premiere Performances Jazz

We were very excited this year to launch our latest series, Premiere Performances Jazz, in collaboration with Jazz at Lincoln Center. Each group performed four shows over two nights, at 7:00pm and 9:00pm. In 2024/25, we brought two ensembles from New York and tried two different jazz venues.

## Ekep Nkwelle Quartet

3 & 4 March 2025

7pm & 9pm

BaseHall, LG/F, Jardine House

“

Great to see Premiere Performances branching out in this way. I hope to experience more jazz concerts like this going forward.”

- Audience members

American vocalist Ekep Nkwelle, a force in today's jazz scene, was joined by Sequoia 'Redwood' Snyder (Piano), Russell Hall (Bass) and Anwar Marshall (Drums) as part of Jazz at Lincoln Centre on tour. Across four shows, there were 396 tickets out, and an attendance rate of 90%.



“

Absolutely enjoyable jazz concert. Extremely professional musicians and it's not often we see musicians of this quality in HK!"



“A great concert with top international musicians who play really well together. All four musicians are worth following and seeing again. Very good sound quality, comfortable venue, with a good selection of drinks.”

- Audience members

## Benny Benack III Quartet

5 & 6 May 2025 7pm & 9pm

Tea House Theatre, Xiqu Centre, WestK

“

The musicians were brilliant. Please have them back in the future. Our first time to the Tea House Theatre; it is a beautiful venue. We enjoyed the show very much.”

- Audience member

This performance spotlighted the multi-faceted talent of Emmy-nominated Benny Benack III, whose artistry earned him the title Rising Star Male Vocalist in the 2025 Downbeat Readers Poll and placed him among the top ten Rising Star Trumpeters. In addition to Benny Benack III on trumpet and vocals, the ensemble included Joe Peri on drums, Caleb Tobocman on bass, and Jon Thomas on piano. There were a total of 601 tickets out for the four shows, and a blended attendance rate of 93%.



“

Completely blown away by the performance! Amazing groove, engaging poise and delivery, the musicians are fantastic and having a fun time themselves which is such a joy to watch. I'm so overjoyed to be able to see Jazz at Lincoln Center in HK!"

- Audience member

“

Maybe one of the greatest shows I have ever seen!"

- Audience member



# Donor Programmes

## Salon Circle

Premiere Performances organizes private salon concerts for our top donors and invited guests featuring our world class artists, taking place in private homes and boutique venues. These salons are a unique opportunity to see performances by the best in the world in an intimate setting. Donors of \$10,000 or more receive invitations to private salon concerts.



Ulysses Quartet salon in Shek O



Tony Siqi Yun salon in Mid-Levels



Dover Quartet salon in the Liang Yi Museum

## Young Music Lovers Circle

After a hiatus of five years, we relaunched our patron programme for young professionals. For a minimum donation of HK\$4,000, young patrons (up to age 39) gain access to events involving world-class classical musicians, many of whom are also in their 20s and 30s. We relaunched the Circle with a special performance by American Chinese soprano/pianist Chelsea Guo at the Liang Yi Museum. Other events included a private salon by Yekwon Sunwoo.



YMLC Salon with Chelsea Guo at Liang Yi Museum

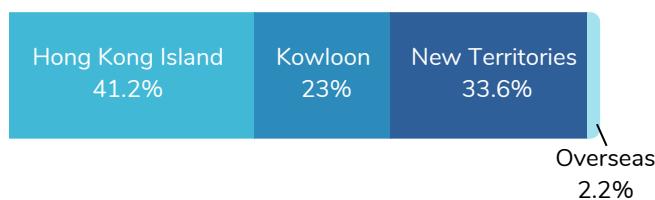
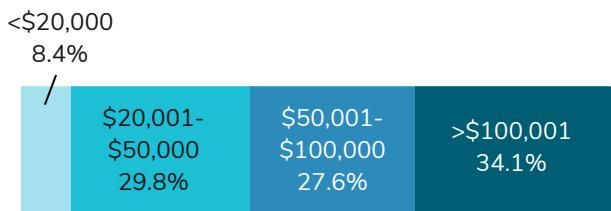
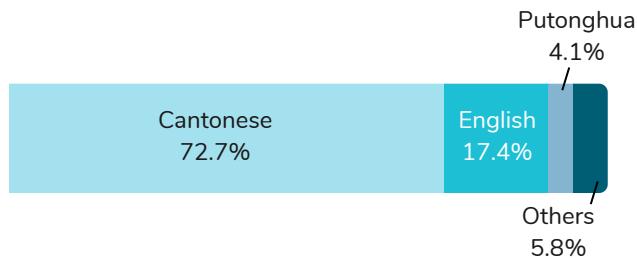
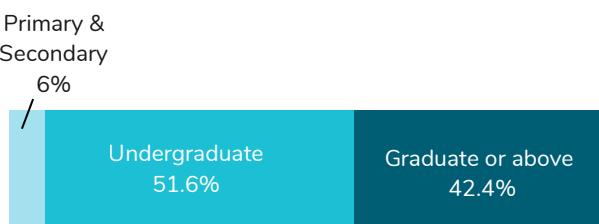
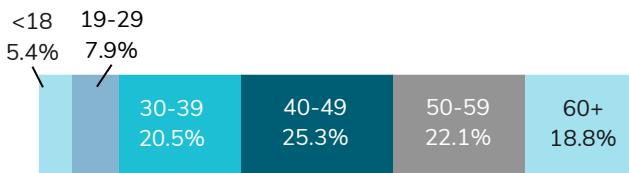
## Audience of Tomorrow

The Audience of Tomorrow Project is a donor initiative that underwrites tickets to Premiere Performances' concerts, allowing underprivileged children and elderly to attend our concerts. In FY2024/25, our donors helped us to donate 655 tickets (with a monetary value of \$187,840) to beneficiaries from 13 NGOs and universities. See page 6 for the list of charities.



# Our Audience

Surveys collected after every Recital, Beare's Premiere Music Festival event, Jazz Concert, and Family Concert tell us about our audience demographics. The following represents an average of all of the concerts in FY2024/25.



## Age

It is clear that our concerts appeal to all ages, but notably over 80% of our audience is under the age of 60.

## Education

Our audience is highly educated, with over 90% having a university education.

## Mother Tongue

A majority of our audience is local, with more than 70% having Cantonese as their mother tongue.

## Monthly Income

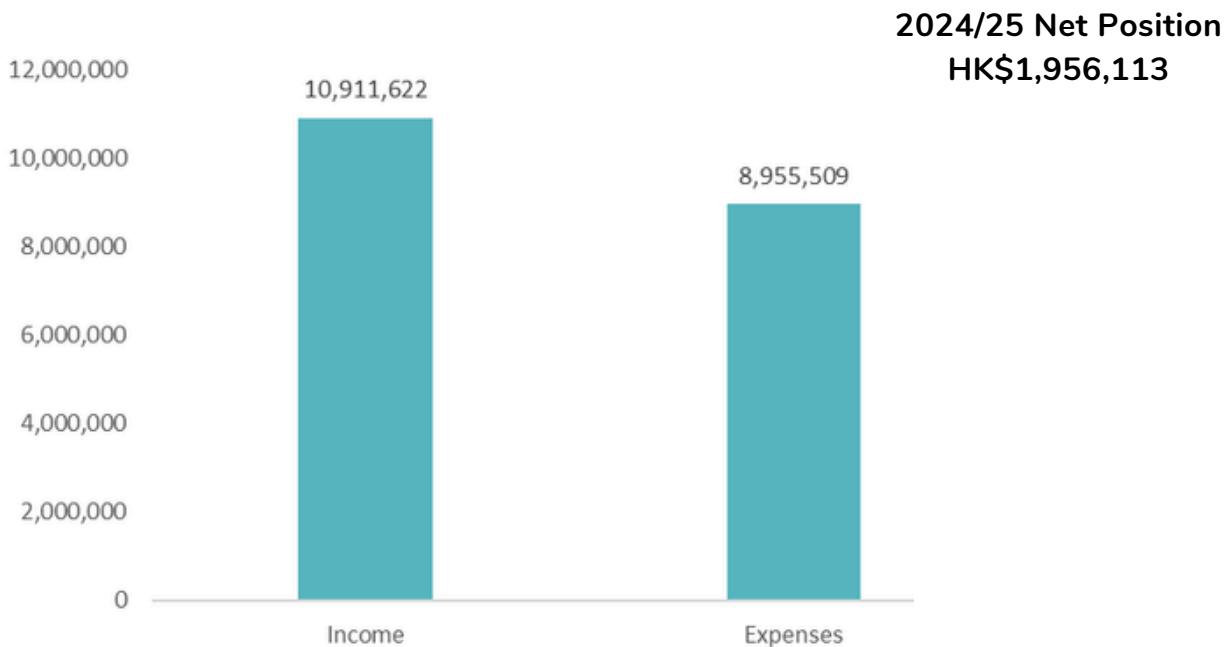
Our concerts attract people from all economic backgrounds.

## District of Residence

Our audience comes from all across the city, and over 58% of our audience does NOT live on Hong Kong Island.

# Financial Information

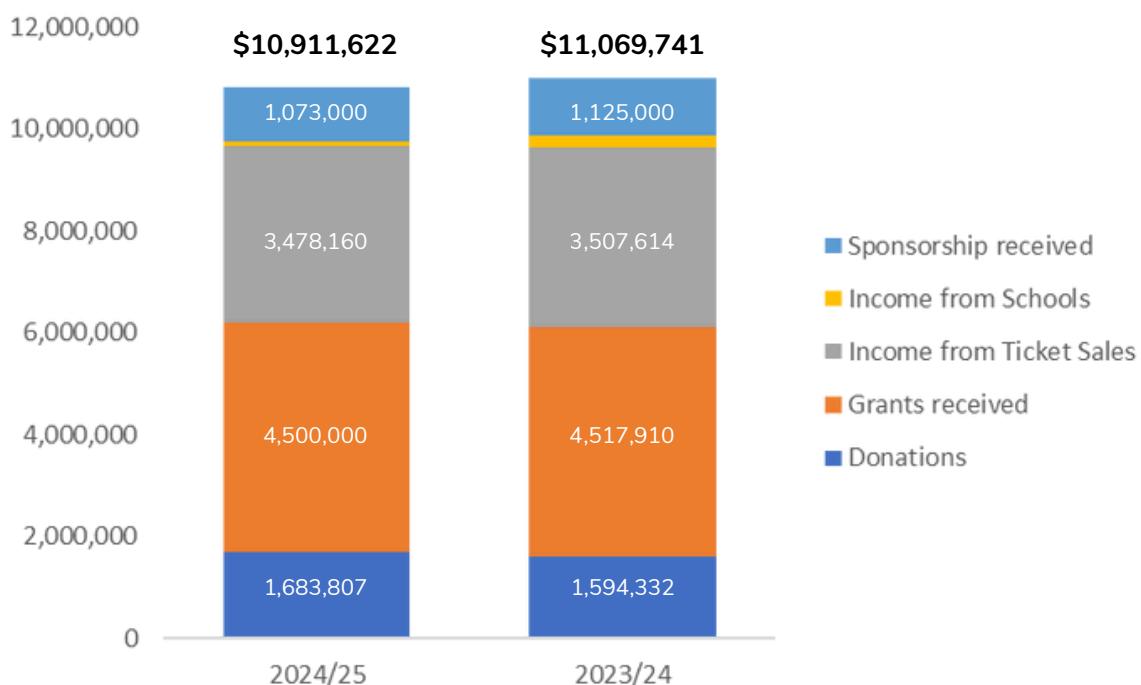
Following the most successful year in Premiere Performances' history, the 2024/25 fiscal year (FY) remained strong with respect to income and net financial position. We closed the fiscal year with a healthy surplus.



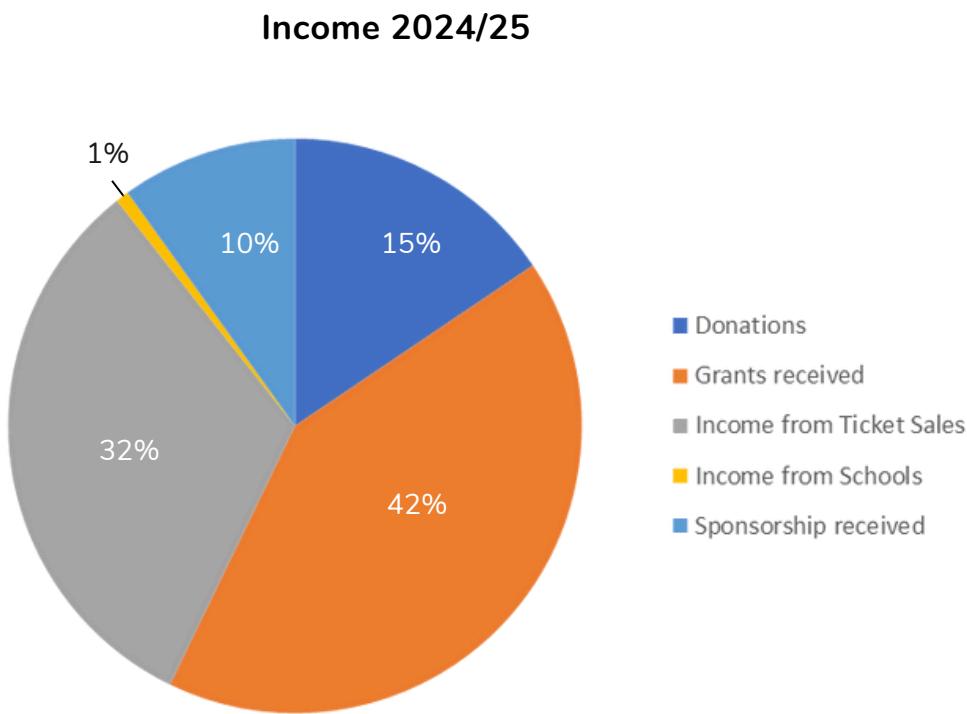
## Income

Our income was basically flat year-on-year, with a marginal 1% decrease (\$10,911,622 compared to \$11,069,741 in FY2023/24, a decrease of only \$158,119). Our biggest income category remained Government Grants at 42% of our annual income, flat year on year (\$4,500,000 compared to \$4,517,910 in FY2023/24).

### Income 2024/25 Compared to 2023/24



We are very fortunate to have the continued support of the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau under the Art Development Matching Grants Scheme. For the sixth year in a row, the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau retroactively changed the matching ratio from 1.5:1 to 1.8:1, and increased the maximum amount of the grant from \$4.0 million to \$4.5 million.



Ticket Sales remains our second largest category of income at \$3,478,160, and stayed remarkably flat year-on-year, accounting for 32% of our income (down only \$29,455 from \$3,507,614 in FY2023/24 which was a record-breaking year). In FY2024/25, we presented 30 concerts (up from 23 concerts in FY2023/24) which is a 30% increase: 9 Recitals (6 in FY2023/24), 8 Family Concerts (two of which were in the Beare's Premiere Music Festival) (7 in FY2023/24), 7 concerts in the Beare's Premiere Music Festival (6 in FY2023/24) and 8 Jazz Concerts (4 in FY2023/24). Given that ticket sales remained flat despite an increased number of concerts, one can see that the average attendance rate actually decreased from FY2023/24.

Private donations remain a very important component of our income, comprising 15% of our total income, increasing marginally by 1% over FY2023/24. (\$1,683,807 in FY2024/25, compared to \$1,594,332 in FY2023/24, a difference of only \$89,474). We are very fortunate to have built a stable base of annual donors.

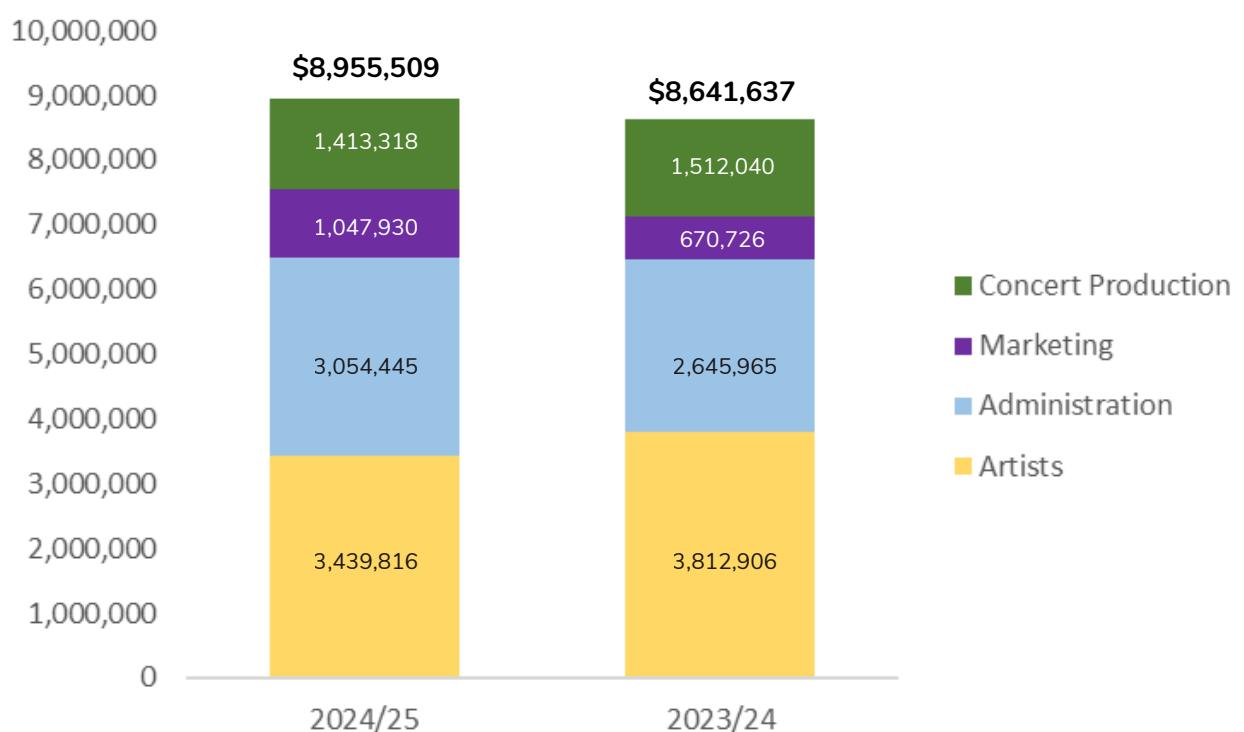
We held another successful edition of the Beare's Premiere Music Festival which kept concert sponsorship flat year-on-year, accounting for 10% of our annual income. We raised \$1,073,000 in concert sponsorship, which is a decrease of \$52,000 (or 5%) from FY2023/24 of \$1,125,000. Corporate sponsors included J & A Beare, the Title Sponsor of the Beare's Premiere Music Festival; SystematicEdge, a private asset management firm which supported the Spring 2025 Recital Series; BNP Paribas, which continued to support the Viva! Pipers for their Chamber Music in Schools tour; and Interlude, which sponsored one concert during the Beare's Premiere Music Festival. The recitals by Sean Shibe and Narek Hakhnazaryan were also sponsored by private individuals.

## Expenses

With all of this increased activity, our Total Expenses for FY2024/25 only increased 4% over the previous year. We spent \$8,955,509 in FY2024/25, up from \$8,641,637 in FY2023/24.

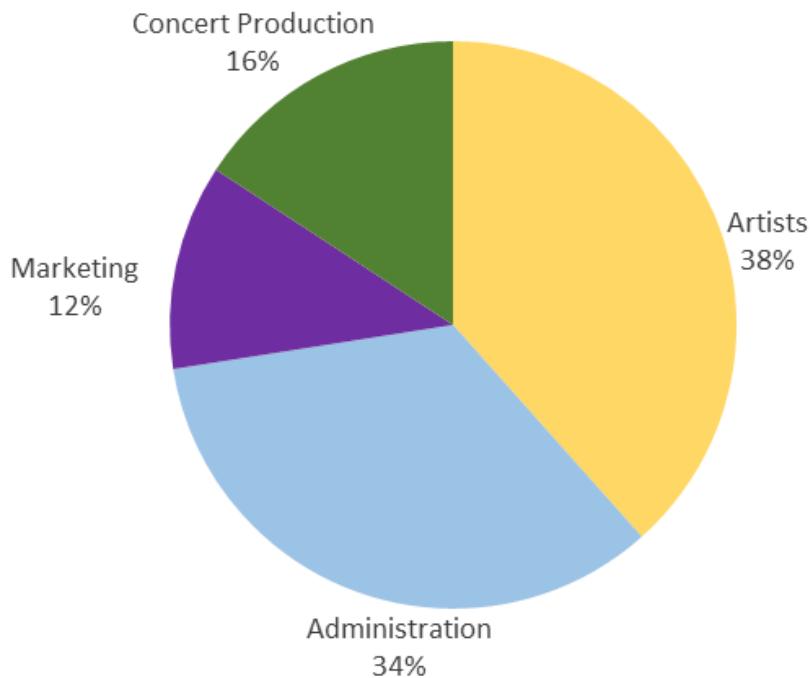
Our biggest category of expenses remained Artist Expenses (including Performance Fees, Airfare, Hotel, Visa Fees, Transportation, Hospitality and Taxes) for the second year in a row, which comprised 38% of our Total Expenses (down from 44% in FY2023/24). Artist Expenses decreased 10% year-on-year (\$3,439,816, down from \$3,812,906 in the previous fiscal year)

### 2024/25 Expenses Compared to 2023/24



The second largest category of Expenses was Administration, which comprised 34% of Total Expenses (up from 31% in the previous year). Administration costs increased 15% year-on-year (\$3,054,445 compared to \$2,645,965 in FY2023/24). Manpower (which includes Payroll, Consultancy and MPF) accounted for 73% of Administration costs (70% in FY2023/24), and office rent was 14% of Administration costs (16% in FY2023/24). Manpower costs increased by 21% year-on-year; this is primarily because we hired two additional staff members to assist with the increased workload from presenting more events, as well as using external consultants for some tasks that could be outsourced.

### 2024/25 Expenses



Concert Production (venue rental, production, printing) accounted for 16% of our Total Expenses (18% in FY2023/24), with a decrease of 7% year-on-year (\$1,413,318, compared to \$1,512,040 in FY2023/24, a difference of only \$98,722).

Marketing Expenses increased by 56% over the previous fiscal year, constituting 12% of our Total Expenses (up from 8% in FY2023/24). We spent \$1,047,930 for Marketing (up from \$670,726 in FY2023/24). This is because we had more concerts to advertise, and the cost of digital marketing is also increasing, as Meta and Google ads are becoming more popular thereby bidding up the price of digital ad campaigns.

# Thank You to Our Supporters!

We are very grateful to all of our sponsors, collaborators, and donors, whose support enables us to present such a wide range of world-class programmes and outreach.

Premiere Performances is financially supported by the Art Development Matching Grants Scheme of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administration Region.



Financial Support  
藝術發展配對資助計劃  
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MUSICAL CHAOS  
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## Spring Recital Series Supporter



### Recital Series

### Jazz Series

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with Yekwon Sunwoo, piano



Concert Collaborator

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自2007年起把世界飛躍  
新星帶到香港首演

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