



姚珏女士 SBS, JP
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Transforming the classic Chinese musical piece *Butterfly Lovers Violin Concerto* into a global sensation, Shanghai-born violin virtuoso Ms. YAO Jue has captivated and enchanted audiences from East to West. Yet, her influence transcends the realm of entertainment; her unique and inspiring musical journey serves as a beacon for a new generation of musicians aspiring to follow in her footsteps.

Guided by her conductor father, Ms. Yao embarked on her musical odyssey at the tender age of four. Initially introduced to the piano, she later ventured into the enchanting realm of the violin. A rigorous regimen of "military-style training" initially cast a shadow over her youthful spirit, but at twelve, the seeds of mastery began to sprout, laying the groundwork for her future as an esteemed violinist.

A standout at the Music Middle School Affiliated to Shanghai Conservatory of Music, Ms. Yao was handpicked at 16 to continue her studies at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Landing on American soil with only US\$45 in her pocket, she embraced a humble lifestyle, staying grounded even as she transferred to and graduated from the prestigious Juilliard School in New York.

Following her debut recital in her final year at Juilliard, Ms. Yao embarked on a momentous journey, mesmerizing Moscow audiences in 1993 with her rendition of the universally acclaimed *Butterfly Lovers*. The resounding applause echoed through a packed house, climaxing in a standing ovation that revealed a global appetite for the melodies of Chinese music and its rich cultural heritage. Inspired, she resolved to dedicate her career to bridging the East and West through the transformative power of music, leaving her musical footprints across the world.

Motivated by a commitment to nurturing young musical talents, Ms. Yao established the Yao Jue Music Academy upon moving to Hong Kong in 1997. She provided aspiring musicians with exceptional opportunities for growth and expression. Her vision expanded further when she founded the Hong Kong String Orchestra (HKSO) in 2013, serving as its Artistic Director ever since. This platform does more than cultivate local talent; it provides musicians with invaluable experience, allowing them to refine their skills and perform globally through artistic collaborations with a diverse spectrum of international musicians and groups.

生於上海的知名小提琴家姚珏女士，憑藉出色的演奏技巧，讓中國經典音樂作品《梁祝小提琴協奏曲》蜚聲國際，自己亦廣受中西樂迷愛戴及景仰。她的影響力遠超音樂娛樂領域，其與眾不同而又充滿啟發性的音樂旅程，使她成為新一代音樂家的榜樣。

姚女士生於音樂世家，父親為指揮家，幼承庭訓的她四歲開始接觸鋼琴，之後才踏入優美的小提琴世界。然而，初期的練習猶如軍訓般嚴苛，令年少的她一度萌生退念。幸虧直至12歲那年，她對小提琴的興趣日漸濃厚，開始掌握演奏技巧，實力逐漸提升，為她日後成為著名小提琴家的精湛造詣奠下良好的基礎。

十六歲已是上海音樂學院（附中）優異生的姚女士，在芸芸學生當中脫穎而出，被選中前往美國三藩市音樂學院進修。她當時帶著僅僅45美元抵達美國，時刻提醒自己生活必須克儉克勤，即使之後轉往舉世知名的紐約茱莉亞音樂學院繼續學習小提琴，姚女士依然腳踏實地追求夢想。

姚女士在茱莉亞舉行畢業演奏會後，於1993年前赴莫斯科演奏著名樂曲《梁祝》，獲得全場觀眾起立鼓掌，掌聲震動整個音樂廳，成為其音樂生涯的重要時刻。這次演出不僅反映了世界對中國音樂及文化的熱愛與尊重，也深深感動了姚女士，她從此決心以音樂的力量拉近東西方文化的距離，多年來走遍世界各地演出。

姚女士一直希望扶掖後進，因此於1997年移居香港後創立姚珏天才音樂學院，為後起之秀提供表演機會，讓他們的音樂才華得以發揮及提升。2013年，她進一步實踐音樂抱負，成立香港弦樂團，並擔任樂團藝術總監至今。香港弦樂團不僅是年輕音樂家實現夢想的搖籃，也提供了寶貴機會，讓他們與來自世界各地的音樂人和組合一起表演及交流切磋，提升演奏實力及技巧。

Embracing music's inclusivity, Ms. Yao joined forces with the Hong Kong Jockey Club to launch the pioneering Power of Music Programme. This initiative introduces the world of classical music to children from low-income backgrounds, offering them not only the chance to learn, but also to perform in community concerts. Over eight years, the program has enriched the lives of over 700 families, instilling in them newfound confidence and helping them realize their infinite potential.

Ms. Yao's passion for nurturing talented violinists extends to higher education. In 2017, a unique bond was formed between Ms. Yao and HKUST during the Music Dreams Come True Mentorship Programme, a collaborative effort between HKSO and eight local universities spanning 18 months. Fifteen gifted HKUST students, guided by the experienced musicians of HKSO, attended a series of training sessions culminating in their final performance at the Music Dreams Come True concert, where they were joined by Ms. Yao. This initial partnership with HKUST deeply touched her, as she was thoroughly impressed by the students' remarkable artistic creativity and their ability to think beyond traditional boundaries.

Following her performance at HKUST, Ms. Yao visited the Shaw Auditorium, where she envisioned a dynamic musical platform that transcends university boundaries and enriches the wider community through the harmonious symphony of technology, space, and music. Believing that the fusion of music and technology can unleash boundless creativity, she hopes to deepen the collaboration between HKSO and HKUST, revitalizing Hong Kong's music scene.

Ms. Yao's lifelong commitment to music, renowned achievements as a string orchestra performer, and dedication to nurturing future musicians have garnered her numerous accolades. She was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 2013 and awarded both the Bronze Bauhinia Star and the Silver Bauhinia Star in 2017 and 2023 respectively by the Hong Kong Government. Furthermore, she holds esteemed positions in prominent organizations such as the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, the Council of the China Musicians Association, and the Hong Kong Member Association of the China Federation of Literary and Art Circles.

Today, we honor Ms. Yao in recognition of her distinguished accomplishments in music and her unwavering commitment to nurturing talents, thereby enriching the arts and cultural scene in Hong Kong and beyond.

姚女士抱持音樂無界的信念，與香港賽馬會合作推出嶄新的「賽馬會音樂能量計劃」，將古典音樂帶進基層家庭，為兒童提供免費訓練及在社區音樂會中演出的機會。八年間，此計劃惠及超過七百個家庭，不僅幫助孩子建立自信，更讓他們發揮無盡的音樂潛能，意義重大。

姚女士不遺餘力地培育下一代小提琴家，更將目標推展至高等院校。2017年，香港弦樂團與本地八間大學合作推出「弦夢成真師友計劃」，於18個月內培訓各院校的音樂人才，姚女士也因此與科大結下不解之緣。十五名參與計劃的科大學生獲樂團的音樂家傳授寶貴技巧及經驗，最後更與姚女士一起在「弦夢成真」音樂會中同台演出。科大學生的音樂才華、創意及打破傳統音樂界限的能力深深打動了姚女士，叫她留下深刻印象。

在科大演出後，姚女士參觀了逸夫演藝中心，並構想出一個超越大學界限的動態音樂平台，透過科技、空間和音樂的巧妙融合，豐富社區的文化生活。她堅信音樂與科技的結合能夠激發無窮創意，故此期待香港弦樂團能與科大進一步合作，為香港的音樂領域注入新動力。

姚女士終身對音樂的付出與貢獻、作為小提琴家的非凡成就，以及培育後進的努力，在香港社會獲得廣泛認同。2013年，她獲香港特區政府委任為太平紳士，並在2017年及2023年先後獲頒銅紫荊星章及銀紫荊星章。她還擔任全國政協委員、中國音樂家協會理事，及中國文學藝術界聯合會香港會員總會顧問等職務，貢獻殊深。

姚珏女士音樂成就卓越，盡心竭力地培育音樂人才，在促進香港及世界各地的藝術文化發展方面建樹良多，科大今天衷心予以表揚。