

**Speech by Mr Lee King-ting Chairman of the Board of Trustees of
the Hong Kong Jockey Club Music and Dance Fund**

Miss Wong, Mr So, Dr Chan, Mr Brown, Board Members, scholarship awardees, ladies and gentlemen, thank you and a warm welcome to you all for joining us at this year's scholarship awarding ceremony.

First of all, congratulations to our five young talents, who are successful in being selected for the award of scholarships. For the music scholarships, the awardees are Melodic, Chau Lok Ping, Harmonic, Chau Lok Ting and Daniel Lo, and for the dance scholarships, we have Seth Chan and Betty Wong. They will be given the opportunity to introduce themselves to you later.

Competition for this year is particularly keen as we have received an unprecedented number of 44 applications. Thanks to the hard work of the members of our independent audition panels and their dedicated efforts in sailing through marathon sessions of auditions and interviews.

It is my honor to introduce to you the Chairman of this year's music audition panel, Dr Chan Hing-yan, Associate Professor and Chairperson of the Department of Music at the University of Hong Kong, and joining him on the music audition panel is Mr Benedict Cruft, Dean of Music at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, and renowned pianist, Ms Nancy Loo. For the dance audition panel, we are thankful to Mr Thomas Brown, Dean of Graduate Education at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, who chaired the panel this year. He was joined by Mr Ringo Chan, Assistant Artistic Director of the City Contemporary Dance Company, and renowned choreographer, Ms Mui Cheuk-yin. Dr Chan and Mr Brown will each speak on the tough selection process and the respective assessment shortly afterwards.

For the Fund to continue with its mission of nurturing young talents in the field of music and dance, we truly need to rely on community support. I take the opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to the Hong Kong Jockey Club for providing capital for the Fund and also to the Home Affairs Bureau for being incredibly supportive and undertaking the day-to-day administration of the Fund over the years. In addition, I would like to express the Fund's heartfelt gratitude to Mr Anthony Wong and Mr Vincent Kwok for providing honorary accounting and auditing services for the Fund.

We are delighted to witness the blossoming of so many local music and dance talents in the past few decades. As our slogan says, our mission is to let our talents shine. We have high hopes for this year's five awardees. May all of you take pride in the scholarships and benefit the most from the programmes you have chosen to pursue. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors and look forward to your reciprocal contribution to Hong Kong's arena of music and dance after your studies. At this time, I would also like to thank Professor Kevin Thompson for the many years of service to the Fund, to the scholarship and I wish you all the best in returning home to the new role. And also, just hearing that the Secretary of the Fund would be leaving us in a month's time, thank you very much for the many years of keeping us in line and making sure we all do the right things. Thank you very much.