

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

Miss Yan, Dr Chan, Board Members, scholarship awardees, ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you and a big welcome to you all for joining us at this year's Scholarship Awarding Ceremony.

The Fund awards scholarships once a year to enable exceptionally talented candidates to pursue integrated programmes of post-diploma studies, post-graduate studies and professional training in music or dance at world-renowned institutions; to undertake less formal studies, projects or creative work outside Hong Kong. Applicants have to go through a stringent selection process undertaken by independent audition panels.

This year, we are honoured to have the Associate Professor of the Department of Music at the University of Hong Kong, Dr Chan Hing-yan; the Head of Woodwind, Brass and Percussion of School of Music at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, Mr Alan Cumberland; and renowned pianist Ms Nancy Loo to serve on the music audition panel. We have also invited the Director of the Graduate Education Centre at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, Mr Thomas Brown; Assistant Artistic Director of City Contemporary Dance Company, Mr Ringo Chan; and renowned Choreographer Ms Mui Cheuk-yin to serve on the dance audition panel.

Competition for this year is particularly keen as we have a total of 28 applicants, and their standard is exceptionally high. Thanks to the said audition panellists for their hard work and dedicated effort in sailing through several days of auditions and interviews, we have selected six outstanding young artists for the award of the scholarship, totalling over HKD \$2million. They are, in alphabetical order, Mr Chen Yeung-ping, Miss Rachel Cheung, Mr Ng Ka-chun, and Mr Paw Man-hing for Music Scholarships. For Dance Scholarships, we have Miss Chan Nga-shan and Mr Chen Lei. Dr Chan and Mr Brown will each speak on the tough selection process and their respective assessment shortly afterwards.

I speak for all of us when I say we have high hope for this year's six awardees. May all of you take pride of the scholarships and benefit the most from the programmes you have chosen to pursue. And I wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

I take the opportunity to express our gratitude to The Hong Kong Jockey Club for providing capital for the Fund which has allowed us to play a part in grooming the Hong Kong young talented artists; and also to the Home Affairs Bureau for being incredibly supportive and undertaking the day-to-day administration of the Fund over the many years.

We are indeed proud to witness the blossoming of so many local music and dance talents in the past 30 years. We look forward to having a continued role in nurturing yet more talented young people and bringing out their full potential in the arena of music and dance. Thank you.