

我們的
美樂時光
OUR MUSIC JOURNEY

CHRISTMAS CONCERT IN THE PARK
聖誕園林音樂會 2024

· 座位有限 先到先得 ·
FREE
ADMISSION
免費入場
· on a first-come-first-served basis ·

24.12.2024

Tue 星期二 5PM

Olympic Square, Hong Kong Park
香港公園奧林匹克廣場



It has been half a century since the establishment of RTHK Radio 4, Hong Kong's unique fine music channel. Fifty years of broadcasting is indeed a long journey, but it is merely a tiny step in the history of music appreciation.

Where Was Music Heard in Ancient Times?

A thousand years ago, monks gathered to praise the Lord through singing. Thanks to the creation of musical notation, people today can sing the same plainsongs that resonated in ancient cathedrals. Over time, church music in the West became more sophisticated, with innovations and experiments in harmony, texture, and rhythm. Music also entered the lives of the aristocracy, and among the newly developed instruments, the delicate sound of strings was favoured. Johann Sebastian Bach, the Father of Music, either served as kapellmeister at the court, performing for music-loving princes, or as a church musician, composing sacred music throughout his career.

Who Could Enjoy Music?

In the 18th century, a handful of aristocrats supported the arts by providing patronage and hosting private salons in their residence. At that time, fine music was largely inaccessible to ordinary people. Public concert halls were rarely seen outside Britain, and while there were opera houses, these high-profile venues were primarily for the upper class. The Industrial Revolution changed this landscape with the rise of the middle class. Pianos became a common fixture in the drawing rooms of middle-class households, and amateur performers had a great demand for chamber music and songs that could be enjoyed at home. More importantly, the educated middle class played an influential role in Europe's cultural life. In Italy, opera houses filled with passionate fans discussed the operas staged in the city, much like modern audiences discuss popular TV dramas. Meanwhile, Viennese people were enchanted by dances, especially the waltz; when a significant new waltz premiered, the news was prominently featured in newspapers.

Music Accessibility in Modern Times

The 20th century ushered in a new era of musical exploration, where composers challenged traditional concepts and embraced a fusion of diverse styles. Classical music evolved, influenced by the rhythms of jazz, blues, and ragtime, fostering a cultural exchange that transcended borders. Technological advancements such as radio broadcasts brought classical music to households worldwide, democratizing access to this rich musical tapestry. In the United States, millions of families owned a radio in the 1920s. Listeners in Chicago enjoyed opera broadcasts every evening. The first fine music channel in Hong Kong was established in 1974, and the first classical music concert relay took place at the Hong Kong City Hall two years later. Since then, Radio 4 has witnessed rapid growth in classical music listeners in our city.

Our Music Journey

Radio 4 invites you to embark on a musical odyssey at this year's 'Christmas Concert in the Park'. Immerse yourself in a symphony of sounds that traverse eras and genres - from the ethereal plainsong to the peaceful aria of Bach, from the romantic waltzes to the fiery tango. Delight in a medley of beloved classical tunes expertly arranged by Ng Cheuk-yin, culminating in a heartwarming Christmas Medley that you can join to sing.

Join us at Olympic Square, Hong Kong, on Christmas Eve as we come together to enjoy the beauty of classical music.

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專門播放美樂的第四台，立足香港已有半個世紀。然而相對於古典音樂欣賞的歷史，五十年實在是微不足道。

古時候哪裡有音樂？

上千年前，僧侶口傳心授的素歌因為記譜法的出現而得以保存，讓現今的我們一窺古時僧侶和信徒吟唱的聖歌，想像那虔誠的歌聲在寺院裡迴盪。西方的教堂見證音樂日漸變得精緻豐富，和聲、織體、節奏都有創新的發展；另一方面，音樂亦成為宮廷的娛樂，溫雅的弦樂尤其得到青睞。我們熟悉的音樂之父巴赫，一生都在宮廷或教會任職，不是為喜愛音樂的僱主作曲演奏，就是為教會的禮拜埋首創作，以音樂榮耀上主。

誰能享受音樂？

18世紀湧現一批愛好音樂的貴族贊助人，經常在自己的宮殿舉辦音樂活動。那時的普羅大眾大概很難接觸到精緻的音樂。公共音樂廳在英國以外非常少見，歌劇院也是上流社會的社交場所。情況到19世紀初就有重大轉變，因為中產階層冒起，音樂開始進入大眾日常生活。中產家庭爭相購置鋼琴，他們對於在家中演出鋼琴曲、歌曲、室樂合奏的需求甚殷，更重要的是這些有文化內涵的愛樂者逐漸成為支撐音樂發展的力量，鼓勵作曲家不斷推陳出新。在意大利，歌劇院不再是奢華的象徵，而是市民日常的消遣，大眾對市內各大劇院的劇目議論紛紛，熱衷的程度媲美現代人追看電視劇。在維也納，大眾沉醉於舞曲，尤其是圓舞曲，矚目的新曲上演都有報刊大篇幅報導。

唾手可得音樂的現代

到了20世紀，古典音樂更為豐富多元，一是因為很多創作者勇於尋求突破，對聲音設計有嶄新的主張；二是古典音樂吸收了世界各地的本土特色，激發出與歐洲傳統不一樣的色彩——例如流行音樂、爵士樂的元素在20世紀樂曲中屢見不鮮；皮亞蘇拉的阿根廷探戈亦進入古典音樂家的曲目範疇，引起一股風潮。古典音樂百花齊放，背後還有一個重要推手，就是錄音和無線電廣播的普及。有了錄音，各地的音樂能打破地域界限，讓全世界聽見，帶來衝擊與啟發。無線電廣播亦將古典音樂免費送到各個家庭。在美國，1920年代就有上千萬家庭擁有收音機，芝加哥有電台每晚播放歌劇。香港的古典美樂頻道則成立於1974年，兩年後首次在香港大會堂轉播音樂會。第四台在這半世紀見證本地樂迷的增長，亦確信免費廣播對於音樂發展舉足輕重。

我們的美樂時光

在聖誕園林音樂會，第四台希望與你分享古典音樂的美好。我們會踏上時光之旅，速覽由素歌到巴赫清唱劇，由浪漫藝術歌曲到火熱新探戈的音樂歷程。在作曲家伍卓賢所編的《古典名曲大串燒》，我們會在十分鐘裡將最受人喜愛的古典旋律一次盡收。最後的《聖誕套曲》也有很多熟識旋律，你更可以加入同唱聖誕歌，在音樂中體會節日暖意。

現在是愛樂者最豐盛的時光，第四台有幸與你身處其中。平安夜下午5時，我們在香港公園見。

