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Brighten Me with Virtues

The Road, made by those who walked before us, kindles a flame with insight, Knowledge enlightening our souls, With a spirit of exploration we seek after wisdom. Seasons change, but our heritage remains. This journey of a hundred years has nurtured us, Sharpened our vision and broadened our horizon. Brighten us with virtues; Brighten us with the clarity and perseverance of courage. Let wisdom be our shield, Guard our intellect as we tread the path, Even through the darkest night our spirit remains ablaze, Abounding in truth - this is our motto. Standing fast against the wind and storm - this is our motto. We blaze a trail, following our hearts, pursuing truth; Seeking insight, we build the future. With wisdom, we embrace freedom and commitment, Discerning right from wrong, like the holy fire, burning ever brighter when challenged. The world advances, a heritage built by generations. From the last hundred years to the next, We learn from history, we create history.

(A translation)
This is an unprecedented collaboration of three masters of Canto-Pop, Sam Hui 許冠傑 (BA 1971), Lin Xi 林夕 (BA 1984) and Adrian Chow 周博賢 (LLB 1991; PCLL 1992; LLM 1994), alumni of HKU from different generations.

Since its inception, HKU has been one of the prime movers of Hong Kong culture. Not only culture in the sense of philosophy and high art, but also of popular longings and desires. Over time HKU has generated a host of alumni who, through their groundbreaking creative works, speak to common people’s sentiments and help shape a local collective identity.

Sam Hui, with his bold infusion of local vernacular into western Rock and Pop music genres in the 1970s, literally created a new language of pop music. His songs offered a progressive sound and a uniquely incisive take on the trials and tribulations of ordinary people. They have since become the collective soundtracks for a whole generation making their mark in a rapidly modernising Hong Kong.

Lin Xi’s lyrics have been a benchmark in the culture of Canto-Pop, thanks to his seemingly incessant stream of outstanding works since the 1980s. From the diverse notions of love and life, to the reflections on the younger generations’ attitudes to political issues, his blend of the mundane and the philosophical has inspired many lyricists, not only locally but throughout the Greater China and overseas Chinese community.

Though Adrian only started his music career in the 21st century, his key outputs via Kay Tse 謝安琪, Arts alumna, have established him as an all-round composer-lyricist-arranger-producer. His hybrid music styles are unmistakably of the new age. Yet in his compassionate tunes of socio-cultural concerns, we can see echoes of Sam Hui, harking back to the “people’s voices” of the 1970s.

Over the years, we have debated and elaborated on the core values of HKU. We are thankful the three alumni from three generations, on this important day of reflection, contribute their thoughts on the topic. “Brighten Me with Virtues”, unadorned, uplifting and from the heart. This is a song to remind us that we must continue to hold on and spread the quintessential core values of our Alma Mater.

Dr C H Ng 吳俊雄博士 (BSocSc 1980; MPhil 1983) Associate Professor, Department of Sociology

Dr Wong Chi-chung 黃志淙博士 (MPhil 1997; PhD 2010) Assistant Director, General Education Unit

http://100.hku.hk/galadinner/song

(From left) Alfred Hui 許廷鏗 (BDS, Year 5), Sam Hui, Kay Tse and Adrian Chow took part in the recording.
At the Centenary Ceremony held on August 18, 2011, Vice-Premier Li Keqiang of the State Council of the People’s Republic of China, unveiled the plaques of:

• the State Key Laboratory of Emerging Infectious Diseases (Partner Laboratory at the HKU – Shenzhen Branch) 「香港大學新發傳染性疾病國家重點實驗室伙伴實驗室深圳分室」; and

• the Hong Kong – Guangdong Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine Research Centre 「粵港幹細胞及再生醫學研究中心」.

State Key Laboratories (SKLs) are key components of China’s science and technology research system. They serve as the base for top-level basic research and applied basic research development, assembling and nurturing outstanding researchers, as well as scholarly exchanges for the country. So far, four SKLs have been set up in HKU.

The first two are Brain and Cognitive Sciences and Emerging Infectious Diseases. They were set up in 2005 and were then the first and only SKLs in their respective fields located outside mainland China. Liver Research and Synthetic Chemistry were established in 2010.

Vice-Premier Li also announced that starting from 2012, the relevant department of the central government will set up a dedicated fund to support studies, exchange programmes, research scholarships, experiential learning and social service practices in mainland China for 1,000 HKU students and staff each year.

The HKU – China 1,000 Exchange Scheme was kicked off on April 26, 2012 at Fudan University in Shanghai. The ceremony was attended by HKU students and faculty members from both universities as well as government representatives.

「香港大學千人內地交流計劃」每年支持1,000名港大師生到內地交流，於2012年4月26日在上海復旦大學正式啟動。教育部副部長郝平、香港大學學生聯同校長徐立之、復旦大學校長楊玉良、中聯辦教科部部長潘永華、上海市政府副秘書長翁鐵慧及其他高校代表等十餘位嘉賓出席啟動儀式。
Vice-Premier Li Keqiang delivered his speech in Putonghua, switching to English for the closing part:

“I echo Vice-Chancellor Tsui’s view. Indeed, HKU is for Hong Kong, attracting talents and educating people to promote Hong Kong’s prosperity. HKU is for China. It has become a key higher-education institution in China, playing an increasingly important role in China’s development and its integration with the world. And HKU is also for the world, becoming an integral part of the world’s academic community in advancing human knowledge… I strongly believe that the next one hundred years of the University will be even better.”

Lord Wilson of Tillyorn, Chancellor of the University of Aberdeen and also HKU alumnus, began his speech in Putonghua before changing back to English.

He expressed his delight at joining the University’s Centenary 50 years after he first stepped on the campus as a student in 1960:

“我第一次來到香港是1960年，是為了進入香港大學讀書，學習普通話。我當時想不到再過50年，我會參加這一次慶祝港大百周年的儀式。這當然是我非常高興。”

Freedom and Diversity

The visit of Vice-Premier Li Keqiang on August 18, 2011 has generated intense debates and reflections. In light of the controversies surrounding the ceremony in terms of security, seating and invitations, the University Council subsequently set up a Review Panel to establish appropriate mechanisms and policies for future University events in ways that reflect the University’s continued commitment to its core values of freedom, liberty and diversity.

For the Report by the Review Panel, please visit [www.hku.hk/rpanel/](http://www.hku.hk/rpanel/)

On February 3, 2012, the Council accepted in principle the goodwill and recommendations of the report, and resolved to invite the University Management to set up a task force which will work with the Council to look into the recommendations of the report. A Steering Committee was set up with Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Roland Chin as convener to study the feasibility of the recommendations. It will also steer and oversee the implementation of the recommendations where appropriate.
香港大學百周年
December 18, 2011
Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre

Grand Hall

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The Song: Brighten Me with Virtues
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TV Special, December 18, TVB Jade: 「百載恩.香港情」 — 香港大學百週年特輯
http://100.hku.hk/galadinner/v1/special_prog.html

Gala Months
http://www.alumni.hku.hk/pre_post/gala_month/

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We (Universities) are an institution always ahead of its time because our purpose is timeless: to foster student learning; to preserve and increase the store of human knowledge; and to engage with and contribute to the wider society...

Professor Stephen J Toope
President, The University of British Columbia
Presidents Summit, December 18, 2011

A 10-year-old boy in Ghana helped me to realise that every bit counts towards the greater good…even the smallest thing I can do can help someone else.

Jessy Chen (HKU Law student)