

**Research Assessment Exercise 2020**  
**Impact Overview Statement**

**University:** [The Education University of Hong Kong |  
**Unit of Assessment (UoA):** [39 Music and performing arts |  
**Total number of eligible staff of the university in the UoA:** [6 |

**(1) Context**

*The main non-academic user groups, beneficiaries and audiences for the research include the general public; cultural organisations (e.g. Cantonese Opera Advancement Association), artists and performers; public service and policymaking bodies, such as Education Bureau (EDB), Curriculum Development Council (CDC), and the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA); and schools, teachers and students. The research has wide-reaching impact. The main types include:* a.) impacts on creativity, culture and society through production of new musical artefacts; and preservation and appreciation of traditional music forms; b.) impacts on commerce and the economy, through economic benefits for musicians and performing arts venues; c.) impact on public service and policy through influence on school curriculum and examination reform; d.) impacts on practitioners, e.g. on teachers through pedagogical innovation; e.) impacts on understanding, learning and participation among school students and the general public through extensive engagement in and beyond schools.

*These relate to the range of research activity in the Unit in the following ways:*

**Prof Leung Bo-wah's** work on creativity and motivation in music teaching and learning, together with his research on music teacher education and curriculum development, have all impacted positively on educational stakeholders. Specifically, his projects focusing on the teaching of Cantonese Opera to school students have provided teachers with workable ideas for its incorporation while breaking down cultural barriers associated with this art form.

**Dr Jason Chen Chi-wai's** publications and knowledge transfer (KT) project on music technology, creativity and motivation have transformed the pedagogy in using Artificial Intelligence and data analytics in learning aural skills, compositional thinking in computer-mediated composition and mobile composing in popular music for secondary school students.

**Dr Koji Matsunobu's** work on the shakuhachi has explored the delivery of indigenous music through various deconstructive, creative, and spiritual approaches. In the process it has provided practitioners in community settings, especially those that are decontextualised, with opportunities to experience learning styles that move beyond traditional boundaries. |

**(2) Approach to impact**

[The Unit has a six-pronged approach to achieving impact:

1. *We ensure the quality, rigour and relevance of our research*, which underpins our reputation among different musical and non-musical communities. For example, Dr Chen Chi-wai's expertise gained as a committee member of the HKEAA-CDC led to him refining the HKDSE music examination. As a direct result, the number of students sitting the examination increased from 165 in 2017 to 218 in 2018.

2. *We leverage strong networks* with other academics, policymakers, major donors, cultural organisations, e.g., Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), and school leaders and teachers. The Unit has achieved this via the establishment of the Research Centre for Transmission of Cantonese Opera (RCTCO), by accepting invitations to participate in policy advisory committees such as the those coordinated by the CDC-HKEAA, and by organising / hosting our own international events, e.g., the Asia-Pacific Symposium for Music Education Research (APSMER) 2015 and the 7th Cross-Strait Forum on Music Education in May 2019. The Unit also delivers Professional Development Programmes for serving teachers and engages with schools via teaching practice activities.

3. We use these networks to *tender for research* that support local education policy and schools in developing aesthetic education, e.g., a commissioned research project from the EDB regarding the implementation of the Curriculum Guide in 2014.

4. We seek out *cross-disciplinary and international collaborations* to strengthen our research and impact, e.g., Dr. Leung Chi-hin's STEAM in Music project combined science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics.

5. We *maximise knowledge transfer and public engagement* by participating in public exhibitions, competitions, and by working with music organisations to transfer knowledge and build music appreciation with the aim of building new practices and audiences, e.g., Dr Chen Chi-wai's participation in the InnoCarnival 2018 at Hong Kong Science Park that showcased his KT project 'i-Learning: Develop a Curriculum in Using iPad to Compose Music for Secondary School Students in Hong Kong'. We seek opportunities to deliver experiential learning activities for school children, such as Hong Kong Children's Choir's hosting in December 2018 of a concert celebrating Dr Ho Sung Chi Steven's contributions to Cantonese choral music and film music. Ho was its composer-in-residence.

6. We implement a *coherent communications and media strategy* across multiple platforms to engage with beneficiaries of our research and knowledge transfer activities. Researchers such as Dr Leung Chi-hin Michael and Dr Matthew Thibeault have strong on-line presences through their own and project-related websites and social media activity, while Prof Leung's founding of a bilingual website (linked to social media) of Cantonese Opera in Hong Kong in 2015 disseminates knowledge among international and local audiences. |

### (3) **Strategy and plans**

|Characterised by a desire to reach both local and international audiences, the Unit will continue to actively promote external networking to engage and interact with different communities. Looking forward, the Unit plans to launch a Research Centre for Music Education in 2019 to promote and develop local and international research. A proposal is being presented to one of the leading publishers to bring the Unit's *Asia-Pacific Journal for Arts Education* to a more global audience. While international research collaborations remain one of the main future goals, staff members' community activities will continue to be supported through a combination of initial funding, logistical assistance and subsequent sharing sessions. |

### (4) **Relationship to case studies**

|Prof Leung Bo Wah's research is underpinned by quality, rigour and relevance. It leverages networks with other academics and stakeholders, including schools, the Cantonese Opera Advancement Association, and Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts. He has tendered for research, e.g., the QEF-funded 'Partnership Project on Teaching and Learning of Cantonese Opera in Primary and Secondary Schools', and sought cross-disciplinary and international collaborations, e.g., through the publication (Springer, 2018) of an edited book on the transmission of traditional music, and collaboration with research users in the development of the Computerised Kinetic Chain Assessment and Learning System. Moreover, the research promotes extensive KT and public engagement, e.g., through the professional development of teachers, book, video and multimedia publications, Virtual Reality Cantonese Opera exhibitions, and participation in the Cantonese Opera Day (6 January 2019). Finally, it demonstrates a coherent communications and media strategy, as reflected in the RCTCO and Cantonese Opera in Hong Kong initiative websites, and Leung's extensive local and international media engagements. |