



CHAN Wing-ming 陳永銘 (1927.4.13–1980.5.17)

Music, Composer, Music Director

A native of Chao'an, Guangdong, Chan was born in Singapore in 1927. He returned to Chao'an with his parents at the age of six. Due to Japanese invasion, all roads to his home were blocked off, and given that his father passed away during a business trip, Chan and the rest of his family decided to move and stay with his maternal grandfather. Chan had a talent for music at a young age, especially taking a liking for percussions. When the family fell on hard times, his uncle sold him to a Chaozhou opera troupe, where he trained in music and acting. After his mother's death, Chan joined Zhengmingshun Chaozhou Opera Troupe. His younger sister, Chan Lai-kuen, also joined the troupe; the two became the pillars of the troupe and occasionally performed in puppet plays.

Due to the war, Chan and his sister moved to Hong Kong with the troupe in the late 1940s and continued with their performance. The troupe's name remained the same even though it was now funded by a Hong Kong investor. The ensemble performed primarily in Astor Theatre, Ko Shing Theatre, Tai Ping Theatre and Prince's Theatre, becoming the earliest top-notch Chaozhou opera troupe in Hong Kong. Under Chan's leadership, the troupe performed in many districts, including Aberdeen, Tsz Wan Shan, Tung Tau Estate and Kwun Tong. In the mid-1950s, Chan met Lee Luk-yung, a new member of the troupe. The two were married soon after. Later, Chan, his wife and sister all joined Dongshan Chaozhou Music Company. Chan was the associate producer for its 1960 stage performance of *A Pair of Carved Jade*. Chan was also responsible for the music and composition for *The Innocent* (produced by Bian Sing, 1960), which was performed by Dongshan. When Dongshan became a long-term partner of Tung Shan Film Co., Chan became in charge of the music on most of Tung Shan's films, including *Strange Visitor* (1960), *Meeting by the Well* (1961), *Setting Fire to Chen Youliang* (1961), *The Story of Splashed Water* (1962), *The Riverside Pavilion* (1962), *Chaozhou Opera Panorama* (1962), *The Huntsman's Tale* (1962), *The Chivalrous Female Outlaw* (1963), *Throwing coins at the Fairy Maidens* (1963), *The Perfumed Ball* (aka *Twin Charms*, 1963), *Romance of the West Chamber* (1964) and *Hibiscus Fairy* (1964). Chan also had a cameo in *Congregation of Heroes* (1963).

Chan had participated in several dozens of films throughout his life, and contributed greatly in elevating the importance of Chaozhou-dialect cinema. In addition to composing and accompanying Chaozhou-dialect films, Chan also composed, performed and arranged the music for Chaozhou-dialect dubbed Mandarin *huangmei diao* films produced by Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Ltd. Chan continued to work in local Chaozhou opera troupes, including Xintianyi, Xinlesheng, Shengyi, etc. through the 1960s and 70s. He had also performed in Thailand and Singapore. When Xintianyi Chaozhou Opera Troupe was formed, he passed on his knowledge to a new generation of Chaozhou opera performers by teaching the art form. Chan passed away on 17 May 1980 in Hong Kong.
