



KEI Shang-tong 慕湘棠 (1919.11.11–2007.5.3)

Music

A native of Hunan, Kei was born in Foshan, Guangdong. He graduated from the National Conservatory of Music and later worked at the Chinese Symphony Orchestra as performance committee member. During the War of Resistance against Japan, he joined a service unit of the Hong Kong Youth Association and later its drama troupe. He returned to Hong Kong in 1948 and taught music at Ling Ying College for seven years. 1950 saw his launch into the film music world, composing 'You Are So Pretty' for *Singing Under the Moon* (1953), the feature that brought Linda Lin Dai to fame. He also wrote a number of hits for Mandarin titles, including 'Sword Dance' for *Our Sister Hedy* (1957), 'Forget Your Sorrows' and 'My Heaven' for *Mambo Girl* (1957), as well as the theme songs of *Our Dream Car* (1959) and *Bachelors Beware* (1960).

Kei's first attempt at composing soundtracks traced back to *Golden Phoenix* (1956). While his collaboration with Motion Picture and General Investment Co Ltd (MP & GI) began in 1955, it was only in August 1962 that he officially signed a contract to join the company. He composed songs for a number of MP & GI classics such as *Our Sister Hedy*, *The Tragedy of Love* (1959), *Wedding Bells for Hedy* (1959) and *Song Without Words* (1961). He also wrote music scores for Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Ltd's *Back Door* (1960) and Grand Motion Picture Company's *The Winter* (1969). Kei immigrated to Canada in July 1973 and passed away on 3 May 2007.