

A grand musical gala to remember

Global political leaders, philanthropists and celebrities joined world renowned musicians Liu Shih Kun, Samantha Sun and other top international talents in a star-studded extravaganza to raise money for life-changing music education.

The "Light Up Your Life" Charity Gala Music Extravaganza was held on November 18 at Shaw Studios Hong Kong by Chinese Global Music Education Association (CGMEA) founded by world-renowned pianist Liu Shih Kun, together with pianist and Pipa performer Samantha Sun. The association aims to use the power and love of music to enhance harmony in the society. Proceeds from the gala are being used to support music education for underprivileged groups in Hong Kong and the Chinese Mainland.

The stars shone bright as a galaxy of celebrity supporters streamed into the venue dressed as a golden Viennese music hall. This meaningful fundraising music gala was likely the first in the world to bring such a prestigious group of musicians under one roof, including the great Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra, Brit-Award Winning Vocal Group BLAKE who performed at Prince William's wedding and leading soprano Tamar Iveri.

The highlights of the evening were the sweeping performance of The Yellow River by Liu and Give Me A Rose piano and Pipa ensemble by Liu and Sun. Their soul-stirring music was a testament to how music had the power to change lives and create harmony in a diverse society.

France's former premier Dominique De Villepin

and his family were among the attending guests at the glitzy gala dinner. Accompanied by his musician daughter, Devillepin thanked Liu for the invitation and said he was touched by the great performances of the evening.

Other VIPs included former Secretary of Justice Elise Leung Oi-sie, former Japanese premier Yuko Hatoyama, prominent Hong Kong entrepreneur Pollyanna Chu, one of the world's richest self-made women Zhou Qun-fei, the father of Red Bull Yan Bin, literary giant Yu Qiu-yu, renowned Chinese artist Han Mei-lin, Nobel Prize winner Yang Zhenning and his wife Weng Fan, designers Vivienne Tam and Jimmy Choo, among many other familiar names and faces.

The CGMEA's predecessor was the Liu Shih Kun Piano and Arts Association that had been operating for 20 years. Liu's vision for the CGMEA is to primarily engage in large-scale music activities such as illuminative music education, community talks, competitions, concerts and oversea music tours for the underprivileged groups to receive quality training in music and broaden their horizons.

He said: "Looking back, I benefited a lot from high quality family education. After many years of performance and teaching experience, I wish to spread music to all social classes in China and even the world."



Give Me A Rose performed by Liu Shih Kun and Samantha Sun

Sun, the president of the association, explained that the charity gala aimed to create an international and fantastic music experience in Hong Kong. "Only music can be passed down from generation to generation regardless of race, language and country. We wish to create diversity, opportunities and platforms in music education and performance learning, while uniting Chinese communities

around the world with heart-touching melodies and contributing to a harmonious new world."

The grand soiree was as much a visual and culinary feast as a musical one with stunning floral decorations designed by French florist Djordje varda, and creative desserts prepared by Mandarin Oriental Hong Kong.

As part of its efforts to bring music to people

from different social backgrounds, CGMEA also held a charity music concert on November 19 at Shaw Studios Hong Kong. Apart from the Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra, international sensation Celine Tam, called the "little giant lung" who got the golden buzzer in this year's America's Got Talent, joined this fantastic music concert as well to the delight of the audience.



The world renowned Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra



Liu Shih Kun (right) and prominent barrister Cheng Huan



Front from left: Deputy Director of the Central Government's Liaison Office Yin Xiaojing, singer Paula Tsui, Zhou Qun-fei / Back from left: Pollyanna Chu, Liu Shih Kun



From left: Vivienne Tam, Jimmy Choo, Samantha Sun, Mr and Mrs Yuko Hatoyama, CPPCC Standing Committee member Ambrose Lau