

Announcing the Hong Kong 2022 ISPA Awards Recipients

Shen Wei, Yan Huichang, Winsome Chow, Prof. Tseng Sun-man

*Award Presentation to be held during the
Hong Kong 2022 Congress, To Connect Beyond
on Thursday, May 26, 2022*

New York, NY, USA (May 6, 2022) – On behalf of the host of Hong Kong 2022 ISPA Congress, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, the International Society for the Performing Arts (ISPA) is pleased to announce the recipients of the Hong Kong 2022 ISPA Awards. The first ISPA Award was presented in 1975 to Beverly Sills. Since then, ISPA has continued to recognize outstanding individuals for their contribution to the performing arts and their communities. The 2022 award recipients are as follows (biographies attached):

Distinguished Artist Award

Presented to artists who have made an outstanding contribution of talent, artistry, dedication, and service to the world of the performing arts.

Shen Wei

Shen Wei is a celebrated choreographer, dancer and painter who was appointed as principal choreographer of the opening ceremonies at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. Hailed as “one of the great artists of our time” (The Washington Times), Shen Wei is internationally renowned for the breadth and scope of his artistic vision that has earned him significant accolades.

Yan Huichang

Yan Huichang, a world-renowned Chinese music conductor, has led the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra to set many milestones in Chinese music. His visionary achievements are reflected in a series of innovative initiatives such as establishment of the world's first Chinese orchestral academy and organizing instrumental festivals which have achieved several world records.

International Citation of Merit

Presented for unique lifetime achievement which has enriched the international performing arts. This award is not for performance but rather for distinguished service working within the profession.

Winsome Chow

Winsome Chow is a multi-faceted visionary in the field of arts administration. Since joining the Hong Kong Arts Development Council, her great leadership has resulted in a series of initiatives to showcase Hong Kong artists on the international platform and reform funding schemes that significantly improved Hong Kong's arts ecology and brought the organization to a new era.

Angel Award Recipient

Presented to an individual or organization which has demonstrated a significant and lasting contribution to the support of the performing arts which transcends the boundaries of one country or institution, and merits international recognition.

Prof. Tseng Sun-man

Prof. Tseng is a veteran arts administrator with a sustained contribution to the cultural development in Hong Kong and the Mainland. Prof. Tseng has served as board and committee members in many local and international arts and cultural organizations providing invaluable advice on cultural development in different contexts.

The awards will be presented at a virtual ceremony to be held during the [Hong Kong 2022 Congress, To Connect Beyond](#), on Thursday, May 26, 2022. The ceremony will be hosted by Paul Tam, Executive Director, Performing Arts, West Kowloon Cultural District Authority.

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[BIOGRAPHY OF THE AWARD RECIPIENTS]**Shen Wei***2022 Distinguished Artist Award Recipient*

As a Chinese-born American artist who is hailed as “one of the great artists of our time” (The Washington Times), Shen Wei carries the multiple roles of choreographer, painter, and director, and is internationally renowned for the breadth and scope of his artistic vision.

Shen was trained from youth in the rigorous practice of Chinese opera performance, traditional Chinese ink painting and calligraphy, and was a performer with the Hunan State Xian Opera Company from 1984 to 1989. In 1989, he began modern dance training at the American Dance Festival’s (ADF) program at the Guangdong Dance Academy in China. In 1991, Shen became the founding member of Guangdong Modern Dance Company in China. Upon receipt of a fellowship in 1995, he started his study in New York and was invited to create works at the American Dance Festival (ADF).

After founding Shen Wei Dance Arts (SWDA) in 2000 which quickly entered the international touring circuit, performing at premier festivals and venues worldwide, Shen has received numerous commissions including multiple commissions from the American Dance Festival, Het Muziektheater, the Lincoln Center Festival and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts as well as from The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Park Avenue Armory, Hong Kong’s New Vision Arts Festival and Edinburgh International Festival.

Shen Wei was the lead choreographer for the Opening Ceremonies of the 2008 Beijing Olympics. He has also created dances for Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal and Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo, and choreographed the Rome Opera’s production of Rossini’s *Moise et Pharaon*, conducted by Ricardo Muti. In 2013, Shen was commissioned to create a new work for the Dutch National Ballet in Amsterdam. He also choreographed, directed and designed a production of *Carmina Burana* for the chorus, orchestra, and ballet of Teatro di San Carlo in Naples, Italy, with his company performing in leading roles.

Shen has entered into a new dialogue in a series of performative installations and site-specific works that have been presented at international leading museums and galleries including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, North Carolina Museum of Art, Collezione Maramotti in Italy, Tucson Museum of Art, Rockbund Museum of Art in Shanghai, Guggenheim Museum, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Chambers Fine Art Gallery in New York, Crow Collection of Asian Art (Dallas), Hong Kong Cultural Centre and the Forum at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. In 2014, His first major visual arts debut *Shen Wei: In Black, White and Gray* featuring eleven of his paintings was shown at the Museum of Art and Design of Miami Dade College (MDC) during Art Basel/Miami Beach. In 2015, he participated in a group show *Performance & Remnant* at London’s Fine Art Society. *Shen Wei: Dance Strokes*, an exhibition of his paintings with site-specific performances, opened at Asia Society Hong Kong Center in 2016 during Art Basel/Hong Kong. Two years later, Shen was invited to have his debut solo exhibition *Shen Wei: Exploring The Unknown* presented in Shanghai at the Power Station of Art, China’s first contemporary art museum.

Shen Wei has earned numerous awards and accolades in his career, including MacArthur “Genius” Award (2007), the US Artists Fellow award (2007) and John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship (2007). Other accolades include Nijinsky Emerging Choreographer Award (2004), Australia’s Helpmann Award (2005), Les Étoiles de Ballet Award (2006), Audi-China Artist of the Year Award (2012), Algur H. Meadows Prize (2012), GQ –China Artist of the Year Award (2013) and the Chinese Innovator Award from The Wall Street

Journal-China (2013). Shen was honored with the Asian Cultural Council's John D. Rockefeller 3rd Award in 2017. Most recently, Shen received the Samuel H. Scripps/American Dance Festival Award (2020) for lifetime achievement by The American Dance Festival (ADF).

In 2021, Shen's avant-garde multimedia production *Integrate* premiered as part of the Shanghai International Arts Festival's Artra arm at the West Bund Dome.

Yan Huichang

2022 Distinguished Artist Award Recipient

Yan Huichang is the Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra. Yan was graduated from the Shanghai Conservatory of Music in 1983 under the tutorship of renowned conductor Xia Feiyun, and famous composers Hu Dengtiao and He Zhanhao. Since 1997, Yan was appointed as the Principal Conductor and Artistic Director of the China National Orchestra prior to joining the HKCO. He was appointed to the role of Music Director and Principal Guest Conductor of the National Chinese Orchestra Taiwan from 2013 to 2017.

Yan has led the HKCO to set many milestones in Chinese music. He launched the HKCO into omni-directional growth, started the system of commissioning new works, actively entered into mutually beneficial partnerships with crossover disciplines, and spearheaded instrumental reform. Under his baton, the HKCO performed at famous venues around the world and at international festivals, including the Carnegie Hall in New York City in 2009 and the Klara Festival in Belgium in the same year. He grew the HKCO into a performing body of world-class Chinese music that not only staged new works but actively developed talents and reached out to the community as well. In 2008, the HKCO was the first Chinese ensemble to perform at the new National Centre for the Performing Arts in Beijing.

Yan's visionary achievements including implementation of the Professional Orchestra Internship Scheme jointly with the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA), establishment of the world's first Chinese orchestral academy, the HKCO Orchestral Academy, and organising instrumental festivals which have achieved several Guinness World Records thanks to the keen participation of the people of Hong Kong. He created the Master of Music in Conducting for Chinese Orchestras programme at the HKAPA. Also, he took the lead to organise international symposia and forums on Chinese music and hosted the 'International Conducting Competition for Chinese Music' in 2011, a competition the world's first such competition that focused on Chinese music conducting which was commended by the Chinese Musicians' Association, as "a milestone in the history of development of Chinese music".

Yan has received many accolades from the governments of different lands in honor of his contribution to the development of culture, such as conferred the title of National Class One Conductor at the First Professional Accreditation of China in 1987, the Cultural Medallion (Music) by the National Arts Council of Singapore in 2001, Bronze Bauhinia Star (BBS) and Silver Bauhinia Star (SBS) by the Hong Kong SAR Government in 2004 and 2019 respectively, the Overseas Award for Music at the 51st Literary and Art Works Awards in Taiwan, and Best Conductor Award at the Golden Melody Awards for Traditional Arts and Music 2018 in Taiwan. He has also won conducting awards in the audio-video recordings of the HKCO, the China National Symphony Orchestra and the Chorus of China National Opera House, the Chinese Orchestra and Chorus of the Xi'an Conservatory of Music, and the National Chinese Orchestra Taiwan.

Having actively engaged in musical composition and won numerous awards, Yan's representative works include the symphonic poem *The Sound of Water*, which won a Class One Prize in the Composition Contest of the Shanghai Conservatory of Music and a Class Two Prize in the Third National Music Composition Competition. His pipa solo work, *Nostalgia*, won a Class One Award at the First National Pipa Contest of Contributing Works. Yan composed and produced audio recordings of *Clouds and The Moon*, as well as computer music albums *A Music Journey on the Yellow River* and *Song of the General* in 1992 to 1993.

Currently Yan is the Director of Chinese National Orchestra Research Center of the He Luting Advanced Research Institute for Chinese Music of the Shanghai Conservatory of Music and Professor of its Conducting Department, Honorary Fellow of the HKAPA and Visiting Scholar in its School of Music, a Distinguished Professor and Supervisor on the Master's and Doctoral degree programmes at the Department of Chinese Music, the Laozi Academy of the Xi'an International University and Sehan University of South Korea, and Visiting Professor or Adjunct Professor in many conservatories. Yan is also the Council Member of Chinese Musicians' Association and National Commission of China Federation of Literary and Arts Circles, Honorary Music Director of the Shaanxi Broadcasting Chinese Orchestra.

Winsome Chow

2022 International Citation of Merit Recipient

Ms Chow is the Chief Executive of Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC). She is a veteran arts administrator of Hong Kong with extensive experiences. Graduated from the Chinese University of Hong Kong with a Bachelor of Social Sciences degree, she obtained a Distinction honor in the Certificate Programme in Arts Administration of the University of Hong Kong, a Master degree on Human Resources Management and Development of the University of Leicester, UK, and completed a Senior Executive Programme of the London Business School.

As the mastermind behind some of the city's most memorable arts and cultural events before her retirement as Assistant Director (Performing Arts) at the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), Ms Chow managed 14 government-run performing arts venues over the past decades and organised a string of audience favourites that added to a rich and growing calendar of high quality cultural experiences for the public.

Ms Chow was involved in the organization of the Hong Kong International Film Festival and the Festival of Asian Arts as well as the opening festival of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre in 1989. Since 2000, she founded three arts festivals including the New Vision Arts Festival, World Cultures Festival and the International Arts Carnival which have become significant performing arts events every year in Hong Kong. She was then involved more on planning, supervision and corporate development and coordination matters, handling new initiatives such as the organization of the 2006 Hong Kong Congress of the International Society for the Performing Arts, the Venue Partnership Scheme, the project design and implementation of the Yaumatei Theatre and Ko Shan Theatre New Wing as well as the large scale programmes in celebration of the 10th and 15th Anniversary of the Establishment of Hong Kong SAR. She was instrumental to the smooth roll-out of new arts funding schemes including the Arts Capacity Development Funding Scheme that fostered a tripartite partnership involving the Government, arts groups

and the private sector to promote arts and cultural development through strengthening the cultural software and building the capacity of the arts sector of Hong Kong.

Ms Chow's great leadership was imperative in bringing the HKADC to a new era. Since joining the organization in August 2015, she laid down a road map including initiatives to showcase Hong Kong artists abroad, programmes that bring the arts to the community, new funding schemes and research plans to draw data on the city's cultural sector in order to attain new goals towards improving Hong Kong's arts ecology and reaching new heights. Under her meticulous plan, the grant reform enabled arts groups ranging from incubating young talents to well established arts organisations to focus on developing the artistry and creation that were fundamental ways to empower local professional arts groups and artists to grow brilliantly through years of development. She was dedicated to steer the promotion of culture in supporting artistic creation and activities and facilitated donors and commercial corporations to join hands in promoting vibrant development of the arts in the community of Hong Kong through setting of the Matching Fund Scheme.

With exceptionally strong international network, Ms Chow steered the collaboration initiatives strategically so as to create extraordinary opportunities for Hong Kong arts practitioners to engage in overseas exchange programs in order to allow more arts talents shining in the international arena. Under her stewardship, strong delegations comprising local arts practitioners were led by HKADC to attend the Gwangju Biennale and Performing Arts Market in Seoul, Korea and the Oz Asia Festival in Australia in 2016, as well as the Venice Biennale. Since 2016, Ms Chow materialized three dance industry delegations to Classical:NEXT in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, the internationale tanzmesse nrw (tanzmesse contemporary dance biennale) in Dusseldorf, Germany, and CINARS (Conférence internationale des arts de la scène/International Exchange for the Performing Arts) in Montreal, Canada. In 2016-17, she also steered the collaboration with the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in both London and Sydney in providing opportunities for Hong Kong artists to showcase their talents in international cities, demonstrating to the world the creativity and vibrancy of the Hong Kong music scene and strengthening cultural ties between Hong Kong and other cities.

Ms Chow spearheaded a new festival titled Jockey Club New Arts Power to nurture home-grown artists and encourage creative practices, and introduced Arts-in-school Partnership Scheme to enable partnership between schools and local small and medium-sized arts organisations as well as individual co-partnership artists with local schools to embark year-long partnership and bring arts into the school community.

As a respectful visionary, Ms Chow has frequently taken part of performing arts related associations, forums and training programmes in both local and overseas contexts, such as being speaker/ panelist of the 2013 Cultural Leadership Summit, Asia Society's open forum 'The Importance of Sino-American Cultural Diplomacy', the 2016 'Arts Centres – Connecting Communities' Conference organized by the Association of Asia Pacific Performing Arts Centres (AAPPAC), the 11th Cross-Straits and Hong Kong and Macao Regional Art Forum in 2019, and the Eventide Conversations 'Arts Advocacy: We are essential' organized by the Hong Kong Arts Administrator Association and Australian Performing Arts Market in 2021. She has been part-time lecturer of the Master of Arts in Cultural Management of the Chinese University of Hong Kong (2008-2012).

Currently, Ms Chow serves for board or arts related committees of several institutions including being a co-opted member of Performing Arts Committee of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority, member of The Jockey Club CPS Limited Advisory Committee, Arts & Culture Council of Asia Society Hong Kong Center and the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee of Airport Authority Hong Kong.

Tseng Sun-man

2022 Angel Award Recipient

Prof. Tseng Sun-man is currently Guest Professor of the Central Academy of Drama, Beijing Dance Academy and Xing Hai Conservatory of Music. He pursued music training in Hong Kong and New York (B.A and M. Mus), and later studied arts administration at the City University, London. He was a graduate of the Executive MBA programme of the Chinese University of Hong Kong in 1998 and also received fellowships from the British Council and the Asian Cultural Council for further studies in Britain and the United States.

Prof. Tseng has been involved in arts management for over three decades and held senior administrative positions in a number of Hong Kong arts institutions, including General Manager of the Hong Kong Arts Festival Society (1988 to 1994), Secretary-General of the Hong Kong Arts Development Council (1997 to 2001), Head of Radio Four, RTHK (1994 to 1997), and Assistant General Manager (Marketing and Development) of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (1982 to 1986).

Prof. Tseng's keen interest in arts management training started in 1989 when the Chinese University of Hong Kong invited him to teach a course on arts management, thereafter he gave lectures on arts management in Pittsburgh, London, Singapore, Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Taipei and Macau. In 2001, Prof. Tseng became a full-time arts management educator and consultant. From 2002 to 2003, he served as Programme Consultant and Senior Lecturer (Arts Management) for the Arts School of the Hong Kong Arts Centre and masterminded the launch of a one-year part-time Professional Certificate in Arts Management, developed specially for the Hong Kong context.

Prof. Tseng relocated to the Mainland China in 2004 and acted as the Director of Administration of the Shantou University. He was Department Head and Professor of the Arts Administration Department of the Shanghai Conservatory of Music from 2005 to 2008. During his tenure, he developed and coordinated a Postgraduate Diploma in Arts Management for the Conservatory. The programme attracted students from different cities in the Mainland as well as Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan and Singapore.

Since November 2008, Prof. Tseng divides his time between Hong Kong and the Mainland. As a consultant and lecturer in Hong Kong, he taught post-graduate arts management courses at the University of Hong Kong SPACE, Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Academy for the Performing Arts. In his capacity as Professor and Coordinator of the Postgraduate Diploma in Arts Management of the Shanghai Conservatory and Consultant of the Arts Education Centre, Shantou University, he travels to the two cities on a regular basis. Being the pioneer of local arts administration and management education, Prof. Tseng, as Program Leader, launched the first ever course in the discipline, the Executive Master of Arts in Arts Management and Entrepreneurship, at the Education University of Hong Kong.

Prof. Tseng is a frequent speaker and moderator in international conferences on arts management including serving as the Co-Chair for the International Society of Performing Arts (ISPA) Academy workshops in Hong Kong in 2006, host of a Marketing Workshop for the Association of Asia Pacific Performing Arts Centres (AAPPAC) in 2006, a discussion facilitator for the European League of the Institute of the Arts (ELIA) Leadership Symposium in Hong Kong in 2007, a speaker in the 'International Conference on Performing Arts and Creative Industry of International Cities' hosted by the National Taiwan Normal University in 2008, and a moderator for three Shanghai events: 'Sino-UK Arts Management Dialogue', Fringe Symposium 'Your Neighborhood as Open Stage: Discussions on the Development of Community Arts', and a panel discussion session in the '6th Orchestral Summit of the Alliance of Asia / Pacific Region Orchestra' in 2008.

Prof. Tseng has served as board and committee members in many local and international organizations over the years. He has been appointed as the Chairman of the Hong Kong Arts Administrators Association (1991-94) and the Committee on Venue Partnership of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (2012-17), member of the Hong Kong Government's Advisory Committee on Arts Development (2012-17) and the Artistic Board of the Macau International Music Festival (2021), board member of the Association of Arts Administration Educators (AAAE) in the US (2014-19), Hong Kong Dance Company, Hong Kong Children's Choir, Tang Shu Wing Theatre Studio and Hong Kong Gaudeamus Dunhuang Ensemble, and director of the Arts Committee of the Shenzhen Belt & Road International Music Festival.

About ISPA: The International Society for the Performing Arts (ISPA) is a global association of more than 500 arts management leaders from 56 regions, who come together with the shared goal of strengthening and developing the arts internationally. We achieve this by building leadership ability, by recognizing and discussing field-wide trends and new developments, and by deepening global exchange through the arts. ISPA members include presenters, performing arts organizations, artist managers, competitions, funders, consultants and other professionals working in the performing arts. Founded in 1948, 2022 marks ISPA's 73rd anniversary.

About ISPA Awards: As a leadership network, ISPA is committed to recognizing excellence in the performing arts globally. There is an annual call for award nominations. All nominations are reviewed by the Nominating Committee Members and then a slate of nominees is recommended to the Board of Directors for approval.

For more information on the ISPA Awards, visit www.ispa.org/page/awards_landing

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