# "We Write • We Sing" Music Competition

# 「我寫我歌」音樂比賽

**Briefing Session** 

Arts Education Section
English Language Education Section
CDI, EDB
27 October 2023



# Rundown

Time	Content	Speaker(s)
3:30 - 4:05 p.m.	<ul> <li>Part 1</li> <li>Background and rules and regulations of "We Write • We Sing" Music Competition</li> <li>Tips on writing lyrics</li> </ul>	Ms Samantha TSANG, English Language Education Section
4:05 - 4:40 p.m.	<ul> <li>Part 2</li> <li>Key information on "We Write • We Sing" Music Competition </li> <li>Analysis of melodies</li> </ul>	Ms Winnie LI, Arts Education Section
4:40 - 4:45 p.m.	<ul> <li>Part 3</li> <li>Students' sharing on experiences and gains from previous competitions</li> </ul>	Winners of SOW and CAP Competitions (2021/22)
4:45 - 5:00 p.m.	<ul><li>Part 4</li><li>Q&amp;A</li><li>Evaluation</li></ul>	Ms Winnie LI, Arts Education Section Ms Samantha TSANG, English Language Education Section

# Background

Creating • Appreciation • Performing Music Competition (CAP) (2021/22)

Arts Education Section



SOW Creative Singing Contest (SOW) (2021/22)

Arts Education Section and English Language Education Section



# Aims of "We Write • We Sing" Music Competition

- Encourage students to enhance their creativity and singing skills through engaging in lyrics writing and singing performance
- Enrich students' language (both Chinese and English) and music learning experiences
- Promote Language across the Curriculum and cross-curricular collaboration in schools
- Nurture proper values and attitudes in students

# Entry Requirements

- Participants should be primary or secondary students.
- Divisions:

Primary Division	Secondary Division
Chinese language category	Chinese language category
English language category	English language category

- Each entry should be submitted on an individual or group basis (with up to 5 students, including the lyricist(s), in each group).
- Each student, with a clearly specified role, can submit a maximum of two entries.
- There is no upper limit for the number of entries submitted from each school.
- All entries should be submitted through the schools of the students.

# Rules and Regulations

- Each entrant/group should write lyrics in Chinese or English and perform a song in Cantonese, Putonghua or English using one of the melodies newly composed by the Hong Kong song-writer Mr NG Lok-shing, Ronald.
- For Primary Division, please use Melody 1 or Melody 2.
- For Secondary Division, please use Melody 3 or Melody 4 (with male key and female key provided for selection).
- Please complete the online Application Form (https://forms.office.com/r/v2b6G845pZ) to obtain the following:
  - Music Minus Ones (MMOs)
     [to be used for recording of singing performance and entry submission]
  - MP3 with melody guide [for reference only]
  - Lead sheets [to be used for submission of lyrics showing word-to-note alignment]

# Important Notes for Using Related Materials

### DEMO for reference (with melody guide)

My files > We Write We Sing Leadsheets and MMO > 中學組 Secondary Division > MP3 > **Melody 3 \_ MP3** &

	Name ∨	Modified ~	Modified By ∨	File size ∨	Sharing
A	EDB _ 我寫我歌2023 _ 指定旋律 _ Melody 3 _ FEMALE _ Melody Guide Version.mp3	4 days ago	Ll, Pui-ying	3.22 MB	⊖ Shared
a	EDB _ 我寫我歌2023 _ 指定旋律 _ Melody 3 _ FEMALE _ MMO.mp3	4 days ago	Ll, Pui-ying	3.22 MB	응 Shared
a	EDB _ 我寫我歌2023 _ 指定旋律 _ Melody 3 _ MALE _ Melody Guide Version.mp3	4 days ago	Ll, Pui-ying	3.22 MB	⊖ Shared
A	EDB_我寫我歌2023_指定旋律_Melody 3_ MALE_MMO.mp3	4 days ago	Ll, Pui-ying	3.22 MB	⊖ Shared

MMO for accompaniment during singing performance and entry submission (without melody guide)

# Rules and Regulations – Requirements for Lyrics (Chinese and English)

• Convey a positive message and promote proper values and attitudes e.g.





	A Positive Message	Proper Values and Attitudes
•	Be grateful and treasure what	<ul> <li>National identity</li> </ul>
	we have	<ul> <li>Perseverance</li> </ul>
•	Stay positive and optimistic	<ul> <li>Responsibility</li> </ul>
•	Be proactive	• Empathy
•	•••	•





- Display creativity in the use of language (e.g. use literary devices where appropriate)
- Show an awareness of song structure (e.g. verse and chorus)



# Good Lyrics Should...

- have an attractive song title
- have a clear theme
- be well-structured
- use precise and concise diction
- use literary devices appropriately
- have a catchy "hook line" (e.g. Count on Me by Bruno Mars)
- match the melody as well as the rhythm and mood of the music
- be creative (e.g. using new combinations of words 過關 → 無關不過)
- create a strong and vivid mental picture for listeners
- resonate with listeners
- be inspirational

# Avoid...

- using words or phrases which only the lyricist understands
- words which are difficult to pronounce
- vague content
- content which is **not relatable** to listeners
- plain descriptions of things and people
- over-reliance on direct telling of feelings/emotions
- using the same words repeatedly without much meaning



# Steps of Writing Lyrics (1)

- Listen to the melodies and list the **associations** you have in mind. They could be random thoughts, images and words.
- You may use the following table to organise the information:

Melody 1/3				
Ideas	lmages	Words		
Melody 2 / 4				
ldeas	lmages	Words		
Ideas	Images	Words		
Ideas	Images	Words		
Ideas	Images	Words		

- Compare the melodies (e.g. tempo/rhythm, mood).
- Choose the one which can resonate with and relate to you more.

# Steps of Writing Lyrics (2)

• When an initial theme for the lyrics is formed, brainstorm the other details to help you write the lyrics.



# Steps of Writing Lyrics (3)

• Enrich your lyrics with literary devices e.g.

Figures of speech	Sound effects	Clever use of words and
<ul> <li>simile</li> <li>metaphor</li> <li>personification</li> <li>symbolism</li> <li>imagery (5 human senses)</li> </ul>	<ul><li>rhyming</li><li>alliteration</li><li>other forms of meaningful repetition</li></ul>	<ul><li>sentence patterns</li><li>pun</li><li>parallelism</li></ul>
<b>→</b>	<b>↓</b>	+
create a vivid image and a mental picture	make the song melodious, catchy and memorable	make the lyrics more condensed and refined

• Use literary devices where **appropriate** to express your ideas and feelings. Overuse may render the lyrics **unnatural**.

# Example 1

## Commendable Award & Best Lyrics Award Flight of the Crane

Name of School: Diocesan Girls' School

Lyricist: Singer: LAU Sin-ka LAU Sin-ka

Pages in your journal Being flipped open wide The secrets you spilled Were to be set aside

The key to the lock was nowhere in sight, not to be found

The memories you held were going outward bound

The wind is picking up now
The loose pages now floating away
Flying free now like a crane
Maybe it's time now to let go

Let them fly now
Take them far, far away
Far from your mind
Don't even try to let them sway

Let them fly now
It's been far too long
It's not time to think back on your wrongs
It's time now to move on

As you look at the cranes fly, your heart feels exceptionally light Is this the power of letting go's might?

Telling your stories and wishes May seem like a difficult task But there's no need to fret about that They will understand and always ask

Let them fly now
Take them far, far away
Far from your mind
Don't even try to let them sway

Let them fly now It's been far too long It's not time to think back on your wrongs It's time now to move on

Let them fly now
Take them far, far away
Far from your mind
Don't even try to let them sway

Let them fly now It's been far too long It's not time to think back on your wrongs It's time now to move on

Leave this chapter to close

• The theme of the song is about letting go of past burdens and opening up to others.

• Pages of a journal flying in the wind and past memories set free like cranes in the sky is a metaphor to visualise and represent the idea of letting go.



# Example 2

#### 中學組 Secondary Division

#### 優異獎及最具人氣大獎 Outstanding Award & Audience Award

我覔我

學校名稱 Name of school: 聖公會李炳中學

S.K.H. Li Ping Secondary School

填詞 Lyricist: 演唱 Singer: 周俊言 CHOW Chun-yin

周俊言 CHOW Chun-yin

誰沒有 那過去苦痛傷心不安顫抖 往痛裡渴求早一天的解救 誰教我做人不應該太易鬆手 強忍不低頭只得到傷口

#### 試試抹去灰塵 試試拭乾淚痕

去跑去追 遺下昨日疑問 趁壯少笑發輕狂 哪裡怕滿身骯髒 浪再急未怕波折 靠近光

遊歷無可失真 留下清晰足印刻記最燦爛倩影 今世唯一回味照片顆粒 伴理想更相襯記憶處處 跟閃爍繁星 心裡印

誰願意信我會攀過天梯堅守到底 展開不輸人不屈撓的追勢 誰錮我靈魂只懂得信奉高貴 眷戀於他人 將本性摧毀

#### 試試挺起胸膛 試試放低徬徨

反思往昔 回復美麗形狀 看看這壯闊星河 聽聽那雨點導航 復故我力挽山壑 破洪荒

尋覓時冰塞川 歧路多失分寸 拋棄我信奉過的 告別王孫 前路縱使崎嶇 巨塔終會擊碎 嶂千壘壘不擋我 從此跨過去

能活成一首歌 傳頌出真的我 失意有過但最終 心態如初 無懼雨點揮灑 浪再急也不怕 美景看過 親手記下 編寫雋永 永不放棄 只相信 巨輪終見證

- 試試抹去灰塵 試試拭乾淚痕
- 試試挺起胸膛 試試放低徬徨
- Repetition of the words "試試" to make the song melodious, catchy and memorable
- Parallelism (repeating sentences that are similar in structure and meaning) to make the lyrics more condensed and refined

# Steps of Writing Lyrics (4)

- Edit and polish the lyrics. You can sing the song repeatedly and check for the following:
  - Are there words which do not entirely fit the melody and/or the rhythm?
    - If yes, replace them with better alternatives.
  - Are there parts which listeners may not understand?
    - If yes, use clearer and simpler words instead.
  - Are there grammatical errors?
    - → If yes, rectify them.
  - Is the flow natural?
  - Is the message of the song effectively conveyed?
  - Is the "hook line" catchy enough?
  - Is the first line of the song strong/gripping enough?



# Steps of Writing Lyrics (5)

- Come up with a powerful song title. A good title:
  - should highlight the theme of the song and encapsulate its key message in just a few words
  - stimulate the imagination of listeners and arouse their curiosity
  - can be formed by:
    - ✓ action words e.g. *Help!* by the Beatles, *Imagine* by John Lennon, 《信自己》(葉倩文、杜德偉)
    - ✓ noun(s)/noun phrase(s) e.g. *Uptown Girl* by Westlife, 《我的驕傲》(容祖兒)
    - ✓ a question e.g. *How Deep is Your Love?* by the Bee Gees
    - ✓ words describing an image e.g. *Set Fire to the Rain* by Adele, 《紅日》(李克勤)
    - ✓ the "hook line" or the most often repeated phrase or line in the lyrics e.g. *Count on Me* by Bruno Mars
- You can recall some good song titles you have come across:

Song title	
Theme of the song	
Reasons why the song title is powerful	

# Useful Tools and References

#### 歌詞實例分析

歌曲名稱:	
最觸動你的歌詞是(可多於一句):	
印象最深刻的歌詞是(可多於一句):	
能引起聽眾共鳴的是:	
特別有力量的字句: 	
停留在腦海的意象:	
全曲的「記憶點」:	
詞人怎樣令這首歌與別不同?	
這首歌帶出的訊息/價值是甚麼?	

- Online tool for writing Cantonese songs
  - 黃錫凌《粤音韻彙》電子版
    https://humanum.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/Lexis/Cant
    on/search-f2.html
- Reference books
  - 《半步詞》(作者: 岑偉宗)
  - Writing Better Lyrics:
     The Essential Guide to Powerful Songwriting (Author: Pat Pattison)

# Lyrics Writing Workshops

Date:	6 December 2023 (Wednesday)
Time:	9:00 a.m 12:00 noon
Target Participants:	Language and Music Teachers and Students in Secondary Schools
Venue:	Room W301, 3/F, West Block EDB Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre 19 Suffolk Road Kowloon Tong

Date:	11 December 2023 (Monday)
Time:	2:30 - 5:30 p.m.
Target Participants:	Language and Music Teachers in Primary Schools
Venue:	Room W134, 1/F, West Block EDB Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre 19 Suffolk Road Kowloon Tong

# Rules and Regulations - Singing Performance

- The song can be performed in solo or in group (with up to 5 students, including the lyricist(s), in each group).
- Participants should **only** use the **MMO(s)** provided for the singing performance.
- Choreography and movement would **not** be assessed though they might enhance the overall performance.
- The singing performance should be video-recorded for submission.

  Post-recording editing is NOT allowed.

Understanding Song Structure and Analysis of Melodies

# Selected Example: Melody 2

# Song Structure - Melody 2

Intro

Verse

**Pre-chorus** 

**Chorus** 

**Music Break** 

Verse

**Pre-chorus** 

**Chorus** 

Coda



### Verse

#### **Consider phrase structure to write lyrics**





**Imitation** 



The melody should be sung an octave lower than as notated.

Intro

Verse

**Pre-chorus** 

Chorus

**Music Break** 

Verse

**Pre-chorus** 

Chorus

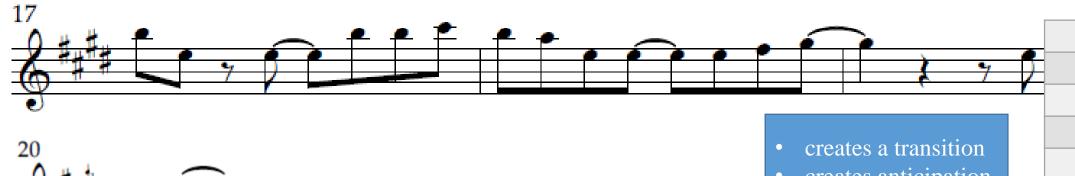
Coda

# Pre-chorus



#### **Imitation**





• creates anticipation towards the chorus

Intro

Verse

**Pre-chorus** 

Chorus

**Music Break** 

Verse

**Pre-chorus** 

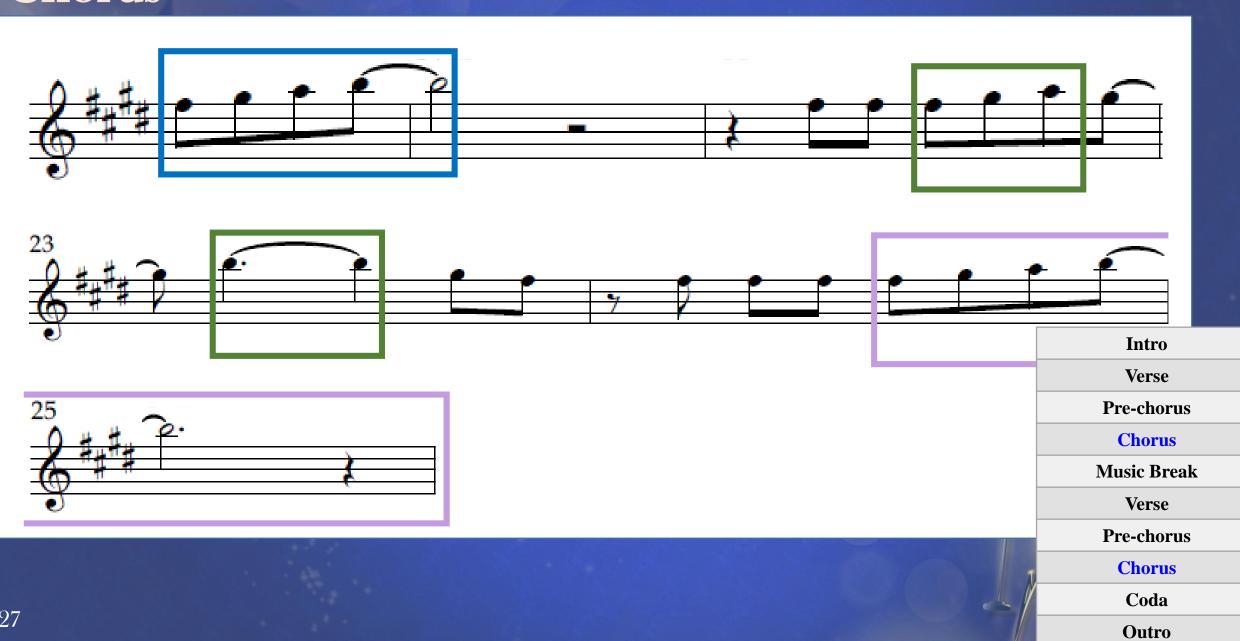
Chorus

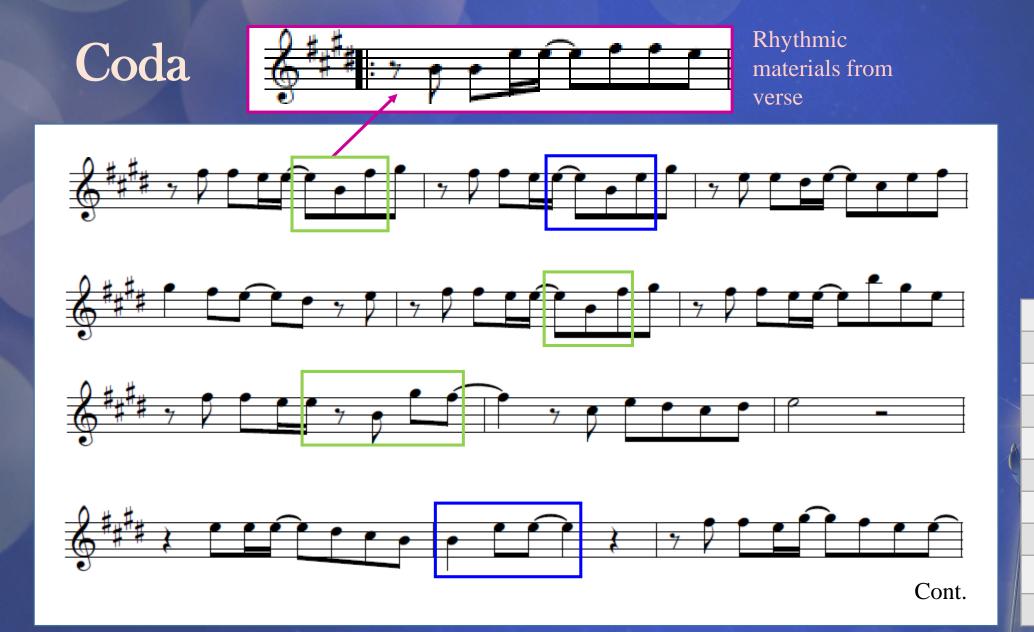
Coda

Outro

26

# Chorus





# Melodic materials from verse





Intro

Verse

**Pre-chorus** 

Chorus

**Music Break** 

Verse

**Pre-chorus** 

**Chorus** 

Coda

Outro

to resolve the music in a cohesive manner

You can plan the development of your text based on the song structure

# Song Structure - Melody 2

Sections	Recording Time	Bars
Intro	00:00-00:10	1-4
Verse	00:11 - 00:29	5-12
Pre-chorus	00:30-00:48	13-20
Chorus	00:49 - 01:00	21-25
Music Break	01:01 - 01:09	26-28
Verse	01:10 - 01:27	5-12
Pre-chorus	01:28 - 01:47	13-20
Chorus	01:48 - 01:58	21-24 [to 29]
Coda	01:59 - 02:19	29-41
Outro	02:30 – End	42-46

# Selected Example: Melody 3

# Song Structure - Melody 3

**Intro** 

Verse

**Pre-chorus** 

**Chorus** 

**Music Break** 

Verse' (Shortened)

Pre-chorus'

**Chorus** 

**Bridge** 

**Chorus** 



# Differences in repeated sections

Intro

Verse

**Pre-chorus** 

**Chorus** 

**Music Break** 

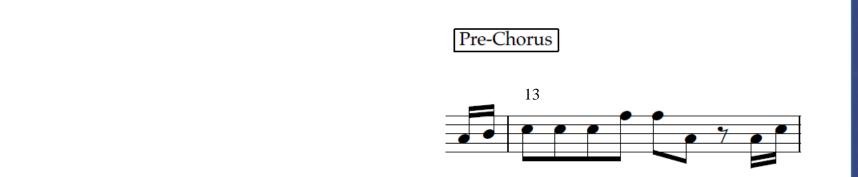
**Verse' (Shortened)** 

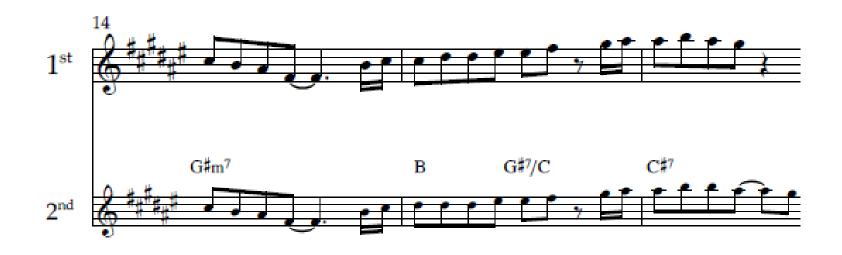
Pre-chorus'

**Chorus** 

**Bridge** 

**Chorus** 





# Bridge









a contrasting section that prepares for the return of the original material section Intro

Verse

**Pre-chorus** 

Chorus

**Music Break** 

Verse' (Shortened)

Pre-chorus'

Chorus

Bridge

Chorus

# Song Structure Melody 3

Sections	Recording Time	Bars
Intro	00:00-00:12	1-4
Verse	00:13-00:36	5-12
Pre-chorus	00:37-00:48	13-16
Chorus	00:49-01:17	17-26
Music Break	01:18-01:27	27-29
Verse' (Shortened)	01:28 - 01:39	9-12
Pre-chorus'	01:40-01:51	13-16
Chorus	01:52 - 02:25	17-25 [to 30-31]
Bridge	02:26-02:43	32-37
Chorus	02:44 - 03:15	38-48
Outro	03:16 – End	49-51

# Song Structure of the 4 Melodies

Primary Division		Secondary Division	
Melody 1	Melody 2	Melody 3	Melody 4
Intro	Intro	Intro	Intro
Verse	Verse	Verse	Verse
Chorus	<b>Pre-chorus</b>	<b>Pre-chorus</b>	Pre-chorus
Music Break	Chorus	Chorus	Chorus
Verse	Music Break	Music Break	Music Break
Chorus'	Verse	Verse' (Shortened)	Verse
Outro	<b>Pre-chorus</b>	Pre-chorus'	Pre-chorus
	Chorus	Chorus	Chorus
	Coda	Bridge	Chorus
	Outro	Chorus	Coda
		Outro	Outro

# Song Structure - Melody 1

Sections	Recording Time	Bars
Intro	00:00-00:16	1-5
Verse	00:17 - 00:41	6 – 13
Chorus	00:42 - 01:14	14 – 23
Music Break	01:15 - 01:18	24
Verse	01:19 - 01:44	6 – 13
Chorus'	01:45 - 02:19	14 – 21 [to 25-26]
Outro	02:20 - End	27 – 29

# Song Structure - Melody 4

Sections	Recording Time	Bars
Intro	00:00 - 00:18	1-8
Verse	00:19-00:35	9 – 16
Pre-chorus	00:36-00:58	<b>17 – 26</b>
Chorus	00:59 - 01:23	<b>27</b> – <b>37</b>
Music Break	01:24-01:30	38 – 40
Verse	01:31 - 01:47	9 – 16
Pre-chorus	01:48 - 02:10	<b>17 – 26</b>
Chorus	02:11 - 02:34	27 – 35 [to 41]
Chorus	02:35 - 03:01	42 – 52
Coda	03:02 - 03:24	53 – 62
Outro	03:25 – End	63

# Awards and Prizes

Outstanding Award	<ul> <li>✓ a certificate and a music product for each awardee</li> <li>✓ perform the winning songs in the Student Performances and Awards</li> <li>Ceremony on 6 July 2024 (Saturday)</li> <li>✓ may be invited to participate in training programmes and/or performances organised by the EDB after the Competition (for awardees of the Secondary Division only)</li> </ul>
Commendable Award	✓ a certificate and a music product for each awardee
Certificate of Appreciation	✓ a certificate for all students whose entries meet the requirements
The Most Active Participation Award	✓ a certificate for the school which submits the most entries

# Adjudication

- All entries will be assessed based on the following criteria:
  - ✓ content and message of the song
  - ✓ language use in the lyrics
  - ✓ musicality of the performance including expression, interpretation and ensembleship (applicable for group entries only)
  - ✓ performance techniques
  - ✓ creativity and originality of the performance

# Musicality and Performance Techniques

	Musicality		Performance Techniques
•	interpretation and emotions displayed and conveyed in a music performance	•	the skills required to make music
•	more subjective and related to the emotional aspect	•	more objective and measurable e.g. accuracy of rhythm and pitches

- Musicality and performance techniques are different in its substance.
- In reality, a music performance can be very emotional but lack technical accuracy or technically "perfect" but without much emotion.
- If a music performance places too much focus on the performance techniques, it will be robotic. If musicality is exaggerated, it will be unnatural.
- Striking a balance between musicality and performance techniques is of the utmost importance, and it is an ART.

# Pop-singing Workshop

Date:	13 December 2023 (Wed)
Time:	1:30 <b>-</b> 4:30 p.m.
Target Participants:	Music Teachers (both Primary and Secondary) and Students in Secondary Schools
Venue:	Lecture Hall Hong Kong Space Museum 10 Salisbury Road Tsim Sha Tsui

# Submission of Entries

- Submit the entry/entries by hand or by post to the EDB, including:
  - 1. The original copy of the completed Entry Submission Form www.edb.gov.hk/wewritewesing/entrysubmission



The original copy of the **Declaration and Consent Form** www.edb.gov.hk/wewritewesing/declaration



1-0-1-0 pt
THE PTE !- C !
PLOP WHY TEN.
lmir.##3ev.

#### 「我寫我歌」音樂比賽

		作品	- / Entry No. 1	
歌曲名稱 Song Tit	le:			
	學 Primary/ 中學 Sec 文 Chinese/ 英文 En			旋律 Melody: 小學 Primary: 1/2° 中學 Secondary: 3/4°
學生姓名 (與身份證 相同)	Name of Student in English (as in ID card)	年級 Level	参與角色(例如:填詞。 主唱、和音) Role (e.g. lyricist, lead singer, backing singer)	學生簽署 Signature of Student
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
	**	作品	/ Entry No. 2	

	學生姓名 (與身份證 相同)	Name of Student in English (as in ID card)
L		

組制 Division: 小學 Primary/ 中學 Secondary

5.		
教師姓名	Name of Teacher in English	任教科! Subject

校長簽署 Signature of School Head 校長姓名 Name of School Head: 學校名稱 Name of School:

#### 「我寫我歌」音樂比賽 "We Write . We Sing" Music Competition

(每位參賽學生及其家長/監護人須遞交一份表格

any legal action against us caused by any copyright infringement. Moreover, we authorise the Education Bureau to edit, modify, publish, use and display our entry, including the song lyrics and singing erformance, in any forms for educational and/or publicity purposes. We understand that the Education Sureau has the final decision of the above actions, but the student still owns the copyright of the lyrics

學生姓名;	家長/監護人*姓名:	
Name of Student:	Name of Parent / Guardian*:	
學生簽署:	家長/監護人*簽署:	
Signature of Student:	Signature of Parent / Guardian*:	
學生聯絡電話:	日期:	
Contact No. of Student:	Date:	
學生電郵:		
Email Address of Student:		
*請刪除不適用的項目。Please delete as appropr	riate,	
學校名稱 Name of School		
負責教師姓名 Name of Teacher-in-charge	1	

- A CD-ROM or USB flash drive (with the name of the school) containing:
  - a. the song lyrics in both WORD and PDF formats (for Chinese lyrics, please specify whether the song is performed in Cantonese or Putonghua)
  - b. the song lyrics written or typed on the lead sheet to display the word-to-note alignment
  - c. a video recording of the singing performance in MP4 format

# Important Dates

6 December 2023 (Wed)	Training Workshop (I) -
	Lyrics Writing Workshop (Secondary)
11 December 2023	Training Workshop (II) -
(Mon)	Lyrics Writing Workshop (Primary)
13 December 2023	Training Workshop (III) -
(Wed)	Pop-singing Workshop (Primary and Secondary)
28 March 2024 (Thu)	Deadline for Entry Submission
By 31 May 2024 (Fri)	Announcement of Results
6 July 2024 (Sat)	Student Performances and Awards Ceremony at the
	Auditorium of Kwai Tsing Theatre

# Intellectual Property

- All entries should be original and have not been published on any occasions.
- The content of the entries should **not** infringe any **copyright** and **publication** rights.
- For details, please visit <a href="https://www.ipd.gov.hk/filemanager/ipd/en/share/publications/IP-in-Hong-Kong.pdf">https://www.ipd.gov.hk/filemanager/ipd/en/share/publications/IP-in-Hong-Kong.pdf</a>



• The EDB retains the right to edit, modify, publish, use and display any entries, including the song lyrics and singing performance, in any forms for educational and/or publicity purposes, and has the final decision of the above actions.

# Further Details

- Competition website:
  - <a href="https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/wewritewesing">https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/wewritewesing</a> (English version)



- <a href="https://www.edb.gov.hk/tc/wewritewesing">https://www.edb.gov.hk/tc/wewritewesing</a> (Chinese version)
- Annex 10 to the **EDBCM No.** 180/2023



# Students' Sharing on experiences and gains from previous competitions

LAU Sin Ka Diocesan Girls' School

Winner of Commendable Award and Best Lyrics Award SOW Creative Singing Contest (2021/22) TANG Sum Yu
Henrietta Secondary School
Winner of Outstanding Award and Audience
Award
SOW Creative Singing Contest (2021/22)

YUNG Shing Hin Cheung Sha Wan Catholic Secondary School

Winner of Outstanding Award
Creating • Appreciation • Performing Music
Competition (2021/22)

Bertha TSANG Ho Lap College (Sponsored by Sik Sik Yuen)

Winner of Commendable Award Creating • Appreciation • Performing Music Competition (2021/22)

# Enquiries

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