

M:FR/E

Final Report of Project

Project No. : 2008/0144

Part A

Project Title: **Mini- Opera School Tours**

Name of Organization/School: **Opera Hong Kong Ltd**

Project Period: From **5/2009** (month/year) to **3/2010** (month/year)

Part B

*Please read the **Guidelines to Completion of Final Report of Quality Education Fund Projects** before completing this part of the report.*

Please use separate A4-size sheets to provide an overall report with regard to the following aspects:

1. Attainment of objectives
2. Project impact on learning effectiveness, professional development and school development
3. Cost-effectiveness – a self-evaluation against clear indicators and measures
4. Deliverables and modes of dissemination; responses to dissemination
5. Activity list
6. Difficulties encountered and solutions adopted

Date: **16 July 2010**

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** Final Report of Project prior to the 8th call should be signed by the supervisor of the school/the head of the organization or the one who signed the Quality Education Fund Agreement for allocation of grant on behalf of the organization.*

** Final Report of Project under the 8th and subsequent calls should be submitted via "Electronic Project Management System" (EPMS). Once submitted, these reports are regarded as already endorsed by the supervisor of the school/the head of the organization or the one who signed the Quality Education Fund Agreement for allocation of grant on behalf of the organization.*

Guidelines to Completion of Final Report of Quality Education Fund Projects

Please elaborate the following items in your evaluation of the project. It is expected that the guide would provide a reference to the project leader/team in reflecting on the effectiveness of the project.

1. Attainment of Objectives

The following items should be included in the evaluation of the attainment of each of the project objectives stated in the project proposal (*the information may be presented in a table form in the format of Table 1 in this Annex or in short paragraphs*):

- objective statement
- activities related to the objective
- extent of attainment of the objective
- evidence or indicators of having achieved the objective
- reasons for not being able to achieve the objective, if applicable

2. Project Impact

The project's effects on the learning effectiveness / professional development / school development should be evaluated, in evidence-based approach, with regard to:

- broadening students'/teachers' horizons
- increasing students'/teachers' sense of achievement
- fostering students' development in their potential and specific abilities
- training students to better meet social demands
- increasing training opportunities for teachers and enhancing their professional development
- improving learning atmosphere
- fostering team spirit and enhancing the overall image of the school
- inducing collaboration with other schools / professional organizations.

3. Cost-effectiveness

Grantees are required to complete the 'Budget Checklist' at Table 2 in this Annex and enclose it as an appendix of this report. Please adopt the classification of budget items in Schedule II of the Agreement.

The project's cost-effectiveness should be evaluated with regard to:

- utilization of available resources (e.g. equipment, human resources of applicant school/ participating school(s))
- unit cost for the direct beneficiaries
- sustainability of the learning programme and materials developed
- expenditure items which require no injection of resources when the project is replicated by other schools (including setup cost of the project, deliverables ready for use)
- alternative approaches for equivalent benefits at less cost

4. Deliverables and Modes of Dissemination

The following items should be included in the evaluation of each of the project deliverables and their value for dissemination (*the information may be presented in a table form in the format of Table 3 in this Annex*):

- description of the deliverable (e.g. type, title, quantity, etc.)
- evaluation of the quality and dissemination value of the deliverable

**Opera Hong Kong Mini Opera School Tour
Final Report (Project No. : 2008/0144)**

1. Attainment of Objectives

See Table 1

Table 1: Attainment of Objectives

Objective statement	Activities related to the objective	Extent of attainment of the objective	Evidence or indicators of having achieved the objective	Reasons for not being able to achieve the objective, if applicable
To educate, develop and inspire students to enjoy the joy and excitement of opera performance.	Live demonstration in Mini Opera and Question and Answer Session	<i>Fully achieved</i>	Students were overwhelmed.	
To discover and explore students' interests in arts	Live demonstration in Mini Opera and Question and Answer Session	<i>Fully achieved</i>	Many students mentioned that this is their first time seeing an opera and would like to go to the theatre to watch a full-scaled performance.	
To help students develop their creativity, observation, expression, analytical and appreciation abilities	Live demonstration in Mini Opera	<i>Achieved</i>	Although it is difficult to evaluate the development of creativity and expression, we are confident that the activities were still able to deliver skills for observation, analysis and appreciation.	

2. Project Impact

We believe the Mini Opera School Tour has inspired students' interest in opera and performing arts. The tours were well-received and many students expressed their interest in watching a full-scale opera with orchestra, lighting, sets, costumes and chorus.

During Question and Answer session, apart from asking questions by students regarding the tour

as well as opera, singing and classical music, the performers would ask questions to understand if the students were well-versed with the idea in opera. Most of the time, students were able to deliver answers correctly which gave them a sense of achievement. The session was definitely an effective way for them to understand the opera through live demonstration.

Some students also showed their interest in learning bel-canto singing in formal studies and opera in future. The Mini Opera Tour with four professionally trained opera singers showcased the opportunities in taking singing and opera as a profession. This helped students to realize the possibility of taking music study and moving on as a career in Hong Kong.

Opera is a large genre in classical music. It is difficult to teach students everything about opera within an hour. However Dr Oliver Lo did a good job by effectively introducing the facts and stories of opera in general, and made opera easy to understand. Teachers may employ such method as reference when they teach their students in future. Without live demonstration of mini opera, it will be very hard to show students the beauty of opera art.

Opera is about team work. The four singers (soprano, alto, tenor and bass) collaborated closely together with the accompanist. If anyone fails to deliver their role in music, the performance would fall apart. Such example would illustrate the importance of team spirit to students.

3. Cost-effectiveness

See Table 2

Table 2: Budget Checklist

Budget Items <i>(Based on Schedule II of Agreement)</i>	Approved Budget (a)	Actual Expense (b)	Change [(b)-(a)]/(a) +/- %
Staff Cost	90,000	90,000	0%
Equipment	30,000	21,500	-28%

4. Deliverables and Modes of Dissemination

Not applicable.

5. Activity List

Table 4: Activity List

Types of activities (e.g. seminar, performance, etc.)	Brief description (e.g. date, theme, venue, etc.)	No. of participants		Feedback from participants
		teachers	students	
Shek Li Catholic Secondary School	15 May 2009, 14:15-15:15 School Hall	8	800 (whole school with live telecast to classrooms)	Lighting and sound effect could be added but you all sang really good. (from student)
Maryknoll Convent School (Secondary section)	11 September 2009, 14:10-15:10 School Hall	7	400	Finally The Mini Opera Tour came to our school. Our teachers and students enjoyed so much. (from Teacher)
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	9 October 2009, 13:00-14:00 Exposition Hall	5	80	Make it longer, I enjoyed it so much! (From student)
Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Mrs. Fung Wong Fung Ting College	10 November 2009, 15:15-16:15 School Hall	5	200 (Form 4 as Other Learning Experience Music Subject)	Thank you so much for bringing our school an enjoyable afternoon. The great show performed by actors and actresses are highly appreciated. And the knowledge of students about opera has been enriched after the show. (from Teaching Assistant)
Ta Ku Ling Ling Ying Public School	18 December 2009, 15:00-16:00 School Hall	5	60 (whole school)	

Leung Shek Chee College	18 January 2010, 13:45-14:45 Assembly Hall	6	500	Please arrange more touring to schools to inspire more youngsters to become opera singers. (from student)
Quarry Bay School	8 February 2010, School Hall	3	200	It was fabulous. They tell many things about opera and they performed it joyfully (from student)
Evangel College	26 February 2010, 14:30-15:30 School Hall	8	290	I think you did a great job in this Mini Opera School Tour (from student)
Discovery College	1 March 2010, 13:00-14:00 Black Box Theatre	4	200 (as a programme in Discovery College Art Festival)	It's good. Bravissimo! (from student)

Percentage, in terms of key tasks, of the project completed at the end of the reporting period: **100%**

Difficulties Encountered and Solutions Adopted

In the proposal it was suggested interviews will be conducted with a sample size of 10 students before and after the tour to collect information on their background knowledge and interests in opera. However, only one interview was conducted. The major difficulty was that students did not have enough time for the interviews. As almost every tour was held either after lunch or immediately before school finishes, the students either have class or other commitments. In order to get feedback and comment from students, questionnaire was distributed to students and teachers, and returned to us few weeks later. It helped us to understand effectively if they were able to absorb the knowledge as being taught in the tour.

Initially Teacher's Training Seminar was proposed for enriching teacher's knowledge in opera teaching. However such proposal was hard to implement due to time constraint and lack of interest by teachers. As a substitution, before the actual singing starts, operatic terms and roles of characters are introduced. Teachers are also invited to participate in Q&A session. We find that teacher's involvement in this session helps enhance their knowledge in opera teaching and they enjoyed this interaction.

Due to the outbreak of swine flu last summer, schools tended to avoid any assembly of students in the hall. Therefore, we were unable to complete the project on the proposed date 31 January 2010. Numerous applications were received and tours were re-scheduled between January to March 2010. Extension has been granted and we were able to finish all nine schools before the date, 31 March 2010.