

## Christmas – a season to love

In December 2022, with the unreserved support from all levels of personnel in BPS, the BOGA Choir performed in two public events unfolding its new chapter of unprecedented challenges.

On 5 December 2022, the Choir was invited again to sing carols at the Helena May. Upon the departure of Ms Yvonne Lau, one of its Co-conductors, to the other side of the globe in autumn, the Choir was in dire need of a Music Director cum pianist to assist Ms Leung Siu-Kum being the other talented Co-conductor. The tradition of choral singing in BPS could not be defeated. While old girls emerged by phases to volunteer as the rehearsal and performance pianists, the Choir was indebted to Yvonne for her unrelenting provision of distance tuition in the form of numerous voice recordings, music and video files to brush up the choristers' vocal techniques, part-singing, harmony and presentation of the selected carols by clicks at 6,000 miles away day after day, but always after midnight at her time.

The Choir's rehearsals were gaining momentum since mid-November, so were the surging number of confirmed COVID-19 cases. Whether to wear mouth masks at the performance and if so, the model to be worn unexpectedly turned out to be a matter of controversy at one of the rehearsals. Thereafter and miraculously, unity and mutual respect trumped all differences and consensus was reached smoothly in no time. Love never fails.



On 18 December 2022 when festivities were in their full swing, the Choir staged a fund-raising performance in the 1881 Heritage for the Child Development Matching Fund (CDMF) without knowing its challenges continued to intensify. Singing outdoor on the coldest Sunday in 2022, with the lowest temperature falling to 8 degrees Celsius, became an unprecedented challenge. It was further compounded by the coincidence that there were thousands of cyclists moving around and road closure enforced in the vicinity for the “Hong Kong Cyclothon” at the material hours.

With very limited support from the organiser but countless technical and logistical problems, Ms Amy Lau, the Choir Coordinator, and her small team of think-tankers, had

all the more worries and concern to confront. In the end, no small number of the members' loved ones joined forces to help in their respective role for transport, staging, videography and logistics matters and as the page turner for the pianist making the performance possible. At the countdown inside the rehearsal room, members encouraged each other, some choristers supported others to master the most difficult phrases in the part-singing, others shared essentials for grooming and fight-the-virus purposes. Siu Kum's perennial calmness, the pianist's composure, members' esprit de corps and their loved ones' unreserved and selfless contribution for charity were interwoven into the most beautiful picture of love.



The two performances were over and became a tiny fraction of the Choir's music journey. All members soon resumed their normal lives. They have their own families, careers, goals, problems and worries to handle. Although all challenges confronted would sooner or later become their faded memory, the most cherished memory in their showcase of resilience, unity, team spirit, sisterhood and love for the alma mater shall never fade; and the shared value shall also transcend through the generations in BPS!

**BOGA Choir**

**December 2022**