

HONG KONG SHENG KUNG HUI
THE STANDING COMMISSION ON LITURGICAL MATTERS

Mrs Lily Pong Scholarship
for Church Organists

龐德明主教夫人聖樂風琴師獎學金

INFORMATION PACK



1. Introduction

Music is an integral part of the liturgy in Anglican worship. The role of organ in the liturgy is very important, especially in leading congregational singing of hymns and other liturgical texts, as well as to provide organ music to accompany liturgical actions and organ voluntaries to glorify God with music.

In 2014, under the sponsorship of St Paul's Church and the family of Mrs Lily Pong, the Standing Committee on Liturgical Matters established a scholarship to provide subsidy to existing and potential church organists in HKSKH to be better equipped with basic techniques (including both legato and non-legato touch, registration, sight-transposition and improvisation) and church service playing skills (hymn-playing, service music and basic knowledge on liturgy).

The scholarship will provide a scheme for one-on-one tuition over a period of three years. The organists graduating from the scheme will be ready to serve their own parish/mission church with much better skills enhancing the quality of music in worship Sunday to Sunday.

The scholarship is named after the late Mrs Lily Pong (龐德明主教夫人), who was one of the first to serve as organists and choir leaders in St Paul's Church, in memory of her dedication and long service to St Paul's Church and HKSKH.

2. Training Scheme

A training period of no more than 3 years is expected. The training scheme starts in September every year. The content of the scheme will be subjected to change according to the ability of the participant. Assuming the participant enters the scheme with no prior training in organ playing:

First Year:

- The Organ: mechanism and structure
 - Basic playing technique: Manual playing and Pedal technique
- Basic hymn playing

Second Year:

- Articulated playing / non-legato playing
- Early organ schools (different national styles, ornaments, registration)
- Service music: communion settings and advanced hymn playing

Third Year:

- Advanced repertoire
- Anglican chant accompaniment
- Improvisation

Sufficient practice time on the organ is crucial to the participants. The support from the participants' parishes/mission churches is highly expected in this regard.

3. Expected outcome

At the end of the scheme, participants are expected to attain ABRSM Organ Grade 6 or above (or any equivalent). An end-of-year organ recital for each year will be their yearly goal to work on. These annual organ recitals under the name of the scholarship will encourage the participants' and graduates' continuous pursue for better organ playing.

4. Application Requirement

The enrolling candidates are expected to fulfil the following requirement:

1. He/she has passed ABRSM (or any equivalent) Piano Grade 8 (or above); and
2. He/she must be a constant attendee of a parish/mission church of HKSKH and preferably an organist currently serving there; and
3. With support from his/her parish/mission church in writing by his/her Vicar/Priest-in-charge, including the provision of:
 - a. The parish/mission church must agree to provide regular opportunities for the participants to utilise their skills; and
 - b. regular practice time in the parish/mission church; and
4. The participant must commit to finish the scheme and serve as organist at his/her parish/mission church for at least two (2) years after completing the scheme.

5. Selection Procedure

The candidates fulfilling the above-mentioned requirement should undergo an audition and an interview. The audition will require playing a piano piece of approximately three (3) to five (5) minutes. If the candidate has prior organ training, he/she can also present an organ piece. There will also be an optional sight-reading test, upon the request of the panel. During the interview, the panel will examine the candidates' background, musical formation, and also his/her commitment to serve the church.