Interview with Mrs. Christina Chiang – Music Director of DGS & DGJS

Mrs. Christina Chiang met with Audrey Tam and Andrea Lai of the Editorial Sub-Committee to share and talk about her devotion in teaching music.

It was a warm and bright spring afternoon, a pleasant time of the year to meet Mrs. Christina Chiang who greeted us with her usual brilliant smile at the new campus. Mrs. Chiang insisted on having the interview before taking her lunch. Her professionalism as a music teacher has not changed a bit.

Mrs. Chiang’s education path began at DGS where she attended Kindergarten to Form 6 all the way (the KG hut era before the swimming pool was built in its place). She then studied at the Teachers’ Training College and further advanced her tertiary education at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Baptist University.

In her school days, Mrs. Chiang participated in a great variety of activities, for example, solo and choral singing, folk dancing and joint school drama performances. She was also a member of the school’s netball team and the table-tennis team.

Her music interest and training developed and flourished while studying at DGS. Music teachers from both primary and senior schools have deeply inspired her passion towards music. In her secondary years, Mrs. Chiang was taught four years of music by Miss Maneely, a Scottish lady with immaculate conducting skills, whom Mrs. Chiang described as ‘a very inspiring but demanding teacher’.

Growing up within a church environment, Mrs. Chiang was further influenced by the conductor of her church choir. Her career aspiration became crystal clear having come across these inspiring teachers during the early stages of her life.

Mrs. Chiang returned to the School as a music teacher in 1972. The headmistresses she has worked with include Dr. Symons, Mrs. Yip and Mrs. Blomfield. After ten years of teaching at DGJS, Mrs. Chiang left to become a Music Lecturer at the (then) Colleges of Education, now, the Hong Kong Institute of Education. In 1993, her love for the School brought her back to her alma mater once again under the leadership of Mrs. Stella Lau and Mrs. Emily Dai.

Throughout the many years of teaching at DGS and DGJS, the most rewarding experience for Mrs. Chiang was to see the school girls grow and develop in their music journey. Mrs. Chiang enjoyed bringing out the best of students who had the least talent by nurturing their love of music through singing.

Another aspect that Mrs. Chiang enjoys tremendously is the rapport that she builds with her choir members. There are lots of interactions with choir members during practices and rehearsals and these build up personal relationships that last throughout the years. This is seen in the establishing of the DOGA choir, the Diocesan Graduate Singers in the year 2000. Since then, it has strengthened fellowship among its members consisting of old girls spanning four decades.

Mrs. Chiang finds DGS girls to be very smart and receptive, yet not creative enough as they are at times confined with the fear of being wrong and lack the time for thinking and playing. She hopes that students will dare to be creative even if it may mean making mistakes at times. This will help them advance further in their music journey and in the development of the person as a whole. Mrs. Chiang also aspires to lead our girls to appreciate music itself and not just to think of results in competitions.

During her spare time, Mrs. Chiang continues to devote her time and energy to music. She is committed to her church as its deaconess and is also the conductor for its adult and children’s choirs. On Friday evenings, Mrs. Chiang leads the Diocesan Graduate Singers. She enjoys attending music concerts and watching all kinds of dance performances which she finds helpful towards staging performances.

Upon full retirement, Mrs. Chiang hopes to continue to be involved in choral music. Music will always be part of her life.

For a full version of the interview, please visit the DOGA website: www.doga.org.hk
35th Reunion for the Class of 1976

Our class held numerous events in Hong Kong and in the US to celebrate our 35th anniversary. To coincide with the School’s new campus development project, our celebrations started half a year earlier in mid-2010 with a campaign to donate a Junior School Music Practice Room for the new campus. The timing of the School’s building needs and a chance for our class to give back to our School was most fortuitous. Thanks to the generosity of our classmates, we were able to reach our goal by the end of 2011.

To help reconnect with each other, Lily Lock started a Facebook page for our class. This proved extremely instrumental in orchestrating a mini reunion in May 2011 in San Francisco where our Bay Area classmates organised 5 days of activities for about 23 participants.

We then embarked on an ambitious project of compiling a class yearbook. Through the efforts of a core team, we published a yearbook with 75 individual entries, an updated class contact list, and more importantly, lots of precious old and recent photos. It is indeed a treasure of memories we will hold dear in our hearts.

The highlight of our reunion was a visit to the new DGS campus on 10th December, 2011, followed by a dinner that evening. We would like to thank Ms. Shirley Ping from the Development Office for facilitating that tour. During the tour, we were delighted to see our DGS Music Practice Room as well as the beautiful netball court donated by our classmate Anna Wong. Thank you Anna for your generosity!

The reunion dinner was a great success with about 40 attendees including teachers Ms. Kan, Mrs. Pel and Mrs. Tang. There were much laughter and chatter throughout the night. We started our evening with a slideshow and it was fun to reminisce the “good old days”. It was such a joy to see photos of nearly every aspect of our most diverse school life, and to jog back memories of our school days together.
Those Good Old Days

What are your memories of your days as a DGS girl? Remember the Corner Garden at the Junior School? Snacks from the Tuck Shop at break time? Your favourite lunch spot? Sports that you played? We asked a number of alumnae from different eras about their recollections of the School. We are sure some of these will also trigger your fond memories of those good old days.

(These series of questions will be continued in the next few issues of the Kaleidoscope).

Q: What was your favourite subject at DGS and why?

**1930s**
“Mathematics and drawing, and for my school leaving results, I got good marks in these subjects.”
(Mabel Lim ‘33. Died April 24, 2012)

**1950s**
“History because I thought the study of the past was fascinating. I later realised how important the past was in understanding the present and perhaps the future.”
(Anonymous)

“English and Biology.”
(Hester Tan ‘58)

**1960s**
“History and Domestic Science.”
(Anonymous)

**1970s**
“Geography, I was interested in learning things of other countries and the teacher, Mrs. Yeung, was very knowledgeable.”
(Hazel Lai ‘76)

“Cookery. Through Mrs. Hung, our cookery teacher then, I learned a lot of basic skills and knowledge which I found useful even to this day.”
(Lily Wong ‘76)

“Chinese was my favourite subject because I got the Chinese Prize from F2 to F5 (if my memories did not fail me).”
(Bernadette Liu ‘76)

**1980s**
“I enjoyed most classes and didn’t have a particular favourite, but I dislike memorising for history classes.”
(Anonymous)

“Maths and Music. Maths is my favourite subject and music has one of my favourite teachers Mrs. Chiang (Miss Chan at that time).”
(Mabel Ng ‘86)

**1990s**
“Music – I have particularly vivid and fond memories of music classes at DGS. I loved practicing for the musicals, one of which was the Labyrinth (I.e. Theseus and the Minotaur) (if my memories serve me correctly) and hymns which we would later perform on stage.”
(Adeline Cheng ‘91)

“English Literature – the teachers were very enthusiastic and make the reading very interesting. I remember that the entire class was excited about discussing George Orwell’s Animal Farm in F2, how they portrayed the communist historical figures. It left a lasting impression because it was the first time we read about satirical literature.”
(Michelle Kwok ‘94)

**2000s**
“Home Economics: Cos we get to eat during lesson time!”
(James Shek ‘06)

Q: What was your favourite spot/location in the School and why?

**1950s**
“Playing field because we used to meet up with all our friends there.”
(Hester Tan ‘58)

**1960s**
“The Domestic Science Rooms as we had a lot of fun in those two rooms.”
(Anonymous)

**1970s**
“Netball court because it is always clean and tidy – suitable for the game.”
(Hazel Lai ‘76)

“The tree at the School entrance where I waited for the ride home after school because this was where I built my friendship (some lifelong) with classmates who stayed behind to chat before I headed home.”
(Lily Wong ‘76)

“Cookery Room, because it was the most relaxing lesson.”
(Bernadette Liu ‘76)

**1980s**
“DGS’s garden, lots of fond memories.”
(Anonymous)

“The school hall where we had our assembly and sang the school hymn as it was the place where the whole school spent time together at the start of the day!”
(Mabel Ng ‘86)

“The Corner Garden, Middle Garden and the field always bring back fond memories of my alma mater.”
(Anonymous)

**1990s**
“I like the Middle Garden because of the sense of privilege of being there, as only Pr.4 and above students were allowed to enter.”
(Adeline Cheng ‘91)

“Corridors outside of the tuck shop and senior hall. It was the place where everyone would pass by during non-class time. Good spot to meet up for a chit-chat.”
(Anonymous)

**2000s**
“The Common Room where I spent my free lessons with my friends.”
(Anonymous)

“The Corner Garden because that was where I spent some of my happiest childhood years with my best friends for life, playing on the swings and see-saws.”
(James Shek ‘06)
Past Activities

Carol Singing Festival – December 2011
Community Services Sub-Committee
During the festive season of Christmas in 2011, we and the Diocesan Graduate Singers jointly participated in the Carol Singing Festival organised by the Child Development Matching Fund (CDMF). CDMF is a non-profit organisation which advocates youth development, particularly those from an economically-deprived background.

Response from our old girls was overwhelming as it was a rare opportunity for us to re-live the experience of school choir-singing under Mrs. Chiang’s baton. The performance took place at the IFC mall on 18th December. The 50 singers’ strong choir sang (and danced!) their hearts out with a dozen lovely Christmas songs in the hour-long repertoire. We would like to thank Mrs. Chiang and the Diocesan Graduate Singers for accommodating and bearing with us, amateur singers, in this most meaningful and memorable event!

St. James’ Settlement Use of English Workshop – January 2012
Community Services Sub-Committee
The St. James’ Settlement Use of English Workshop was held on 11th January 2012 in collaboration with St. James’ Settlement as part of its youth employment programme. Nine DOGA volunteers gave guidance, and taught English, to a group of job seeking youngsters with placements and potential employment in the retail trade. Our work was much appreciated by the participants and they found our course material to be very relevant and appropriate.

‘Operation Dawn’ Flag Day – February 2012
Community Services Sub-Committee
The Flag Day for ‘Operation Dawn’ was held on 4th February 2012 in Jordan. ‘Operation Dawn’ helps those with addiction to drugs, alcohol and other substance misuse through their detoxification programme. Fifteen DOGA volunteers brought their adorable children along to participate in this meaningful event.
Annual Tea Gathering – March 2012
Membership Sub-Committee
The DOGA Membership Sub-Committee hosted its Annual Tea Gathering on 17th March 2012. There were over 60 members at the event, spanning from Class of 1960 to Class of 2008, including Mrs. Emily Dai, General Committee and Sub-Committee members, mentors, mentees as well as new members. The gathering was held for the first time in the new DOGA Room after moving back to the Jordan Road campus. Delicious home-made food prepared by old girls was served. Members and class reps also enjoyed walking around the school in the sunny afternoon.

Mother’s Day Special Event – May 2012
Art Club
Art Club members spent a lovely afternoon together with family and friends handcrafting wonderful picture frames for Mother’s Day. We prepared various decoration accessories, bead jewelry and photo frames for our members to create unique craft to take home. The children especially enjoyed themselves with the rainbow beads and jewels. With their nimble fingers and ingenuity, the little ones showcased their beautiful smile with delightful finished products.

Upcoming Events

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Details of the events will be updated periodically. Please visit www.doga.org.hk to obtain the latest information.

DOGA Office: 1 Jordan Road. Tel: 2771 5881, Email: doga.info@gmail.com

Joining DOGA
Any old girl of DGS or DGJS (whether resident or abroad) who has completed at least one academic year at DGS or DGJS is eligible to apply for membership of DOGA Ltd. Details of the application can be found at www.doga.org.hk.

Class Reunion Gathering
Alumnae who are interested in organising their class reunion gathering at the School, please contact DOGA office for further information.