

Nam Hwa Opera Limited
Annual Report for Financial Year Ended 31 March 2019

Nam Hwa Opera Limited (NHOL) was set up in 17th February 2015 as a Public Company limited by Guarantee. It was registered under the Charities Act since 10th April 2015 with Institution of a Public Character (IPC) status for the period from 1 December 2018 to 30 November 2020.

Unique Entity Number (UEN): 2015046848M
Registered Address: 1 Straits Boulevard,
Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre,
#11-03D, Singapore 018906

Governing Board Members

Designation	Name	Date of Appointment
Chairman	Datuk Sri Teo Kiang Ang, PBM	17 February 2015
Deputy Chairman	Mr. Toh Lim Mok, JP, BBM(L)	17 February 2015
Vice Chairman	Dr. Quek Meng Tong, George	17 February 2015
Vice Chairman	Dato' Sri Dr Derek Goh Bak Heng, BBM	17 February 2015
Vice Chairman	Mr. Lim Chin Boon, BBM	17 February 2015
Vice Chairman	Dato' Sri Dr. Peter Lim Yong Guan, PBM	1 October 2017
Vice Chairman	Mr. Yeo Eng Koon	28 October 2018
Vice Chairman	Mr. Chan Kian Kuan	28 October 2018
Vice Chairman	Mr. Khoo Hang Choong, PBM	28 October 2018
Vice Chairman	Mr. Ang Kiam Meng	28 October 2018
Honorary Secretary	Mr. Su Zhangkai	17 February 2015
Honorary Deputy Secretary	Mr. Vincent Lim Ee Hong	1 October 2017
Honorary Treasurer	Mr. Quek Soo Chek, William, PBM	17 February 2015
Honorary Deputy Treasurer	Mr. Chia Chor Meng, JP, BBM	17 February 2015
Director/ Law Consultant	Mdm. Lee Geck Hoon, Ellen, JP, PBM	17 February 2015
Director/ Law Consultant	Mr. Lie Kee Pong	17 February 2015
Director	Mr. Teo Beng Teck, PBM	17 February 2015
Director	Mr. Ang Chin Koon, PBM, O.St.J.	17 February 2015
Director	Mdm. Heng Boey Hong, PBM, PPA(P)	17 February 2015
Director	Dato Seri Mr. Teo Ngiang Heng, PBM	17 February 2015
Director	Mr. Tan Lye Soon	17 February 2015
Director	Mdm. Fong Chin Yoon Fah, PBS, PPA(G)	17 February 2015
Director	Mr. Huang Zhaoqun	1 October 2017
Director	Mr. Pan Zhengxiang	1 October 2017
Director	Dr. Teo Hark Piang, PBM	9 May 2018

Number of Board Meetings in FY 2019:

Physical Meetings – Nil

Virtual Meetings – 13

Total Board Meetings – 13

Attendance:Physical Meetings - Nil

DATE – N.A.

DATE – N.A.

Virtual Meetings

50% or more for each resolution passed.

Committee of Management (2017-2019)

Designation	Name
President	Toh Lim Mok,JP,BBM(L)
Deputy President	Lew Tong Yong
Vice President	Tay Chew Mong
General Affairs Secretary	Tan Ah Hiang
Deputy General Affairs Secretary	Soh Gek Hoon
Treasurer	Tan Chin Wah
Deputy Treasurer	Lim Geok Hua
Social & Recreational Secretary	Tay Ai Hua
Deputy Social & Recreational Secretary	Ng Gek Kheng
Committee Member	Tan Gek Yong
Committee Member	Gladys Lee Heok Boon
Committee Member	Teo Meng Hock
Committee Member	Lim Eng Siang
Committee Member	Toinh Ngo Muay
Committee Member	Tay Kar Choo
Committee Member	Lee Lai Leng
Committee Member	Tan Swee Choo
Committee Member	Choo Weikang
Committee Member	Tong Wei Jie

Our Banker : Malayan Banking Berhad Singapore (opened 10 May 2018)

Our Auditors : Ernst & Young LLP

Our Legal Advisor : Lee Geok Hoon, Ellen, JP, PBM

: Lie Kee Pong

OUR MISSION

Preserve, develop and promote Traditional Teochew Opera as an important heritage of Singapore.

By :

1. Performing/presenting/producing Teochew operas – classics and new works
2. Enhancing quality of performance and production standards of Teochew opera performers in Singapore
3. Promoting Singapore Teochew opera to local and international audiences
4. Commissioning and creating new Singapore Teochew operas

SOURCE OF FUNDS

NHOL has multiple sources of income, a majority of which is derived from donations and grants. Donations are raised from our governing board, NHOL members, supporters such as Teochew Clan associations and the general public. It also submits private cash donations for dollar-to-dollar matching grants under the Cultural Matching Fund (CMF) scheme. NHOL is supported by the National Arts Council under the Major Company Scheme for the period from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2020.

Other income sources include performance income, which includes project grants from organisations such as the National Heritage Board (NHB), workshop fees, tuitions fee, props and costume rental fees, merchandise sales income and NHOL Membership fees.

MEMBERSHIPS

There is no change to the requirements on recruitment of members.

Membership is by invitation only with a one-off fee of \$300.00 payable upon approval by the Committee of Management and Governing Board. A person, association, company or body corporate who is interested to be registered as a member of the Company may submit an application on the Company's prescribed form supported by a proposer and two (2) seconders, all of whom must already be members of the Company, for the Board's approval.

Applicants who are skilled in Teochew Opera and/or Music performance, and/or display great potential and a significant willingness to develop their capabilities in the traditional artform, should be prioritized.

The Membership is limited to 120 registered members. The Board may, from time to time and subject to conditions stated in NHOL's Memorandum and Articles Of Association, admit and register new Members.

Those under 18 years of age and have interests in Opera performance will be registered with NHOL under the "Young Charter" category. They will be automatically admitted as member when they attain the age of 18, with admission fees waived.

NHOL has a total of 94 Members and 1 Young Charter Member to-date.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

Board, Management Committee and Staff members (Members) are required to abide by a Conflict of Interest policy. Members are required to submit an updated Declaration of Conflict of Interest form at least annually, and also when any changes occur.

When there is uncertainty as to whether there is a need to declare, or whether/when the Members' declaration needs to be updated, Members are to clarify matters with the Senior Management.

All disclosure of interest made by Members and decisions made by the Board/Senior Management of the charity on such matters will be recorded, updated and filed with the Company Manager of the Charity.

Any violations will result in discipline, up to and including termination from employment or removal from the board, management committee or expulsion from being a volunteer member of the charity.

WHISTLE BLOWING POLICY

NHO does not have an existing Whistle Blowing Policy in force through FY 2018.

NHO will craft and refine its Whistle Blowing Policy in FY 2018, with projected enforcement from FY 2019.

YEARLY REVIEW FROM 1ST APRIL 2018 TILL 31ST MARCH 2019

Management Staff

As at 31st March 2019, there were seven (7) full-time employees employed by NHOL, one (1) voluntary CEO and five (5) part-time hires.

Name	Designation	Remarks
Toh Lim Mok	CEO	Volunteer
Tan Ah Hiang	Deputy CEO	
Edlyn Ng	Company Manager	Until 28 February 2019
Tan Sing Yuan	Administrative Assistant	
Lee Mooi Ching	Artistic Director	
Chen Yuzhi	Artistic Instructor	
Li Lvqiao	Artistic Instructor	
Cai Hedi	Artistic Instructor	
Huang Linlin	Artistic Instructor	
Karen Goh	Bookkeeper	Part-time
Mary Tan	Accountant	Part-time
Choo Weikang	Music Coordinator	Part-time
Tong Wei Jie	Music Coordinator	Part-time
Desmond Soo Kim Hock	Music Coordinator	Part-time, until 1 January 2019
Tan Kah Noi	Production Assistant	Part-time
Yee Isabelle	Production Intern	5 February 2018 to 5 May 2018
Lee Jia Jing	Project Intern	5 February 2018 to 5 May 2018
Ng Mei Jia	Part-Time Archivist	5 February 2018 to 5 August 2018
Joyce Tan	Design Intern	2 April 2018 to 2 July 2018
Tan Sheng Da	Intern	16 April 2018 to 31 August 2018
Valerie low Jia Qi	Intern	24 September 2018 to 16 December 2018

There are no paid staff members receiving more than \$100,000 each in annual remuneration.

There are no paid staff members, being a close member of the family belonging to the Executive Head or a governing board member of the charity, who has received remuneration exceeding \$50,000 during the financial year.

NHOL's CEO does not receive any form of remuneration.

FY 2018 Activities

There was an increase in the number of activities and events planned and organized. In line with our objectives, we were able to further promote Teochew Opera and Music, open to new and connect with like-minded people – on both local and international levels and reach out to youths to embrace and appreciate Teochew Opera.

We participated in a total of 63 activities which attracted more than 400,000 audience members from all walks of life. These performances/events were conducted at dedicated arts spaces, schools, event halls, community clubs, hospitals, temples and even overseas.

Core Programmes

《潮影映双彩》公演《告亲夫》及《刘明珠》 *Prosecuting the Husband and Lady Liu Ming Zhu*, 22-23 June 2018, 945 audience

NHO presented live performances of Teochew Opera film classics *Prosecuting the Husband* and *Lady Liu Ming Zhu* over two evenings in conjunction with its 55th anniversary celebrations. Both productions brought together three generations of Teochew Opera performers and musicians in this unique and invaluable opportunity for intergenerational exchanges.

Nam Hwa Opera's rising Teochew Opera star, Tan Wei Tian (15 years old), took on the challenge of the title role in 《刘明珠》 *Lady Liu Ming Zhu*. She also shared the stage with veteran Singaporean Teochew Opera performers, siblings Tan Kah Noi (53 years old), Tan Khar Luang (62 years old) and Tan Ong Ah (56 years old), of the prestigious Sin Yong Hua Heng Opera Troupe.

They were accompanied by a cast comprising of Nam Hwa Opera performers alongside a supporting cast of youths from all walks of life—many of whom would be performing in a full-length Teochew Opera for the very first time. They include theatre makers Ellison Tan, Lina Yu, Al Hafiz Sanusi and Isaac Tan.

Both performances were accompanied with live music performed by Nam Hwa Teochew Music Ensemble, featuring the Youth Ensemble members performing alongside senior musicians.

《情断昆吾剑》 *The Severing Sword*, 15-17 March 2019, 1300 audience

Nam Hwa Opera rounded off its 55th anniversary celebrations with ***The Severing Sword***, the world-premiere of a ***Wuxia Teochew Opera*** directed by acclaimed Singaporean director **Goh Boon Teck** (Artistic Director, Toy Factory).

Based on a popular *wuxia* novel by one of the best-known authors of the genre **Liang Yu Sheng**, *The Severing Sword* has been adapted for the stage by playwright Huang Jian Feng and award-winning Teochew Opera composer

Wang Qing Su. This performance was helmed by six top Teochew Opera performers from Nam Hwa Opera.

In *The Severing Sword*, a series of unfortunate events are set into motion by men hungry for the ultimate power promised to those who possess the legendary *Kun Wu* sword. Families and lovers are tragically torn apart in the bitter struggle for the sword, nurturing resentment and hatred that fuelled a meaningless and devastating quest for revenge. *The Severing Sword* is a cautionary tale that resonates in today's world where the power-hungry rule at the expense of the innocent and vulnerable.

The Severing Sword was created with both Teochew Opera enthusiasts and new audiences in mind. This performance marked a new frontier for Singapore Teochew Opera with technological innovations and bold aesthetics in its staging. Nam Hwa Opera was also delighted to work with some of Singapore's best designers for this production. Additionally, 11 students from ITE College Central crafted intricate animations for the multimedia used in *The Severing Sword*.

The performance was supported by the Nam Hwa Teochew Music Ensemble.

International Programmes

《潮音潮曲》名曲名段文艺晚会 An Evening of Teochew Songs and Music, 3-4 November 2018, 1,600 audience

NHO promotes and develops the Singapore brand of Teochew Opera and Music through international performances and cultural exchanges. In celebration of the strong ties and friendship with our Chinese counterparts, NHO presented 《潮音潮曲》名曲名段文艺晚会 *An Evening of Teochew Traditional Songs and Music*.

Featuring two evenings of quality performances of the distinctive Teochew music tradition, favourites of the classical and contemporary Teochew music and Opera repertoire were presented by 16 master musicians and celebrated Teochew opera singers from China together with 37 from NHO and the **Nam Hwa Teochew Music Ensemble (NHTME)**.

《潮音潮曲》名曲名段文艺晚会 *An Evening of Teochew Traditional Songs and Music* was be an excellent opportunity to reaffirm the strong connection between Singapore and China. It also encouraged knowledge and skills exchanges between artists from both countries to ensure the continued promotion, development and preservation of the traditional artform.

Silk Road Festival (Henan Arts Centre, Hebi Art Centre), 15 to 20 May 2018, 2,600 audience

With the support of the Singapore International Foundation, a team of 10 members from NHO travelled to Hebi and Henan, China, for the Silk Road Festival. In the spirit of cultural exchange and cross-promotion, NHO

presented in a forum (One Belt One Road Henan Arts Showcase Week Forum). The forum was an excellent opportunity for exchanges between academics, managers and policy makers on traditional arts promotion and inheritance. President of Nam Hwa Opera, Mr Toh Lim Mok, JP, BBM (L), shared about NHO's efforts in the preservation, promotion and development of Singapore Teochew Opera.

NHO also had the opportunity to perform its original Teochew Opera performance of 《画皮》 The Painted Skin and interact with 700 students from Tian Shan Primary School in Hebi at the Hebi Arts Centre. Leaders of Hebi and the Arts Centre also shared about their efforts in the promotion of their regional Chinese Opera, Yu Opera (豫剧), and nurturing an interest and passion in the artform amongst their community.

NHO learnt that classes there are conducted for free every Saturday by veteran performers in their community centres in the various aspects of the artform like percussion, singing and movements. The profile of students are from all ages and walks of life.

Their government supports their programme with the belief that such focused and structured instruction and lessons would better benefit their community in nurturing performers and enthusiasts in the artform. They are very invested in the cultural education of their residents.

NHO was moved by their efforts, and are excited to learn from their strategies to strengthen our efforts in organising classes taught at NHO.

ConneXions: Georgetown Festival (Seh Tek Tong Cheah Kongsì), 1-2 September 2018, 250 audience

Organised as part of Georgetown Festival (Penang, Malaysia) in collaboration with the Singapore Tourism Board, Nam Hwa Opera was invited to perform its brand of Singapore Teochew Opera at the iconic Seh Tek Tong Cheah Kongsì. Alongside the performances, NHO's Ye Ting (16 years old) and Tan Wei Tian (15 years old) also participated in a Q&A session on Teochew Opera with the audience.

Fern Ost Festival (Stuttgart, Germany), 10-23 October 2018, 300 audiences

A collaboration between Singaporean and German partners, the Fern Ost (Far East) Festival is aimed at promoting cross-cultural exchanges and nurturing new networks between the two countries. NHO participated with performances of 4 Teochew Opera excerpts and Teochew Opera workshops, gaining invaluable friendships and connections with both German and fellow Singaporean artists.

Double Third Festival Ceremony (Johor Bahru Old Chinese Temple), 20 April 2018, 200 audience

The Nam Hwa Teochew Music Ensemble travelled to Johor Bahru, Malaysia to participate in the closing ceremony of the Double Third Festival Ceremony at the historic Johor Bahru Old Chinese Temple. It was a valuable opportunity for the Ensemble performers for promotion of the Ensemble and its work, making connections with Teochew Clan Association counterparts from across the causeway.

Festival Seni Tradisi se-ASEAN (Anjung Seni Idrus Tintin, Indonesia), 12 December 2018, 250 audiences

NHO was invited to represent Singapore traditional arts in Indonesia at the Festival Seni Tradisi se-ASEAN with a performance of Teochew Opera excerpts. The performance was presented in the historic Anjung Seni Idrus Tintin alongside traditional arts from the region.

Community Outreach and Education

[Community Performances]

Nam Hwa Blazes, 8 April/1 July 2018/7 October 2018/6 January 2019, 1,815 audience

NHO continued its regular NHB blazes with a new installation of the outreach programme. Nam Hwa Blazes is an outreach performance organised quarterly by Singaporean Teochew Opera company, Nam Hwa Opera (NHO). Audiences can enjoy an afternoon of classical Teochew Opera performances absolutely free!

Nam Hwa Blazes is a developmental platform for promising talents of NHO to hone their skills. To date, Nam Hwa Blazes has platformed over 100 performers since it was first launched in 2016.

The platform celebrated its 3rd anniversary with an additional evening edition supported by venue sponsor Ci Yuan Community Club and Ang Mo Kio-Hougang Community Arts & Culture Club. The evening performance featured the best performers of Nam Hwa Opera, and was broadcast 'live' on Nam Hwa Opera' Facebook page.

Arts and Theatre Management final year students from Republic Polytechnic also produced fringe activities at the Level 1 Foyer of Ci Yuan Community Club. In collaboration with Nam Hwa Opera, these Fringe activities were designed to promote Teochew Opera to youths and families.

The fringe activities revolved around *Stages of Life*, a roving exhibition recently launched by NHO as part of its 55th Anniversary celebration. Stages of Life charts the development of Singapore's Teochew Opera through different phases alongside Nam Hwa Opera's journey.

PAssionArts Chinese Opera Festival 2018, Various dates

NHO was proud to return as one of the main organising partners of the 2018 edition of the PAssionArts Chinese Opera Festival, following its inaugural

edition in 2016. The festival objectives for the year was to provide presentation opportunities and platforms for CC Chinese Opera Interest Groups, offer networking opportunities between the local Chinese Opera Groups and also to encourage cross-cultural appreciation for the preservation and promotion of the traditional arts.

NHO presented a wide range of outreach activities and performances under the festival at venues such as Mountbatten SMC, Ci Yuan Community Club and Queenstown CACC.

As part of the PAssionArts Chinese Opera Festival 2018 Finale Show, NHO presented the world premiere of 漂洋过海到南洋之《五脚砌·相亲》 *Voyage to Nanyang*, a Singaporean Teochew Opera that follows the story of Ah Shui and Ah Mei who braved various obstacles to forge a new life in the foreign land of Nanyang.

《五脚砌·相亲》 *Voyage to Nanyang* is a 40-minutes Singapore Teochew Opera conceptualised by NHO in collaboration with Chinese artists playwright Shen Xiang Qu (沈湘渠) and composer Zhang Zhen Yu (章振宇). Featuring a cast anchored by NHO's key talents, they are supported by an ensemble made up of a multicultural and intergenerational team including youths and even children as young as three years old!

《五脚砌·相亲》 *Voyage to Nanyang* marks a new frontier for NHO and Singapore Teochew Opera. Alongside performances of classics from the traditional repertoire, NHO champions artistic excellence by boldly experiment with new genres to enhance audience engagement and experiences.

Aliwal Arts Night Crawl, 28 July 2018, 200 audience

NHO also participated in the annual Aliwal Arts Night Crawl organised by Aliwal Arts Centre, presenting a Teochew Opera Classic at the open stage alongside a short sharing on Teochew Opera. A diverse range of audience were present and enjoyed the performance alongside English and Chinese surtitles.

Mid-Autumn @ Gardens by the Bay 2018, 6/12/16 September 2018, 3,000 audience

NHO was also selected to present three evenings of Teochew Opera and Teochew Music performances as part of the Fantastic Traditions Traditional Arts Showcase at the Supertree Grove. Organised in conjunction with Mid-Autumn @ Gardens by the Bay, NHO presented two short Teochew Opera excerpts and a rousing performance by the Nam Hwa Teochew Music Ensemble.

Esplanade's Moonfest, 23 September 2018, 1,200 audience

What do lotus flowers, lions, dragons and phoenixes have in common? Discover the fantastical stories and legends behind traditional Teochew Music with Nam Hwa Teochew Music Ensemble!

Enjoy a rousing and fun-filled evening perfect for the whole family with performances of familiar classics such as 《龙凤呈祥》 Long Feng Cheng Xiang and 《浪淘沙》 Lang Tao Sha. Also, don't miss a special jazz adaptation of Teochew musical classics being presented by the Ensemble for the very first time!

Charity performances at various community hospitals, elderly day care centres and hospices, various dates

In 2018, NHO doubled its efforts at reaching out to the underserved members of our community. Teochew Opera performances and variety programmes were presented for more than 550 patients, staff and volunteers of 10 hospitals, hospices and elderly day care centres. They include St. Luke's Eldercare, HCA Hospice Care, Jurong Community Hospital, SASCO Evergreen and Life Recreation Centre. NHO aims to continue the programme in 2019, encouraged by the positive feedback received from staff and patients.

[Youth Engagement and Outreach]

Chinese Opera demonstration and workshop at Nanyang Girls' School, 23 May 2018, 70 students

NHO conducted sessions of Chinese Opera introductory workshop for Secondary 4 students of Nanyang Girls' School. Artistic Instructors from NHO shared on the history behind Teochew Opera, and its various unique characteristics. Students also had the opportunity to not only watch a short excerpt of a Teochew Opera performance, but also try their hand at some basic opera movements through an interactive segment.

Workshop at Kong Hwa School, from July 2018 to December 2018, 270 students

As part of a pilot project, NHO's Artistic Instructors have been invited to conduct six sessions of one-hour Introductory Chinese Opera workshops for the 270-strong Primary 3 cohort of Kong Hwa School. By the end of the six sessions, students will have a good grasp of the history behind Chinese opera and have learnt basic opera movements such as hand gestures, posture, props manipulation etc.

NHO also assisted Primary 6 BiCEP students from Kong Hwa School with a graduation showcase with Teochew Opera. The short taster workshop introduced them to the fundamentals and characteristics of the artform, culminating into a short performance of an excerpt.

Workshop with Chung Cheng High School (Yishun), 22 to 31 January 2019, 280 students

In an effort to introduce traditional arts in a fun and engaging manner to its 7 classes of Secondary 3 students, Chung Cheng High School invited NHO to conduct 3 sessions of hour-long workshops. On top of its history and

traditions, the workshop introduced the students to the costumes, makeup and even basic movements used in Teochew Opera.

Workshop with St. Joseph's Church Kindergarten, 24-25 January 2019, 80 6-years old children

NHO conducted a two-hour introductory workshop for children from St. Joseph's Church Kindergarten at its own space. Students enjoyed a fun afternoon learning about and engaging with Chinese Opera, led by NHO's Artistic Instructors. Students were introduced to basic Chinese Opera movements and makeup, and even had an opportunity to play dress-up with some of the costumes.

Industry Development Programmes

Skills Development for NHO performers

Weekly Teochew Opera Classes

On top of its regular classes for NHO members and children, NHO started a new Chinese Opera Makeup class in July 2018. A total of 3 new students participated in the class.

Nam Hwa Teochew Music Ensemble

Trip to Shantou for Coordinators

In order to provide learning opportunities for key members of the Nam Hwa Teochew Music Ensemble, the three coordinators from the Ensemble travelled to Shantou, China for a nine-days training session with Teochew Music masters.

Others

Documentation of Singapore Teochew Opera

As a Singapore Teochew Opera company, Nam Hwa Opera strongly believes that the significance of the traditional artform should not be overlooked, considering its rich history of over a century in Singapore. It is a precious part of our heritage that we should strive to preserve for future Singaporeans, and also proudly promote to those at home and abroad.

In response to the growing threat of irrelevance in the face of modern challenges, Nam Hwa Opera has committed itself to creating a relatable resource that promotes the important heritage of Singapore Teochew Opera for future Singaporeans. It also seeks to vividly illustrate the strong link between the heritage artform and Singapore's history.

Nam Hwa Opera envisions a future where Singaporeans are able to proudly articulate and actively participate in the preservation and development of Teochew Opera as a key heritage of Singapore.

Oral History Project

In collaboration with the Oral History Centre of the National Archives of Singapore, NHO embarked on a Oral History Project to document Singapore's rich Teochew heritage. The Oral History Centre trained more than 20 individuals from Nam Hwa Opera, and also loaned recording equipment to NHO for this project. Past and present performers, leaders and fans of Singapore Teochew Opera will be interviewed and documented, contributing to the narrative of the publication.

The materials gathered through this exercise will not only populate the archives of the Centre, but also inform the creation of a series of related documentation projects by NHO, namely a bilingual historical publication on the history of Singapore Teochew Opera, *Imprints in Time*, and roving exhibition on Singapore's Teochew Opera heritage *Stages of Life*.

潮影寻迹：新加坡潮剧历史记录簿 Imprints In Time - The History of Teochew Opera In Singapore
Official launch on 1 November 2018, 1,000 copies of English and 1,500 copies of Chinese version

Imprints in Time - A History of Teochew Opera in Singapore is Nam Hwa Opera's bilingual follow-up to its 2016 publication *A Pictorial History of Teochew Opera in Singapore*. Led by Chief Editor Su Zhang Kai, the new book traces the development of Teochew opera in Singapore and the 55-year journey of Nam Hwa. Despite its relatively short history, the editorial team hopes Nam Hwa's story can help to illustrate the development of Singapore's Teochew opera and its future.

The six main chapters, which are chronologically ordered, are: "Humble Beginning", "Early Days", "Silver Screen", "Historical Footprints", "Turning Tides", "Moving Forward". To celebrate Nam Hwa's 55th anniversary, the book has compiled a glossary of "Nam Hwa's 55 keywords", placing historical markers for each of its hard-earned milestones. Nam Hwa has also specially invited local and overseas Teochew opera experts to pen academic essays on their respective fields of research for the book. This allows our publication to explore different dimensions of opera and adds depth to its content.

Imprints in Time is supported by the National Heritage Board, Our SG Fund and Singapore Bicentennial.

The book was launched at NHO's 55th Anniversary gala and fundraising dinner on 1 November 2018 at Shangri-La Hotel Island Ballroom, with guest-of-honour Mr Baey Yam Keng, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Transport & Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, Member of Parliament for Tampines GRC.

戏台人生：新加坡潮剧历史特展 Stage of Life: An Exhibition on History of Teochew Opera in Singapore
Official launch on 1 November 2018

Nam Hwa Opera seeks to engage its existing and new audience members more effectively during its performances through the provision of greater

contextual knowledge on the legacy of Teochew Opera in Singapore. It also hopes to create accessible avenues in which the Singapore Teochew Opera story can be shared with a greater proportion of the wider public, especially at community spaces such as the Community Clubs where vast demographics of Singaporeans gather.

As such, Nam Hwa Opera aims to produce portable exhibition panels that can readily travel with Nam Hwa Opera's various performances and activities. These exhibition panels will be designed to feature key visuals captioned with bite-sized content for more effective information dissemination. The exhibition panels will also be bilingual for greater accessibility, presented in both Chinese and English.

To complement the exhibition panel, a video documentary, *Evolving from Tradition, Unceasing Aria*, was also be filmed featuring sound bites from performers, fans and leaders of the Teochew Opera community. The video provides an additional dimension in which the gathered content can be presented in an even more interactive and engaging manner, complementing the exhibition panels in telling the Singapore Teochew Opera story.

Stages of Life: A History of Teochew Opera in Singapore is supported by the National Heritage Board, Our SG Fund and Singapore Bicentennial.

The exhibition was launched at NHO's 55th Anniversary gala and fundraising dinner on 1 November 2018 at Shangri-La Hotel Island Ballroom, with guest-of-honour Dr Lim Wee Kiak, PBM, Member of Parliament for Sembawang GRC.

Teochew Cultural Research Centre

There is no proper set up researching on Teochew culture in Singapore, thus, NHO plans to have such centre set up within its premises. It aims to become a hub for the research on Teochew Culture in Singapore and house a collection of literary, musical and artistic works related to Teochew culture, both locally and from overseas.

The Teochew Cultural Research Centre will collaborate with universities and colleges, provide an excellent academic environment for scholars and researchers, and a platform to foster communication and collaboration.

NHO will also work closely together with the clans and associations, especially those from the Teochew community, to boost exposure, enhance financial resources and attract more audiences. The clan and associations have a large number of members from all walk of life from Singapore. This will enable NHO to be able to connect and tap on more resources and reach out to a wider range of audience in Singapore.

Talks and Seminars

Talks and seminars will be organised with a specific topic to be discussed on. Local and foreign researchers and scholars will be invited to the talks and seminars to share and exchange different experience. All sharing and findings

from the talks and seminars will be recorded and published for interested researcher or readers to view.

Digitization of Collection of Works

Teochew Cultural Research Centre will also digitalise the collection of works for easier access for the internet audience

Corporate Rebranding

To mark its exponential development and progress since inception, NHO also underwent a corporate rebranding exercise. The exercise allowed for us to think more deeply about our vision for NHO and consider how we can express and better communicate our aspirations for Singapore Teochew Opera and our company more effectively. The new NHO brand will be fresh and bold to express the rejuvenation of Singapore Teochew Opera and Music, crafted around the characteristic subtlety of the Teochew Opera aesthetics. Its output included NHO's new corporate logo, corporate website and stationery among others.

NHO unveiled its new look at its Gala Dinner on 1 November 2018 at the Shangri-La Hotel Island Ballroom. Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Transport & Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth Mr Baey Yam Keng officiated the event as its guest-of-honour.

Staying Connected

To stay connected with our members, we organize yearly lunar new year gatherings, members' retreat, monthly management committee meetings, weekly staff meetings, quarterly Directors' meetings and an annual appreciation dinner.

REVIEW OF FINANCIAL POSITION AND MAJOR FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

At the end of the financial year, the organisation received \$781,848 in donations, and utilised \$839,267 in grant income. It also received \$151,789 from events, government incentives and other income sources.

The organisation reported a total expenditure of \$1,660,149.

During the financial year ending 31 March 2019, the organisation reported a net surplus of \$112,755.

Assets Held

As at to-date, the organisation does not own any immovable assets.

Any assets held or purchased during the financial year are to support the office administration, projects and performances.

Reserves Policy

Our reserves position:

	Current Year	Previous Year	% Increase / (Decrease)
Unrestricted Funds (Reserves)	\$994,473	\$881,718	13
Restricted / Designated Funds:			
- Building Fund		\$ -	-
- Education Fund		\$ -	-
- Others (Restricted cash balances)	\$263,948	\$483,685	(45)
Endowment Funds		\$ -	-
Total Funds ¹	\$1,258,421	\$1,365,403	(8)
Ratio of Reserves² to Annual Operating Expenditure³	0.60:1	0.82:1	(27)

The reserves that we have set aside provide financial stability and the means for the development of our principal activity. We intend to maintain our reserves at a level that is at least equivalent to \$300,000. The amount is based on Nam Hwa Opera Limited's current financial ability. The reserves level ensures that in the unlikely scenario of sudden cuts from Nam Hwa Opera Limited's funding sources, NHOL would still be able to maintain its principal activities.

Nam Hwa Opera will maintain its reserves level with prudent spending, active solicitation for donations and government grants.

Every year, the Management Committee and Board Members reviews the amount of reserves that are required to ensure that they are adequate to fulfil our continuing obligations.

¹ Total funds include unrestricted, restricted, designated and endowment funds.

² Unrestricted Funds.

³ Charitable Activities and Other Operating and Administration Expenses.

Future Plans And Commitments

The Organisation will continue with its utmost efforts to preserve, promote and develop traditional Teochew Opera as an important heritage in Singapore, in line with our mission statement.

We will continue to provide the platform and an environment to nurture talents in the performing arts. NHO will also endeavour to reach out to bigger audience members at the community level, especially our youths and the elderly, and avid fans of traditional opera. In the coming years, we also plan to focus our charitable projects to benefit the underprivileged and underserved demographics in line with our belief that the arts should be made accessible to everyone.

In an effort to encourage more people from all walks of life to better understand and engage with the artform, NHO also seeks to spearhead a Traditional Opera Festival in the coming years. NHO envisions to bring together the various types of Traditional Opera in Singapore with workshops, demonstrations, performances and even exhibitions.

We will also continue to promote the Singapore brand of Teochew Opera and Music in the international arena by organizing more cultural exchanges with not only our counterparts from China, but also in ASEAN Countries and the world at large.

Reported by:



Mr Toh Lim Mok, JP, BBM (L)
CEO, President and Deputy Chairman
For Nam Hwa Opera Limited

Date: 27 March 2019