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## CLASSICAL MUSIC COMES ALIVE AT STANDARD CHARTERED ARTS IN THE PARK MARDI GRAS

***Showcasing the best in performances and visual art created by  
more than 3,500 young Hong Kong students and artists***

**HONG KONG [15 November 2015]** – Hundreds of young people and professional artists in colourful carnival costumes took to the busy streets of Causeway Bay over the weekend to celebrate the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Standard Chartered Arts in the Park Mardi Gras*. Carrying giant walking puppets and rod puppets, they greeted thousands of local and overseas spectators who packed the heart of the shopping district to watch this annual community arts extravaganza.

Organised by the Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation and sponsored by Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited, the two-day Mardi Gras showcased live performances and visual art created by more than 3,500 of the city's students and professional artists.

The theme of this year's carnival was "Classical Music & Art". Some of the city's best artistic talent collaborated with students to create original performances and art inspired by classical music masterpieces, including Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade (1001 Arabian Nights)*, Saint-Saëns' *The Carnival of the Animals*, Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, Stravinsky's *The Soldier's Tale* and Ravel's *Mother Goose Suite*.

### **Signature Parades to WOW the Crowds**

The carnival's highlights included two street parades: *Art Fun in Causeway Bay: Night Parade* and *Art Fun in Causeway Bay: Grand Finale Parade*, featuring giant puppets.

More than 600 young people and professional artists roamed the streets of Causeway Bay during Sunday's daytime *Grand Finale Parade* which included 12 gigantic puppets measuring up to 12 feet high, 60 rod puppets, and over 1,000 spectacular costumes. Among creations inspired by this year's classical music theme were Aladdin's genie and magic carpet, and others influenced by that enchanting opera *The Magic Flute*, creating a magnificent spectacle for crowds lining the streets.

The *Night Parade*, held on Saturday, 14 November, featured 13 illuminated giant puppets and glowing parade costumes. The parade snaked through the busy streets of Causeway Bay, creating an awe-inspiring experience for those who gathered to watch under the spectacular night lights of Hong Kong.

In addition to the signature parades, a spectacular outdoor carnival was held in Victoria Park. During the two-day event, visitors of all ages created their own masks, headdresses and rod puppets at 18 free-of-charge interactive art zones where event-goers unlocked their musical talents at kazoo and drum jams. Other performances included martial arts displays and 70 youth groups performed non-stop dance routines, immersing visitors to the *Standard Chartered Arts in the Park Mardi Gras 2015* in a fantastic world of creativity.

### **An Educational Programme Turned Must-Attend Event**

First started in 2001, *Standard Chartered Arts in the Park Mardi Gras* is an annual youth art education programme that lasts for six months and ends in a two-day fiesta in November. Each year, over 3,500 students from 200 schools and youth organisations in Hong Kong participate in the activities, creating dramatic art pieces and dance routines for the parades, under the guidance of professional local artists and art teachers.

By providing these youngsters with exciting opportunities to develop skills in art, creativity, performance, team-building and leadership, the programme is contributing to the long-term development of Hong Kong's youth, as well as benefitting the community at large.

For more information about *Standard Chartered Arts in the Park Mardi Gras 2015*, please visit [www.hkyaf.com/AIP2015](http://www.hkyaf.com/AIP2015) or Facebook ([hkyaf](#) / [standardcharteredhk](#)).

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## Photo captions

Legendary characters from classical music masterpieces came to life at *Standard Chartered Arts in the Park Mardi Gras 2015*.







Tens of thousands of visitors unlocked their creativity at the fun-filled art stalls and enjoyed an array of live performances at *Standard Chartered Arts in the Park Mardi Gras 2015*.



## **Notes to Editors**

### **About Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation (HKYAF)**

Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation ([www.hkyaf.com](http://www.hkyaf.com)) is a charity that provides access to high quality, non-competitive free-of-charge arts experiences for all young people aged 5 to 25. Established in 1993 by Lindsey McAlister OBE, JP, HKYAF organizes inclusive and inspirational projects that reach out to youngsters of all cultures, backgrounds, languages and abilities, and actively creates opportunities for those who are disadvantaged and underprivileged. Each year, HKYAF reaches over 800,000 people through its projects, exhibition and performances. Follow HKYAF on [Facebook](#), its [blog](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).

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