



THE HONG KONG SINGERS
PROUDLY PRESENTS

SISTER ACT

8-10 DECEMBER 2021, 7:30PM
HONG KONG CITY HALL THEATRE

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8-10 DECEMBER 2021, 7:30PM
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Music by
ALAN MENKEN

Lyrics by
GLENN SLATER

Book by
**CHERI STEINKELLNER
& BILL STEINKELLNER**

Additional Book
DOUGLAS CARTER BEANE

Based on the Touchstone Pictures Motion Picture "Sister Act" written by Joseph Howard

Director and Choreographer
MANDY PETTY

Musical Director
HELENA MURCHIE

Assistant Musical Director
MELODY LEUNG

Producer
MICHAEL BRADLEY

Assistant Producers
**VANESSA LEE
JENNY LUN**

Set and Costume Design
ALLAN NAZARENO

Lighting Design
ANDY BURT

Sound Design
JOHN LIN

Set Contractor
ART DOMAIN

Stage
Manager
ADRIAN DAVIS

Deputy
Stage Manager
VANESSA LEE

Assistant
Stage Manager
IRIS EU

Stage Crew
**MICHAEL BRADLEY
JENNY LUN
JOHN TEREZINI**

**BELINDA CARVERHILL
MATT VAN GELDER
TAMMY CHENG**

Marketing
MIKKI VILLA

Front of House
**ADRIAN FUNG
JODI GILCHRIST**

Photography
ALBERT CHEUNG

Programme Design
DANIEL CHEONG

Cast

SHAREEN HELLEN HELENA MURCHIE IZZY JOSE TARYN MARKS KIM WARD
CLARA KIM NICOLE HURIP LIZZIE ZIALCITA JOMS ORTEGA ERIC NG
BOBBY BURNS STEVEN CO SAM SPEED MATTHEW COLLINGWOOD
DONALD LEE MICHA SPARROW PHILIPPA FRANCIS KEREN CHAUKRIA
JANELLA CRIZEL DE CASTRO JUNG EUN PARK KARLY COX LINDA CHENG
MAE LIM SAMANTHA LAM WENDY WU DANIEL CHEONG
LOUIS TSUI VINCENT CHU JOAQUIN DELA CRUZ

The Band

Conductor/Keyboard
RONALD CHEUNG

Percussion
MELODY LEUNG

Bass
SIMON VERMOOTEN

Electric Guitar
LEON HAWORTH

Keyboard
JUSTIN WAI

Drums
SHEN TAN

FROM THE CHAIR OF THE HONG KONG SINGERS



It is a joy and a relief that we can perform for you at City Hall for our 90th anniversary.

Sister Act is the 51st show the Hong Kong Singers have staged at City Hall Theatre and the 187th show since being founded.

Obtaining an affordable performance venue in Hong Kong is the biggest challenge for us so we thank the Leisure and Cultural Services Department for offering these precious dates.

My sincere thanks to the production team, committee, cast, crew and musicians, and to you the audience for kindly buying a ticket and supporting community theatre. No person involved in this production is paid, and I am so grateful to them for sharing their time and talent.

Many thanks to the generous donations from Executive Access and Hugill & Ip as we cannot perform large-scale productions without the help of corporate sponsors. If you are interested in supporting community theatre in the future, please contact us!

Enjoy the show and bless you all!

Shareen Hellen
Chairperson

About The Hong Kong Singers

The Hong Kong Singers is the longest established theatrical group in Hong Kong, founded in 1931. Over the years we have presented many of the classic musicals from The West End and Broadway. More recent shows include ***Songs for A New World*** (2020; Sheung Wan Civic Centre), ***Shout! The Mod Musical*** (2019; HK Arts Centre), ***25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*** (2018; HK Arts Centre), ***A Grand Night for Singing*** (2017; HK Fringe Club), ***Gypsy*** (2016; HK Cultural Centre), ***Xanadu*** (2015; HK Arts Centre), ***Assassins*** (2015; HK Rep Black Box), and ***How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*** (2015; City Hall).

DIRECTOR'S INTRODUCTION



Theatre is back with a vengeance, and what better way for the Hong Kong Singers to celebrate than with an outrageous, uplifting, SOLD-OUT production of *Sister Act* in our favourite venue, City Hall Theatre – we've come home!

I have been wanting to direct/choreograph another BIG show for Hong Kong Singers for some time, but funds and venues were not available. When this opportunity finally came about (thanks to the persistence of our wonderful Chairlady!), I was delighted to take up the reins for *Sister Act*, mostly because I could go back and relive my youth, reminiscing with that wonderful soul music from my Disco days – big hair, flared pants, bum-freezer jackets, mirror ball and all!

Big thanks to everyone involved: a reliable and trusted production team; a seasoned and professional artistic team; enthusiastic and talented performers; and you, the audience. I trust you will go home tonight, car window wide open, belting out those wonderful songs of the 70s - I've been doing it for months!

Mandy Petty
Director, *Sister Act*

Synopsis

When disco singer Deloris Van Cartier is placed in protective custody in a dying convent, her unique brand of funk comes face-to-face with the traditions of the church. Someone's habits are about to change.

MUSICAL NUMBERS



ACT 1

Take Me To Heaven.....	Deloris, Michelle, Tina
Fabulous, Baby!.....	Deloris, Michelle, Tina
The Perfect Place.....	Nuns
Here Within These Walls.....	Mother Superior, Deloris
It's Good to Be a Nun.....	Deloris, Nuns
When I Find My Baby.....	Curtis, Joey, Pablo, TJ
I Could Be That Guy.....	Eddie, Homeless People
Here Within These Walls (Reprise).....	Mother Superior, Nuns
Raise Your Voice.....	Deloris, Nuns
Take Me to Heaven.....	Deloris, Nuns

ACT 2

Sunday Morning Fever.....	Deloris, Mother Superior, Monsignor, Eddie, Nuns
Take Me to Heaven (newscast)	Deloris, TJ, Nuns
Lady in the Long Black Dress	TJ, Joey, Pablo
I Haven't Got a Prayer.....	Mother Superior
Bless our Show.....	Deloris, Nuns
Benedicta-ta For Now.....	Mother Superior, Nuns
The Life I Never Led.....	Mary Robert
Fabulous, Baby! (Reprise).....	Deloris, Eddie, Michelle, Tina, Fantasy Dancers, Nuns
Sister Act.....	Deloris
When I Find My Baby (Reprise).....	Curtis
The Life I Never Led (Reprise).....	Mary Robert
Sister Act (Reprise).....	Deloris, Mother Superior, Curtis, TJ, Joey, Pablo, Nuns
Spread the Love Around.....	Full Company

THE COMPANY



MANDY PETTY

Director and Choreographer

Mandy received her training in musical theatre at Laine Theatre Arts in Epsom, England, one of the leading musical theatre schools in the UK today. She has been working in Hong Kong for the past 40 years, teaching Jazz and Tap dance, and after a long history of teaching at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, she is currently the coordinator of the EXCEL BTEC Musical Theatre programmes there, in addition to being a freelance teacher/choreographer within the Hong Kong community. Her credits as choreographer for musical theatre productions are extensive, in both the professional and amateur communities, and she has also taken on the role of Director/Choreographer for the Hong Kong Singers productions of *Secrets Every Smart Traveller Should Know*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *Gypsy* and now *Sister Act*.



RONALD CHEUNG

Conductor, Keyboard

Growing up in Canada, collaborative pianist Ronald Cheung enjoys a versatile career as répétiteur, vocal coach, chamber musician, and conductor. In March 2016, he was the répétiteur for the Anna Netrebko Asian Tour in collaboration with Hong Kong Arts Festival. He was a scholarship recipient for Songfest 2012 in Los Angeles, and spent two consecutive years working with diction legendary Nico Castel and singers from the Met and COC at Opera NUOVA at the University of Alberta. He also participated in Vancouver International Song Institute at the University of British Columbia working with François LeRoux and Rosemary Langry.

Since October 2016, Ronald has been the music director for the Show Choir STU Melody and Handbells Ensemble at Shantou University under the Li Ka Shing Foundation. He is a part-time faculty member at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, répétiteur for Opera Hong Kong, and vice supervisor for Yip's Children's Choir. He founded DictionLab in 2014, providing diction courses, performances, and masterclasses to the community. In 2021, he became the director for Hong Kong Blind Union's Seeing Joy in Music, providing music and movement training, masterclasses and performances for visually impaired musicians.



MELODY LEUNG

Assistant Musical Director

Multi-instrumentalist Melody graduated in music from The Peabody Institute, John Hopkins University USA. She lives in Hong Kong and teaches music at King George V School and frequently appears as a harp soloist in Hong Kong. When she is not playing music, she loves to hike with her friends.

THE COMPANY



SHAREEN HELLEN

Deloris Van Cartier

Hailing from New Zealand but now well and truly calling Hong Kong home, Shareen has graced the Hong Kong stage for the past 25 years. Previous starring roles with the Singers include *42nd Street*, *Anything Goes*, *Guys and Dolls* and *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. She also appeared in *Secrets Every Smart Traveller Should Know*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *Gypsy*, *Follies* and *Shout! the Mod Musical*. Other Hong Kong theatre credits include the HK Players pantomimes *Cinderella*, *Pinocchio* and *Aladdin* and Perilous Mouths production of *Company*.

She is delighted to return to City Hall and share the stage with the wonderful cast, many of whom she has appeared with over several decades! Shareen would like to thank for husband Nick and her children Emily, Hugo and Harry for humoring her hobby. Spoiler alert - like her character Deloris, she too attended St Mary's and has performed for the Pope!



HELENA MURCHIE

Musical Director, Mother Superior

Helena started singing and dancing at an early age. She graduated from York University in music and then continued her vocal studies with Esther Solomon at the Guildhall in London. Helena sang professionally for eight years, whilst being based in London. She has worked extensively as a vocalist in all kinds of genres ranging from musicals, recording work, classical concerts and cabaret work. Before arriving in Hong Kong, she lived in Beijing for seven years where she was regularly invited to perform as a soloist with various choirs and musical groups in the city. Helena lives in Hong Kong with her husband and two children and works at West Island School.

Helena has appeared in numerous shows with the Hong Kong Singers and is delighted to be the Mother Superior in *Sister Act*, working alongside such a wonderful, talented bunch of performers and fabulous ('Baby') production team.

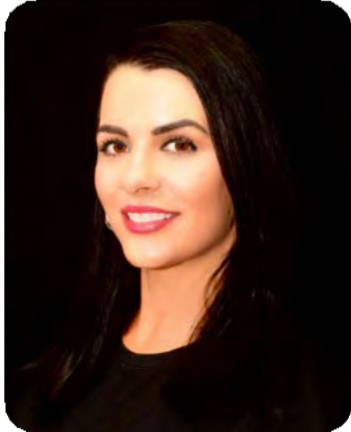


IZZY JOSE

Sister Mary Robert

Izzy started singing and dancing aged four. It was at this young age she developed a love for the stage when she started Ballet and Tap at the Southern School of Dance in Hong Kong, as well as singing in her primary school choir. She pursued performing arts at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts with Excel. She then completed a Bachelors Degree in Performing Arts at the University of Gloucestershire in the UK. Her most recent work includes playing the lead role, Lurena, in the production of *Adrift in Macao*, also with the Hong Kong Singers.

THE COMPANY



TARYN MARKS

Sister Mary Patrick

This is Taryn's second stage production in Hong Kong. Last year was her debut show where she played the role of Arvida Abernathy in *Guys and Dolls*. Taryn is passionate about musical theatre and is thrilled to be playing the part of Sister Mary Patrick, as this character shares her enthusiasm for life and music. She has done small productions back in her homeland of South Africa and is excited to perform again in Hong Kong.

She would like to thank her husband and family for their support. Hope you're ready to rock with these sisters!



KIM WARD

Sister Mary Lazarus

No stranger to thespian activities be it musical, straight play or panto, Kim is delighted to be illuminating the stage tonight with her portrayal of Sister Mary Lazarus. (Not perhaps quite as illuminating as her last outing with the Hong Kong Singers, when she played Electra the stripper in *Gypsy* - she's relieved that there is no need to wear a huge battery pack this time!)

Interestingly, this is not the first time she has appeared on stage in a habit! She played Sister Robert Anne in *Nunsense* with Kuwait Little Theatre back in 2006. She is hoping to serve up her best nun realness for you tonight: she may be getting older and slower these days, but she can still get down with the cool kids, if the situation demands! (Kim would like to make a public apology to her son, James, for using the phrase "down with the cool kids").



CLARA KIM

Understudy Deloris, Ensemble

Clara has loved musicals since she was young and has a distinct memory of (over)playing a *Phantom of the Opera* CD so much that she broke it! She is thrilled to be finally making her musical stage debut with HK Singers' *Sister Act* after having worked behind the scenes in Tokyo and Hong Kong over the past 12 years as a director, producer, makeup artist, wardrobe assistant and stage hand. Clara is grateful to have worked with so many talented people who have made this a memorable first production and hopes the audience enjoys hearing everyone raise their voice.

THE COMPANY



NICOLE HURIP

Tina, Ensemble

Nicole is excited to be returning to the stage with old and new friends! Born and raised in Hong Kong, she has been singing and dancing for as long as she can remember. She has previously starred in the Hong Kong Singers' production of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and Opera Hong Kong's *The Music Man*. Enjoy the show!



LIZZIE ZIALCITA

Michelle, Ensemble

This is Lizzie's forth musical with the Hong Kong Singers. She has previously performed in *A Grand Night for Singing*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and just earlier this year, *Songs for a New World*. She also performed professionally in the Manila theatre scene prior to moving to Hong Kong in 2005. Some of her favourite performances from that time are *Oliver!*, *The Boy Friend*, *The Baker's Wife*, *The Secret Garden* and *Urinetown*.



JOMS ORTEGA

Eddie Souther

Joms Ortega is a Filipino theatre performer who has performed in various places in Asia, including Singapore, Malaysia and Macau but has mainly been seen on stage in Hong Kong. He has been performing on stage constantly for 14 years now, bringing life to a wide variety of characters. Some of his most notable performances have been Motormouth Maybelle in *Hairspray*, the Wolf and Rapunzel's Prince in *Into the Woods*, Warner Huntington III in *Legally Blonde* and Father Time in *The Bluebird of Happiness*. He has also performed in Hong Kong Disneyland as a vocalist for the show *The Golden Mickeys*. Currently, he is one of the in-house performers for a company called World Family Club, bringing to life multiple children's musical shows aimed for English Language Learners. He was last seen in Hong Kong Singers' *Songs For a New World* in February this year.

Besides his passion for performing on stage, he is also a Qualified Early Years teacher, having experience teaching children aged one to five in international and local schools in Hong Kong.

THE COMPANY



ERIC NG

Curtis

Eric is an actor, director, and producer in Hong Kong, and is excited to be back on stage for the first time in three years. Previous credits include William Barfee in the *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, David in *Company*, Cogsworth in *Beauty and the Beast*, Vincentio in *Measure for Measure*, Roma in *The Resistable Rise of Arturo Ui*, and Henry Hwang in *Yellow Face*. He has also directed *The Pillowman*, *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*, *The Laramie Project*, *YellowFace*, and *Nine Circles* in Hong Kong, as well as the 2019 Hong Kong Players pantomime.



BOBBY BURNS

Joey

Bobby has been performing in theatre for over 25 years in the UK and Hong Kong. His lead roles in the UK include Sweeney Todd in *Sweeney Todd the Demon Barber of Fleet Street*, the Beast in Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, and Pontius Pilate in *Jesus Christ Superstar*. In Hong Kong Bobby's roles have included Edna Turnblad in *Hairspray*, Jamie in *The Last Five Years* and a lead male in the HK Singers *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*. Bobby has also played the Dame in the HK Players annual pantomime including *Cinderella*, *Aladdin* and most recently *Snow White* in 2018. In addition to theatre Bobby appeared in various TV programmes in the UK before moving to Hong Kong ten years ago and still appears as a male vocalist from time to time at events in both places. He is excited to be back on stage in *Sister Act*!



STEVEN CO

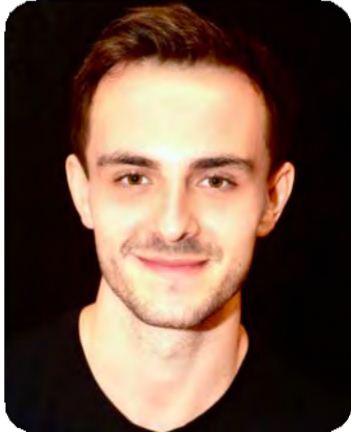
Pablo

Steven made his Hong Kong and musical stage debut in 2004, playing Gremio in The Hong Kong Singers' *Kiss Me, Kate*. This was followed by roles in other Singers' shows: Bobby Van Heusen in *The Boy Friend* (2006), Gaston in Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* (2008), and Mr. Twimble/Womper in *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (2015).

His previous experiences include writing and directing the musical *The Earth is Not a Cat* and a principal role in Wang Shengshan's Putonghua play *Chinaman*. TV appearances include the award-winning children's show *Pinpin* and producing and directing more than 25 shows. An album of his Putonghua songs was released under the title *If Only* in 1991, and the cast album of his musical *The Earth Is Not a Cat* was released in 1994.

Steven is glad to be back on stage and he wishes you all a Feliz Navidad!

THE COMPANY



SAM SPEED

TJ

Sam is looking forward to his first ever show with the Hong Kong Singers. He trained as an actor at East 15 Acting School in London, before later going on to graduate with a BA in Applied Theatre at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. Sam recently performed in Tall Stories UK and ABA Productions HK, *The Gruffalo Live on Stage*, where he played the role of the Predators. Sam is also a theatre director, singer and writer, and has worked in the entertainment industry and children's theatre for over seven years. He currently works as a drama leader for Faust International Youth Theatre.



MATTHEW COLLINGWOOD

Monsignor O'Hara

By day, Matthew has been working in the banking sector for 22 years in Hong Kong, but at night and in his spare time, he showcases his skills as an entertainer through a variety of media. Matthew has been the lead singer for a number of rock bands as well as taking lead roles in many Hong Kong Singers shows including *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Sweet Charity*, *I Love you, You're Perfect, Now Change*, *Anything Goes*, and *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. Matthew's last stint at treading the boards was in the production of *Titanic* by Face Productions. He also once took his love for dressing up a step too far when he played the Dame in the Hong Kong Players *Puss In Boots* Pantomime. His passion for singing and acting is something he is truly grateful for along with his love for his family, with three crazy girls who, whilst often embarrassed watching Dad, have kept the love for music alive for another generation.



DONALD LEE

Ernie, Ensemble

This is Donald's third musical theatre appearance, but it is his first full show experience. He is a theatre nerd who is passionate about musical theatre and has been participating in many forms of performing arts throughout the past 10 years. He has previously played Benny in *RENT*, produced by Theatre Noir, and Ensemble in *Sunset Boulevard*, produced by Hong Kong Arts Festival.

THE COMPANY



MICHA SPARROW

Sister Mary Theresa

Micha is delighted to be performing again at City Hall, as it was the first stage she performed on in Hong Kong and her first Singers show as Miss Hannigan in **Annie** in 2005. Since then, Micha has been in a number of musicals, including **Nearly Broadway Express**, **Little Shop of Horrors**, **Secrets Every Smart Traveller Should Know** and **Follies**. It's been fantastic to work with all the familiar and new folks in this production. "Bless our show!"



PHILIPPA FRANCIS

Sister Mary Martin-of-tours

Sister Act is Pippa's first foray into the Hong Kong theatre scene, though she has been singing in choirs and on stages since she was a young girl. In her university years in South Africa and shortly thereafter, she sang in a performance at the National Arts Children's Festival in Grahamstown and in an amateur production of **Annie** in her hometown of Port Elizabeth. She was also one of the first members of the Pohang Players in the city of the same name in South Korea. Pippa is most excited to be part of such a fun show, and to be performing alongside and under the guidance of such a talented cast and production team. She also loves a good song, a bit of a jive and a lot of laughter, and she hopes this evening's performance brings you all three in bountiful measure.

THE COMPANY



ENSEMBLE



KEREN CHAUKRIA
*Hooker, Nun,
Homeless Person,
Newscaster*



**JANELLA CRIZEL DE
CASTRO**
*Nun,
Homeless Person*



JUNG EUN PARK
*Nun,
Homeless Person*



KARLY COX
Nun



LINDA CHENG
Nun



MAE LIM
Nun



SAMANTHA LAM
*Nun, Bartender,
Fantasy Dancer,
Homeless Person*



WENDY WU
*Nun,
Homeless Person*



DANIEL CHEONG
*Drag Queen,
Fantasy Dancer*



LOUIS TSUI
*Homeless Person,
Altar Boy, Taxi Driver,
Fantasy Dancer*



VINCENT CHU
*Cop,
Homeless Person*



JOAQUIN DELA CRUZ
*Altar Boy, Homeless
Person, Fantasy Dancer*

IN REHEARSALS

+



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



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Jack and the Beanstalk

Directed by
Amy Percival

The Pan.to

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Saturday 4 Dec: 3pm and 8pm
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Thursday 9 Dec: 8pm

Shouson Theatre
Hong Kong Arts Centre

Friday 10 Dec: 8pm
Saturday 11 Dec: 3pm and 8pm
Sunday 12 Dec: 11am and 3pm



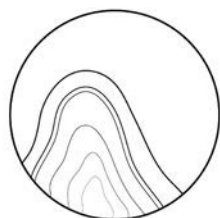
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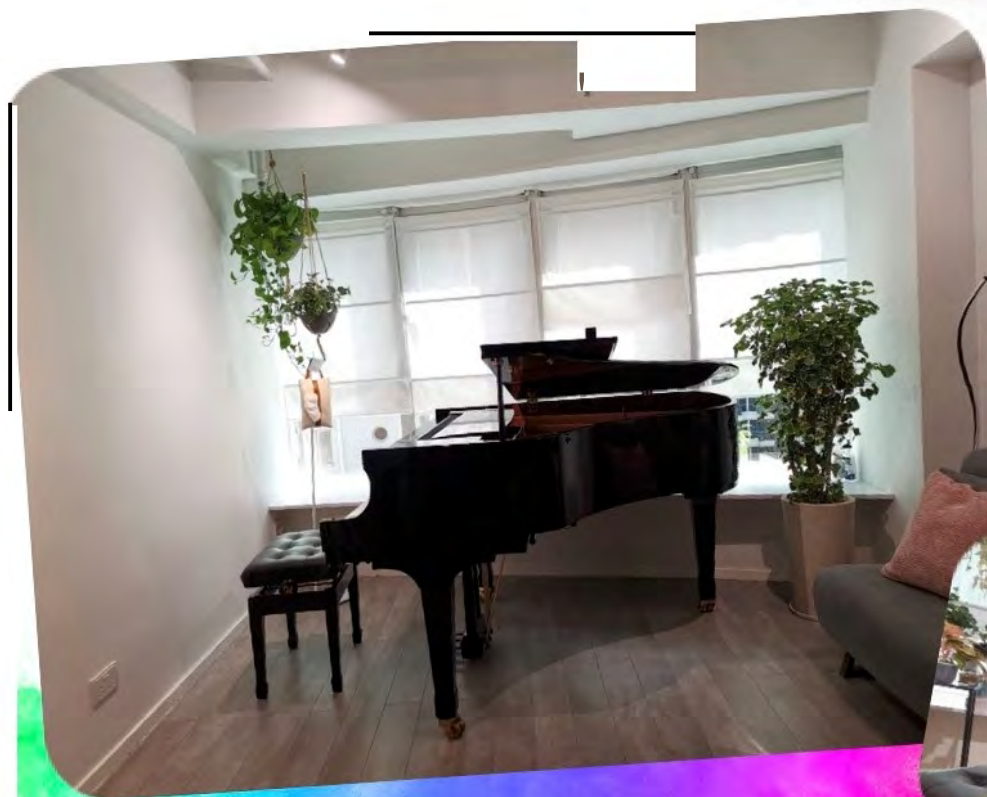


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