

**Teachers**  
**My dear, dear teachers**

**Preamble**

On Sunday, 10 July, 2016, Oliver Chou sent me a document.

'I have finally put together a draft timeline of music events that took place in Hong Kong from 1949 to the end of 1959.....This is actually my working copy so please excuse many shortforms if not typos..' Oliver said. '.....there might be events that ring a bell.....Oliver (in haste)'.

I was in the midst of the MOY 2016 Summer Season, 4 concerts, and a string of students preparing for their Royal Schools public music examinations. Research and writing were not on the list of my priorities.

But something kept prompting me.....read Oliver's list. So I kept pushing that off until 5 days later, at 3 am on 15 July.

For 2 hours I read, mesmerized.

At 530 am I sent Oliver an email:

'Good morning, Oliver.

I have finished the first scan of your table of press reports.

Wow! Brilliant! What a treasure!

The people jump out of the text..... Bard, Lin, Chao, Aw, Fei, Fraser, Lin brothers, Tian, Rea, Alves, Foa, Wang.....they all played with me.....guided me.....molded me..... Chao Mei Pa, e.g., taught at Ying Wa that year I first conducted, aged 5, I heard his singing, at Ying Wa Girls' School, where he taught.....!

God.

I don't know what to do..... sorry for getting carried away.....what DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?

Gordon'

Oliver replied '.....please share anything you remember..... Professor Chao teaching and singing at Ying Wa, I have no idea he was teaching there.....'.

I said I shall try to do so, by October, after the Summer, after my peak season at the MOY, at Tin Shui Wai.

I broke my promise. 8 days later, on 23 July, I started to do research, on Professor Chao, more thinking, actually, some reading up, than real in-depth research. I decided to write a short article on each of the persons in Oliver's list, about how I remember them, how they brightened that precious moment in my life, when I was just a toddler, a spectator, a student, or a teacher of music.

Write I must, I decided. Before they are gone from my fading memory, memories of my teachers, my dear, dear teachers.'

Gordon Siu  
25 July 2016