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殉情不得了

The Greatest Suicide For Love

Composer / Arranger Leon Ko	A good meal needs extra dishes, Education should inspire,
Lyricist Chris Shum	Love is no joke, you know, It's <i>The Greatest Suicide For Love</i> show
Lyrics Translator Roberta Chow	

評判之歌

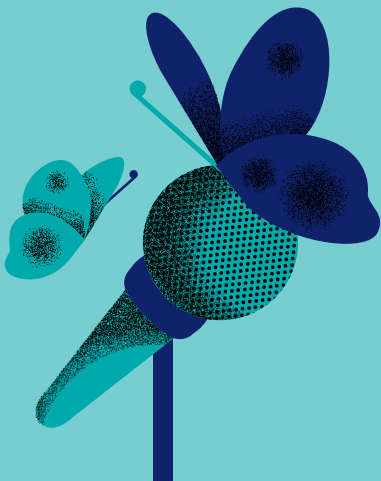
The Judges' Song

Composer/ Lyricist / Arranger Leon Ko	Buzz, buzz... Ha— Panel of judges... zzz... buzz, buzz
Lyrics Translator Roberta Chow	Bala bala bao... Panel of Judges

短暫得像淚水遇上銅爐而乾透 的速度最後只能用殉情來把握個 圓滿的一段傷痛

A Time of Sorrow as Short as the Speed of a Teardrop Drying on a Brass Stove, that Finally can Only be Resolved by Committing Suicide for Love

Composer / Arranger	Zhu Yingtai	While alive, we could not be together; Our relationship ended in sorrow.
Leon Ko	Liang Shanbo	Our love song ended when the qin's string broke With gut-wrenching sadness
Lyricist	Zhu Yingtai	Poems and songs were all so nice, But we could not bear the loss of love.
Chris Shum	Liang Shanbo	My wretched life was trapped in this body, unable to escape
Lyrics Translator	Liang Shanbo/Zhu Yingtai	We wish to fly away like seabirds I sigh, this dream has been snatched away by the heavens; Sigh, we cannot break... The curse of death
Roberta Chow	Zhu Yingtai	When thinking of the past, I am regretful
	Liang Shanbo	If it happens again, please love yourself for my sake
	Zhu Yingtai	Alone, I barely made it through the changing seasons I will never feel love with anyone else I could not get over it, could not love myself
	Zhu Yingtai	When love is fated to
	Liang Shanbo	When love is fated to
	Zhu Yingtai	Be forced to break, then
	Liang Shanbo	Be forced to break
	Liang Shanbo/Zhu Yingtai	Who knows of the pain and suffering (Who knows pain, suffering)
	Liang Shanbo	How can the sour and bitter tell apart
	Zhu Yingtai	The thousands of heartaches
	Liang Shanbo	Like seeking plum blossoms in the snow
	Liang Shanbo/Zhu Yingtai	The coat is not easily shed
	Harmony	Oo- Their cage is not easily shed “Da-lung-dung”
	Zhu Yingtai	The chill wind sweeps the leaves to fight for our unity
	Liang Shanbo	It was saddest watching us become separated
	Zhu Yingtai	Haplessly, when I saw the grave, my tears would not stop (Haplessly, when she saw the grave, her tears would not stop)
	Liang Shanbo/Zhu Yingtai	Both eyes wet and warm (eyes warm) Confused yet we wait for future generations’ judgement
	Liang Shanbo	We sing in a cappella
	Zhu Yingtai	Please clear the scene (Clean up all at once)
	Liang Shanbo/Zhu Yingtai	The greatness of Liang and Zhu are brought forth
	Liang Shanbo/Zhu Yingtai	We broke through hell, in a glamorous way, and made a good show. Those on-and off-stage gave us all their attention, we hope our next lives come soon...



我們的時光

Our Time

Composer / Arranger
Leon Ko

Lyricists
Chris Shum / Leon Ko

Lyrics Translator
Roberta Chow

Juliet The youth of our previous lives have all been sacrificed
We're willing to die to leave our troubled love

Romeo We died during our best years; so much crying at our grave
It is the world's loss when young people die

Juliet/Romeo All the steps along the way

Juliet We never became depressed

Romeo We never stuttered

Juliet We didn't get a stroke

Romeo Nor any terminal illnesses

Juliet/Romeo Our footsteps fade, seem to float like ashes
Our voices and smells will soon be forgotten
Our gravestone is well-written
Perhaps when they got to our death date, we knew the worldly affairs
don't need to continue

Juliet If I hadn't sacrificed myself that day
There would be neither regret nor pity

Romeo As long as we had breath, we would have been happy
To push aside the dark clouds on the horizon

Juliet/Romeo We really wanted to do our best in staying alive

Juliet Even in the rain

Romeo We would stay intimate

Juliet Holding hands

Juliet/Romeo Facing, bonded to, each other

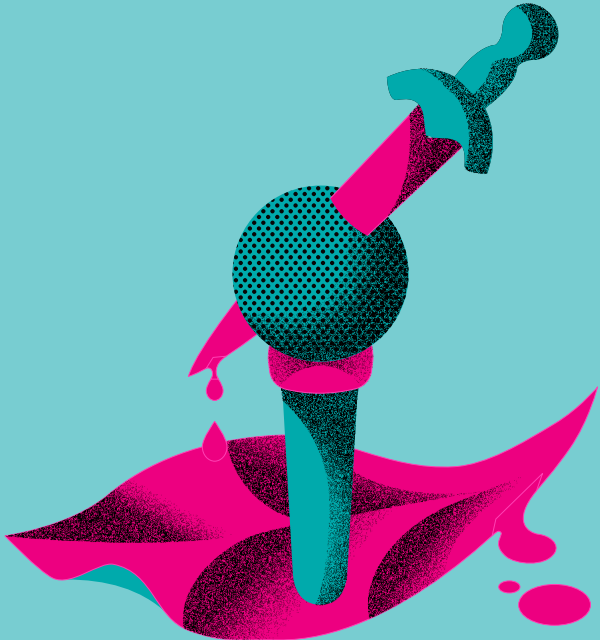
Juliet How can I be in America?

Romeo How do we get to America?

Juliet All I want is to get to America

Offstage Voice You should just stay in hell.

Juliet/Romeo In the fiery high temperature on our sweaty bodies
We are so in love, we have no strength to kill ourselves
We're hotter than a lamp, our voices bold
Passionate love has no fear of dirt and dust; lice may bounce off joyfully,
we'll search again, everywhere!



美麗的一天

A Beautiful Day

Composer G. Puccini	Madame Butterfly	Un bel dì, vedremo levarsi un fil di fumo sull'estremo confin del mare. E poi la nave appare. Poi la nave bianca entra nel porto, romba il suo saluto. Vedi? È venuto!
Lyricists Luigi Illica / Giuseppe Giacosa		
Chinese Lyricist Chris Shum		
Arranger Leon Ko		
Lyrics Translator Roberta Chow		On this day when I am bathed in blood, I will make his heart riddled with guilt Not wanting to marry him in my death, I will make him constantly grieved At my deathbed, my last words will ring out forever This debt would last a long time Forever, not temporarily; like the sky

風中的孤燕

Lone Swallow in the Wind

Composer / Arranger Leon Ko	Pinkerton Jr.	My childhood was like fighting a war, the young, tender lone swallow, in the face of wildfires and windstorms I suffered from discrimination, tiring amidst the jeers and laughter I have not forgotten the warmth in my memory Tens of thousands of questions in my one family, Countless snippets of arguments As if loathed, the lone swallow's heart Weeps but doesn't want hatred This orphan has never set foot in paradise This orphan understands only hard work leads to change The orphan has a ray of hope inside the cruelty Seeking a vision in the deepest valley Risking my life while I metamorphosized I struggled on the cliff, all of it was about training Paradise is in my hand Through danger and hardship, I built the belief in my heart In future, I will put love into practice with my heart Light as bright as the moon hanging ahead of me Light illuminates the lone swallow in the darkness The light will stay with me as I step over the deep chasm I can metamorphose in the beacon fires And find a life of warmth The past is not wasted In the wind, all the lonely swallows must encourage one another.
Lyricist Chris Shum		
Lyrics Translator Roberta Chow		



冥通 Bank

Bank of the Netherworld

Composer Leon Ko	Bank of the Netherworld
Lyricist Chris Shum	No.1 Bank in the Netherworld. Only Bank in the Netherworld.
Arranger Anna Lo	No.1 Bank in the Netherworld.
Lyrics Translator Roberta Chow	Bank of the Netherworld

蘇敏德語言學院

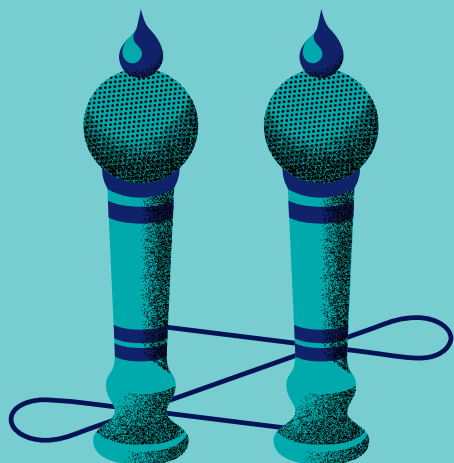
Vomit Language School

Composer / Arranger Leon Ko	What Yuen	So much to study, even anger doesn't help To get a final solution, even study methods get messed up Chain-smoking day after day Till you meet your death Read the test question wrong, and you are done for But some wronged souls Repay their hatred with virtue Giving them a big rice dumpling To cancel out the hatred Even bitterness is sweet Vomit Rice Dumplings will work Ah-
Lyricist Chris Shum		
Lyrics Translator Roberta Chow		Omm~

香夭帶路

Death of a Princess Leads the Way

Traditional Music <i>Autumnal Thoughts by the Dressing Table</i>	Princess Changping	Strange twin trees stand eerily by the palace
	Consort Zhou	Thousands of pearls cast a yellow shade on flowers
	Princess Changping	On such a gut-wrenching wedding night
Lyrics Adaptor Chris Shum	Consort Zhou	We don't need servants. Leave us.
	Princess Changping	Falling petals block out the moon I offer a cup of wine on the altar I offer incense with teary eyes Willing to die to thank my parents I sneak a peek, he is tearful and sad I am half-worried, he would regret marrying me And refuse to go with me to the afterlife
	Consort Zhou	Hope to be buried together. Lovebirds, side by side Nupcial do submundo (Portuguese) Mencari Lorong Pingyang di Dunia Bawah (Malaysian)
Arranger Leon Ko	Princess Changping	Eh, why did you sing like that? (Cantonese) Honestly, what languages does Prince Consort sing in?
	Consort Zhou	Ülke perişan (Turkish) That's how to gain popularity (Cantonese) It should help to spread this opera to the outside world
	Princess Changping	Eh, why don't you realize it yet; No one is willing to see the original form change Oh, don't you sever ties with the old self Love yourself and sing the Cantonese aria with a true heart The lyrics would then sound powerful and its words moving On your gravestone, you would be praised forever
Lyrics Translator Roberta Chow	Consort Zhou	I only fear it will all become extinct Soon, no young generation will take over I change languages to open up new avenues
	Princess Changping	This line of work will last forever Future generations will know we sang the original version wholeheartedly
	Consort Zhou	Changing languages will help spread <i>Death of a Princess</i> across the miles
	Princess Changping	To be in an intoxicated sleep with you
	Consort Zhou	Der verres qui trinquet la nuit (French)
	Princess Changping	A crown of flowers to replace funeral makeup
	Consort Zhou	Festmahl zur Beerdigung (German)
	Princess Changping	We hug each other
	Consort Zhou	Abbraccio (Italian)
	Princess Changping/Consort Zhou	May the twin trees tell of the Princess's virtues
	Consort Zhou	My Princess
	Princess Changping	Will always be with the love of her life
	Princess Changping/Consort Zhou	Husband and wife die in the same shape as the trees



胭脂垢

Rouge Grime

Composer / Arranger Leon Ko	Sub Yee Siu	If vows were empty words They still require thought Love as passionate as fire Once they burn out, it's over It's difficult to continue
Lyricist Chris Shum		
Lyrics Translator Roberta Chow	Ensemble	Disloyal is a word for you Who mistakenly put love into it? Who remembers water that has flowed past
	Yu Fa	I only wish our paths will cross again
	Sub Yee Siu	I hope we can hug again
	Yu Fa	No need to talk about how much hatred we have
	Sub Yee Siu	And continue with the past
	Yu Fa	Hoping the fire of love will never change
	Sub Yee Siu	If we meet again in a dream, We can tell our love to each other
	Yu Fa	I hope we can once again do so, And reignite our fire of love.

孤身女流

A Woman Alone

Composer Leon Ko	Yu Fa	Who do I sing with in my dreams The heart I give is larger than you can imagine Fiery beginning, messy ending Stand up in my dreams, open my mail box Yelia: is she a lady? Facing one's nemesis, how can one move each other to change? I'm not afraid of bare-fleshed impact I just can't control my emotions Yelia: is she a heroine? Dancing by herself to burn off her heart's burdens Without smoke there should at least be fireworks; put down the nice words you opened me up with For whom does the hot flames burn? The wild wind cannot be like that Desire is time spent together, the closer we get, the less it is as imagined Yelia: is she a lady? Facing one's nemesis, how can one move each other into changing? I'm not afraid of bare-fleshed impact I just can't control my emotions Yelia: is she a heroine? Dancing by herself to burn off her heart's burdens Without smoke there should at least be fireworks; put down the legends you opened up about me
Lyricist Chris Shum		
Arranger Anna Lo		
Lyrics Translator Roberta Chow	Ensemble	Expertise is gained by drops of sweat I don't see the iceberg lit up by fire So hot, playing and singing, Loneliness, with no fear of heart-sickness Yelia: is she a lady? For you, even H ₂ O will evaporate Falling into Crazy Love, crying for a former lover who is aging Yelia: is she a heroine? Goodbye, Bad Boy, Bejewelled Elegance
	Yu Fa	Even if walking alone, she has no fear of intense doubts ahead

屈清屈楚

Say What

Composer / Arranger
Leon Ko

Lyricist
Chris Shum

Lyrics Translator
Roberta Chow

All

So Long Farewell
Death, like water, flows dream-like
In ultimate sorrow, he perished at Miluo River

What Yuen

Perhaps What Yuen’s love is like a trickle suppressed;
Perhaps What Yuen’s love is like water
That cleanses his heartache
So he may love without fear
Perhaps What Yuen
Perhaps, perhaps What Yuen’s
Greatest feat is being consumed by love
Perhaps the relentless chase of human life
Grinds away at his battered body
All What Yuen wants to say,
Bare your soul; speak with your heart
Courage is not a crime
Never fear haters
True happiness will follow
I couldn’t utter the words in my heart
I suppressed them inside
Causing one of us to encounter sorrow
Letting hatred wash over everything

All

The Elegy of Chu shines
Expressing my heart’s essence
I wade in the river to the ends of the earth
In my funerary makeup
I quietly listen to the night oars of my traveling boat

What Yuen

As tears of love gather on the distant shores

All

Heart, be at peace
Be at peace, be at peace
What Yuen’s heart is full of despair
And cannot make peace with the intimate gaze of the past

What Yuen

It’s hard to fight cliches
All What Yuen wants to say,
Bare your soul, speak with your heart
Courage is not a crime
Never fear haters
True happiness will follow
I couldn’t utter the words in my heart
I suppressed them inside,
Causing one of us to encounter sorrow
To mourn the shattering of your dreams

All

All What Yuen wants to say,
Bare your soul, speak with your heart
Courage is not a crime
Never fear haters
True happiness will follow
Everyone should express love clearly
Communicate from the heart, pour out your soul
Cherish you happiness

What Yuen

Until the end of your lives

All

So Long Farewell!

至愛大殉情

I Love Our Immortal Cantata

Composer / Arranger Leon Ko	Liang Shanbo	How many romances there are
	Zhu Yingtai	And how many of those are lethal
Lyricist Chris Shum	Juliet	We sing poisonous love songs to each other
	Romeo	Amphetamines
Lyrics Translator Roberta Chow	All	When we both sacrifice ourselves for love
	Madame Butterfly	How many remain, running for their lives in love
	Pinkerton Jr.	How many more separate, unable to maintain their vows
	Princess Changping	I'm envious of love birds, worrying about each other
	Consort Zhou	When storms arise
	Yu Fa	I promise you I will sacrifice for our love
	All	True love moves us emotionally, all these major romantic tragedies Love with sensitivity Don't remain calm when passionate Dare to sacrifice and die for love Dare to vow to meet with your lover To forego the joys of life for love To meet up in the afterlife, don't stop drinking the arsenic Be direct in love, without any rhetoric, after the initial pain your love will last forever A temporary separation from the love of your life The death winds are strong; you'll meet again in an instant, forget as you come out of intoxicated slumber True love moves us emotionally, all these major romantic tragedies Love with sensitivity Don't remain calm when passionate True love moves us emotionally, all these major romantic tragedies Love with sensitivity Don't remain calm when passionate
	What Yuen	A statement so clear, I should have openly expressed my feelings from the start That drop of lover's tear That I swallow into my heart The remaining thoughts of hatred is not yet removed At first I didn't dare speak up, And drowned myself in the river Until this regret sank into my memory. If I had faced it at the time
	All	Don't be shy to express your true heart Don't be trapped in a life of sadness While we are still alive Lay it all out Express clearly the love in your heart Time will pass, a season per instant The contentment comes when love is at its peak. We must, while we are still living, Embrace all that we have
	What Yuen	Don't say, "see you in the next life"
	All	So Long So Well

不死的話……

If it's not dead...

The curtains fall, the lights go out, and with no plans for an immediate revival, what becomes of everything this production has created? Dozens of costumes, an assortment of props, big and small set pieces-where do they all go? Storage? How big is your storage space? Don't you know the land problem is in Hong Kong? Cleaning and preparing costumes for storage costs money-do you know how much? And how long will they stay in storage? Even burials come with an expiration date!

Off to the landfill it is! In Hong Kong, throwing things away is free.

Waste in theatre is hardly news, and this isn't a problem unique to Hong Kong. But thanks to the mighty Taobao, which has become a staple in many Hong Kongers' lives, it's now a godsend for theatre folks too. I won't comment on the quality, but its convenience and affordability make buying almost a no-brainer. Whether it's actually suitable doesn't matter-tossing it later costs nearly nothing. Disposable culture thrives, and Taobao gets praised for it.

Of course, Hong Kong theatre isn't without masterpieces of craftsmanship. Over the years, I've seen countless costumes, props and hand-printed backdrops so exquisitely made that I was left in awe. Yet, once the show ends, these masterpieces lose their stage and most eventually face the same grim fate-discarded. I'm sure some people find it a shame. But what can you really do?

For years, I've quietly collected "too good to toss" treasures from various theatre groups. I've also reused and upcycled materials from past Yat Po Singers' productions, constantly finding ways to extend their lifespan. Environmental awareness in Hong Kong theatre isn't high-some see this approach as stingy, many find it troublesome. And yes, upcycling takes more time, effort, and sometimes money than just buying cheap on Taobao. But upcycling isn't about saving; it's about fully unlocking an object's value-even upgrading it; sparking creativity within limited resources.

Honestly, I'm no eco-warrior. But I can't stand watching good things die young.

Our Immortal Cantata is a story about "sustainable" life. I found a group of like-minded designers and artists. Thanks to their time and creativity, we transformed a collection of coats, base layers, kimonos, tutus from different theatre groups, old costumes and props from Yat Po Singers' stock, dozens of silk scarves left by my mother, plus leftover set pieces-upcycling them into stunning new pieces that shine on stage in *Our Immortal Cantata (Still Singing)*.

The only brand-new thing we made for this production? A few clothes hangers which make special effects.

In 2021, the UK theatre industry self-published *The Theatre Green Book*, setting standards and guidelines for sustainable theatre. A theatre in Taiwan launched its "Sustainability Initiative" in 2021 and joined Europe's STAGES Sustainable Theatre Alliance in 2022, pushing Taiwanese theatre toward sustainability. Hong Kong? There's no clear movement yet, but I know some theatre practitioners-whether intentionally or out of necessity-are already collecting reusable materials from various sources. Sustainability is a very long journey, and we've only taken a small step. Despite the challenges, I know I'll keep at it. More importantly, I hope sustainable theatre itself can sustain-and that more people will join in, to turn it into a sustainable industry.

Yuri Ng,
Director of *Our Immortal Cantata (Still Singing)*
(Transcribed by Yvonne Chan)