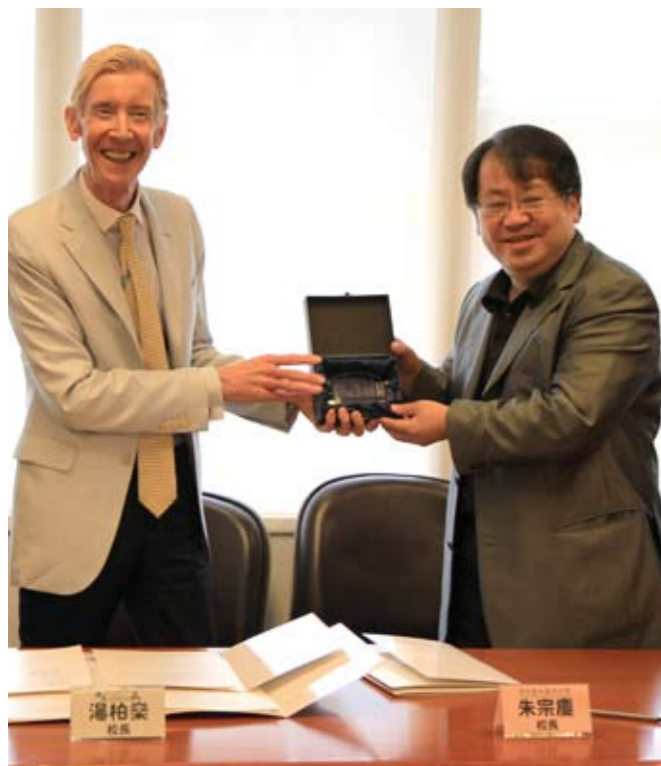


TNUA forges sister school ties with HKAPA, Fudan SIVA



TNUA has established sister school ties with the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA) and Fudan University's Shanghai Institute of Visual Art (SIVA).

TNUA signed agreements for the ties with the Shanghai and Hong Kong schools separately on March 8 and 23, respectively.

The latest pact with HKAPA took a step further from a memorandum of understanding for cooperation signed in 2008 between TNUA's School of Theatre Arts and the Hong Kong academy's School of Film and TV.

In the early years of its establishment, TNUA already came into contact with HKAPA when taking part in the Hog Kong Dance Festival. TNUA President Prof. Ju, Tzong-Ching, noted that over the past few years both schools have conducted exchange activities in various fields between them.

In general, TNUA and HKAPA are very similar in terms of their faculties and fields of studies, as well as language and cultural background, Prof. Ju

said.

In 2007, HKAPA Director Prof. Kevin Thompson attended a forum organized to mark TNUA's 25th anniversary. In 2008, TNUA hosted a film festival jointly organized by HKAPA and the Beijing Film Academy featuring works from Taiwan, Hong Kong and China.

Prof. Thompson, making his second visit to TNUA along with 13 other HKAPA administrators for the signing of the agreement, expressed his high expectations for the sister school ties.

Earlier in March, TNUA and SIVA signed a memorandum of understanding to promote cooperation for art education, creation and exhibitions, as well as exchanges between students and staff.

Expressing welcome for the SIVA delegation that came to sign the agreement, Prof. Ju noted that the relatively young Shanghai academy has demonstrated strong vitality and creativity over the past five years since establishment.

Prof. Ju noted that SIVA has adopted the concept of business management from Shanghai enterprises, offering a learning environment connected to practical market operations, which is different from the conventional way of running an academic institution.

SIVA is an independent academy under Fudan University with investment from a host of enterprises. SIVA Executive Vice President Shao Minhua said every college of the academy has its specific sponsors from enterprises and governments to help with its management.

SIVA has active support from its board of directors and their related enterprises and institutions for the integration of industries, academic studies and R&D efforts, according to the executive vice president. Such strong support provides students with multiple channels of learning and allows them to put their learning into practice. ◆

Flautist Gisler-Hasse, ASQ in Maestro courses and concerts



TNUA in March invited flautist Prof. Barbara Gisler-Haase and The American String Quartet (ASQ) to offer short-term courses in the Maestro Lecture series.

Prof. Gisler-Haase from the University for Music and Performing Arts in Vienna gave TNUA students one-on-one instructions during her one-week stay, plus a concert on March 13 together with Irish pianist Prof. Sara Bryans to delight the audiences with music pieces by Mozart and others.

The ASQ, which last visited TNUA two years ago, returned to give a two-week course. The ASQ, hailed as one of America's finest quartets, also held lectures to share their performance experiences, and two concerts on March 20 and 26.

Students who wished to have a chance to receive one-on-one instructions from ASQ had to pass a screening, which was aimed at giving the opportunities to those who were serious and well prepared. In the past, such one-on-one instruction sessions had been either opened to all students who had come to register, or to those recommended by teachers.

The ASQ masters – Mr. Peter Winograd (violin), Ms. Laurie Carney (violin), Mr. Daniel Avshalomov (viola) and Mr. Wolfram Koessel (cello) – were impressed by the serious learning attitude of the students in the one-on-one sessions, lauding them as one of the fastest learning groups they have ever taught during their teaching tours.

Viennese Prof. Gisler-Haase has been teaching at the University for Music and Performing Arts in Vienna since 1974. She won a prize at the Prague Spring competition in the same year. With chamber music as a major artistic commitment, Prof. Gisler-Haase founded the Eurasia Quartet as well as the Vienna Flautists. She has recorded many CDs, had a busy concert career, and published the book series "Magic Flute" and "Fit for the Flute."

Prof. Bryans, who joined Prof. Gisler-Haase in the TNUA concert, is a colleague of the flautist's at the Vienna university, where the Irish pianist has been teaching since 1988. ◆

Top: ASQ members lecture at TNUA's Department of Music.