

Executive Council of the HKMA Charitable Foundation

~ Dr. CHOW Pak Chin, Chairman

The Hong Kong Medical Association Charitable Foundation (the Foundation) staged its Annual Charity Concert on 6 July 2008 at the City Hall Concert Hall. Funds raised will be donated to the **Families of SMA (Spinal Muscular Atrophy) Charitable Trust (FSMA)**, as well as for the benefits of SMA sufferers in the Mainland.



SMA is the number one genetic killer of children under the age of two. The disease destroys the nerve cells controlling voluntary muscles and causes them to progressively degenerate. Severely affected patients are unable to move any part of the body, including swallowing and breathing. However, they are cognitively intact, the situation is similar to that of Stephen Hawking, the renowned scientist. The funds raised will be targeted for FSMA's new programme **Home Office — Central Office (HO-CO)**, which allows young sufferers who are able to perform some IT related duties at home through the computer network supported by the project, so that they can make contributions to the society. To know more about the disease, please visit www.fsma.org.hk.



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In the pre-concert press conference on 23 June 2008, Dr. CHOI Kin, Dr. CHOW Pak Chin and Mrs. Mei-ling FOK (Chairman of FSMA) spoke as to raise the public's awareness on the disease and the welfare of the sufferers. Among us were also two SMA patients. Mr. LEE Kai Leung graduated from the Chinese University, major in Chinese Language and Literature, currently a member of HO-CO. He is very talented, but couldn't find a job due to physical constraint. He demonstrated typing the Chinese couplet he wrote for the concert with his only movable right index finger and a computer. YEUNG Siu On, twelve years old, weighed nine pounds when he was two, grew up to a chubby lovely kid under the good care of his mother. He can play harmonica, though he has difficulty in lifting his arms. He performed *Long De Chuan Ren* 龍的傳人 for the audiences of the press conference. All were deeply moved by their perseverance to deliver the best in them and overcome their physical limitations. And we were once again reminded to have due respect to lives and health.

It was rainy on the day of the concert, but it did not stop our enthusiastic donors and guests from coming. When the clock struck seven, there were already crowds gathering outside the concert hall. The night was graced by the presence of Dr. Hon. York CHOW, the Hon. LEUNG Chun Ying, and Dr. Hon. KWOK Ka Ki. Together with Dr. CHOI Kin, Dr. CHOW Pak Chin, Dr. SHIH Tai Cho and Mrs. Mei-ling FOK, the concert was started.

The program was fully packed, started by the beautiful singing of the HKMA Choir and Fook Chuen Sacred Music Ensemble. Miss Emi TAKAHASHI, a young violinist who had performed for us last year, played *The Butterfly Lovers* with composer and pianist Mr. Donald YU. Their music vividly told the tragic love tale of Liang Zhu 梁祝 and won waves of applause. As revealed by Dr. Hon. York CHOW, the *Jingju* performance 京劇唱段 of Dr. WONG Shou Pang was what he expecting most. Dr. Wong's spectacular singing, together with the 7-piece Chinese Orchestra, gave the audiences a refreshing and fascinating experience. Last but not least, Ms. Suzan brought us two English oldies, her near to perfect voice leaving us warmth and sweetness for the rest of the night.

An add-on to the charity night, Dr. CHOW Pak Chin donated 80 T-Shirts for charity sale, funds collected will be used for Sichuan earthquake relief. Over HK\$4,000 was raised. Our special thanks for all generous donor.

It was estimated that over 1,200 guests and audiences attended the concert. As at 6 July 2008, over \$670,000 were raised for the SMA. We look forward to your continuous care and support to the less fortunate and the needy.

