



李治平先生  
Mr. Chi Ping Lee

作者：金綺文

Author: Annie Qiwen Jin

## 以歌會友 同歌同樂

豁達樂觀，熱心公益；教唱有方，桃李滿門；為弘揚中華文化、豐富加國生活做出卓越貢獻。

豁達樂天 八秩尚堅

第一眼見到李治平，十分驚訝於他的“年輕”——以耄耋之年標準看，他已不是“精神矍鑠”、“耳聰目明”足以形容，而似是正當壯年。難怪他在虛壽八十宴會上自詡“八零後”，憧憬順利通過“零零後”的“全身安檢”。

問他“保鮮”秘訣，他說唱歌讓他保持了身體好狀態——練唱和教唱使肺部得以充足鍛鍊，吸入的氧氣足，身體自然健康；更重要的是“唱歌多、朋友多、胸襟寬、心情爽。”

1938年生於上海的李治平，經歷過大陸政治動蕩歲月。他父母已於早年移居海外，他則因不捨一同唱歌的小夥伴而留在上海，孰料因此將整個青春年代都留在了中國大陸。經過長達十九年的申請，1979年他才獲得政府批准，前往加拿大和家人團聚。然而談起往事，李治平卻雲淡風輕，所有艱難輕描淡寫帶過，只津津樂道於自己機緣巧合考入上海電台以及偷師學藝的趣事。

十五歲那年，上海電台招收業餘歌手。出身地主資本家

家庭又沒受過專業訓練的李治平根本未想過能考上，但拗不過小夥伴們邀約，便去“陪考”。到達上千人參試的考場，他將自己的報名表放在最下面，本想等朋友們考完後，就陪他們離開，誰知卻陰錯陽差變成第一個考生。面試時又因未抱期望反而很放鬆，最終通過考試成為電台的業餘歌手，三年後轉為專業歌手。

進入上海電台前，李治平完全靠自學掌握樂理知識。因付不起學費，便在朋友上聲樂課時在門外偷聽。一次有位教授發現躲在門外的他，並未惱怒，反而邀請他進去坐，他因此與這位教授結緣，後來成為好友。

在上海電台時，李治平被安排跟隨黃鐘鳴、于會泳等名師學習，又去夜校學習中國文學。他非常珍惜學習機會，勤奮刻苦，成為寫詞作曲演唱的全才。在上海電台時他還和一代天后吳鶯音結下厚誼，吳的最後一張唱片中有兩首歌的詞、曲都出自他手。

李治平說：“人生總有很多不開心，站得高一點看，那些不開心都是小事。過去的就何必花時間去想。”移民加拿大多年後返回大陸與朋友聚會，有人問他是否介意有當年迫害他的人參加，李治平爽快回應沒問題。他說那個特殊年代讓人心扭曲，錯亦不完全在個人。擁有如此豁達心態和寬容胸襟，難怪他歷經坎坷卻依然朝氣蓬勃。

## 助人無歇 高風亮節

李治平抵加時已過不惑之年，新移民的困難都經歷過，故此他非常理解初來加拿大同胞的難處，常常主動幫助他們。80年代中期，許多大陸優秀音樂家移民到加拿大。那時加拿大華人社區通行語言是粵語，大陸移民過來，既面臨英、法語的挑戰，也難以融入華人社區。李治平通曉普通話、粵語和上海話，他決定盡己所能幫助同胞。在僑界支持下，1990年李治平和鋼琴家董冬冬、小提琴家侯伯治等一起成立了多倫多華人藝術家中心，並擔任創會會長。

華人藝術家中心秉承慈善機構宗旨，為華人藝術家提供施展才華和相互交流學習的平台，它聚集了近二百位華人音樂家和藝術家，成為北美最大的專業藝術家協會。自成立以來，華人藝術家中心每年都舉辦十餘場音樂會，幫助很多音樂家重返藝術舞台，開啟在加拿大的藝術前程。

作為非牟利機構，華人藝術家中心舉辦活動有賴社會各界支持。李治平有一副熱心腸，人緣頗佳。但凡社區其他機構需要他幫忙，例如義務獻唱以及幫助商會、社團組織文娛活動、培訓合唱團等，他都有求必應，因此贏得大家的喜愛與尊重，也為華人藝術家中心贏得廣泛支持。華人藝術家中心的影響日漸擴大，不再局限於華人社區，舉辦活動時也有其他族裔的音樂家參加，真正體現了加拿大的多元文化精神。

在創辦藝術家中心之初，李治平就定下章程，為了機構的健康發展，中心的領導層將實行輪替方式，摒棄終身制。1991年他主動卸任。2012年當他意外得知自己在華人藝術家中心的法律註冊文件中仍為負責人時，又主動將自己的名字從文件中除去。他認為創辦慈善機構是為互相幫助，而非為個人名利，慈善機構不應成為個人財產和商業資源。

### 授業解惑 情繫家國

李治平還曾創辦以自己名字命名的歌藝會，但在2008年他決定打破門戶之見，將自己的名字去掉，改為“歌藝會”重新註冊，邀請同行共同傳授技藝。如今歌藝會有八位老師執教。作為華人藝術家中心的旗下機構，歌藝會也秉持傳承藝術、服務社區的慈善宗旨，由行政委員會管理，義工協助具體事務。

今年8月歌藝會成立九周年，亦恰逢李治平虛壽八十壽辰，歌藝會在萬錦活動中心舉辦會慶演出，並專門製作了宣傳冊。冊中多幀照片和祝福話語顯露歌藝會好像一個三代同堂的大家庭，其樂融融，溫馨熱鬧。在李治平引領下，歌藝會沒有門戶之見，也沒有代溝差別，以歌會友、同歌同樂在這裏得到了最好體現。

多年來李治平培養出無數優秀學生，在各類歌唱比賽中屢獲殊榮。他有一套出色的教學方法，經他調教的學生短期內就能進步神速。因此，本地非華裔亦慕名前來要拜他為師，李治

平卻百般婉拒。他解釋道，因為教唱時不知怎樣用英語跟學生解釋“氣沉丹田”，感覺無法教下去。說到此事時，李治平臉上露出無奈的表情，全然沒有名師派頭，仿若一個老頑童。不過“氣沉丹田”的文化鴻溝並未妨礙李治平結交其他族裔的歌友，他舉辦的演出活動也常常中西古今薈萃。

來加38年，李治平早已將加拿大視為自己的家，但他對故鄉、對中華傳統文化仍有深厚情感。他曾擔任孔子銅像籌建委員會共同主席，與知名雕塑家馬鵬及另外兩位社區僑領一起出資出力，四處籌款，澆鑄成兩尊孔子銅像，一尊贈送給孔子故鄉山東曲阜，另一尊則放在大多倫多中華文化中心。

他一直不遺餘力支持和參與社區各類慈善活動，包括華商會及獅子會等社團的公益活動，還加入了加拿大各界華人慶祝國慶委員會。他舉辦的個人或師生演唱會，從不為個人牟利，而是全部捐贈給慈善機構。他說自己幫助他人並非為求回報，大家開心就是最大滿足。為表彰他擔當社會楷模和為社區做出的貢獻，2011年約克扶輪社向他頒發了“四大考驗”獎勵狀。

以幫助他人、服務社會為樂，將過往挫折磨難統統放下，永遠向前看，這大概就是李治平步入耄耋之年仍然聲似洪鐘、步伐輕盈的訣竅所在。祝願李治平在歌壇繼續耕耘，順利通過百歲“零零後”的“安檢”！



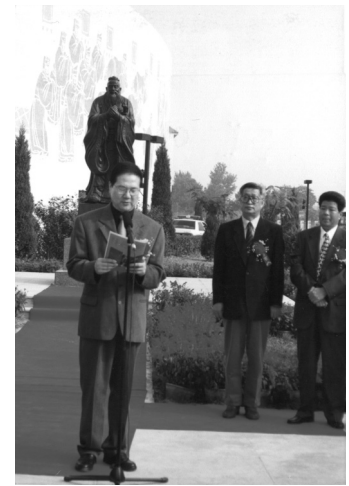
2011年獲扶輪社頒發四大考驗獎  
Receiving "Four-Way Test" Award from  
the Rotary Club



1996 第二次師生演唱會  
1996 concert with students



與上海電視台藝員合照  
With the staff of Shanghai TV Station



1999年代表多倫多社團於山東  
曲阜為孔子銅像落成典禮致辭  
At Confucius statue ceremony  
in Shandong



於安省財政部春節聯歡演出  
Performing at Ministry of Finance  
Chinese New Year event



於柏麗獅子會義唱  
Singing at Paragon Lion's charity event



2008歌藝會成立晚會  
2008 celebration of the founding of Popular Music  
Centre



與天后吳鶯音合照  
With singing superstar Wu Yingyin



於警民一家親晚會義唱  
Singing at Community Policing charity event



於世界中醫學術大會演出  
Performing at World Chinese Medicine event



為孟嘗會電視籌款  
Supporting Mon Sheong Foundation's Telethon



六十一歲壽辰為孔子像籌款  
Fundraising for Confucius statue at his 61st birthday  
celebration

## Mr. Chi Ping Lee

*Founder of Chinese Artists Society of Toronto and Popular Music Centre, Mr. Chi Ping Lee is an outstanding singing teacher with students from all over Toronto. His optimistic outlook on life, his broad-mindedness and generosity have had a positive influence on everyone around him. In the past four decades since he moved to Toronto, he has made tremendous contributions to the community through the promotion of Chinese culture, enriching life in Canada for all of us.*

Upon meeting Mr. Lee, one would be taken by surprise to see at first glance how “young” he is. Indeed, to say he is young and sharp looking for his age is an understatement, when he actually appears to be in his prime. No wonder he could boast at his birthday party that he felt like he was a ‘millennial’ - someone born in the 80s, not an eighty-year-old. He can look forward to sailing through the next twenty years to become a centenarian.

When asked the secret of how he could keep so ‘well preserved’, Chi Ping Lee says singing helps one stay healthy, through exercising one’s lungs and inhaling large amounts of oxygen daily. Naturally, the body would be healthy. Most important of all, he says, is to ‘sing more songs, makes more friends, open your mind, keep good spirits’

Chi Ping Lee was born in Shanghai in 1938, the oldest of five boys in his family. He had experienced a lot of political turmoil throughout his life in China. His parents had moved overseas early on and his brothers had followed suit, but Chi Ping Lee was reluctant to part with a group of singing friends, choosing instead to stay behind by himself. Little did he know that he would spend his entire youth in China. In 1979,

after applying for 19 years, he was finally approved by the government to leave China to join his family. When Chi Ping Lee talks about the past, he does not like to dwell on all the difficulties that he encountered. Instead, he relishes in describing the chance coincidence that landed him a position with Shanghai People’s Radio Station and how he stealthily learned vocal skills before then.

When Chi Ping Lee turned fifteen years old, Shanghai People’s Radio advertised for an amateur singer. His family background being capitalist, and not having received any formal vocal training, he did not want to apply, but his friends persuaded him to come along on recruitment day. When they got there, there were close to a thousand people waiting to be tested. Chi Ping Lee put his own application at the very bottom of the pile, thinking that he would have left with his friends long before the judges could get to him. As fate would have it, he was the very first candidate the interview panel called. Since he had no expectation, he was very relaxed, and did so well that he was hired on as an amateur singer at the radio station, turning professional three years later.

Before his job at the radio station, Chi Ping Lee relied on self-study to master music theory. He could not afford to pay tuition fees, and would eavesdrop outside the classroom where his friend was taking a vocal lesson. One time the singing teacher found him hiding outside the door, but instead of being upset, he invited him to sit inside. Subsequently, he and this teacher became good friends.

At Shanghai People’s Radio, arrangements were made for Chi Ping Lee to study under Huang Zhongming, Yu Huiyong and other well known musicians. He also went to night school to study Chinese literature. He cherished these opportunities to learn, and worked very hard, becoming a composer, song writer and singer, an all-rounded talent. At the radio station, he was able to work closely with Wu Yingyin, the best female

singer at that time, and they became close friends. In Wu's last album he had composed the music for two songs, and wrote the lyrics for two others.

Chi Ping Lee explains his philosophy of life: "Unhappy things always happen in life, but these would appear insignificant if one would look at the big picture. There is no need to spend time thinking about the past." After many years in Canada he had returned to China for a visit. Someone asked him if he would mind certain people came to their gatherings. Chi Ping Lee readily responded that he would have no problem with it. He says those were special times, and people's minds were warped then. It was not entirely any individual's fault. With such a generous nature and forgiving attitude, no wonder he looks so vibrant even after all the ups and downs that he has been through in his life.

When Chi Ping Lee immigrated to Canada, he was already past forty. He had experienced hardship as a new immigrant, and understands the difficulties of his fellow countrymen, often taking the initiative to help them.

In the mid-1980s, many excellent musicians came to Canada from Mainland China. At that time, the language commonly used in the Chinese Canadian community was Cantonese, and these musicians already facing a challenge in speaking English found it difficult to integrate into the Chinese Canadian community. Chi Ping Lee himself is fluent in Putonghua, Cantonese and Shanghaiese, and he decided to do his best to help these musicians. With the support of the community, Chi Ping Lee, pianist Dong Dongdong, violinist Hou Bozhi and others established the Chinese Artists Society of Toronto (CAST), assuming the role of President in 1990.

The Chinese Artists Society of Toronto is a charity which provides

a platform for Chinese artists to showcase their talent, and exchange learning. It brings together nearly 200 Chinese musicians and artists, becoming the largest professional Chinese artist association in North America. Since its inception, CAST has hosted more than ten concerts each year to help many musicians return to the performance stage and launch their musical career in Canada.

As a non-profit organization, the activities of the Chinese Artists Society of Toronto depend on the support of the community. Warm and generous by nature, Chi Ping Lee has good relationships with everyone. Whenever other community organizations need his help, such as giving a singing performance, training a choir or organizing cultural events, he is always there to help and volunteer his services. He has won over not only everyone's love and respect, but also wide support for CAST. The influence of the Chinese Artists Society of Toronto has grown under his leadership. No longer confined to the Chinese Canadian community, CAST now invites other ethnic musicians to join in some events, which truly embodies the Canadian spirit of multiculturalism.

From the beginning when CAST was established, Chi Ping Lee established a statute stipulating that there would be rotation of leadership for the healthy development of the organization. In 1991 he took the initiative to retire from his founding president position. In 2012, when he accidentally learned that he was still in charge according to the legal registration document for the Chinese Artist Society of Toronto, he removed his name from the document. He believes that charities are created to help others, not for personal fame or gain. A charity should not be personal property nor a source for commercial profit.

Chi Ping Lee had also founded a music group originally named after himself, but in 2008 he decided to break down barriers, and have his

name removed. The group was re-registered under the name 'Popular Music Club' and he invited his peers to teach there. As a subordinate body under CAST, it upholds the same principles of providing non-profit community service through promoting music. Now renamed 'Popular Music Centre', with eight music teachers teaching there, it is managed by an administrative committee and operated with the help of volunteers.

In August this year, 'Popular Music Centre' celebrated its ninth anniversary and Chi Ping Lee's upcoming eightieth birthday at the same time with a singing performance at Markham Event Center. A souvenir book was produced specially for the evening. Photos of teachers and students as well as words of blessings in the book reveal that the centre is like a three-generation family, with everyone enjoying good times together. Under the guidance of Mr. Lee, there are no barriers, nor generation gaps. Members sing for fun and make friends through singing.

Over the years, students under Mr. Lee's tutelage have won numerous top awards in singing competitions. Taught with his unique teaching methods, students often make rapid progress in a short time. His reputation has grown, and once Chi Ping Lee reluctantly had to decline non-Chinese speaking students who asked him to be their teacher. He explained he did not know how to explain certain technical terms like 'qi chén dāntián' in English. Speaking about this, Chi Ping Lee had a helpless and innocent expression on his face, rather more like an urchin than a revered teacher. However, these technical language gaps did not prevent Chi Ping Lee from making friends with other ethnic groups. His performances were often infused with Chinese and Western cultures, both classical and modern.

Having been in Canada for 38 years, Chi Ping Lee has long regarded

Canada as his home, but he still has deep feelings for his hometown and traditional Chinese culture. In 1998, he served as a co-chair of Confucius Statue Committee, working with well-known sculptor Ma Peng and another community leader to raise funds for casting two bronze statues of Confucius. One was presented to Qufu in September 1999, the hometown of Confucius in Shandong province, and an identical bronze statute was erected at the Chinese Cultural Center of Greater Toronto.

Mr. Lee has worked tirelessly to support and participate in many charitable activities in the community. He served in many non profit organizations and was on the Chinese Canadian organizing committee to celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary. He has raised a lot of funds through holding benefit concerts, either on his own or together with his students, with all proceeds going to charities. He says he does not help others for a return, and derive his greatest satisfaction from making others happy. In recognition of Chi Ping Lee as a role model for the community, Rotary Club of York gave him the "four-way test" award in 2011.

He enjoys helping others and serving the community. He always looks forward and forgets his difficulties and setbacks in the past. These are probably the keys to why Mr. Chi Ping Lee is living into a ripe old age with a booming voice and a lively step. Here is wishing Mr. Lee will continue to enjoy his work in music for the next twenty years, sailing through with flying colours to become a centenarian!

