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Comparison of the **Score Data Design**  
of Two Professional Orchestra Libraries in Hong Kong

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6 June 2008

# Overview



- The multiple roles of scores
- Comparison of the data structure design of score records of 2 orchestra libraries in HK
  - ◆ Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra Library (HKCOL), established in 1977 (2,500+ scores)
  - ◆ Hong Kong Sinfonietta Library (HKSL), established in 1990 (400+ scores)
- Recommendations for improvement in the creation & maintenance of score records

# Role of scores: performance

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- Scores represent coded information that is converted into sound waves through a combination of human & often mechanical agency

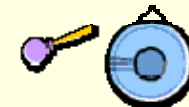


- They are essential for the performance of musical works that replicate a combination of the composer's intention & the artistic interpretation of the performers

# Role of scores: music heritage

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- Majority of the target Chinese scores & some Western scores are commissioned works
- They may be unique or one of only a few copies
- They represent part of the orchestral music heritage by contemporary Chinese composers



# Role of scores: other values

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- Apart from their role in facilitating performances, each score is potentially:
  - ◆ A source for music scholarship
  - ◆ An aid or inspiration for new compositions
  - ◆ Of interest to performers, musicologists, students, historians, biographers, & other social scientists



# Limited copies



- Many scores by famous composers have been totally lost or only remain in fragmentary form
  - ◆ Eg, Adagio in G Minor attributed to Albinoni is a modern reconstruction based on a fragment
- As some of the scores are only available in a limited number of copies, especially the unpublished Chinese commissioned works, they run a similar risk

# From existence to use...

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- ❖ “If a tree falls in a forest & no one is around to hear it, does it make a sound?”
- ❖ If a score is stored in a library & no one is aware of it, does it exist? Or can it be played?



# Application of the research

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- Unless there is...

- ◆ Complete recording of data &
- ◆ Access to the data records



...the scores will not be used unless discovered by serendipity

- This study should be of interest to:

- ◆ Orchestral, academic & public libraries who encourage flows of information through collection, organization, storage, access & delivery



# Nature of scores

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## ■ HKCOL

- ◆ Photocopies of handwritten manuscripts
- ◆ Computer printed manuscripts
- ◆ Handwritten manuscripts

## ■ HKSL

- ◆ Published editions
- ◆ Computer printed manuscripts

- Some manuscripts & photocopies require original cataloging



# Description of scores

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- Catalog
  - ◆ Self-developed cataloging systems
- Software
  - ◆ HKCOL uses Access; HKSL uses Excel
- HKCOL scores are cataloged by date
  - ◆ In numerical order
- HKSL scores are cataloged by composers' surname
  - ◆ In alphabetic order & using description from *Orchestral Music*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (Daniels, 2005)

# Score metadata at HKCOL

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- Data is all in Chinese except English title
- Data fields are divided into 2 parts
  - ◆ Musical work data
    - 23 data fields
  - ◆ Score management
    - 36 data fields (5 overlap with work data)



# Musical work data at HKCOL

## 香港中樂團 樂譜資料系統-樂譜資料



香港中樂團  
HONG KONG CHINESE ORCHESTRA

找尋類似曲名作品：  
請輸入要尋找之字串：

請輸入字串，並於字串前後加上\*號，如：\*彩雲追\*，然後按尋找。

請選擇樂曲：

以編號選曲 ---> 總譜編號： 舊編號：

**樂曲資料**

**\* 此欄位必須輸入資料**

總譜編號 *	<input type="text" value="0"/>	舊編號：	<input type="text" value="1080"/>	<input type="button" value="樂曲不同版本"/>
樂曲名稱 *	<input type="text" value="龍騰虎躍"/>			<input type="button" value="樂曲演出資料"/>
樂曲別名：	<input type="text"/>		委作 / 委編	
英文曲名：	<input type="text" value="Flying Dragons and Jumping Tigers"/>		委編 <input type="button" value="▼"/>	
種類：	<input type="text"/>	形式：	<input type="text" value="敲擊樂協奏曲"/>	香港題材： <input type="text" value="C"/>
作曲：	<input type="text"/>	編曲：	<input type="text" value="李民雄"/>	樂曲長度： <input type="text" value="6'49"/>
作詞：	<input type="text"/>	整理：	<input type="text"/>	配器： <input type="text"/>
作曲/修改日期：	<input type="text" value="28-Jan-91"/>	儲存位置*：	<input type="text" value="01/A11/14-16"/>	移植： <input type="text"/>
版權情況：	<input type="text" value="17/5/94"/>			

樂曲簡介: (四) 鼓樂小精靈 26-27.01.2007

敲擊樂協奏曲  
龍騰虎躍  
李民雄曲

內容分段, 按  
Ctrl + Enter

# Score management at HKCOL

**香港中樂團**  
HONG KONG CHINESE ORCHESTRA

**找尋類似曲名作品：**  
請輸入要尋找之字串：   
請輸入字串, 並於字串前後加上\*號, 如: \*彩雲追\*, 然後按尋找.

**請選擇樂曲：**    
以編號選曲 ---> 總譜編號:  舊編號:

樂曲資料 **樂譜管理**

樂曲名稱:   
總譜編號:  舊編號:  儲存位置:

總譜頁數:  借譜費: HK\$

樂曲管理資料: 總譜份數:

分譜:

高音笙 - 2線:	<input type="text" value="2 (4)"/>	中音笙 - 1線:	<input type="text" value="2 (5)"/>	低音笙 - 1線:	<input type="text" value="1 (4)"/>	高嗩吶 - 2筒:	<input type="text" value="2 (線: 5)"/>	中嗩吶 - 1筒:	<input type="text" value="2 (4)"/>
次中嗩吶 - 1線:	<input type="text" value="1 (5)"/>	低嗩吶 - 1筒:	<input type="text" value="1 (4)"/>	傳加嗩吶 - 1線:	<input type="text"/>	梆笛 - 2筒:	<input type="text" value="2 (4)"/>	曲笛 - 2筒:	<input type="text" value="2 (4)"/>
新笛 - 2筒:	<input type="text" value="2 (同中笛)"/>	中管 - 1線:	<input type="text" value="1 (4)"/>	低音管 - 1線:	<input type="text" value="1 (同中管)"/>	柳琴 - 1筒:	<input type="text" value="1 (5)"/>	揚琴 - 2筒:	<input type="text" value="2 (4)"/>
琵琶 - 2筒:	<input type="text" value="2 (4)"/>	三弦 - 1筒:	<input type="text" value="1 (4)"/>	中阮 - 2線:	<input type="text" value="2 (4)"/>	大阮 - 1線:	<input type="text" value="1 (4)"/>	古箏 - 1筒:	<input type="text" value="1 (線: E)"/>
豎琴:	<input type="text"/>	高胡 - 4筒:	<input type="text" value="5 (4)"/>	二胡 - 7筒:	<input type="text" value="7 (4)"/>	中胡 - 4筒:	<input type="text" value="4 (4)"/>	革胡 - 4線:	<input type="text" value="4 (4)"/>
低音革胡 - 3線:	<input type="text" value="3 (4)"/>	鼗擊樂:	<input type="text" value="7 (25)"/>	其他:	<input type="text"/>				

# Score metadata at HKSL

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- Data is all in English
- Data categories in 3 Excel files
  - ◆ Composer-work information
  - ◆ Work information
  - ◆ Concert information



# Comparison of data design - 1

	Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra Library		Hong Kong Sinfonietta Library		
Software	Access		Excel		
Language	Chinese		English		
Data category	Musical work data	Score management	Composer-work	Work	Concert
Data fields	1. title* 2. full score no.* 3. old no. 4. storage position*	1. title 2. full score no. 3. old no. 4. storage position	1. composer 2. title 3. reference folder no. 4. edition	1. composer 2. title 3. edition	
	5. title alias 6. English title	5. borrowing cost	5. status 6. purchase date	4. purchase date	
	7. commissioned work/arrangement	6. no. of copies of full score		5. number of copies of full score	
	8. genre 9. form	7. no. of pages of full score		6. number of copies for each of the 35 instrumental parts	
	10. Hong Kong context? (option button)	8. notation method; no. of copies & pages for each of the 27 instrumental parts			
	11. time duration	9. other instrument names & details			
	12. composer 13. arranger 14. orchestrated by				
	15. lyricist 16. compiled by 17. transcribed by				
	18. composition/ revised date				
	19. copyright granted date				
20. brief description of work					

# Comparison of data design - 2

	Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra Library		Hong Kong Sinfonietta Library		
Data category	Musical work data	Score management	Composer-work	Work	Concert
Button (or fields)	21. different version				
	22. performance info (concert name, venue, duration)				1. year 2. concert name 3. concert date (& time) 4. venue 5. organizer 6. conductor 7. programme 8. composer 9. soloist 10. remarks: orchestra size
	23. composer info	10. composer info			
Function button	1. search				
	2. select work				
	3. enter default				
	4. create new				
	5. confirm creation or change				
	6. close				





# Recommendations

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- Best practices in orchestra library management & cataloging
  - ◆ Orchestra Planning and Administration System (OPAS)
  - ◆ Orchestra Management Solutions (OMS)
  
- HKS may consider using one of these
  
- A Chinese version may be designed for Chinese orchestras



# Recommendations

- Develop cooperation between libraries so that scores are uniformly described, & aggregated in a union catalog

Current

Future

Localized description

Uniform description

Little/no external  
access

Enhanced external  
access

Local database

Union catalog