



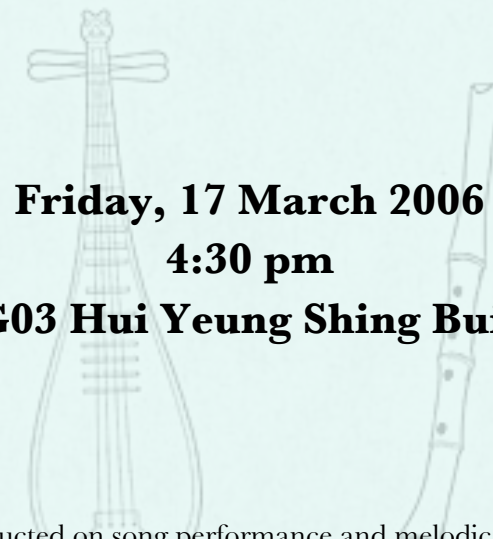
**The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Department of Music**



Colloquium Series

Dr. Esther Mang Shun Ho
(Hong Kong Baptist University)

**Do Musicians Sing Better than Non-musicians?
Effects of Auditory Learning Biography on
Singing Achievement**



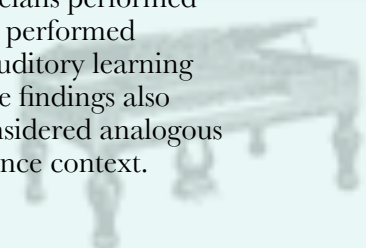
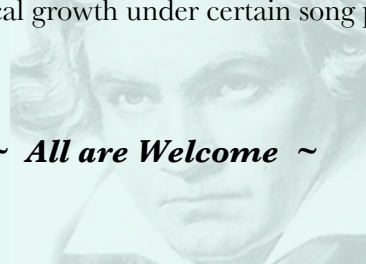
**Friday, 17 March 2006
4:30 pm**

Rm G03 Hui Yeung Shing Building

Abstract

An investigation was conducted on song performance and melodic pitch matching skills of musicians and nonmusicians. The musicians had received formal musical training but little choral experience, while the nonmusicians had not received any formal musical training but had more lengthy choral experience. All subjects were evaluated on their performance to maintain tonality in song performance and accuracy on echo-sing melodic patterns. Results suggest that choral experience and formal musical training have different effects on different types of criterion singing task. For melodic pitch-matching task, the musicians performed significantly better than the nonmusicians. In contrast, the nonmusicians performed significantly better in song performance task than the musicians. Thus, auditory learning biography appeared to have different effects on singing achievement. The findings also imply that informal musical training, such as choral singing, might be considered analogous or even superior in fostering musical growth under certain song performance context.

~ All are Welcome ~





Esther Mang received her doctorate at University of British Columbia, Canada. She had taught music education courses and early childhood music programs at the University of British Columbia and is currently Associate Professor of the Department of Music, Hong Kong Baptist University. She lectures in the areas of Choral and Instrumental Conducting, Choral Pedagogy, Principles of Music Education, and Music in Early Childhood.

Esther's research interests are inter-disciplinary, encompassing child development, speech science, and choral music education. In 2004-5, she received a Competitive Earmarked Research Grant from the Research Grants Council of Hong Kong to investigate Chinese children's singing competency. The project aims to compile a profile of the singing achievement of children from Hong Kong and Beijing through analyses of both experimental and ethnographical data. She was also awarded a Quality Education Fund (2004-05), to develop, implement, and evaluate an Integrated Early Childhood Music Curriculum development tool for Kindergarten and Primary Schools (<http://arts.hkbu.edu.hk/%7Emfa/child/child.htm>). Together with Dr. David Rossiter at the Department of Computer Science, the Hong Kong University of Science & Technology, and with support from the Quality Education Fund (2003-04), she has recently developed a real-time feedback voice training system (<http://arts.hkbu.edu.hk/~mfa/rv>) to provide training for professional voice users.

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China* *shobukicho
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