



The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Department of Music

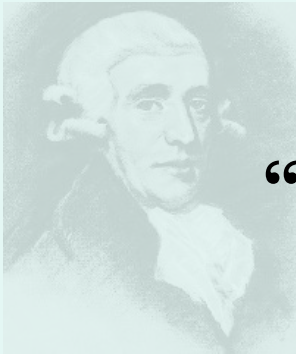


Colloquium Series

Dr. Frederick Lau

(University of Hawaii at Manoa)

“Cantonese Opera Clubs in Honolulu”



Thursday, 30 March 2006

4:30 pm

Rm G03 Hui Yeung Shing Building

Abstract

Since the 19th century, Hawaii — known as the sandalwood mountain in Chinese — has attracted a sizable group of Chinese immigrants. Early arrivals were mostly Cantonese from the Taishan and Zhong Shan areas. Unlike Chinese who immigrated to the continental US who endured overt discrimination, early Chinese immigrants in Hawaii quickly established themselves as an influential ethnic group. Many regional associations, clan associations, and cultural clubs were formed, and they played a major role in maintaining facets of Chinese culture on the islands. Among these cultural organizations were amateur Cantonese opera clubs, which were run by amateur Cantonese music enthusiasts. The earliest club was established in the early 1900s. The Wo Lok and Ching Wan clubs are considered the most well-established and are still active. New clubs such as the Hua Xia and Zi Jin have attracted more recent immigrants. This paper is a preliminary historical and ethnographic study of Cantonese opera clubs in Honolulu that explores how they function internally and externally.

~ All are Welcome ~