



# 聖保羅男女中學 ST. PAUL'S CO-EDUCATIONAL COLLEGE

33 MacDonnell Road, Hong Kong · Tel: (852) 2523 1187 · Fax: (852) 2877 0442 · [www.spcc.edu.hk](http://www.spcc.edu.hk)

## **PRESS RELEASE (for Immediate Release)**

### **The Treble Choir from St. Paul's Co-educational College won the Grand Prix in the 14th Busan Choral Festival & Competition 2018**

*The 60-member choir swept four top awards with works by Hong Kong composers*

HONG KONG, 24 Oct 2018 – The Treble Choir from St. Paul's Co-educational College - consisting of choristers aged 13 to 16 - participated in the four-day festival in Busan, South Korea from October 17 to 20. Presented by the Korea Choral Institute, the festival played host to 50 choirs from around the world this year, in a city that embraces the arts.

Taking treasured time away from their busy academic studies, the students competed in two categories: Youth Choir (for aged 18 and under) and Classical Equal Voices (open to all ages) where there were 10 and 12 participating choirs respectively. Under the direction of conductor Anne Chu On Lai, they presented two thoughtfully curated and richly varied programmes which included two commissioned works by Hong Kong composers, Gershom Tse and Warren Lee, both alumni of the College. The five-member international jury, chaired by Dr. Anton Armstrong from the United States, unanimously awarded them the Gold Prize in both categories.

As a double winner of their categories, they went on to compete in the Grand Prix Final against winners of other categories; among them, three semi-professional choirs from Poland, Latvia and Indonesia, regions renowned for their choral tradition. By far the youngest ensemble in this prestigious event, these young singers were unfazed by the spotlight and gave a most heartfelt performance of Tse's song, "*Pilgrim*" (客旅), one that defied their tender age and won the audiences and jury over yet again.

As winner of the Grand Prix, the Treble Choir of St. Paul's Co-educational College was awarded a total prize of US\$20,000. Conductor Anne Chu On Lai, a full-time music teacher at the College, also garnered the Best Conductor Award at the ceremony. Under her wings, these 60 bright young students have assumed custody of the College's culture of excellence and rich musical tradition, as well as their roles as Hong Kong's cultural ambassadors.

#### **Photos of the competition are available at:**

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1FRMF6P6wuHJq8Aa8XWOi6IDBKCMDSiwi>

**About Busan Choral Festival & Competition:** [www.busanchoral.org](http://www.busanchoral.org)

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For further information, please contact our Community Relations Office:

Jo Miu / 2101 0853 / [hymiu@spcc.edu.hk](mailto:hymiu@spcc.edu.hk)