



In Memoriam - Mr Alexander Wong Chuen

王銓老師
(1927-2010)

Taught at Wah Yan College, Kowloon, 1954-1958

Entered WYK in 1954 - editorial extract from The Shield 3 (1955)

Mr. Alexander Wong was the only addition to our lay staff. His magnificent voice and pleasing personality have already done much to develop singing and music in the school.

As Form-Master at Wah Yan College, Kowloon, 1954-1958

He was form-master for only one year, in 1954-55, his first year at Wah Yan College, Kowloon, his class being F2B.

The following biographical sketch was written by Mr John Wong, Mr Alexander Wong's younger brother on September 8, 2011.

Alexander Wong 1927-2010

Born in Shanghai, China, Alexander Wong received his music training at the National Conservatory of Music in Shanghai.

After arriving in Hong Kong, starting in 1952, he was a violist in the former Sino-British Orchestra, now known as Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra. By 1955, he was the soloist tenor in both Crescendo Choral Society and Hong Kong Choral Group. He also gave several solo performances in Hong Kong.

Alexander Wong taught at Wah Yan Kowloon from 1954 to 1959 as its music teacher. He was the conductor for Trial by Jury in 1955 and HMS Pinafore in 1956, both by Gilbert and Sullivan. During his tenure as the music teacher, WYK won several awards in inter-high school music competitions.

A good teacher is not one who succeeds in forcing knowledge into his students. A good teacher is one who can inspire his students and can get them so interested in the subject that they will go on learning that subject on their own and enjoy it for the rest of their lives. Judging from the email exchanges among the alumni classes of '60 and '61 on their endless discussion of music topics, especially classical music, one can easily conclude that Alexander Wong has done a good job as Wah Yan's music teacher.

Alexander Wong left Hong Kong in early 1959 and with his family immigrated to the USA. At first he joined the Robert Shaw Chorale and toured around the US continent. With a large family of five children, he finally accepted the hard fact that he needed to change his career in order to feed his large family. As most other immigrants at that time, for a period of several years, he held concurrently two or even three jobs in order to support his family. He later joined IBM and worked there 25 years until he retired. His wife Nancy, also an accomplished pianist, also changed career and trained herself to be a nurse.

Besides music, Alexander's another love was food. Overweight all his life, in his old age he suffered from hypertension and diabetes. In the last ten years of his life, his kidney completely failed. He was on dialysis. Luckily with the nursing training of his loving wife, he managed to live until 82 years old.

Alexander's efforts in music have not been in vain. Besides training thousands of Wah Yan alumni who are now enjoying music, Alexander left behind five highly musically gifted children. Although hardship in life prevented him from pursuing music as a career

in the USA, it could not stop him from passing his music genes to his children. Any one of them could pick up any musical instrument, and within an amazingly short time, started performing with it. One of his daughters, Debbie, a graduate from Julliard, has been a professional violist in New York Philharmonic Orchestra and routinely performs in New York Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall, as well as in other large cities in Europe. A life Alexander would dream for himself. His grandson Benjamin also became a professional musician in USA. He just performed in an opera in Hong Kong City Hall in 2010.

Although no longer a full-time musician in the USA, Alexander never left music. He would conduct choirs in various churches, and give private music lessons to students for free, until he could no longer even stand up. In hindsight, perhaps if he had not immigrated to the USA and had continued to stay in Hong Kong, Alexander would have continued a successful career in music and died a happier man.

At his funeral in the Catholic church in New York Chinatown, the place where he first landed when he immigrated to the USA, his children, their spouses and grand children practically took over the church, and offered him a chamber music requiem farewell. He must be smiling in heaven, for the full life he lived.

**A. School Photos in WYK and Staff Lists, 1954-1958
(a selection)**



1954-1955, Staff – 2nd row from bottom - 1st left



THE STAFF, 1958 — 1959

1958-1959, Staff – top row – 2nd left (note: Mr Wong left WYK during late 1958)

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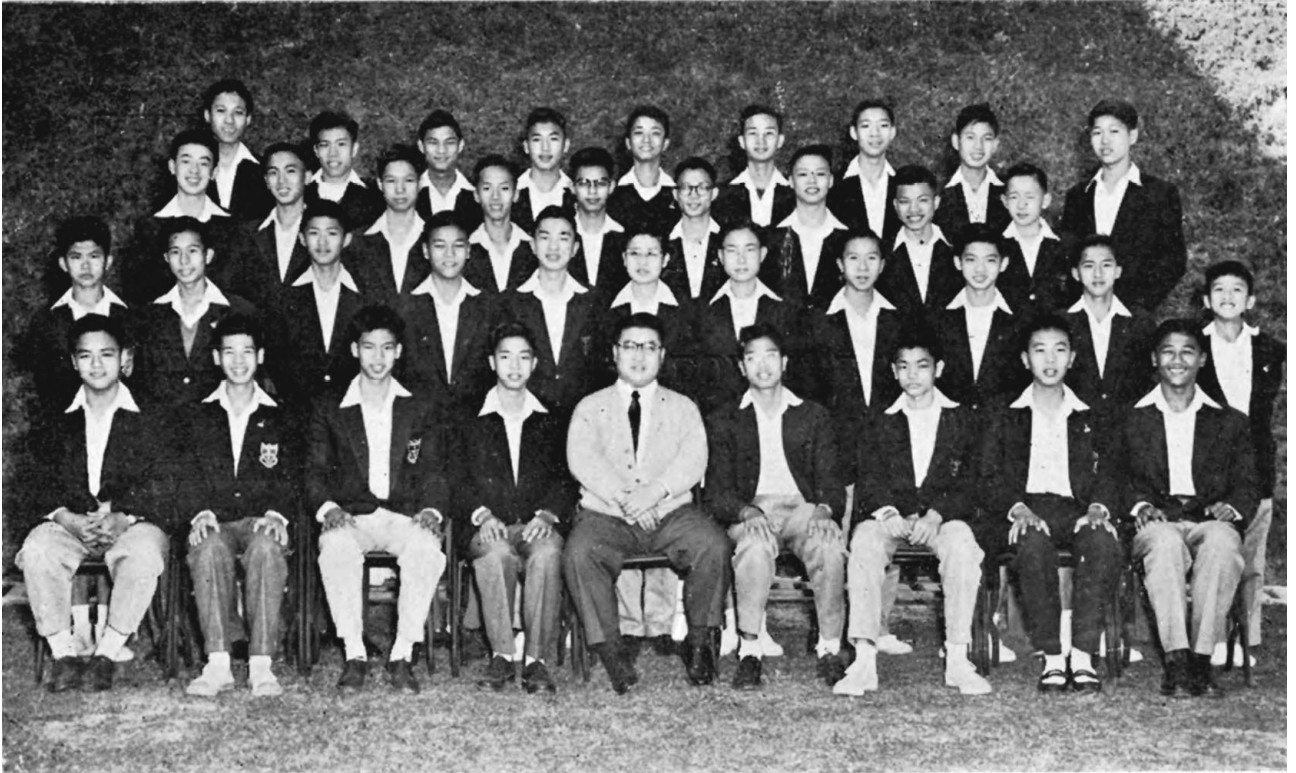
Alex Chan Jao Yau, Esq. *Clerk.*

陳佐堯先生

With his F2B class in 1954-55, his only class as Form-master

FORM II B.

Form-master: Mr. Alexander Wong.



from The Shield 3 (1955)

B. Musical Activities

As Composer -- Mr Wong's Composition 華仁頌

華 仁 頌

廖其銘 詞
王 鈺 曲

Andante
偉 哉! 華 仁! 矗 立 香 海 之 濱。 美 哉! 華 仁!

piu mosso
滿 門 桃 李 芳 芬。 教 學 方 法, 日 新 又 新; 師 生 情 感, 相 愛 相 親。

Andante
陶 鎔 品 性, 文 質 彬 彬; 鑽 研 科 學 不 憚 苦 辛。 學 成 致 用,

造 福 社 會 人 群。 偉 哉! 華 仁! 前 途 進 展 無 垠。

from The Shield 5 (1957) – Does anyone know how to sing the above?

As conductor and music director



**Mr. Alexander Wong and the Choir
from The Shield 3 (1955)**

3 Photos of Gilbert & Sullivan's "Trial by Jury", from The Shield 4 (1956)



The Caste (Photograph by S. C. Morning Post Ltd.)

2nd row from bottom – 1st right



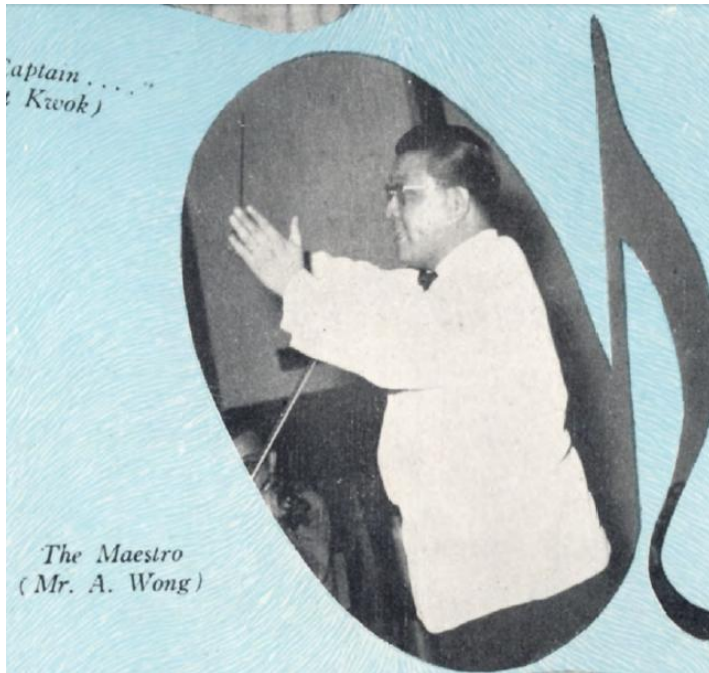
In white jacket, not facing the camera

Oh! never, never, never,
Since I joined
the Human Race"



In white jacket, not facing the camera

Conducting Gilbert & Sullivan's "H.M.S. Pinafore"



from *The Shield 5* (1957)



At a WYK Art Exhibition, from *The Shield 5* (1957)

**C. 3 Photos from the 1957 Teachers' Picnic, taken by
Mr Laurence Tam**



Mr Wong flying a kite



Mr Wong offering a light (not facing the camera)



Mr Wong fishing

D. Information about Mr Wong in The Shield – His Articles

本校的音樂活動

王銓

近年來本校的音樂活動已較前些年增加了許多；去年由郭樂賢神父（Fr. Collins）的帶領曾參加了本港香港電台的廣播；又在莫樂天神父（Fr. Morahan）的領導下演出了小歌劇『白雪公主』。今年則在校長的主持下於一九五四年十二月正式組織了合唱團，教授的責任，則由本人負起。學校新大禮堂落成舉行開幕典禮時，合唱團也曾參加了演出；另外並準備在今冬演出英國歌劇『Trial by Jury』且已於月前開始練習。一般來說，本港各書院中重視音樂課程者固不乏其數，且其中音樂水準相當高的也不少；然而學校中根本未有音樂課程者實比比皆是；今日香港的學校音樂尚未得到大多數社會人士的重視及同情，實不足怪。現在本校既在這一方面急起直追，猛下功夫，實在是一種可喜的現象。

就音樂教育的立場來講，我們當然不以演出歌劇或音樂會為最終目的，其最主要的目標是在於：①如何增強同學們對於正統音樂的欣賞能力；②養成讀譜的習慣；③對古典音樂所應用的一切樂器的認識；④了解音樂的理論及其歷史。我忝任本校的音樂教師，便應依照上述目標來作為我工作的方針。我認為音樂理論同實際的歌唱或演奏應該是並重的，一般同學認為上音樂課僅是上唱歌課實乃大錯特錯。我不單在音樂課上以一半時間來訓練同學們音樂基本智識，並且在合唱練習時亦隨時灌輸團員們一般的音樂常識。另外，經已得到校長同意，預備在暑假期中舉辦一個特別音樂訓練班，凡高班同學（他們已沒有音樂課了）中對於音樂有興趣的都歡迎參加，使大家都有接近音樂之門的機會。

本校為新禮堂落成典禮所舉行的音樂會共有二次。第一次是在四月廿七日禮堂開幕當天，緊接着開幕儀式舉行的；第二次則在五月十六日舉行。其所以有二次音樂會的原因是為了開幕當天來賓人數極多，禮堂不能容納全校同學參加。第二次的音樂會即為那些未及參與的同學們舉行的。音樂會中所包括的節目有小提琴獨奏，鋼琴獨奏小六班的舞蹈，男高音獨唱及合唱團合唱。第二次的項目與第一次全同，不過演奏者除男高音獨唱外都有更換。同學們對於這兩次音樂會的反應極好，每個節目完了都獲得熱烈的鼓掌，這些亦是極富鼓勵性的。

至於現在正加緊練習的歌劇『Trial by Jury』是英國當代名歌劇作家 Gilbert & Sullivan 二氏的作品。有一個輕鬆而且幽默的故事。內容是講一對將婚夫婦因故鬧上法庭而由當事法官同原告（女方）結婚作為結局，是一個標準英國風味的歌劇。演出時間並不太長，大約從三刻鐘至一個鐘頭，又是一個獨幕劇，佈景同服裝亦不必太費張羅，頗適合學校的演奏。

總結以上所述，可知本校已走過了音樂活動的第一步，現正走着第二步『歌劇』希望以後三步四步不斷的走去，使音樂活動可以成為本校各種活動中重要的一環。

Extracted from The Shield 3 (1955)

本校音樂的教學概況

王銓

我對音樂課程的教學方法是理論和實際並重的。直到今天仍有許多人認為音樂課無非是每天上完其他用腦的功課之後的一種調劑，（其實何止音樂，諸如體育及圖畫他們也同樣看法）這樣的看法，我並不同意。我所要以注重理論，並不是要把所有的同學都訓練成明天的音樂家，我亦並不夢想或者有幾個會變成個大音樂家的。我的着眼點在乎讓學生在張大口腔盡情歌唱之外，多些機會知道些普通的音樂常識。例如簡單歌曲的讀譜能力；有名音樂家的背景，歷史及作風；世界各國樂曲的派別與異同；以及中外樂器的種類和音色等。（這裏有一點要聲明，我所說的『理論』並不是音樂專門術語的『音樂理論』，『Theory of Music』而僅是區別於『唱歌』的一種相對說法，這裏所謂『理論』不過是一些最基本的『樂理』（Rudiments of Music）及簡單的音樂史而已。）

請恕我斗胆問一問：今天社會上的人士們有多少是可以讀得五線譜而有音樂欣賞能力的——當然，不喜歡音樂或不能欣賞音樂對於個人的人格是絕對不受影響的；但對於精神的享受，却不能不算是一種損失呢？特別是現在音樂已被公認為一種格調極高的藝術，而且是最好的娛樂消遣之一的。

大致講來一個學年中除掉假期外學校上課約四十餘週。就本校的情形來說，每級每星期一堂音樂課，一年中便是四十餘堂音樂課。而其中要除掉升級考試與平日測驗及將近考試時的溫習所佔時間，大約還剩三十六堂課。我把這些音樂課來分成兩部份：一部份從開始教唱歌，一部份則用講解理論方面的問題。以唱歌來說，每一首歌從開始教歌譜及歌詞到學生自己能單獨唱出，至少需要三堂課，那末一個學期中大約學到五六首歌。（在唱歌方面，我不太注重音色，因為學生在初中一二年級時大多在『轉聲』，不適宜從事聲音的訓練；其次亦因時間已經不大够用，如果再要在這一方面化功夫，練習唱歌的時間便更少了；而且這是一種專門技術，需要個別糾正，而學生的興趣亦有問題，因此關於這個問題是講過就算的。）另外在理論方面我把最基本的而必須知道的樂理分成三份，讓學生每年學一份，三年學完。（假定從小六『Primary 6』到初中『Form 2D』這樣每年需要十二堂到十四堂課。所講的幾堂便用來講些音樂家軼事及一般性的音樂常識。就上述所述，在學校中學三年音樂，所得的當然很少，尚希望學生自己勉勵，儘量多學一些。）

學校的音樂活動方面，在校長及莫樂天神父的領導下一九五五年演出了『糊塗法官』，『Trial By Jury』今年六月亦已開始了另外一個歌劇『Gilbert and Sullivan』練習。這個歌劇叫做『H.M.S. Pinafore』與『糊塗法官』為同一作者的作品。這種課外活動則不是全校性的了，由一部分對於音樂有特殊興趣的同學來參加練習及演出。在這些同學中我頗發現有幾個極有天才，我是儘量鼓勵他們，希望他們將來會有成就，做個中國的『卡魯蘇』『Caruso』或『海斐茲』『Heifetz』。

Extracted from The Shield 4 (1956)

完了那兩首歌，急急地向自己的座位走去，坐下後，才鬆了一口大氣。接着，其他比賽者，一個個上台演唱，每個人都能够把歌曲的味道唱出來，把握到作曲者的情感。等到所有比賽者都演唱完畢後，禮堂內的氣氛頓然肅靜下來，等候評判員報告比賽結果。我真是想不到能够獲得冠軍，我真是高興得跳起來。

後來，在優勝者音樂會上，從督憲柏立基夫人手上，我接過了一塊金牌和一隻銀杯，及一張獎狀。這次能够得到冠軍，我必須感謝王銓老師及其夫人和麥神父，所給予我的指導和鼓勵。

音樂節前後

1933 李雪塵

我記得當我們接到本校合唱團的集合通知時是正月下旬。從那一天起，我們便又開了一週兩次的練習。我們的練習是準備參加音樂節校際歌唱比賽的，於是岑寂已久的禮堂，又再一次震盪着我們的歌聲、笑聲，和我們的音樂教師王銓先生諄諄訓誨的聲音。而去年中文歌曲冠軍的榮譽又把各人的雄心鼓舞起來。

在差不多同一個時候，我和同級同學梁光華君又從王先生手中接到獨唱的歌譜。可是我們的懶性還殘存未去，一直延到最後階段才每日「加工」練習，真是「臨渴掘井」。

儘管我們可以在自己那一方面偷懶，合唱團却不能不練，倏忽就過去了兩個月，合唱團倒真努力，在農曆年假中也同校練習，而王老師從遙遠的北角走回學校來教導我們練習，這更值得欽敬。

兩個月的時間很快就過去了，眨眼間就是三月。校際音樂比賽是從三月十日開始的。當我接到秩序表時，差些兒昏過去。原來我本人參加的那項節目竟排在第一天，而且是第一個演唱，光華君却幸運地給排在三月十五日。於是我們不得不「加工」練習了。差不多每天課後都得渡海到北角王老師府上去，由王太太給我們伴奏。

有一件事我不能不提的，那就是王太太徐仲英女士當時雖在病中，仍然每天為我們伴奏，而且耐心地為我們指正拍子。而王老師則除了在校中指導我們之外，在家中更往往為我們無條件地耗上了一兩小時。這種誘掖

後進誨人不倦的藝術家精神，不由我不衷心感謝。

比賽的日子終於到了，我抱着戰戰兢兢的心情踏入比賽的大禮堂，在鐘響過之後，我就唱出了「莎莉園」和「村夫之歌」。唱第一首時還好，沒有出毛病。可是第二首唱到一半時，我竟然中斷了。我不禁有些氣餒，但我終於把它唱完了。好容易等到八位比賽者都唱完之後，評判員就登台宣佈成績——慚愧得很——她竟然說我第一首唱得很好，第二首則較差名次排列第二。我自己原也知道第二首是不行的，這樣的結果是在我意料中的。我不否認自己會存奢望，可是每個參加比賽者都有希望得到第一的權利。當看到別人成功時，却又懊悔自己的懶惰了。

光華同學在十五號比賽，我那天沒空去旁聽，但是他終不負衆望，得到了第一。第二天，同學們都很高興，而校長更高興得不得了，他一方面讚揚光華君，另一方面却勸我不要灰心，我只好自嘆「技不如人」了。

接着就是中文歌曲比賽，我們唱的是「岳武穆」的「滿江紅」，另一闕是「端陽競渡」。我敢說「岳武穆」的滿腔憤慨之情，都給我們唱出了，而「競渡」的那一種活潑的、愉快的情緒，也都表露無遺。可能因為評判員是外國人，不大瞭解歌詞，所以給了我們第三；可是我們都很愉快地接受。而且在翌日的報章上，我們都得到了極高的評價。更有趣的是有一位和我們同時參加比賽的音樂教師（他們指揮的合唱團，在該項比賽中獲得第二名），在賽畢時竟為我們大抱不平，他向我們說：「九龍華仁實在應該獲第一的。」

在英文歌方面，我們沒有太大的期望，因為我們最初的目的只是放在中文歌曲方面，而且舒伯特的那一首「清唱調」更是超出了一般學生的水準，比賽的結果，沒有一間學校獲得特別好的評價。

記王銓老師的音樂晚會

1950 李國光

一九五九年一月廿四日的黃昏，我於禮堂前，車水馬龍，衣香鬢影，冠蓋雲集，極一時之盛，大家都是前來參加王銓老師的音樂晚會欣賞他的演唱。

提起王銓先生，想來大家都不會感到陌生的。他不僅是本校老師中的一員，亦是本港音樂界中的有數人物。但人各有志，王銓先生對於他自己目前的成就還未感到滿足，他已預備往外國深造。在他動身之前，曾在港大陸佑堂舉行過一次音樂演唱會，成績異常滿意。但本校同學爲了惜別，特意懇請他在校舉行一次音樂晚會。王老師有感於各同學之熱望，又得到梁根德校長之贊助，乃決定在本校禮堂再舉行一次獨唱音樂晚會。當這消息傳出後，購票者極爲踴躍，一兩日間已將所有門票沽清。各同學對於王老師之愛戴，可想而知。

當王老師剛踏上台的時候，掌聲雷動，如怒潮驟至，久而不歇。當時情況一如數日前在陸佑堂演唱時的熱烈。王老師悠揚而雄壯的音韻，吸引了全場的聽衆。他隨着伴奏者的琴音，輕展歌喉，聽來真有「繞樑三日」之感。他對於所唱的都充分地唱出它的情感來，使聽衆都能真正領悟作曲者的原意。難怪聽衆們都歛息屏氣，凝神靜聽，每一個人的情緒都給悠揚的歌聲帶到美妙的境界。一曲既終，琴音歌聲驟歇，大家的神志才從飄渺的境界恢復過來，跟着掌聲雷動，不可壓止。接着一首歌曲唱得奇快，不由不使人懷疑這究竟是不是真的依照着歌譜一點不錯地唱出來；但聽起來却是那麼真實、那麼悅耳、那麼動人，一點兒也沒有模糊。

作鋼琴伴奏的是王老師的夫人。她熟練的指法已臻化境，十個指頭好像各有着自己的生命似的。悅耳的琴音，襯托着悠揚的歌曲，真使人有若處身於仙境之內。夫唱婦隨，不知羨煞多少旁人，一曲已完，已是半場時屆。

休息十五分鐘後，下半場首先是唱幾首中國民歌，其中尤以「在那遙遠的地方」一曲之表現爲最佳。最後一節，王老師唱來如高山流水；柔和處如春風拂面，動人處如夏雲奇峯，各人不獨對他超卓的聲歌擊節讚賞，同時對他的藝術天才，更佩服得五體投地。

雷動的掌聲結束了動人的一夜，我們帶着滿足的心情踏上歸家的路途。

現在王老師已經到美國去了，我們不知將於何年何月才能再聽他那美妙雄壯歌音，我們惟有默祝他獲得更大的成就與輝煌的榮譽，爲我中華民族在西半球放射萬丈光芒！



柏立基督憲巡視本校務處簽名留念

E. Mr Wong's Retirement – extracted from The Shield 7 (1959) Editorial:

Changes:

Our forces were sadly depleted by the departure of Frs. Foley, O'Meara, and Kelly; and of Messrs. T. K. Hung, Alexander Wong and Alex J. Y. Chan. Fr. Foley left us for a rest at home; Frs. O'Meara and Kelly were assigned to other posts in Hong Kong. Mr. Hung, who had taught Mathematics and Chemistry here for over three years, left us to go abroad. Mr. Wong, our Music teacher for some years, had made himself very popular with the boys, as the big attendance at the Farewell Concert given in the hall by him testified. Mr. Chan, who had been on our office staff, left for Canada. To all these former helpers, we offer sincere thanks for the valuable cooperation they gave us in the School.

F. Tributes & Memories

John Wong wrote (2011-08-25):

Alexander Wong, my brother, immigrated to USA in January, 1959. It was to the credit of his successor, whose name I can no longer remember, who trained us in Pirates of Penzance.

(If Alexander Wong had been still with Wah Yan at that time, he probably would have talked the fathers to let him train us in an Italian opera instead of an English one.:-))

John Wong wrote (2011-08-26):

Yes, Alexander Wong was my elder brother. In fact, he was one of the two elder brothers in HK who raised me when our father died. (The third brother was in Shanghai and could not come to HK.) ... I was one of the policemen in Pirates of Penzance.

I am not aware that Alexander drove without a license. In fact, he never owned a car in HK. He drove a scooter though. BTW, he passed away early last year in New Hampshire. Overweight all his life, he suffered from high blood pressure, diabetes, and at the end, cancer. Two things he loved in life: food and music. He lived a full life and raised a good family of kids. All gifted musically.

Wong Hin-Shing wrote (2011-08-26):

Thanks for the info about Mr. Alexander Wong who also taught us music in lower forms. I am sad to learn that he passed away last year.

My deepest condolences to you and Mr Wong's family, though late.

I remember Mr Wong taught us a lot of songs from "One Hundred & One Best Songs". I love those songs and I still listen to them from time to time... Let us remember Mr Wong. May he rest in peace.

Peter Lee wrote (2011-08-26):

I am deeply impressed that so many of my classmates have such good memory of our Alma Mater. I am also grateful for my training under Mr Alexander Wong. That was why I took the opportunity to ask Mr John Wong (at the Farewell Dinner at Shatin Jockey Club during our 50th Anniversary Class Reunion) whether he was related to Mr Alexander Wong. John told me that he was indeed his brother and that Mr Alexander Wong had recently passed away. I was sad to learn that.

Speaking about the Gilbert & Sullivan Operas performed by the Wah Yan Kowloon students, I believe the first one was "Trial by Jury" performed in about 1953 or 54. My elder brother Anthony (graduated in 1953) was the leading actor, playing the Judge. I am grateful for Christopher Yu to mention "HMS Pinafore". I did not perform in the "Pinafore", at least not in a main role (I might have sung as a member of the Choir). After the "Pinafore", in 1956 or 57, there was talk that we would put up a major opera "The Mikado" under Mr Alexander Wong, but it did not materialize. After that, Mr Alexander Wong left us and Mr. Hsueh was employed to take his place.

... In the period of about 11 or 12 years (1953 to 1964), we have put up 5 Operas: the "Trial by Jury", "HMS Pinafore", "Pirates of Penzance", "The Mikado" and "Iolante".

John Wong wrote (2011-08-27):

Before Alexander Wong quitted his Wah Yan musical teacher job and immigrated to the USA, he held a farewell concert at Wah Yan, in the music hall which we all know too well. Perhaps some of you still remember that. Someone, one of the students, recorded his farewell concert on a Philips cassette tape. A few years later, someone else, again a former student of his, perhaps one of you on this mailing list, converted the tape recording to a CD. I have a copy.

Note by Wong Hin-Shing: You can access this link to play and/or download songs sung by Mr Wong at the 1959 WYK Farewell concert:

http://www.4shared.com/folder/UnoQM_p4/Mr_online.html

[http://www.4shared.com/folder/
UnoQM_p4/Mr_online.html](http://www.4shared.com/folder/UnoQM_p4/Mr_online.html)
CTRL + click to follow link

Wong Hin-Shing wrote (2011-08-28):

Remembering Mr Alex Wong:

Two of my favorite music teachers, Mr Wong and Mr Hsueh, had great impact on my beginning love of classical music... Mr Wong taught me, though Mr Hsueh didn't.

I enjoyed listening to Mr. Wong's stories about music and music composers. One of the music pieces is Mozart's Requiem Mass. (That was when I first learned the meaning of "requiem" - mass for the dead.)

Mr Wong told the story....

One day, some unknown person, dressed in black, knocked at Mozart's door. An anonymous nobleman wanted Mozart to write a requiem mass. At the time, Mozart was very ill. In fact, he was quite near his dying days. Mozart was also superstitious. He told his wife that he feared death was knocking at his door, and the requiem mass was really intended for him, i.e., Mozart. He tried very hard to complete the piece. Unfortunately, he died before the completion...

(Note: I may be embellishing some of the events in my own imagination.)

It's appropriate that we should listen to the first part of Mozart's Requiem Mass in memory of Mr. Wong:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mnAlCkedSQ4>

Harry Aitken wrote (2011-08-28):

Please convey my condolences to Mr. Alex Wong's family.

I have listened to a bit of the Mozart's Requiem Mass in his memory.

Yondani Butt wrote (2011-08-28):

I should not say this, but this is good news, because I was told he died 40 years. So he lived a much longer and much fuller life than what I thought.

Mr Laurence Tam wrote (2011-08-28):

In our last WYK retired teachers lunch here in Hong Kong two months ago, we were still wondering where Mr Alexander Wong was. Sorry to learn of the sad news from you that he passed away last year. No wonder there is the saying: No news is good news.

After reading your email, I searched my old photo albums and found three photos with Mr A Wong. All were taken by me during a WYK teachers' picnic to Nam Wai in Sai Kung area in 1957, the 2nd year after I joined Wah Yan.

Photo 1: Mr Wong was fishing by the seaside of Nam Wai. In front of him, also fishing, was Mr Gerald Tam Wing Cheung, our School Lab. Technician.

Photo 2: Left to right are Fr Maguire, Mr Chow Cheng Lam, Mr Alexander Wong, and Fr McCarthy. They seem to be having a smoking party after lunch as part of their picnicking.

Photo 3: Mr Wong is seen flying a kite. The expression on his face shows that he was really enjoying himself.

Mr Alexander Wong was a very good singer. He was a good music teacher and a jolly good fellow among his colleagues. We all will miss him. May he rest in peace.

York Chen wrote (2011-08-28):

Mr Wong lived ~80 years.. He has a full life!

Claudius Seh wrote (2011-08-28):

I am sorry to hear the sad news of our late Mr Alexander Wong. He was a kind, upbeat person. During the 60's I met him once in Los Angeles China Town. Since both of us were born in Shanghai, we get along extremely well.

I remember the days when he was our music teacher in Wah Yan. He always encouraged us to enjoy music and singing. Of course in those days we like the pop songs. Whenever he had the chance he would introduce classical music to us.

Mr Anthony Ho wrote (2011-08-28):

BTW, Mr Alexandra Wong taught at WYK from 54~58, 4 years. There should be some photos or write-up of him in the Shields. Together with Mr. Tam's photos, we could have a photo album of him in our site. As you say, there are many who remember him well. I could not recall he had a younger brother. May be I was with him for only one year and it was my first year of teaching in a big school. He was such a jolly good fellow; all teachers enjoyed his company. Hopefully, John will be able to let us know more of Alexander.

Patrick Tai wrote (2011-08-29):

It is sad to realize that we are all at an age when our parents, older relatives, teachers, mentors leave us one by one. However, it is sadder when the departed is a beloved person, or one that influenced and improved your life. Such is the case with Alexander Wong.

I still say "Alexander Wong" with the full Cantonese accent when I mentally say his name. I remember we used that instead of the usual "Wong Sir" when we mentioned him among ourselves. But I think we do that with affection rather than as a dismissive nickname. He was sometimes laughed at, because he was funny, but I think he was always "loved" as any teacher could be loved in those days in Hong Kong.

... Alexander Wong introduced me to classical music. He pulled me off Elvis Presley, Pat Boone and all those guys and showed me some thing more interesting, complex and worth learning. I remember him telling us about the 3-Bs; the orchestra with the percussion section nicknamed the "kitchen" section. He played us classical music at lunch time music sessions. There I listened to Tchaikovsky's 1812, Nutcracker suit and other goodies. (I do not remember him playing the Mozart's Requiem; that might have been too difficult for me then.) He opened up a world so grand that I have been wondering in it all these 50 years. He introduced me to a lifelong love that will last me until I die. I am eternally grateful to him.

... If there is a heaven, I am sure Alexander Wong would be there, singing in his marvelous tenor voice, with his contagious laugh, and having a grand time.

Wong Hin-Shing wrote (2011-08-29):

... You're right. Mr. Wong did not play Mozart's Requiem Mass LP to us. He told us the story though. He was an excellent story-teller, and I loved listening to his stories.

One other music story he told us was Ducas' "Sorcerer's Apprentice". It was about a sorcerer who had an apprentice. One day, the Sorcerer was away and he told his apprentice to do some house work. The apprentice was quite absent-minded and water spilled out (and so on, and so forth). So when the sorcerer came back, he was mad at the apprentice because his house was flooded.

Either Mr. Wong or Mr. Hsueh told us this story about the little cute kitten playing with a roll of thread. It just jumps around and tries to catch the roll. In its excitement, it gets entangled.... (Beethoven's Fur Elise)

And then there's this story about a young man and a young woman deeply in love. Little did they know their true relationship. Then one day, he (or she?) found out that they were brother and sister. Sadly, they had to part from each other. The story was very poignantly told by Mr Wong, and I still remember the gist of the story. (In the Gloaming)

I remember Mr. Wong taught us a lot of songs from "One Hundred & One Best Songs" .
Here are the links to some of the songs Mr Wong taught us:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-fhe2TQOy-g> (Annie Laurie)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wf-b91OAoOk> (Auld Lang Syne)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4I5GOPPL-z0&feature=related> (Home Sweet Home)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lm4HMtb9ep8> (In the Gloaming)

John Wong wrote (2011-08-31):

My sister-in-law Nancy, Alexander's widow, is mailing me a whole album of info on
Alex's music career. After I receive it, I will write up something on Alex.

John Wong wrote (2011-09-22):

... BTW, my brother Alexander in his younger days, made it a point to apply Italian
singing technique to modify how the Chinese songs should be sung. So if you find his
Chinese songs sounded funny or strange, or untraditional, this is why.

E N D

Compiled by Wong Hin-Shing, with the assistance of Yu Fong-ying, Feb 10, 2012