

Family Council

“Strengthening Family Cohesion and Solidarity” Family Education Videos – Dispel Darkness with the Colour of Music SIU Hoi-yan, Michelle

Angelic voice

SIU Hoi-yan, : Hello everyone
Michelle my name is SIU Hoi-yan
You may call me Michelle
I’m a lyric soprano with visual impairment
God creates each and every one of us
to be unique
Although I can’t see
I’m bestowed with a unique voice
When I was 3 months old
I was diagnosed with ocular cancer
When Mum and Dad learned that I would be blind
they were heartbroken
However, they made a promise to each other
that they’d raise me like a normal child
My childhood was slightly different compared to other kids
yet my parents hoped that I could have a happy childhood

Taking on challenges as games

SIU Hoi-yan, : Ever since I was a child
Michelle learning music has been more like a game to me
It’s fun
A piano is like a toy
As I began learning to play longer songs
it turned out that the teacher’s few demonstrations
couldn’t help keep the songs in my mind
Usually I would tell myself
that with just a little bit more effort
a little bit more hard work
I would overcome every challenge
and learn to play each song well
When I grew older

I thought to myself
Isn't it that seeing something as a challenge
is telling oneself
it's a difficult task?
If one doesn't see it as a challenge
or think that it's difficult
but take it as a game
or an activity with levels to pass
then one would take on it with much excitement

Thankful for family's company

SIU Hoi-yan, : I feel that in the course of my music learning
Michelle : my mum and dad, family members and teachers
 have given me tremendous support
 For one thing, they made time for me
 Both Mum and Dad had to go to work
 Dad would try to find time to
 go with me to music activities and competitions
 I remember there was a time
 when a rehearsal fell on Dad's birthday
 Contrary to the past when we would have birthday dinner with him
 we celebrated with him in the afternoon that day
 Then we went home for the birthday cake
 and Dad hurried to accompany me to the rehearsal afterwards
 So, I'm very grateful to my family
 for making the sacrifices and changes for me
 For another, they gave me moral support
 My family members and teachers are also my best audience
 Be it a new song for learning or competition
 they'll listen to my singing once
 and make honest comments on my singing or the emotion
 which do help me gradually improve my singing

Mum teaching by word and example

SIU Hoi-yan, Michelle : My mum believes that everyone is born equal
Although I can't see
I still have the responsibility to take care of myself and my family
Take for example, as the elder sister
I'm obliged to take care of my younger sister
In fact, ever since I was little
my mum has always reminded me that for a certain thing I'm capable of doing
I should go ahead
Mum and Dad would do volunteer work with me in different places
For examples, we went to Bangladesh for volunteer work together and visited the orphans at the AIDS Village in Henan
My mum also inspired me to contribute to society with my life and music and speak up more for disabled and young people
I'm very grateful for her for teaching me by word and example

Chances amid crises and bewilderment

SIU Hoi-yan, Michelle : When the COVID-19 pandemic came to strike Hong Kong many performing artists with no exception to me saw certain of our shows and events cancelled or postponed
I was also at a loss
Apart from performing what else am I able to do?
All I've ever learned since childhood was music
All I've ever loved was music
Some time later, I received a phone call from an organisation inviting me to compose a song
I was rather bemused
About composition
I learned a little in the university
I thought I could give it a try
The song turned out to be

for us to cheer for the healthcare professionals, You are Heroes
Therefore, to those facing challenges, I want to cheer them on
Whether you're disabled or not
or affected in work due to the pandemic
as long as you're willing to make an effort
you can turn crises into opportunities
I really hope to continue using my music in the future
to bring more colours to the world
Although I can't see
music to me is
so colourful
full of variations
So, I very much hope that in the future
besides giving music performances
I can compose more songs
of different genres
to let more people see the beauty of music

Words to family members

SIU Hoi-yan, : I really wish to say to my mum, dad and sister
Michelle I'm truly grateful for your unwavering support for my music learning
and creations
Even though I don't know what challenges are lying ahead
I'll keep going
I love you