



# TOUCHING PEOPLE'S HEART THROUGH GOOD MUSIC – SYNTHIA KO

Tse Hung-fei



Conducting is a rare career choice, so what made Synthia travel down this path?

When she started University in the U.S., Synthia began as a piano student, but after her first conducting lesson, there was no turning back – it was much better being at the front of the orchestra! She was mesmerized by the satisfaction she got out of making wonderful music with a group of talented musicians.

Despite her enjoyment in the role, it's not an easy task to be a conductor. Being knowledgeable in music is only the most basic requirement; having a high EQ is also important. The conductor must have the ability to convince the musicians of an orchestra that her vision and interpretation are valid and are what they must follow. In front of an audience, self-confidence and charisma are especially important. Moreover, performing in a foreign city can be extremely lonely and alienating. Is it because she understands how it feels to be lonely that her interpretation of *Zigeunerweisen* is so sensitive? If being a conductor is such a tough job, why does she persevere?

'If you have touched people's heart through good music, and if you've turned people who didn't know classical music into classical music lovers, you will have the will to carry on. Whether it's through concert performances, pre-concert talks, or radio programmes, if more people can benefit from listening to classical music, it's always worthwhile to promote classical music further.' Synthia said. Her current positions are in both China and Hong Kong. She's Music Director and Chief Conductor of the only professional orchestra in the Guangxi province, the Guangxi Symphony Orchestra, and Artistic Director and Chief conductor of one of Asia's top youth orchestras, the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra of Hong Kong (MYO).

*In March, Synthia presents two programmes on Radio 4 during weekends: Play By Ear on Saturday at 10am, and Theme and Variations, Sunday at 12pm.*

## 用音符打動心靈—高德儀

謝雄飛

這是高德儀的親身經歷：

問方：「你的職業是什麼？」

高德儀：「指揮。」

問方：「哦！你是指揮交通的？」

高德儀：「指揮交響樂團才對。」

指揮真的是這樣冷門的一個行業嗎？它真的算是一個行業嗎？為什麼高德儀會有這樣的一個選擇呢？

高德儀在美國唸大學，在上了一課指揮班後，她毅然改變了唸鋼琴獨奏的想法，因她體驗到和一大群樂手一起演奏優美樂章所帶來的滿足確實是無與倫比，令她萬分著迷。

但指揮路一點都不好走，豐富的音樂知識算是基本要求，心理質素亦極為重要。面對上百名優秀樂師時，要讓他們覺得你是值得信賴的掌舵人，背對一班陌生觀眾時，你又要非常投入，表現得揮灑自如。離鄉別井、孤身往異地演出，所有難題都只能靠自己解決，難怪高德儀指揮《流浪者之歌》時特別到位。是甚麼讓她堅持下去呢？

身兼廣西交響樂團及香港青少年管弦樂團藝術總監兼總指揮的高德儀雀躍地說：「當你經歷過以美樂打動到觀眾的心、當你嘗試過讓不認識古典音樂的人從此愛上古典音樂，這種美好的經驗便會變成動力。無論是在台上演出、台下為觀眾作音樂會前講座、或是通過大氣電波和聽眾們分享好音樂，只要能推廣古典音樂，多艱難也值得！」

3月份的週末，高德儀為第四台主持兩個節目，分別是星期六上午10時播出的「週末隨想」和星期日中午12時播出的「主題·變奏」，萬勿錯過。