

For Immediate Release

China Merchants Foundation presents
HKDance: Dance × Theatre × Cross-Cultural Music
Voyage of the Eight Graces
Co-produced and Performed Live by Singapore's the TENG Ensemble



(Hong Kong— 18 September 2026) Presented by Hong Kong Dance Company (HKDance) and co-produced with The TENG Company of Singapore, and proudly sponsored by China Merchants Foundation, the original new work *Voyage of the Eight Graces* will premiere with four performances at the Hong Kong Jockey Club Amphitheatre, The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, from 8 to 10 October 2026.

The production draws inspiration from the cultural essence of the traditional Chinese “Eight Graces”: Music, Go, Calligraphy, Painting, Poetry, Fragrance, Flowers, and Tea. Blending traditional and contemporary theatrical forms, this production elegantly embodies the refined aesthetic of the East. The TENG Ensemble moves beyond classical convention, performing live across a fusion of musical idioms, while the dancers use their body language to explore the spirit of the “Eight Graces”, in contemplating the meaning of life. This cross-cultural dialogue between Hong Kong and Singapore encapsulates the contemporary appeal of intangible cultural heritage from a unique perspective. *Voyage of the Eight Graces* is a “Partner Programme” of the Hong Kong Performing Arts Expo 2026 and a programme of the Asia+ Festival 2026.

Following its Hong Kong premiere, *Voyage of the Eight Graces* will embark on its Shenzhen tour with three performances at Multi-function Hall, Bay Opera of Shenzhen on 16–17 October 2026. This tour is supported by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong of the HKSAR Government, and the production has been selected for the 2026 Shenzhen “Belt and Road” International Music Festival.

Dance as the Lead, Music and Theatre in Harmony

In their first cross-regional and cross-disciplinary collaboration, HKDance and The TENG Company of Singapore weave together music, dance, and theatre to explore the Chinese philosophy of harmony between humanity and nature. The production examines how people today inherit, reinterpret, and reflect upon the cultural values embodied in the “Eight Graces”, drawing inspiration and emotional resonance from these traditions. The narrative follows a traveller named “Ah Ya” (performed by Huang Wenjie, Principal Dancer of HKDance). Through fragments of her diary and life journey across different cities and defining moments, the audience is guided through the spiritual dimensions of the Eight Graces, embarking on a reflective journey toward balance, mindfulness, and inner peace.

Dance Master of HKDance, and Concept and Choreographer of the production, Huang Lei remarks: “I will describe the stage world of *Voyage of the Eight Graces* as one of ‘flowing imagery’. For example, in the ‘Flowers’ segment, dancers in flowing skirts move to rhythmically vibrant music, creating kaleidoscopic transformations that evoke petals in motion and the changing seasons. We hope the audience can become fully immersed in this poetic landscape.” He also emphasises that tradition should not be viewed as a static relic of the past, but rather as a living cultural force that continues to evolve and transform.

Meanwhile, **Dr Samuel Wong, Concept and Creative Director (Music) of the production from The TENG Company**, explains: “My focus has been on uncovering the values and wisdom embedded within the Eight Graces. Through dialogues between Eastern and Western instruments, these cultural insights are translated into a contemporary musical language that remains rooted in heritage while resonating with today’s audiences.”

Melissa Leung, Dramaturg and Performance Coach of the production, weaves together a cohesive and emotionally resonant narrative through a series of poetic stage vignettes. She says: “We hope to offer audiences a truly immersive, multi-sensory experience. In the theatre, audiences breathe alongside the performers and collectively experience the power of music, energy, and even silence. We hope that long after they leave the theatre, they will continue to reflect on and savour this journey.” In this production, dance, cross-cultural music, and theatre blend seamlessly and complement one another, creating a stage experience that is both artistically profound and emotionally compelling.

Advancing green theatre and fostering sustainability

HKDance, in collaboration with **The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, Green Theatre Research Partner of the production**, has incorporated sustainability principles throughout the production process. Guided by the principles outlined in the *Theatre Green Book*, the creative team has embedded sustainable mindset into music creation, set design, costume production, and marketing, prioritising the use of renewable or reusable materials to reduce carbon footprint, practicing environmental responsibility while conserving cultural heritage.

Dr Samuel Wong shares his perspective on sustainability in music: “In traditional musical systems, a single core melody can evolve into countless variations with their own unique character and style. The idea of a circular creative process has long existed in traditional practice. By reinterpreting and repurposing existing materials, we can sustain cultural vitality while reducing the use of resources such as paper, labour, and energy. This, in itself, is a meaningful form of sustainable practice.”

Costume Designer Lin Ching-ju, who has collaborated with HKDance for over two decades, has repurposed costume fabrics originally created for the Company’s 2002 production *The Song of the Earth*. Through redesign and reconstruction, these treasured materials will once again take to the stage in *Voyage of the Eight Graces*, giving new life to fabrics preserved over many years and extending their stage legacy. She explains: “I have always believed that costume design is not only about creating something new, but also about rediscovering and reshaping the value of existing materials. To revisit these fabrics more than twenty years later, fabrics that carry the memories of generations of dancers, feels like reuniting with old friends. We are giving them a renewed purpose and a new life through redesign. This is an embodiment of sustainable practice, as well as a continuation of cultural memory and creative spirit.”

Similarly, **Set Designer Wong Yat-kwan** also points out that the team thoroughly considered the requirements of a touring production from the initial planning stage, with strong cooperation and support from the production company. In addition to using sustainable timber as the primary material wherever possible, the stage design adopted a modular assembly approach, enabling components to be repeatedly assembled and reused across different performance venues, thereby reducing resource waste. He adds: “I believe the greatest achievement of this project was encouraging the team to genuinely integrate the concept of sustainable development into the production process and put it into practice. It has been an incredibly valuable learning and educational experience.”

HKDance hopes that *Voyage of the Eight Graces* will serve as an important starting point for green creative practices, extending the principles of sustainability into future artistic productions. Through the medium of

dance, the Company aims to gradually promote environmentally responsible practices as a standard within the industry, while also advocating the values of sustainable development across different sectors of society, working together to create a more sustainable future.

Media Materials

Please use the following credit line in all images and video captions.

Dance × Theatre × Cross-cultural Music “*Voyage of the Eight Graces*”. Courtesy of Hong Kong Dance Company.

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[Promotional Videos](#)

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Dance × Theatre × Cross-cultural Music “Voyage of the Eight Graces”	
Hong Kong	
Dates and Times	8.10.2026 (Thu) 8:00pm 9.10.2026 (Fri) 8:00pm 10.10.2026 (Sat) 3:00pm and 8:00pm
Venue	The Hong Kong Jockey Club Amphitheatre, HKAPA
Ticketing	HKD450 / 300 / 180
Shenzhen Tour	
Dates and Times	16.10.2026 (Fri) 8:00pm 17.10.2026 (Sat) 3:00pm and 8:00pm
Venue	Multi-function Hall, Bay Opera of Shenzhen
Ticketing	RMB380 / 220 / 50 (Concessionary tickets)
Programme Duration	About 1 hour and 20 minutes without intermission

Production & Artistic Team	
Artistic Coordinator	Yang Yuntao
Concept & Choreographer	Huang Lei
Assistant Choreographer	Hua Chi-yu
Concept & Creative Director (Music)	Dr Samuel Wong^
Head of Creative Development (Music)	Jeremy Wong^
Music Composers and Producers	Bang Wenfu^, Chow Jun Yi^, Joel Nah^, Sulwyn Lok^
Dramaturg & Performance Coach	Melissa Leung
Set Designer	Wong Yat-kwan*
Associate Set Designer	Joslyn Wong
Costume Designer	Lin Ching-ju
Lighting Designer	Denzel Yung
Sound Designer	Martin Lai
Music Ensemble Sound Designer	Steve Zhang^
Monitoring Engineer	Aw Wei Zheng^
Digital Image Designer	Oliver Shing
Performers	Hong Kong Dance Company
Live Performance	The TENG Ensemble
Pipa	Jeremy Wong
Erhu	Amanda Toh
Sheng	Chew Lixian
Keyboard	Gabriel Hoe
Guitar	Leonard Goh
Guzheng	Sim Kee
Cello	Olivia Chuang
^Member of The TENG Company of Singapore	
*With the kind permission of The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts	

Hong Kong and Shenzhen Tour	
Presented by	Hong Kong Dance Company
Supporting Organisation (Shenzhen Tour)	The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong of the HKSAR Government
Co-presented by (Shenzhen Tour)	Bay Opera of Shenzhen
Co-produced by	The TENG Company SINGAPORE
Title Sponsor	China Merchants Foundation
Main Sponsor	Sino Group · Ng Teng Fong Charitable Foundation
Supported by	Hong Kong Performing Arts Expo Ministry of Culture, Community & Youth (MCCY) National Arts Council (NAC) Mapletree Bernice & Christopher Franck
Green Theatre Research Partner	The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts
Hong Kong	A programme of the Asia+ Festival 2026
Shenzhen Tour	2026 Shenzhen “Belt and Road” International Music Festival

Hong Kong Dance Company

“Dancing across East and West, Moving to the Tempo of Hong Kong”

Mission Statement

We are nurtured in the cultural tradition of China, combined with the creativity of contemporary art, to impress the world with Chinese dance of Hong Kong character.

Established in 1981, Hong Kong Dance Company (HKDance) is committed to promoting Chinese dance with contemporary artistic vision and Hong Kong character. Since its inception, HKDance has staged more than 300 productions to great acclaim, including *The Legend of Mulan*, *Red Poppies*, *Spring Ritual · Eulogy*, *The Butterfly Lovers*, *Storm Clouds*, *L'Amour Immortel*, *Dream of the Past: Ancient Chinese Court Dances*, *Reveries of the Red Chamber*, *Chinese Hero: A Lone Exile*, *Vipassana*, *Lady White of West Lake*, *Tale of Three Cities*, *Waiting Heart*, *Liu Sanjie*, *Ode to the Silk Road*, *Dance of Strings*, *A Tale of the Southern Sky*, *Mazu the Sea Goddess*, *The Moon Opera*, *Nine Songs*, *Nezha: Untold Solitude*, *Myth of the Dancing Durumi*, *A Dance of Celestial Rhythms*, *After Snowfall*, and *In Between—Wu Guanzhong's Ink Odyssey*. With its mandate to create original interdisciplinary works, since 2018 the Company has explored the confluence of Chinese dance and Chinese martial arts traditions. Its original works include *Shan Shui: An Ode to Nature*, and *Kung Fu Artistry*, *The Legend of Lanling*, and *Whispers of the Pines*, were selected for the China National Arts Fund. In 2023, *Whispers of the Pines* was recognised in the 13th China Dance Lotus Awards (Contemporary Dance), the most prestigious national dance awards in China. In addition, *Storm Clouds—Realm of Infinity*, was selected by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region as a funded project under the “Signature Performing Arts Programme Scheme” (SPAPS).

As a cultural ambassador of Hong Kong, HKDance consistently showcases the city's unique artistic style to the world by touring to different cities across the globe, engaging local audiences, and encouraging cultural exchange. In recent years,



we have brought our award-winning productions to Lincoln Center in New York, The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., Sony Centre in Toronto, The Concourse Theatre and Seymour Centre in Sydney, Southbank Centre in London, Belarusian State Academic Musical Theatre in Minsk, Arko Arts Theatre, and Yeak-dang Hall, National Gugak Center in Seoul, Askra Theatre King Power in Bangkok, Tokyo FM Hall, Ishikawa Ongakudo in Kanazawa, One Theatre Hall in Penang, National Centre for the Performing Arts in Beijing, Beijing Tianqiao Performing Arts Center, Shanghai Grand Theatre, Shanghai International Dance Center, Hangzhou Grand Theatre, Guangzhou Opera House, Kaiming Theatre in Suzhou, Xinjiang Art Theater, Taipei New Stage, and Taiwan Traditional Theatre Center, among others.

HKDance was incorporated in 2001 as a charitable and non-profit-making institution, and is financially supported by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region as one of the major performing arts companies in Hong Kong. The Company became a Venue Partner of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre in 2026.

The TENG Company 鑿

The TENG Company is Singapore's leading not-for-profit Chinese music organisation, reimagining Chinese music for modern Singapore. A National Arts Council Major Company and Institution of a Public Character, TENG works across three divisions—Artistic Innovation, Social Impact, and Industry Empowerment—in the conviction that music is a force for good. The Company takes its name from the ancient character 鑿 (*tēng*), the sound of a drum, symbolising its aspiration to bring cultures together. Founded in 2015, TENG innovates within tradition, bridging Chinese heritage with contemporary and cross-cultural forms, and grounding its work in research and real-world practice.

TENG's performing arm, The TENG Ensemble, has released three albums and two EPs, including *Stories From an Island City* (2016) and *Heirlooms* (2019), both awarded 4.5 stars by *The Straits Times*; *Stories From an Island City* topped Hong Kong's iTunes World Music chart on release. Its research-informed *Music for Mindfulness* (2023), developed with the Singapore Institute of Technology, reached number one on iTunes Singapore, and its arts-in-health work now extends to hospitals, hospices, and the National Gallery Singapore. *The TENG Guide to the Chinese Orchestra*, co-authored by the Company's founders, is used in Singapore's national O- and A-Level Music syllabi.

The Ensemble has performed on stages including the World Economic Forum, Esplanade Concert Hall, George Town Festival, and Singapore International Jazz Festival, and for audiences across Malaysia, Japan, and Hong Kong. Through education and outreach, TENG has engaged over 100,000 students, seniors, and members of underserved communities, while its Industry Empowerment programmes nurture the next generation of Chinese music practitioners.

In 2026, 《八·雅》 *Voyage of the Eight Graces*—a landmark co-production with Hong Kong Dance Company—marks TENG's first original co-production staged beyond Singapore, and a new chapter in its commitment to cross-cultural exchange. www.thetengcompany.com

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