

以音樂作聯繫 童樂團建社區網絡

Children's band builds community network through music



市建局資助成立「市建童樂•社區樂團」，為土瓜灣舊區基層兒童安排免費音樂訓練，除建立社區網絡，亦讓孩子可藉訓練和表演提升自信心。

The URA sponsors the setting up of "oUR Amazing Kid Band" to provide free music training to grassroots children in To Kwan Wan with aims to establish a community network and help boost the children's self-confidence through practicing and performing.

在市區更新過程中，部分受影響的居民往往需要調遷至其他社區。為了讓居民可保持與舊區的聯繫，在互助下更易適應社區生活，市建局特別想到以音樂作聯繫，於去年十月資助成立「市建童樂•社區樂團」(oUR Amazing Kid Band)，透過為土瓜灣舊區基層兒童安排免費音樂訓練，不單可建立社區網絡讓一班街坊互相支援，還讓鮮有機會接觸音樂的孩子可藉訓練和表演，大大提升自信心和建立正面的價值觀。

這隊「市建童樂•社區樂團」共有三十名成員，當中大部分人均在市建局的土瓜灣重建項目範圍或在項目附近的地方居住，也有部分孩子已搬離該區，或正居於鄰近地區但在土瓜灣的小學唸書。在為期三個月的音樂訓練期間，他們每星期都要回到位於馬頭圍道的小學校舍上課，如是者一班來自土瓜灣的孩子和家長便有機會認識及暢談近況了。

As old districts undergo urban renewal, some residents affected by redevelopment may have to relocate to other districts. To help those residents remain in contact with neighbours in their old districts, as well as adapt to the new community in a mutual support network, the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) has endeavoured to connect people through music by sponsoring the setting up of "oUR Amazing Kid Band" last October to provide free music training to grassroots children in To Kwan Wan. Apart from establishing a community network for residents to support each other, the programme also allowed children who lack the opportunity to experience music to practise playing and performing, which could help boost their self-confidence and build positive values.

Comprising 30 members, the "oUR Amazing Kid Band" is formed by children either living within the area covered by the URA's To Kwa Wan redevelopment projects and in nearby streets, or having moved to adjacent districts but still attending primary school in To Kwa Wan. During the three-month training period, members were required to attend the weekly music lessons at a primary school on Ma Tau Wai Road. Such regular



屬少數族裔的星先雲（右）在樂團裏認識了很多朋友。
Singh Simran (right), who is an ethnic minority, has made many new friends in the band.

由於各樂團成員均沒有音樂底子，這班音樂初哥在學習中可謂遇到不少挑戰。導師說，孩子一開始時都不懂看樂譜，幼細指頭又難以撥彈弦線，因此最初都不太專心。可幸後來他們都很努力練習，即使手指頭在練習彈弦時紅腫了，仍堅持彈奏，非常難得。此外，音樂導師更透過「極速合奏」(Speed Jam)，讓小朋友接觸木箱鼓、木結他和夏威夷小結他等不同樂器，體驗不同的彈奏樂趣，又教他們歌唱技巧，讓孩子們進一步掌握音樂知識。

就讀小學五年級、來自少數族裔家庭的星先雲，是樂團主音的一份子。她說由於要合唱中文歌曲「我的驕傲」，不少團員均熱心教她認字看中文歌詞，因而認識了很多新朋友；星先雲媽媽則說，看到女兒的演出感

gatherings allowed children and parents from the community to get to know and catch up with each other.

Without any past experience in music, the newbies had to face quite a few challenges during the training. According to the instructor, the children were unable to read music scores at the beginning, while their fingers were too small to pluck the strings of instruments, making it difficult for them to concentrate.

Not giving up, the youngsters kept working hard to practise even when their fingertips had turned red and swollen. At other times, they were able to experience the fun of playing with different types of music instruments, including cajons, acoustic guitars and ukuleles, in "Speed Jam" sessions, in addition to trainings on singing techniques to boost their music knowledge.

Singh Simran, who is now in Primary Five, joined the band as its main vocalists. As an ethnic minority, she said many fellow members have become her new acquaintances when they enthusiastically taught her how to read Chinese lyrics, in particular those of the song "My Pride" which they had to sing together. Her mother said she felt very proud on seeing her performance. Living in the area within the Hung Fook Street/Ngan Hon Street Development Scheme with the family awaiting relocation arrangements, Singh's mother believed that she would still keep in touch with parents of other band members after leaving To Kwa Wan.

Equally passionate was Wan Nga-hei, the acoustic guitarist in the band who couldn't read music scores at the start, yet in the end gave successful performances one after the other. "I feel



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到很驕傲。與家人居於鴻福街/銀漢街發展計劃範圍的她又稱，目前正等待遷置安排，但相信日後搬離土瓜灣後，仍會常常跟一班家長保持聯絡，不至於「人生路不熟」。

學習彈奏木結他的團員尹雅熙，由初期不懂看樂譜，到後來成功演出，頻說：「十分有滿足感，希望將來可繼續與其他朋友夾band！」雅熙一家在土瓜灣居住了十年，近年因獲分配公屋單位而遷至其他地區，而他則仍在土瓜灣區上學。尹太說：「作為家長我感到很開心，藉著這個計劃，可以多些與舊街坊聯繫。」

為樂團義務提供練習場地的聖公會牧愛小學校長陳裕均認為，計劃除凝聚社區網絡，有助孩子之間建立默契和友誼外，學習音樂亦協助訓練他們的恆心，特別是計劃為孩子提供了表演機會，讓他們在學習上更有目標。事實上，樂團演出機會可謂接二連三，除在去年底於中環「H6 CONET」社區空間作首次演出外，成員亦曾於今年一月在灣仔利東街廣場公開表演，另外他們還在市建局「學建關愛」義務工作計劃嘉許禮和�建局的年度春茗上擔任表演嘉賓，與市建局同事一同夾band演出呢！

彈奏木結他的尹雅熙（左）學成表演，獲媽媽（右）親身到場支持。
 Wan Nga-hei, the acoustic guitarist in the band, gives successful performance with his mother's support.



really satisfied, I hope in future I can continue to play in a band with other friends," he said repeatedly. Wan's family had lived in To Kwa Wan for 10 years before relocating to a public housing flat in other district, despite Nga-hei still attends school in To Kwa Wan. "I feel really pleased that I can still remain in touch with many friends in the old neighbourhood through this programme," said Mrs Wan.

Chan Yu-kwan, the principal of S.K.H. Good Shepherd Primary School who supported the programme by providing training venues for the kids band, agreed that the URA's initiative could help establish rapport and friendship among the children apart from forming a community network, while music training could help develop persistence in children, especially when they were given opportunities to perform, an imminent goal that has driven them to work hard.

In fact, the URA has made arrangements for the kids band to perform on several occasions. Apart from its debut gig at H6 CONET community space in Central late last year, the band also gave a performance at the public space of Lee Tung Avenue in Wan Chai last January. Besides, they were also guest performers at the URA's "Community Service Partnership Scheme" commendation ceremony and New Year spring reception, where the kids shined on stage when performing together with some URA colleagues.



在市建局年度春茗上，樂團小成員擔任表演嘉賓，與行政總監韋志成及市建局同事夾band演出。
 At the URA's annual spring reception, kids shine on stage performing together with Managing Director Ir Wai Chi-sing and some URA colleagues.