

THANK YOU SPEECH BY
HKABPW BURSARY RECIPIENT 2005
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SOUND DESIGN & MUSIC RECORDING STUDENT AT THE HONG KONG ACADEMY FOR
PERFORMING ARTS

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen.

My name is Francis Fu and I am a Sound Design & Music Recording Major, pursuing my studies in the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts. This is such a precious opportunity to thank the HKABPW for the generosity and support.

My interest in music sprung ever since I was a child. In my early secondary school days, I was already addicted to contemporary music, particularly jazz and rock, and most importantly, I can foresee the unlimited possibilities of the stage technology behind-the-scenes. My dream is to become the world's top Front-of House Sound Engineer, providing superb audio service and technical support to the top, international, touring Rock & Jazz musicians such as Dream Theater (an US progressive rock band), Casiopea (a Japanese Fusion Band) and Pat Metheny Group.

The sound engineering scene in Hong Kong has been a male-dominant industry. The prejudice of "only men could handle the equipment well and women are ignorant about electronics and computers" is still prevailing, not only in Hong Kong but all around the world. However, in the 21st century, living in Asia's world city, Hong Kong, where equal opportunities are promoted, it is the time for such thought to eliminate. Education is the foundation, and one of the unbiased methods to recognize, and prove one's achievement, regardless of the gender of the student. Therefore, the support from HKABPW plays an important role in helping me break the barriers of entrance in the industry.

The faculty members from my school have been offering lots of technical knowledge, from sound design, to electronics and new stage technologies. I was inspired and enlightened and without their inspiration, I would have never discovered the great wonders and abilities of Show Control Systems (which is about programming the automation of the light, sound and physical elements on stage). This technology is extremely popular in world class theater productions and theme-park installations in the United States and England, and is certainly a field yet to be developed and inspected by local theater professionals. With the abundant supply of state-of-the-art equipments that are exclusively available in HKAPA; apart from sound engineering, I would really like to spend more time to learn from, and try out new

experiments and invent innovations under the leadership one of my tutors, who is a premier and leading show control contractor in the territory.

Since the teaching method in the Technical Arts School is production/practical/experience-oriented, to get the most from the three-year Bachelor of Arts program, the best way to learn is to involve in as many productions as possible. Unlike any conventional fields of studies, in which hard work guarantees success; to excel in the Sound engineering/ Show control industry and achieve excellence in technical arts, apart from being hard-working, it is very essential for one to invest as much time as possible in coursework and involve in as many school productions/experiment as possible to gain the required, hands-on experience.

Although Sound Design/ Music Engineering, has a relatively small impact to the local society's economy, yet music is helping the professional bodies in the finance or professional field to achieve a healthy balance of life; as well as preserving and developing Hong Kong's cultural scene.

I am extremely thankful for HKABPW's generous support, for now I can finally put all my time, effort and concentration back on my academics, without having to worry about the lack of freelance job-employment and tuition problem. Once again, I would like to thank HKABPW for donating a Bursary fund to help me continue my education, and bringing me one step closer to my goal of being coming the world's top audio engineer.

Thank you very much!