# 2025 Global Outstanding Overseas Compatriot Alumni 【Sports and Culture Award】 Ms. Ang Mei Foong

She is Malaysia's leading soprano and a multi-disciplinary artist who bridges performance, education, therapy and research. From the Department of Music at National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU) to concert halls and academic circles around the world - and into local communities - Ang Mei Foong has made the "voice" not only an artistic instrument but also a source of healing and a bridge between cultures in Taiwan and Malaysia.

Born in 1980 in Malaysia, Ang showed musical talent from a young age. She later traveled to Taiwan to study at NTNU's Department of Music, and upon graduation, continued her vocal and opera training at Conservatorio Santa Cecilia di Roma in Italy. She then earned a Master's degree from The University of Melbourne in Australia and a Doctorate in Music from Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM). Her academic journey spans Asia and Europe, combining classical techniques with contemporary insights - laying a solid foundation for her diverse musical practice.

During her time at NTNU, Ang received rigorous professional training and studied under renowned Taiwanese vocal and piano masters. She immersed herself in Western classical music, art songs and music education. Ang describes Taiwan as the starting point of her musical journey - not only honing her technical skills but also awakening a passion for exploring the essence of "voice" and a commitment to cultural exchange. Her time in Taiwan not only built her professional competence but also inspired her to reflect on the connections among music, society and education.

Ang's contributions span three major fields: performance, academic research and cultural promotion, demonstrating a diverse and deeply influential body of work.

As a performer, she is the Principal Soprano of KL City Opera (KLCO), starring in operas such as "La Traviata," "La Bohème" and "The Marriage of Figaro." She has brought art songs to the international stage, earning acclaim for her interpretations.

In education and research, Ang currently serves as Head of the Music Department at UPM, where she leads cross-disciplinary research in music therapy and vocal health. She founded the MusVIP program, a foundational vocal rehabilitation training initiative for individuals with Parkinson's disease and has presented her work at numerous international conferences.

In community arts and social engagement, Ang has curated community concerts and music workshops, promoting the integration of singing into everyday community life. She actively advances the use of music among special-needs groups and the elderly, and is dedicated to fostering lifelong learning through music.

Her contributions have earned her widespread international recognition. In 2019, she received Malaysia's National Academic Award for Arts and Creativity(馬來西亞國家學術獎) and the BOH Cameronian Arts Award for Best Solo Performance. Remarkably, she won First Prize at the International Music Competition Berlin in both 2018 and 2019, marking a historic achievement for Malaysian vocal arts.

Looking forward, Ang is committed to developing "community music" and "interdisciplinary vocal health" as core themes. She plans to integrate Southeast Asian music research and practice networks and foster ongoing Taiwan-Malaysia academic and performance exchanges. Using research-based performance as a strategy, she aims to connect vocal talent, cultural policy, and social well-being issues across Asia - creating more cross-border collaborations and tangible impact.

Behind her accolades lies the nurturing and inspiration that she received from Taiwan's music education system, as well as the support and challenges of Malaysia's artistic environment. Going forward, Ang Mei Foong will continue using the power of voice to bridge culture and healing - making art not just a form of expression, but a shared human resonance.