



Picture Album of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Guangdong Province

2





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Additional Remarks

1. The present *Picture Album* embraces the first and the second lists of the state-level and province-level intangible cultural heritages in Guangdong Province and the representative inheritors of the state-level and province-level intangible cultural heritages.
2. In the present *Picture Album*, items with stars are state-level intangible cultural heritages and those without are province-level ones.
3. In the publication of the present *Picture Album*, some adjustments have been made concerning the names and classifications of certain cultural heritage items.
4. The introductions to the first list of state-level intangible cultural heritages in Guangdong Province in this *Picture Album* are directly taken from *The Picture Album of the First List of State-Level Intangible Cultural Heritages*.

Foreword

Intangible cultural heritage serves as a living testimony as well as an important manifestation of the development of human civilization. At the present stage when human beings experience modernization and social transition on a global scale, the protection of the precious heritage has become the general aspiration of the countries worldwide.

As one of the important members in this world, the Chinese nation boasts a rich legacy of intangible cultural heritage that she has created and has prided herself in. And the heritage vividly embodies the diversity of human culture and the affinitive dialogue between the civilizations of the world and China. Guangdong Province, which was called Lingnan in ancient times, gradually nurtures its own unique Lingnan culture with historicity, local flavor and profundity in the development and historical evolution of the Chinese nation and through the merging and constant creation of and by different local Minorities. Thus it has left a rich legacy of intangible cultural heritage which constitutes one important part of the intangible cultural heritage of China.

The intangible cultural heritage, in its unique form of dynamic inheritance, makes the contemporaries well feel the flow of our ancestors' blood, the beating of their hearts, the rhythm of their emotions and the dynamism of their spirit. Because of this, the great variety of the intangible cultural heritage in our province more vividly, more directly and more fully embodies the multiple features of the multi-ethnicity and multi-subraces in Lingnan culture. It manifests the open approach thinking characterized by the inclusiveness of the people in Guangdong Province, and the social ideals, the spiritual faith, the value system, the moral consciousness and the psychological pursuit of generations upon generations of people in Guangdong Province. At the same time, it exhibits in multiple aspects and multiple layers the cultural creation, the cultural wisdom and the cultural charm typical of generations upon generations of people in Guangdong Province. It constitutes the precious cultural wealth and the abundant cultural resources nurtured and passed on by our ancestors. Furthermore, it serves as the important cultural basis and spirit resource for comprehensively implementing the scientific concept of development and constructing a big cultural province and a harmonious Guangdong Province.



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Since the beginning of the 21st century, with China's access to *Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization* and with China's successive release of *Opinions of the General Office of the State Council on Strengthening the Protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Our Country* and of *Notice of the State Council on Strengthening the Protection of Cultural Heritage*, Guangdong Province instantly initiated the protection of the intangible cultural heritage in accordance with the spirit and requirements of the above documents on the basis of the preservation program of the national and folk culture. Under the leadership of the CPC Guangdong Province Provincial Committee and Guangdong Province Provincial Government and headed by the relevant cultural administration departments, we have formulated the inter-bureau joint conference system on the protection of intangible cultural heritage in Guangdong Province, taking the responsibility to coordinate the preservation program of the intangible cultural heritage in the whole province. What's more, we have also correspondingly formulated the expert consulting mechanism system and the inspection and supervision system concerning the protection of intangible cultural heritage and conducted the general investigation of the intangible cultural heritage throughout the province.

With China's rapid social and economic development, its increasing expansion of opening-up to the outside world and the acceleration of its modernization, unprecedentedly great changes have taken place in the cultural ecology in Guangdong Province. For example, Guangdong Province suffers from different degrees of destruction of the soil and the environment on which intangible cultural heritage exists. As a result, the inheritance and development of the heritage faces various threats and quite a great amount of it is in imminent danger. Being aware of this severe situation and the great challenges, starting from 2005, Guangdong Province began to enlist intangible cultural heritage at the provincial, the municipal and the county levels as a protection measure. It especially organized the appraisal program in making a list of provincial level intangible cultural heritage and selected from it a list for the application of state-level intangible cultural heritage as a recommendation program. In over one year's time, Guangdong Province organized a patch of experts to twice make a careful appraisal and recommendation of the 297 applications for provincial level intangible cultural heritage by 21 municipalities and other

relevant units throughout the province. After the examination by the inter-bureau joint conference member units, the applications were submitted to the People's Government of Guangdong Province for approval.

On May 10, 2006 and June 18, 2007, the People's Government of Guangdong Province successively approved and made public the first list of 78 province-level intangible cultural heritage and the second list of 104 province-level intangible cultural heritage in Guangdong Province. These intangible cultural heritage cover 10 categories such as folk literature, traditional music, traditional dance, traditional opera, folk performing arts, traditional sports, acrobatics, fine arts, traditional artistry, traditional medicine and folk customs. Among them, altogether 99 programs were approved and promulgated by the State Council and they were successively listed as the first batch and the second batch of state-level intangible cultural heritage. These are the great achievements attained at the initial stage of the protection of the intangible cultural heritage in Guangdong Province and they symbolize that Guangdong Province has already formulated an integrated and overall mechanism concerning the protection of the intangible cultural heritage.

Under the leadership of the Ministry of Culture, the Chinese Academy of Arts and the China Intangible Cultural Heritage Protection Center painstakingly compiled *Picture Album of the First Batch of State-Level Intangible Cultural Heritage*. The publication of this important classical work serves as an excellent example to us. In order to fully exhibit the diversity and abundance of the intangible cultural heritage characterized by Guangdong Province's multi-ethnicity and multi-subraces and to give a timely account of the remarkable success in the protection of the intangible cultural heritage in every municipality and county all over Guangdong Province, and under the leadership of the Cultural Bureau of Guangdong Province with the support of the people from all walks of life in the whole province, we compiled over half a year's time the present *Picture Album of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Guangdong Province*. In compiling this *Picture Album*, we abided by the principle of authenticity and objectivity and attempted to embody its academic, informative and documentary nature. The volume, with a simple but effective statement and over 900 pictures, introduces elaborately each intangible cultural heritage item that has been selected to be the state-level or provincial level intangible cultural heritage item with a description of its transmitted area, its historical origin, its specific manifestation, its cultural

value and its imminent state. It has also made a brief introduction to the inheritor of each designated item. In addition, it also includes an appendix to the list of the intangible cultural heritage items at the municipal level and the county level in the whole province.

It is believed that this *Picture Album* will greatly inspire people's interest in and attention to the intangible cultural heritage items and enhance their full understanding and protective awareness of them so as to further improve the protection of the intangible cultural heritage in Guangdong Province.

The Editorial Committee of the Picture Album
of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Guangdong Province

September 10, 2009



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Traditional Opera



- 1* Cantonese Opera
- 2* Chaozhou Opera
- 3* Cantonese Han Opera
- 4* Zhengzi Opera
- 5* Xiqin Opera
- 6* Baizi Opera
- 7* Huazhao Opera
- 8 Northern Cantonese Tea-Plucking Opera
- 9 Distinguished Folk Drama
- 10 Puppet Show(*Gaozhou Pupper Show,
*Iron Rod Puppet Show, *Wuhua Marionette
Show, Single Puppet Show)
- 11*Lufeng Shodow Play
- 12 Girls' Songs

1. *Cantonese Opera

Nominating Units: Department of Culture of Guangdong Province, Home Affairs Bureau of Hongkong Special Administrative Region, Bureau of Culture of Macao Special Administrative Region, City of Guangzhou and City of Foshan

Cantonese Opera is prevalent mainly in areas where people speak the cantonese dialect such as Guangdong Province, the southern part of Guangxi Zhuang Atonomous Region, Hong Kong SAR and Macao SAR. Towards the end of the Ming Dynasty and at the beginning of the Qing Dynasty, Yiyangqiang (singing tunes of Jiangxi Opera) and Kunqiang (singing tunes of Kun Opera) was introduced into Guangdong Province. In the Qing Dynasty when Emperor Xianfeng and Emperor Daoguang took the throne, Cantonese Opera was formed by the local troupe who used “Banghuang” (Xipi and Erhuang) as the basic tunes. The troupe absorbed Gaoqiang (high-pitched voice), Kunqiang, the folk musical compositions in Guangdong Province and the then fashionable tunes, using “Xipengguanhua” (official language in the matshed theatre) mixed



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with the Cantonese dialect. Around the year 1912, the language spoken in Cantonese Opera is the Cantonese dialect and the system of the opera has been perfected: folk canzonet was introduced; and falsetto was replaced by common voice.

Traditionally, Cantonese Opera had 18 plays (“Jianghu Shibaben” as it is called) such as Yipengxue, Erdumei, Sanguantang, Sijinshi and Wudengke. Later, there appeared a “New Jianghu Shibaben” including Huanghuashan, Xihehui, Suangjieyuan, Xuechongyuan and a “Dapaichang





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Shibaben” including Suwumuyang (a story about Suwu herding sheep) and Daiyuzanghua (a story about Lin Daiyu burying the flowers). There are other representative operas like Baijinlong, Huoshao’epangong, Pingguibieyao, Baoliandeng, Luochengxieshu and Fengyiting. The basic singing tunes of Cantonese Opera are Bangzi and Erhuang, combining Gaoqiang, Kunqiang, Guangdong Province folk rap and ditties. The musical instruments in Cantonese Opera were originally Erxian, Yueqin, Sanxian, Zhutiqin and Xiao, but later absorbed some new-styled instruments.

There were originally ten types of roles: Mo (middle-aged male characters), Sheng (male characters), Dan (female characters), Jing (“painted face” characters), Chou (clown), Wai, Xiao, Fu, Tie and Za, while later reduced to six types: Wenwusheng, Xiaosheng, Zhengyinhuadan, Erbanghuadan, Chousheng and Wusheng. The performance is free and modest, owning such stunts as Danjiao, Huasuo, Yunyan, Xiaotiao and Niuyao. The acrobatic fighting is based on Nanpai kungfu. Bazi, Shouqiao, Shaolin Boxing, demanding Yizigong and Gaotaigong are played excellently. The makeup the Cantonese Opera is full of local flavor with simple but rich colored makeups as well as gorgeous Guangdong Province embroidery costumes.

Widely absorbing the local art forms of Cantonese Music, Guangdong Province embroidery, ivory carving, ceramics and plaster moulding, Cantonese Opera fully embodies the local cultural tradition of Guangdong Province sub-ethnic community. While it radiates to the whole globe, Cantonese Opera has strong cultural cohesion among the Chinese people all over the world. However, it is shrinking and on the edge of danger and should be protected as soon as possible.

Cantonese Opera was selected into the list of the first batch of state-level intangible cultural heritage in 2006.