

詞壇清流

鄭國江

泥路互
常與你
踏着
細雨
歸來
蓑衣半籠
雨裏
并將
豈不
快哉

九五年
冬月國江
依詞意作成畫於香江文采閣



CASH HALL OF FAME AWARD 2002
A Tribute to Cheng Kok Kong
4.10.2002



詞壇清流

鄭國江為香港樂壇創作了二千二百多首精采歌詞，在各大頒獎典禮上屢獲殊榮，

鄭

其中在香港電台一九八一年度的第四屆「十大中文金曲」頒獎禮上，更勇奪五個金曲獎，傳為佳話；於八四年憑《偶遇》獲選為第四屆

國

「香港電影金像獎之最佳電影歌曲獎」；亦於八七至九二年度連續六年獲本協會頒發「個人最多作品演出獎之作詞家獎」；此外更獲

江

頒九零年度「香港藝術家年獎之填詞家獎」；並於九三年榮獲香港電台頒發「十大中文金曲」獎項中標誌著最高榮譽的「金針獎」。

「我的性格簡單，所以寫出來的歌詞也簡單，人家就叫簡單做健康。」——鄭國江

有道文如其人，踏進鄭國江老師(行內對他的暱稱)的房子，卻有房如其人之感，蘭花、水墨畫、陶瓷，各得其「所」。安坐雅緻的小偏廳一角，這位在教學之餘，創作了無數歌詞，堪稱現今全港最多產的作詞家，一邊沏茶，一邊悠閒地跟筆者分享他的寫詞心得。



鄭國江的陶瓷創作「松樹茶壺」(1989年)
Cheng Kok Kong's pottery work titled "Teapot in Shape of Pine Section". (1989)

「我很喜愛大自然，喜歡樸實的東西；對感情也是這樣，所以我寫的感情都沒有太多的修飾。」在師範學院唸美術的鄭國江愛到大自然寫生，無怪乎他的作品每每有著大自然的氣息及意象，情景交融，結晶出清新可喜的歌詞，如《紅棉》的「英雄樹，力爭向上，

志氣誰能擋」，是詠物言志之作；《在水中央》——「青青的山倒影照淡綠湖上，襯水色與山光。浮雲若絮，天空裡自在遊蕩，笑蒼生太繁忙...」字裡行間，盡見閒適之情；而「坭路上，常與你，踏著細雨歸來，蓑衣半襲，雨裡並遊，豈不快哉...」，一幅充滿野趣的彩墨畫躍現眼前。《陌上歸人》的「斜陽伴晚煙，我像歸鳥倦，晚霞伴我過稻田... 愛情路比阡陌亂，情路太多彎轉」，將崎嶇的愛情路與交錯的阡陌相比，感覺清新；《我愛大自然》的「在燦爛陽光裡面，看風箏慢慢轉，山光水色美而秀，願美麗莫污染」不單歌頌大自然，更充滿環保意識，今時今日猶覺受用。



鄭國江被公認為香港撰寫兒歌最多的寫詞家，故獲無綫電視頒發「兒歌貢獻獎」乃實至名歸(1990年)。

Recognized as the most prolific lyricist of children's songs, Cheng Kok Kong was conferred the "Contribution to Children's Songs Award" by HKTVB. (1990)

最容易令人共鳴的，當然是他筆下的經典情歌，寫少男少女心事的《偶遇》、《漣漪》、《幾分鐘的約會》等，大家可能已唱過無數遍；寫成熟愛情則有《分分鐘需要你》、《只怕不再遇上》、《赤的疑惑》、《今宵多珍重》等；奔放熱情的有《活色生香》；活潑撩人的有《迷人PINK LADY》、《熱咖啡》等；勵志之作當然是鄭老師的拿手好戲，如《信》、《一點燭光》、《鼓舞》、《誰能明白我》、《交叉點》等；抒懷的有《似水流年》、《隨想曲》、《好歌獻給你》等；而社會性的《二等良民》、《借來的美夢》等則為詞人帶來更大的創作空間。



於一九九三年榮獲香港電台頒發「十大中文金曲」頒獎禮上的至高榮譽「金針獎」

Cheng Kok Kong was presented the most prestigious "Golden Needle Award" at RTHK's "Top Ten Chinese Gold Songs Awards" Presentation Ceremony in 1993.

寫詞對鄭國江來說，可以說是無師自通，不懂玩樂器不打緊，沒有深厚語文基礎亦不礙事，最重要是掌握音樂的感覺，對周遭事情高度敏感，再加上豐富的想像力，那麼即使看到一草一石，亦自會有所聯想。話說鄭老師寫《坭路上》時，便是見到案頭的假山盤景，於是幻想光禿禿的假山長滿了青苔，從而聯想到「又覺愛似青苔，不經意地，細細蔓延，竟將我心滿蓋。」



還記得無綫電視早期的遊戲節目「大富翁」嗎？節目策劃正是鄭國江。
Cheng Kok Kong was the brain child behind HKTVB's game show "Millionaire".

鄭國江寫詞有兩大原則：其一是不寫誨淫誨盜之詞；其二是每個旋律都一定要有絕配之詞。作為人師，抱持第一個原則，當然不難理解；然而，何謂「絕配」呢？鄭國江的定義是歌詞與旋律的意境或感覺要襯到絕，簡言之，要有畫龍點睛的效果。為此，鄭國江通常會為一個旋律寫多份歌詞，再從中揀出與旋律最接近的版本加以發展，然後進行「點睛」，務求寫出令人特別感動的歌詞來。《鼓舞》的「將一聲聲嘆息，化作生命力」便是整首歌的點睛處；電視劇「新紮師兄」主題曲《伴我啟航》開首兩句歌詞「哪吒不怕海龍王，幼獅不怕虎和狼」，鄭老師形容這兩句歌詞「好搶，將新紮師兄的意思keep到好貼身」；電視劇「阿信的故事」主題曲《信》原來的版本是「命運是對手，我只好低頭」，幾番思量後，還是要將消極化為積極，於是變成「命運是對手，我永不低頭」。結果唱到街知巷聞，還在報章引起很大迴響。然而作為一個寫詞人得有一些心理準備，那就是不要太過受外界批評所影響，人家不接受並不等於自己的詞寫得不好。



從好友黃霑手中接過「個人最多作品演出獎」，所以特別歡喜。

Cheng Kok Kong was overjoyed to receive the "Highest No. of Works Performed Award" from his buddy James Wong.

以往的歌詞講求一韻到底，並非唸中文系出身的鄭老師幸得黃霑送他一本【粵音韻彙】，以補不足。當年贈書，如今道來，老師還是既感激又興奮：「黃霑對我實在太好了...，不過也許他對所有填詞後輩都一樣愛護有加；話說回來，我還是覺得他對我影響最大...」說著說著，情緒愈來愈高漲，聲線也愈來愈響亮，臉上還綻放出一個太陽花一樣燦爛的笑容來。率真性情，溢於言表，難怪黃霑曾撰文說，鄭國江本身就是個長不大的孩子，是他認識的香港詞人中，最具赤子之心的，故能寫出無數充滿童趣的經典兒歌，如《430穿梭機》、《IQ博士》、《Q太郎》、《小時候》、《叮噹》、《跳飛機》等等。



與至愛的太太共享休閒
A relaxing moment with his beloved wife.

講起當年的行家，鄭老師讚不絕口，盧國沾的名句「何必偏偏選中我」教鄭國江驚喜不已，黃霑大筆一揮，就是「忘記他，怎麼忘記得起」。才氣縱橫，令人佩服。不是說同行如敵國嗎？鄭國江笑謂，大家做朋友的時間都嫌不夠，那有空去做敵人呢！至於當今詞人，鄭老師則欣賞林夕和黃偉文，前者的詞好已是公認，後者的詞則勝在別具風格。

如今鄭老師「愛填詞，更愛丹青」。閒來舞文少，弄墨多，或鑽研茶藝，或把玩陶瓷，照料花草，逗逗小狗，聽聽粵曲，享受著令人艷羨的逍遙人生。

「作為一個詞人，性格簡單是一個限制，但我不介意，因為我鍾意。」 — 鄭國江



鄭國江與深愛的畫作合照·作畫者正是鄭太。
Cheng Kok Kong pictured with his favourite painting which was created by his wife.

Cheng Kok Kong has written more than 2,200 lyrical works for the Hong Kong music scene and his widely acclaimed skills have been recognised at many prestigious awards ceremonies. One of the most memorable was RTHK's "The 4th Top Ten Chinese Gold Songs Awards" Presentation Ceremony (1981) where he was presented with five "Gold Songs Awards". In 1984, he won the "Best Film Song" in "The 4th Hong Kong Film Festival" with 'A Brief Encounter.' For six consecutive years, from 1987 to 1992, he was bestowed with the "CASH Highest Number of Active Works Performed Award". His unique talents were acknowledged with the "Lyricist of the Year 1990 Award" presented by Hong Kong Artists' Guild. And in 1993, he won the "Golden Needle Award", representing the highest honour of RTHK's "Top Ten Chinese Gold Songs Awards".

"I have a simple personality, which is why the lyrics I write are simple as well. And people define simple as healthy." - Cheng Kok Kong

It's often said, "The writing mirrors the writer". Stepping inside the apartment of Teacher Cheng Kok Kong (a nickname within music circles), you have the feeling that "The house mirrors the owner". Orchids, Chinese ink and wash paintings and ceramics are all tastefully arranged throughout the apartment. Sitting leisurely in the cosy sitting-room and preparing tea, Teacher Cheng, the most prolific writer who has penned countless lyrics while working as a primary school teacher, talks about his experiences in lyric writing.

"I love nature as well as simple things and my attitude towards emotion and lyrics is the same." While studying art in teachers' college, he loved going outdoor to sketch. Perhaps this can explain the hint of nature in his works, which are refreshing lyrics interweaving images of landscape and emotion together. Lyrics of 'Cotton Tree' read: *"Hero tree, struggling upwards, aspirations can't be blocked"*. This is a



鄭國江的愛港情懷在其為陳美齡撰詞的《香港香港》中表露無遺
Cheng Kok Kong's love for HK is fully reflected in his work "Hong Kong Hong Kong" performed by Agnes Chan.

piece expressing the determination to achieve one's goal which can't be thwarted by palpable obstacles. Lyrics of 'In the Middle of the Water': *"The green hill casts its reflection on the lake, contrasting the lustre of the lake and the hill. The floating clouds look like threads of cotton roaming freely in the sky, laughing at the bustling world..."* Between the lines, the feeling of relaxation is clear. Lyrics of 'On A Muddy Road': *"So many times we come back home together through the drizzle, partly covered by a raincoat. What fun to walk in the rain..."* A watercolor painting of the scene appears vividly before one's eyes. Lyrics of 'Home Comer': *"Sunset accompanying evening smoke, like a tired bird returning home, I walked across the paddy fields under a sunset glow.... The road to love is even more confused than a footpath between fields, with so many bends and turns"*. What a creative simile between the road to love and a meandering path! And lyrics of 'I Love Nature': *"In the bright sunshine, looking at the kite drifting in the sky, what beautiful scenery, let it not be polluted"*. The lyrics not only sing praise of nature, but also carry a strong message about the importance of environmental protection.



鄭國江首次在香港舉行個人畫展·羅文前來道賀。(1996)
Cheng Kok Kong held his first solo painting exhibition in HK and was congratulated by Roman Tam. (1996)

What move us most are the lyrics of his classic love songs. Familiar ones describing the sentiments of teenagers include 'A Brief Encounter,' 'Ripple,' and 'A Dating Lasting for Several Minutes'. His lyrics about more mature relationships include 'I Need You Every Minute,' 'Afraid We Won't Meet Again,' 'Mystery of Love' and 'Treasure Tonight'. 'All the Wrong Clues' is overflowing with passion whereas 'Pink Lady' and 'Hot Coffee' are playful and alluring. There's no doubt that Teacher Cheng is best at writing lyrics that provoke courage, such as 'Xin', 'A Ray of Candle Light', 'Encore', 'Who Can Understand Me' and 'Cross'. Works that express emotive issues include 'Home Coming', 'Caprice' and 'Songs for You'. When he deals with social matters in songs such as 'Second Class Citizen' and 'The Borrowed Fond Dream', they have brought forth a deep well of creativity.



鄭國江自1970年開始參與策劃及演出兒童節目「跳飛機」·並為節目內所有兒歌填詞·合照者為Sunny哥哥。
Cheng Kok Kong not only participated in the production and performance of the TV programme "Hopscotch" but also penned all the lyrics. Pictured with him is programme host Brother Sunny.

Cheng Kok Kong taught himself the art of lyric writing. In his opinion, it doesn't matter if you can't play musical instruments or don't have high proficiency in language. The most important thing is to have a good feel for music and a sensitivity towards what's happening around you, combined with a fertile imagination. Then even



鄭國江攝於自己的畫作前(1968年)
Cheng Kok Kong pictured in front of his
own paintings. (1968)

if what you see is only grass or a piece of rock, a certain kind of association will form in your mind. When Teacher Cheng was writing lyrics for 'On A Muddy Road', he glanced unintentionally at the potted landscape on his desk and imagined the bare surface of a rock covered with moss. That is how *"Love is like moss, spreading slowly and naturally, fully covering my heart in the end"* came into being.

Cheng Kok Kong always follows two principles while writing lyrics. Firstly, he won't write lyrics which are immoral. Secondly, every melody should have its "perfect match". As a teacher, it's quite natural for him to follow the first principle, but what does "perfect match" mean? Cheng Kok Kong's definition is "the artistic conception or feeling of the lyrics and the melody should match perfectly." Essentially, this should have the effect of bringing the song to life by adding a final touch. For this

reason, Cheng Kok Kong often writes several different sets of lyrics for one melody. He selects the one that fits best, then adds the final touch to create the most touching lyrics.

In his lyrics for 'Encore': *"Turn the sigh into motivation for life"* is the final touch. In the theme song 'Come Sail with Me' from the TV drama 'Police Cadet', the first two phrases begin - *"Naza isn't afraid of the King of Sea Dragon, and small lion isn't afraid of tiger nor wolf"*, Cheng Kok Kong thinks it is catchy and fits closely with the boldness of a cadet. In the theme song 'Xin' from the TV drama 'Oshin', the original lyrics were *"Fate is my opponent, I can only give in"*. After some consideration, Cheng Kok Kong decided to change the pessimistic mood into a positive one. So it became - *"Fate is my opponent, but I will never give in"*. As a result, the song became very popular and aroused a lot of repercussions in newspapers. However, a lyricist can't be overly influenced by criticism. A work isn't well received doesn't mean it's not good.

In the past, much attention was paid to the rhyming of lyrics. Cheng Kok Kong, who didn't major in Chinese language, was grateful that James Wong gave him a book called *A Collection of Rhymes for Cantonese Words*. When talking about this, Teacher Cheng became very excited and eager to express his gratitude, "James is so nice to me. Maybe he is nice to all novice lyricists, not only me. Anyway, I still think James influences me most..." At this time, he became more and more enthusiastic, and spoke louder and louder, with a brilliant smile on his face. His straightforward personality was so obviously evident from his words and expressions. No wonder James Wong wrote in an article that Cheng Kok Kong "is like a kid that never grows up and among all of the lyricists in Hong Kong, he has the purest heart of an innocent child." This explains why he can write so many classic children's songs filled with childlike fun, such as '430 Space Shuttle', 'Dr. Slump', 'O Taro', 'When I Was Young', 'Doraemon' and 'Hopscotch'.

Talking about the lyricists of his generation, Teacher Cheng thinks most highly of Jim Lo and James Wong. Jim's famous phrase "Why on earth choose me" made him pleasantly surprised. James wrote: "Forget him, how can I afford to forget him". Their talents are truly worthy of admiration. The saying goes, "People working in the same trade are like enemies". Isn't it true? Cheng Kok Kong laughed, "We don't even have enough time to be friends, how can we become enemies?" As for contemporary lyricists, Teacher Cheng admires Lin Xi and Wyman Wong. Lyrics by the former are widely recognised as being good while those by the latter excel with a unique style.

Nowadays, Teacher Cheng likes lyric writing, but loves painting even more. In his spare time, he also studies the art of tea-making, appreciates pottery, nurtures plants, teases puppies and listens to Cantonese opera, leading an admirable carefree life.



榮獲香港藝術家聯盟頒發「香港藝術家
年獎之填詞家獎」(1990)

Cheng Kok Kong was presented the "Lyricist Of
The Year 1990" Award by the Hong Kong Artists'
Guild.



興致勃勃學炒茶

A keen student learning the art of tea making.

***"As a lyricist, having a simple personality is a kind of restriction.
However, I don't mind being simple because I like it." - Cheng Kok Kong***

鄭國江名作精選

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|
| 袖
曲：林慕德
唱：曾路得 | 那一天
曲：Michiko Watanabe
唱：曾路得 | 在水中央 *
曲：林子祥
唱：林子祥 | 香港香港
曲：翁家齊
唱：陳美齡 | 我愛大自然
曲：馮添枝
唱：譚詠麟 | 願死也為情
曲：顧嘉輝
唱：葉蒨文 |
| 信
曲：林敏怡
唱：翁倩玉 | 坭路上
曲：盧冠廷
唱：盧業瑀 | 似水流年 *
曲：喜多郎
唱：梅艷芳 | 風繼續吹
曲：Uzaki Ryudo
唱：張國榮 | 孤身走我路
曲：Shinji Tanimura
唱：梅艷芳 | 430穿梭機
曲：顧嘉輝
唱：林子祥 |
| 心事
曲：顧嘉輝
唱：黃綺加 | 星星問 *
曲：大塚博堂
唱：徐小鳳 | 伴我啟航
曲：黎小田
唱：小虎隊 | 真的漢子 *
曲：林子祥
唱：林子祥 | 風裡的繽紛
曲：曾路得
唱：曾路得 | 千枝針刺在心
曲：林子祥
唱：林子祥 |
| 迷惘
曲：Chris A Spheris
唱：郭小霖 | 浪淘沙
曲：趙文海
唱：羅文 | 你的眼神
曲：龔宏琦
唱：林志美 | 儂本多情
曲：黎小田
唱：張國榮 | 相識非偶然
曲：馮添枝
唱：譚詠麟 | 分分鐘需要你 *
曲：林子祥
唱：林子祥 |
| 紅棉 *
曲：鍾肇峯
唱：羅文 | 熱咖啡
曲：紀利男
唱：汪明荃 | 赤的疑惑 *
曲：都倉俊一
唱：梅艷芳 | 誰可改變
曲：顧嘉輝
唱：譚詠麟 | 追趕跑跳碰
曲：鍾鎮濤
唱：溫拿 | 不可以不想你
曲：鍾鎮濤
唱：鍾鎮濤 |
| 偶遇 *△
曲：李雅桑
唱：林志美 | 醉紅塵 *
曲：顧嘉輝
唱：關正傑 | 東方之珠 *
曲：顧嘉輝
唱：甄妮 | 點指兵兵
曲：泰迪羅賓
唱：泰迪羅賓 | 眼淚為你流 *
曲：陳百強
唱：陳百強 | 只怕不再遇上
曲：翁家齊
唱：張國榮、陳潔靈 |
| 詠梅
曲：關正傑
唱：關正傑 | 隨想曲 *
曲：顧嘉輝
唱：徐小鳳 | 幸運是我
曲：顧嘉輝
唱：葉德嫻 | 今宵多珍重
曲：王福齡
唱：陳百強 | 偏偏喜歡你 *
曲：陳百強
唱：陳百強 | 幾分鐘的約會
曲：陳德堅
唱：陳百強 |
| 傳說
曲：Ryudo Uzaki
唱：霧雲娜 | 魔與道
曲：泰迪羅賓
唱：譚詠麟 | 陌上歸人 *
曲：馮添枝
唱：區瑞強 | 好歌獻給你 *
曲：Yasuji Makaino
唱：羅文 | 感情的段落 *
曲：周啟生
唱：林志美 | 傷心的小鸚鵡
曲：Whitehead Benny
唱：陳迪匡 |
| 漣漪 *
曲：陳百強
唱：陳百強 | IQ博士
曲：Shunsuke Kikuchi
唱：梅艷芳 | 活色生香 *
曲：林子祥
唱：林子祥 | 那天再重聚
曲：顧嘉輝
唱：區瑞強 | 漫步人生路
曲：Miyuki Nakajima
唱：鄧麗君 | 願望就是明天
曲：Jose Villanueva
唱：羅文 |
| 凝望 *
曲：陳百強
唱：陳百強 | 一點燭光 *
曲：陳秋霞
唱：關正傑 | 風雨同路 *
曲：Kyoohai Tsutsumi
唱：徐小鳳 | 何必曾相識 *
曲：周啟生
唱：蔡楓華 | 誰能明白我
曲：林子祥
唱：林子祥 | 愛在陽光空氣中
曲：馮添枝
唱：區瑞強 |
| 小時候
曲：顧嘉輝
唱：路家敏 | 交叉點
曲：Tsuyoshi Nagabuchi
唱：夏韶聲 | 故鄉的雨
曲：Minoru Endou
唱：薰妮 | 成功需苦幹
曲：Buddy Buie / J R Cobb / Ronnie W Hammond
唱：譚詠麟 | 流下眼淚前
曲：Vivian Keith / Ben Peters
唱：徐小鳳 | 難為正邪定分界
曲：顧嘉輝
唱：葉振棠 |

* 榮獲香港電台「十大中文金曲獎」

△ 獲選第四屆「香港電影金像獎」之「最佳電影歌曲獎」