



STORIES & INSIGHTS

Meet Lora Chow



STORIES & INSIGHTS // 3 DAYS AGO

LORA CHOW

Lora, appreciate you joining us today. Can you talk to us about a project that's meant a lot to you?

The most meaningful project that I have worked on is my original musical Dr. Clown. As a composer, I have always dreamt of creating musicals that can touch people deeply and transform lives. Two years ago, I finally met the right book writer and lyricists to collaborate with, and after many revisions, the musical Dr. Clown came to life at the 2026 Hong Kong Fringe Festival in January this year.

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The story of the musical centers around a doctor who aspires to be a clown, because he feels that a more uplifting atmosphere in hospitals can heal the patients, sometimes more effectively than medicines. Constrained by social expectations and family responsibilities, he pursues a conventional medical career — until he finally finds the courage to trade his white coat for a red nose and fulfill his childhood dream. Along the way, he inspires his nephew to pursue his wildest dream of becoming a film director, while helping his elder sister to confront the regret and trauma she has long suppressed. At its heart, Dr. Clown explores what truly heals us: love, human connection, and the power of a smile.

The musical reading was held in Hong Kong right after the Tai Po fire disaster in November 2025. The city was in mourning — it was heavy and somber. But the role of arts became even more important in the challenging times, to soothe our broken hearts. The musical reading took place in the Tai Po Arts Centre. Many in the audience were laughing one minute and crying the next. People who were impacted by the fire told me afterwards that the musical gave them the solace they really needed. Others told me that the music helped them release emotions that were numbed for a long

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When Dr. Clown was staged at the Hong Kong Fringe Festival in January 2026, it once again moved the audience members to tears. Among them was the Former First Lady of Hong Kong Mrs. Regina Leung, who encouraged me to rerun the show, so that more people can see it. The performance was in Cantonese, and an accomplished writer kindly volunteered to translate it to English after the show. I have also released the orchestral soundtracks of this musical through Sony Music, on Spotify, Apple Music and other streaming platforms. It was a great surprise when the orchestral soundtracks were selected for the ballot of the 68th Grammy Awards. We all want to share this meaningful musical to a broader audience, in different countries.





As always, we appreciate you sharing your insights and we've got a few more questions for you, but before we get to all of that can you take a minute to introduce yourself and give our readers some of your background and context?

I am Lora Chow, a composer, classically trained opera singer, and a multi-instrumentalist. I started the piano when I was four. I then became very curious about different instruments, and decided to learn violin, trumpet, harp and organ down the road. What I loved the most, however, was singing. I was very intrigued that human beings have a powerful and unique-sounding instrument inside our body, making sounds that can be projected in a large opera house without the use of any microphone. I wanted to learn to do that.

That fascination drew me to opera, which I see as the highest form of arts. It is where vocal and orchestral music meet literature, drama, movement, costume, and visual design — distinct disciplines converging to create a single emotional world. I went on to major in opera singing at Yale College and performed in many productions, believing that my future would be defined by the stage.

Then my voice fell silent.

After being diagnosed with vocal polyp, I had to stop singing for a year. The loss was devastating: the instrument through which I had learned to express myself suddenly became unavailable to me. But, that silence created space for another voice to emerge. During one of the most difficult periods of my life, I discovered an intense passion for composition and began learning from Hollywood composers. What initially felt like an ending became a creative rebirth.

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compose, the more intense my obsession for creating music becomes.

Three years ago, I wouldn't have imagined myself releasing my music on Spotify and other streaming platforms. Today, more than 50 of my tracks are available worldwide, with 16 more from my new album, Flow of the Soul, soon to follow. Comprised of sixteen original piano pieces, this album is my very personal music diary about how I keep bringing miracles to my life. It explores how moments of silence, uncertainty, and loss can become gateways to transformation and transcendence.

I believe that music is a powerful way to release emotions and change ours feelings, which in turn, helps us align with the reality we want to create. My purpose with this album is to remind the listeners that they are the creators of their own lives and guide them to the state of bliss.





Can you share a story from your journey that illustrates your resilience?

One recent project that has tested — and strengthened — my resilience is *Sleepless Moon*, a fusion opera I began composing in 2024. This work brings together elements of Cantonese opera and Italian opera to create a new art form — fusion opera — one that deepens cross-cultural understanding and promotes peace and harmony.

The creative and production process has been challenging at every stage. This project brings together artists and enthusiasts from two traditions with vastly different techniques, conventions, and mindsets. Some were understandably hesitant to depart from established practices, so I had to earn their trust, communicate my artistic vision clearly, and encourage them to embrace unfamiliar ways of working.

I also immersed myself in both traditions, conducting extensive research and experimentation to integrate their contrasting elements with authenticity and beauty. Along the way, I have encountered a lot of criticism and rejection. Even a new music excerpt posted on YouTube could provoke harsh comments from strangers accusing me of ruining their traditions. I have to hold strong belief in myself and distinguish constructive feedback from noise, remain open-minded, while staying true to my artistic vision.

The project also faces significant time and budget constraints. I have to make difficult decisions quickly, solve problems creatively, and bring out the best in every artist while optimizing the limited resources.

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merit and cultural importance of the work. I have learnt that meaningful innovation often requires the courage to persist through uncertainty, resistance, and criticism.

I very much look forward to the world premiere of Sleepless Moon on October 1-4, 2026, at Hong Kong's East Kowloon Cultural Centre.

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What can society do to ensure an environment that's helpful to artists and creatives?

There are many meaningful ways each of us can support artists and contribute to a flourishing creative ecosystem.

First, share more. Recommend artists to others, follow their social media and channels, share their creations, write reviews, and connect them with potential audiences, patrons, and collaborators.

Second, attend and promote local arts events. For example, buying tickets to theatres and concerts, and sharing your experience afterwards is a good way to support the

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composer, writer, or filmmaker to create something meaningful for a birthday, wedding, anniversary, memorial, or other milestones. Such a commission offers your loved one a unique and lasting gift while directly supporting a creator's livelihood and helping the wider creative ecosystem thrive.

Finally, respect artists and their rights. Always credit creators, seek permission before using their works, avoid piracy, and advocate for fair compensation. Arts should be valued as a significant part of our cultural heritage and collective well-being.

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