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許多心理學家或教育學者,常常會提到「陪伴的力量」,其實不只孩子需要陪伴,人生無時無刻都需要陪伴。因為生命 會設下重重關卡,讓我們從體驗中得到領悟,而陪伴的力量,也就是在此時發揮作用,當我們知道有人陪伴時,即便問 題仍在,也不會覺得孤單心慌,還能夠鼓起勇氣,以堅毅的眼光面對困難與挑戰。

COVID-19 新冠肺炎無異是 2020 年以來最大的關卡,尤其本土疫情自5月爆發至今,各行各業所遭受的衝擊可說是史無 前例,表演藝術界尚未從去年的疫情中復甦,轉眼又面臨更嚴峻的挑戰,在如此艱困的處境下,TCO 除了善盡防疫措施 之外,如何做好「疫情陪伴」,其實是我們更在意的社會責任。

陪伴,需要智慧。在疫情期間,許多表演活動的取消,造成藝術家的生計及表演團隊的生存都面臨巨大考驗,眼看著他們在困難中苦撐,卻不願輕易妥協與放棄,令人不捨又尊敬。TCO身為公立樂團,也在一切公開演出活動皆暫停的同時,不斷亟思如何為音樂家創造新的舞台,努力發揮創意,規畫了「疫情陪伴」系列活動,讓TCO的老朋友、好朋友和新朋友都能度過這艱難的時刻。

這些活動有的採取線上音樂會的形式,有的則是戶外聯演的形式,甚至還有國際合作的線上嘉年華,讓這段期間無法上 台演出的團隊和音樂家,也能在另一個時空中展現自我,並透過邀演而得到實質幫助;而針對附設團隊的青年音樂家們, TCO 也規畫了實境秀節目給予支持,讓不安的心可以沈澱下來。

當然,我們也從來沒有忘記陪伴樂迷的責任。除了持續在線上平台分享影音紀錄、製作國樂教學節目之外,TCO還計畫推出「國樂防疫操」,讓廣大樂迷在疫情期間仍能線上參與樂團的藝文活動,傳遞音樂能量。

陪伴,需要耐心,尤其對於驚魂甫定的表演藝術界而言,更需要一段修養生息的時間。「一個人可以走得很快,但一群 人可以走得很遠。」在疫情陰霾尚未褪去之前,每個人都步履艱辛,但在彼此扶持陪伴下,相信終有撥雲見日的一天, 讓我們期待舞台上的再度相會。 Psychiatrists and educators often mention the power of companionship. Companionship is not only crucial to children growing up, as a matter of fact, it is as equally important to adults. Life posts many challenges, thresholds and stumbling blocks. We learn from failure and experience. Knowing that we are not alone gives us the strength and courage to face any turmoil or challenge head on.

Covid-19 is hands down the largest stumbling block since 2020. The economy in Taiwan endured unprecedented loss as Covid-19 rampaged through the island in May. The performing arts industry has yet to recover from the heavy blow last year when the situation took a turn for the worse. TCO understands the importance of instituting pandemic preventive measures as we are now walking on thin ice. In this dark moment of human history, we make it a priority to be there for everyone struggling to fight this treacherous disease. The fellowship of arts shall not fail.

Being a good companion is also an art. Many performances were cancelled since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, posing great challenges to artists and performing arts troupes. They struggle to get by, refusing to throw in the towel or compromise despite the already strained situation. It is heartbreaking to see our admirable fellow companions suffer. As a public orchestra, TCO strives to create new performing opportunities while all in-person performances are prohibited. The new Fellowship of Arts series pays tribute to all friends old and new. May we all find the strength to weather the storm in each other's company.

Online concerts, outdoor mixed troupe events and international online carnivals allow ensembles and musicians to showcase their talent in another form and dimension, thus relieving them from daunting stress. As for youth musicians from affiliated orchestras, TCO created a reality shows especially for them as a show of support.

We have never forgotten our promise to the fan and will continue to share videos and recordings online while producing Chinese orchestra educational programmes. TCO even choreographed a Chinese Music Exercise to help fight off the pandemic. Fans will still be able to participate in cultural activities and bath in the power of music.

Great companionship requires patience. The arts and cultural world has yet to recover from the devastating blow of Covid-19. The road is long and the night's young. "Traveling alone may save time, but a true fellowship is what's going to get you far." We may struggle, stumble or fall as the pandemic continues to take a deep toll on our lives, but with each other's support, the shadow will pass, a new day will come. And when the sun shines it will shine out the clearer. We look forward to seeing you on stage soon!

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