

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shanghai Nightingale: A Musical Evening with Soprano Ying Huang

(Hong Kong, November 30, 2012) Soprano Ying Huang, the first Chinese vocalist to perform a major operatic role in an opera film, is performing at Asia Society Hong Kong Center at 7.00 p.m. on Saturday, December 01. In her live performances, Miss Huang's tender, sweet voice, flexible technique and impassioned stage performances have won accolades worldwide from the media, who hail her as "the nightingale from China."

Born and raised in Shanghai, Miss Huang was educated at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. She first came to international attention in the title role of *Madama Butterfly* directed by Frédéric Mitterrand in 1995. Since then, she has appeared in opera houses including the Metropolitan Opera, Belgium's Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie, Royal Danish Opera, Cologne Opera House, and the China National Centre of Performing Art. She also played a major role in *Le Nozze di Figaro (The Marriage of Figaro)*, *The Magic Flute*, *L'elisir d'amore*, *Rigoletto*, *Don Giovanni*, *Werther*, *Falstaff*, *Der Rosenkavalier*, *Semele*, among others.

"We are delighted to sponsor Miss Huang's visit to Hong Kong. Like Ying Huang, Bank Sarasin represents exceptional performance achieved through dedication and passion," said Mrs Enid Yip, Chief Executive, Asia, Bank Sarasin.

On December 29, 2006, Miss Huang starred in *The Magic Flute*, the Metropolitan Opera's inaugural high-definition simulcast. The *New York Times* praised her "bright tone" and "supple phrasing". Few people know of Miss Huang's dedication and commitment to new music, especially to living Chinese composers. In addition to Tan Dun's *Peony Pavilion* (directed by Peter Sellars) and Guo Wenjing's *Poet Li Bai* (directed by Lin Zhaohua), she also created the title role in Zhou Long's *Madame White Snake*, a co-commission by Opera Boston and the Beijing Music Festival that won the 2011 Pulitzer Prize for Music.

Metropolitan Opera's assistant conductor Bradley Moore will accompany Miss Huang on the piano in the Asia Society Hong Kong Center performance.

This program will conclude with a short discussion moderated by *Financial Times* performing arts critic Ken Smith, with Miss Huang, reflecting on her career-to-date and the changing landscape of the operatic world.

Shanghai Nightingale: A Musical Evening with Soprano Ying Huang is jointly presented by the Asia Society Hong Kong Center and Bank Sarasin.

Ms. S. Alice Mong, Executive Director of Asia Society Hong Kong Center, said, "We are proud to present an event like this at our venue: a world-class Chinese soprano, both performing a wide-ranging program and discussing her international career. Ying Huang's ascent in the operatic realm has much in common with Asia Society Hong Kong Center, redefining Asia's role on the world stage."

About Asia Society Hong Kong Center – www.asiasociety.org.hk

Asia Society Hong Kong Center, being the first overseas center of the eleven centers of Asia Society, has established its new home at The Hong Kong Jockey Club Former Explosives Magazine in February 2012. This adaptive re-use of a heritage site has enabled the public to view and to access the facilities and heritage buildings for the first time in the history of Hong Kong. The interface of old and new structures also allows visitors to explore the history and heritage of the site while engaging in a wide range of arts, cultural and intellectually enriching programs.

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Media enquiries

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