

MASTER'S THESIS

Reproducing pleasure through rituals: the music culture of older adults and young people in Cantonese operatic singing lessons

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**Reproducing Pleasure through Rituals:
The Music Culture of Older Adults and Young People in Cantonese Operatic
Singing Lessons**

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M. Phil. Thesis

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Abstract

Cantonese operatic singing, one of the regional opera forms in China, flourishes mainly in the southern province of Guangdong. By exploring the culture of Cantonese operatic singing, this study highlights the potential for a cultural theory that recognizes old and young folk music cultures, and regards music participation as a form of pleasure that contributes to well-being and personal development.

Ethnography was chosen as the method of data collection and to describe the findings of the study. Participation in two Cantonese operatic singing lessons as an inside member of the group allowed me to observe the activities and the targeted cultural group. The rituals, core values, and cultural system of Cantonese operatic singing lessons were identified. The findings help to explain the positive compulsion of students to continue engaging in the activity.

Keywords: Cantonese operatic singing, Cantonese opera, rituals, cultures, musical tastes

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