

THE
COCKPIT

Anna Vienna Ho's Journey to the West opera cycle

TéléArtist
PART OF
THE OPERA
FESTIVAL
2026

THE TRIAL OF THE FOUR

四聖試禪心



Opera in Two Acts

composed by Anna Vienna Ho
set to an English libretto by Roxanne Korda

12th September 2026

7:30PM The Cockpit

Gateforth St
London, UK
NW8 8EH

Composer & Music Director



何雅鈞

Anna Vienna Ho

Cast



林俊仁
Ian Lam

陳媽怡
Gloria Chan

鍾穎潔
Zara Chung

禰芷瑩
Lieserl Huen

蕭仲君
Salome Siu

廖靜雯
Mandy Liu

張文地
Wendi Zhang

袁浩宏
HoWang Yuen

林俊廷
Michael CT Lam

The Trial of the Four

an opera in two acts by Anna Vienna Ho

set to an English libretto by Roxanne Korda

based on the Chinese novel "Journey to the West" by Wu Cheng'en

Synopsis

Act 1

The band of travellers to the west are completed when they happen upon a Monster, Sha Wujing, in the Flowing Sand River. The Bodhisattva instructs the disciples to recruit Sha Wujing to join their pilgrimage. The master Xuanzang, with his 3 disciples - Zhu Bajie, Sun Wukong and Sha Wujing - head on to seek the scriptures.

Act II

Along their way, they come to the house of a rich old widow, with three young beautiful daughters. Exhausted and hungry, they are offered temptations of food and shelter in return for the promise of marriage. All but one of the four stay resolute to their mission, in this ultimate test of piety and dedication.

Creative Team

Music Director: Anna Vienna Ho

Director & Assistant Music Director: Michael CT Lam

Cast

(In order of appearance)

Sha Wujing 沙僧 - HoWang Yuen 袁浩宏

Zhu Bajie 豬八戒 - Wendi Zhang 張文地

Monkey King 孫悟空 - Mandy Liu 廖靜雯

Xuanzang 唐三藏 - Michael CT Lam 林俊廷

Moksa 木叉 - Ian Lam 林俊仁

Madam Jia 賈夫人 - Salome Siu 蕭仲君

Zhenzhen 真真 - Gloria Chan 陳嬌怡

Aiai 愛愛 - Zara Chung 鍾穎琚

Lianlian 憐憐 - Lieserl Huen 禡芷瑋

The Chamber Orchestra

Violin I: Kristine Kwok

Violin II: Kelvin Ng

Cello: Hei Chit Wong

Flute/Dizi: Ruth Wang

Clarinet: Coco Ko

Piano: Janice Tsui

Zhongruan: Michael CT Lam/Janice Tsui

Erhu: Peng Cheng

Percussion: Ian Lam

Biography

Anna Vienna Ho – Composer/Music Director

Born in Hong Kong, Anna Vienna Ho is a versatile musician who has worked as a concert pianist, répétiteur, composer, opera singer and conductor for a number of music organizations, including Welsh National Opera, Birmingham Opera Company, Tête à Tête Opera Festival and London Gay Symphony Orchestra among others. She has been selected as an artist of Du Vert a L'infini festival(France), RMN Classical(UK), Syntropy States(UK), Cities and memory(UK) and the Montpelier Arts Center Classical Recital(US). Anna gained an Advanced Postgraduate Diploma and a Master of Music in Piano Performance with distinction from Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. Prior to that, she received her Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Music from Hong Kong Baptist University. She was a recipient of numerous awards and scholarships, including Malcolm John Bullock Memorial Trust Award, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Association Award, HKSAR Talent Development Scholarship and more.



Anna was the winner of numerous international piano competitions, including Concours International Leopold Bellan, Rome International Music Competition, Internationaler Deutscher Irmler-Klavierwettbewerb and Abergavenny Eisteddfod Y Fenni among others. As a pianist, Anna has given solo recitals and performed in many concert venue in Asia and Europe, including Royal Albert Hall, Birmingham Town Hall, Parco della Musica, Tokyo Opera City Concert Hall and Hong Kong City Hall. She has been frequently invited to perform in different concert series, including Musica del Cuore, Montpelier Arts Center Classical Recital, CityU Arts Festival, Iris Axon Concert, CBSO Debussy Festival, Birmingham Cathedral, Rugby Festival of Culture and more. Besides performing as a soloist, she has also worked as a repetiteur for Opera Novella, Midland Opera, Welsh National Opera and Bel Canto Singers.

Anna has also appeared frequently as a vocalist. Passionate about opera, Anna has participated in different opera performances in Hong Kong and the UK. She has sung the role of Giannetta in L'elisir d'amore, Frasquita in Carmen, Lay Sister in Suor Angelica for Musica Viva, Geraldine in A hand of Bridge, Helene in Hin und Zurück for HKIIM, The Third Apparition in Verdi's Macbeth for Opera In A Box and Gherardino in Puccini's Gianni Schicchi for the London Gay Symphony Orchestra. She was the prize winner of several music festivals, including the Accord International Music Competition, Holmfirth Musical Festival, Bristol Music Festival, Coulsdon and Purley Festival, Basingstoke Music Festival among others.

Anna's compositions include instrumental, vocal, electroacoustic, multi-media and operatic works, which were premiered around the world by various musicians. She has collaborated and was commissioned by many organizations, including the New Generation 2014("The Forester", for String Quartet), London Oriana Choir("The Infinite Shining Heavens" for SATB choir), Birmingham Opera Company("It Gets Lighter From Here" digital project), David Bohn's Twenty Seconds of 2020 project("Chase", for solo Clavietta), Fifteen Minutes of Fame project("Fedora", for solo bass flute), Tête à Tête Opera Festival("Buddha and the Monkey King", "The Monk of the River" & "The Monster of Gao Village"), Château du Fresne-Saint-Mamès("Sea Creatures in our Minds and Hearts"), K622 Clarinet ensemble("Inevitable" for clarinet quartet), among others. She was the recipient of the Global Best Creative Awards 2025.

Anna is the vice-chairperson and co-artistic director of Hong Kong Opera Makers.

<https://annaviennaho.wixsite.com/pianosoprano>

Roxanne Korda – Librettist

Roxanne is a researcher, opera singer and librettist. Her practice explores; presenting new opera, on esoteric subject matter, in unique spaces, to different audiences. She co-founded the company Infinite Opera in order to combine her love of science, philosophy and music. She holds a practice-based PhD with the Midland4Cities Doctoral Training Partnership at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, exploring how to use science in creating new operatic characters and narrative.

Alongside her work as a performer and theatre maker, she also works as a PDRA with The Open University on the ALPHABETICA project, seeking to understand the experience of arts in education for young people today, through participatory arts research.



Roxanne's works as librettist include Entanglement! An Entropic Tale (a story of impossible quantum love), Besse (the first ever beer opera), and [shut] (commissioned by Birmingham Opera Company) and Open For Business (performed with the CBSO and commissioned by Stoford and Grand Union for the opening of the BBC HQ Birmingham). To find out more about her previous and upcoming work please visit <http://www.infiniteopera.com> and <http://www.roxannekorda.com>.

Michael CTL Lam – Director/ Ruanist/ as Xuanzang

Praised for a voice of "deliciously deep and rich," (Birmingham Post), Hong Kong baritone Michael Chun Ting Lam is a wide-ranging opera and concert soloist who has performed in Hong Kong, Japan, Vietnam, the Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, the United Kingdom, Italy, France, Germany, Austria and Hungary, as well as other European countries. He trained at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, and Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music, earning Bachelor's and Master's degrees along with multiple scholarships and awards, including the Welsh Male Choir Scholarship, Bernard van Zuiden Music Fund, Opera Hong Kong K Wah International Vocal Scholarship, Foundation for the Arts and Music in Asia Limited (FAMA) Vocal Scholarships, Hong Kong Children's Choir Chan Ho Choi Memorial Scholarship and St Clare Barfield Memorial Bowl for Operatic Distinction among others.



Passionate about opera, Michael has performed for many opera companies and festivals, including Opera Hong Kong, Musica Viva, Hong Kong Grand Opera, Hong Kong Arts Festival, Winslow Hall Opera, OperaUpClose, Grimeborn Opera Festival, Passaggio Oper, Opéra de Baugé, Vietnam National Opera & Ballet, Lyric Opera of the Philippines, and more. He has performed over 50 roles, ranging from Baroque to contemporary, including works by Mozart, Wagner, Verdi, and composers from the Bel canto and Verismo traditions, including the title roles of Macbeth, Gianni Schicchi, Don Pasquale, Giulio Cesare and Il barbiere di Siviglia. He has created several roles in the world premieres of operas, including the Buddha(Buddha and the Monkey King), Confucius(The Legend of Confucius) and Xuanzang(The Monster of Gao Village).

Besides performing as a singer, Michael frequently appears as a Zhongruanist. He has studied Ruan, Liuqin, Sanxian and Pipa with Chu Man Kuen, Kwan Hau Man, David Chan and Kitty Lee. He was the leader and the principal Zhongruanist of Ng Wah Chinese Orchestra and a Ruanist of Hong Kong City Chinese Orchestra, Hong Kong Bright East Chinese Orchestra and Sonata Elite Chamber Orchestra. In 2020, he was involved in the project "It Gets Lighter From Here", organized by Birmingham Opera Company and Culture Central. He was the first-prize winner of the International Art Festival & Contest "Talents of Europe" 2021.

Michael has served as an artistic director and producer for the Hong Kong International Institute of Music for its opera production of Menotti's Amahl and the Night Visitors, in which he worked in multiple positions, including conductor, director and chorus master. He has also led students to create and premiere "Lost In The Opera", a pasticcio in three acts. Michael is the founder, chairperson and co-artistic director of Hong Kong Opera Makers.

<https://michaelctlam.wixsite.com/baritone>

HoWang Yuen as Sha Wujing

Hong Kong-born baritone HoWang Yuen is a graduate of the David Seligman Opera School, Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama, where he studied under the tutelage of esteemed bass Geoff Moses and conductor James Southall. HoWang is also a graduate of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts and the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire.

HoWang has performed widely across Britain and internationally, appearing on both operatic stages and concert platforms. His recent operatic roles include Dandini (*La cenerentola*), Leporello (*Don Giovanni*), Dancaire (*Carmen*), Demetrius (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), and Betto (*Gianni Schicchi*). He has performed with companies such as Longborough Festival Opera, Opera

Holland Park, If Opera, Bath Opera, Silent Opera, Welsh National Opera Young Company, and the Hong Kong Arts Festival.

Passionate about bringing opera to new audiences, HoWang thrives in both traditional and innovative productions, with a particular interest in contemporary works and cross-cultural projects. He has worked with groups of opera creatives to bring new works to the UK stage at the Tête à Tête Opera Festival while he continues to develop a versatile career as a dynamic performer and storyteller.



Wendí Zhang as Zhu Bajie

Wendi Zhang, tenor, was born in Shenzhen, China in December 1996. He obtained his Bachelor of Music in Performance from the University of West London, studying with Anthony Roden, and in July 2025 completed his Master's degree at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance under the guidance of Lynton Atkinson. He also continues his vocal training with Justin Lavander.

In December 2018, he was singing in the chorus of Puccini's *Turandot* at the Singapore Conference Hall, which was produced by Musicians Society of Singapore.

In July 2019, he won the Silver Prize in the youth category of the Chicago International Music Festival Competition, and in October 2020 he reached the Top 100 in the Chinese pop music TV competition 'The Voice of China'.

In April 2025, he performed in the chorus of Rossini's 'La Cenerentola' with Hurn Court Opera. In July 2025, he played the role of Giove in Monteverdi's 'Il ritorno di Ulisse in patria' at Trinity Laban summer opera production, and also joined the chorus of Puccini's 'Madama Butterfly' with Arcadian Opera. In October 2025, he sang in the chorus of Puccini's *Turandot*, which was produced by Instant Opera, and he also served as cover singer of the role Prince Calaf. In 2026, Wendi collaborated with the Exeter Opera Group to perform the male-lead role of Prince Ramiro in Rossini's opera *La Cenerentola*.



Mandy Liu as Monkey King

Mandy Ching Man is a soprano known for 'power and joy, precision and range'. Born in Hong Kong, Mandy graduated from the University of Hong Kong with a BA degree in Music before moving to the UK. She earned a Master of Music degree in Vocal Performance and a Master of Research degree in Cultural Geography about UK choral soundscape from Royal Holloway University of London, both with distinction. During her studies in the UK, she was awarded soprano choral scholarships with the Chapel Choirs of both Royal Holloway and Trinity Laban, and won a prize in the Royal Holloway Concerto Competition.

Mandy's recent operatic engagements include Monkey King in The Monster of Gao Village (Tête à Tête 2023); Soprano Ensemble in Turandot (Grimeborn Opera Festival 2023); Constanze in Die Entführung aus dem Serail, Sussana in Le Nozze di Figaro, Gilda in Rigoletto and Ariel in Try me, Good King (Trinity Laban Opera).

She is delighted to reprise the role of Monkey King in The Trial of the Four and looks forward to making her role debut as Cupid in Orpheus in the Underworld with Fife Opera in November. Besides performing, Mandy is a singing teacher and choral conductor of the Edinburgh Telephone Choir.



Salome Siu as Madam Jia

Salome Siu is a Hong Kong-born dramatic mezzo-soprano based in London. She graduated with distinction from the Master of Music in Performance at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, where she was awarded the Eva Malpass Scholarship and the Director's Prize for Excellence in Voice. She was also a finalist for the Trinity Laban Gold Medal and a SongEasel Young Artist (2022–2024). She is currently a Pegasus Opera mentee (2026–2027).

Her versatile portfolio embraces dramatic, lyric and character roles across a broad repertoire. Recent and current performances include Eboli in Verdi's *Don Carlos*, Flora in *La traviata*, Madame de Croissy in Poulenc's *Dialogues des Carmélites*, Cornelia in Handel's *Giulio Cesare*, Carmen, the gender-swapped Ping in *Turandot* (Grimeborn Festival), and the Third Lady in *The Magic Flute*. She will soon cover Amneris in *Aida*.



Critics have consistently praised both her vocal quality and stage presence. Opera magazine described her Madame de Croissy as "charismatic," noting that she "grabbed the show and shook it to life." Of her Cornelia, reviewers wrote that she is "perfectly statuesque," with "a beautiful voice [that] has a tender but mournful quality," and that "Cornelia's anguish is beautifully done." Her Ellen in Ned Rorem's *Three Sisters Who Are Not Sisters* was singled out as "resonant."

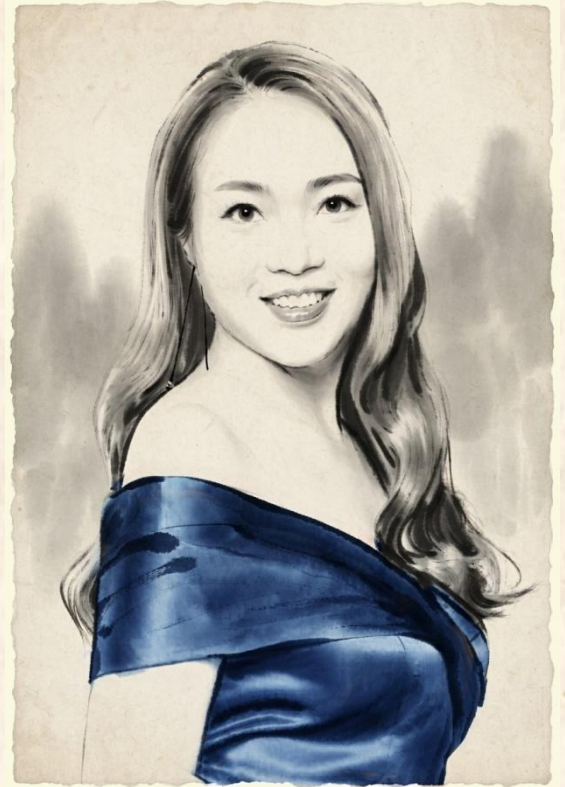
Equally at home in ensemble and contemporary work, she has appeared in the chorus of *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *Pagliacci* (West Green House Opera), *Fête Galante* (Pegasus Opera at the Britten Theatre), and an R&D workshop at Glyndebourne for a new national-tour production.

Gloria Chan as Zhenzhen

Gloria Chan, soprano, obtained a Master of Music degree in vocal performance with scholarships from Royal Birmingham Conservatoire in the UK, and later extended her training in Opernfest with Berlin Opera Academy. She was awarded the top prize of Ambache Prize for music by women composers in UK, and the first prize of Swiss International Music Competition in opera singing.

As a versatile artist with repertoire spanning from baroque to contemporary classical music, Gloria performed operatic roles including Queen of the Night and First Lady in *Die Zauberflöte*, Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni*, Gretel in *Hansel and Gretel*, Armida in *Rinaldo*, Nella in *Gianni Schicchi*, First Witch and Second Woman in *Dido & Aeneas*, Geraldine in *A Hand of Bridge*, etc. Gloria has been invited to hold a Baroque vocal recital in Mufeng Keyboard Museum in China, and had a well-received concert appearance held by Mid Wales Opera in the Judge's Lodgings historic museum in Wales.

As a celebrated concert soloist, Gloria's repertoire featured in Mozart's *Mass in C minor* (First Soprano), Fauré's *Requiem*, Schubert's *Mass in G*, J.S.Bach's *Cantata BWV 4* and *BWV 43*, etc. She appeared in Hong Kong Art Festival for Gluck's *Iphigenie en Tauride*, and participated in Tan Dun's immersive opera production *Purity•Transcendence*.



Zara Chung as Aíai

Soprano Zara Chung has been a soloist in the opera/operetta section of ZAV-Künstlervermittlung (Germany), Opera Nova (UK), Teatro Grattacielo (USA), NYIOP (USA), and In Opera Veritas (France). She was a second prize winner of the 2021 International Viennese Spring Music Competition, and has been a finalist and semifinalist in other major international vocal competitions.

Her operatic highlights include Donna Anna (Don Giovanni) with Lyric Opera Studio Weimar and Theater Rudolstadt, and Elettra (Idomeneo) at the Rhodes International Festival and in Crete with the Athens Philharmonic Orchestra. She has also performed Susanna (Le Nozze di Figaro) in Cluj-Napoca and reprised the role for her UK debut with Opera Nova in 2026. Other roles include Zaire (Les Indes galantes), Alice (Falstaff), Erste Dame (Die Zauberflöte), La Contessa (Le Nozze di Figaro), Wellgunde (Das Rheingold), and Lucy (The Telephone).



In concert, Chung has appeared as a soloist widely across Europe and Asia. Alongside her performing career, she holds positions as musical director, music lecturer, and vocal tutor at Newcastle College Performance Academy and The Glasshouse International Centre for Music. Her students have progressed to leading institutions and prestigious stages such as The Juilliard School, The Royal Opera House, and The Carnegie Hall.

Chung holds degrees from the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Koninklijk Conservatorium Brussel, graduating with distinction and grand distinction, and vocal and piano performance diplomas from the Trinity College London with distinction. She has worked with renowned artists including Barbara Bonney and has participated in masterclasses throughout Europe and Asia.

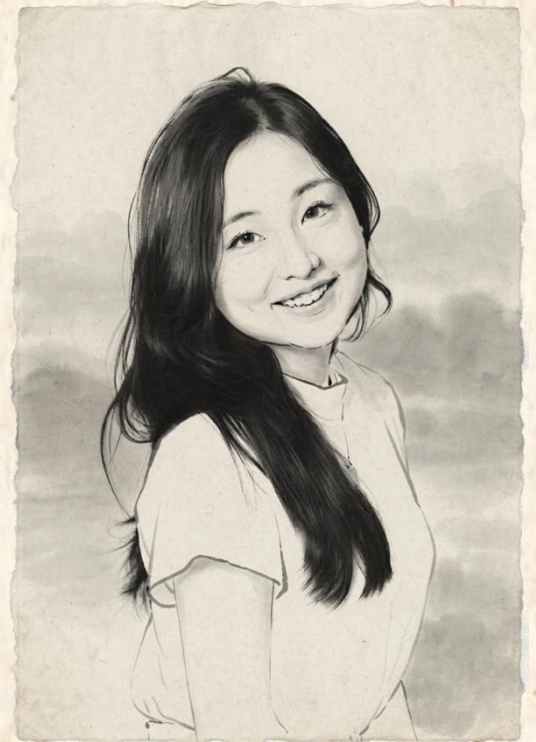
Lieserl Huen as Lianlian

Coloratura soprano HUEN Tsz Ying completed the Bachelor of Music (Honours) degree at The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, where she began her professional training in the Junior Music Programme.

Lieserl is an active performer in the field. Her diverse opera production engagements includes Donna Anna in the 2025 Academy production of Don Giovanni, Queen of the Night from Die Zauberflöte, and Olympia from The Tales of Hoffmann in the Academy's opera scenes.

She also participates in various outreach projects. In 2024, she was invited to perform at the Hong Kong M+ Museum, serving as a singing artist in Lee Ming Wei's Sonic Blossom exhibition. She was a soloist for Beethoven's Choral Fantasy in the Helmut Sohmen Composition Prize Concert. She was also the soloist in excerpts from Handel's Messiah, collaborating with the Hong Kong Pro Arte Orchestra and Hong Kong Chamber Orchestra respectively.

Lieserl is the awardee of Michael Rippon Scholarship and the Hong Kong Children's Choir Scholarship.



Ian Lam as Moksa

Ian Lam, a Bass-baritone from Hong Kong, is a recent graduate of the Royal Northern College of Music, where he completed his Bachelor of Music under the tutelage of Mark Wildman. His operatic experience includes performing the role of Baron Douphol in La Traviata with Preston Opera, as well as chorus engagements in Rigoletto and Cavalleria Rusticana with Dorset Opera. the roles of Sacristan and Sciarrone in Tosca, and Sparafucile and Monterone in Rigoletto with North Wales Opera Studio.



Acknowledgment

(listed in no particular order)

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Mr. David Salter

Mr. Leo Doulton

The Cockpit