

# HONG KONG VIENNA OPERA BALL

5 JUNE 2010 GRAND HYATT BALLROOM

[WWW.VIENNAOPERABALL.HK](http://WWW.VIENNAOPERABALL.HK)

CELEBRATING EMPRESS SISI



# HONG KONG VIENNA OPERA BALL

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ON BEHALF of the Austrian Chamber of Commerce, I am pleased to announce that the hugely popular Vienna Opera Ball will once again return to Hong Kong in June 2010. Featuring romantic Viennese waltzes, the event will be attended by guests in black tie, sumptuous ball gowns, or dazzling costumes. Guests can expect to be transformed back in time to the glamorous era of Empress Sisi and Emperor Franz Joseph (1830-1916).

Celebrating a theme inspired by the life and beauty of Empress Sisi, guests are invited to an evening of glamour, glitter, and romance. The ballroom will be transformed into a stunning fairy tale chamber, complementing the beauty of our guests. This year's dress code is black tie and floor length ball gowns, and guests are also invited to dress in period costumes to bring the event to life.

The Hong Kong Vienna Opera Ball evening will include the traditional introduction of debutantes, the popular quadrille dance and a whirlwind of classical Viennese Waltzes.

*Highlights of this evening will include:*

★ **Traditional opening quadrille** choreographed by Heinz Heidenreich, former principal dancer of the Vienna State Opera Ballet, performed by debutantes from various schools in Hong Kong;

★ **Live orchestra from the Hong Kong Academy** for Performing Arts under the baton of Vienna Maestro Peter Guth;

★ **Her Majesty Empress Sisi and Emperor Franz Joseph** will be attending the ball in person. Guests will have the opportunity to be photographed with the Imperial couple for a small fee, funds from which will go directly to a scholarship;

★ **Over 1,000 square feet of dance floor** for guests to waltz away; and

★ **A surprise performance.**

Parts of the proceeds of this Ball will once again go towards the Hong Kong Vienna Opera Ball Scholarship enabling a gifted Hong Kong student to study music in Vienna.

Hong Kong's Austrian community is now inviting guests to take a table for this cuisine spectacular evening of Viennese waltzing, fine Austrian cuisine, wine and educational fundraising.

We cordially invite you to join the Hong Kong Vienna Opera Ball on Saturday, 5 June 2010 in the Grand Ballroom of the Grand Hyatt Hong Kong Hotel. With dignitaries and celebrities attending, tickets will surely sell out well in advance, as they have in the past.

Should you require any further details, please feel free to contact Ms Sylvie Hudson at +852 9179 5344 or email [ball-committee@austrocham.com](mailto:ball-committee@austrocham.com) or visit [www.ViennaOperaBall.hk](http://www.ViennaOperaBall.hk)

Join us and enjoy a glamorous, elegant, and magical Viennese evening!

*Alles Walzer!*

Gabi Seewald  
Ball Committee Chair

# HISTORY AND TRADITION

## The Vienna Opera Ball: Background



Hong Kong's Vienna Opera Ball will be modelled on the world-famous Vienna Opera Ball. The Vienna Opera Ball began in Vienna, Austria, in the 18th Century, and is the highlight of over 250 balls that grace Vienna every year. One of the main events of the ball is the debutante's dance, where young ladies and gentlemen perform the opening dance of the night. The Vienna Opera Ball epitomises the luxury, elegance and distinguished culture of Vienna.

The Hong Kong Vienna Opera Ball 2008 was officially opened by four distinguished guests, including the Honourable John Tsang, Financial Secretary of the Hong Kong SAR; Senator Walter Nettig, Special Envoy of the Governor and Mayor of Vienna for International Relations; and Dr. Maria Moya-Goetsch, the Austrian Consul General.

The Vienna Opera Ball, being the classic and most prominent ball, now also takes place in 56 cities around the world, such as New York, Moscow, Washington, Dubai, and Hong Kong. Being an opportunity for dreams and fairytales to come true for many, the months leading up to the ball consist of many whispers of who's wearing what clothes and jewels. The debutantes generally dress all in white and their escorts in black tails.

**In Hong Kong, the dress code for past years and the upcoming ball will be black tie for gentlemen and formal floor length ball gowns for ladies. Gentlemen guests may even dress in white tie and decorations. For the Hong Kong Vienna Opera Ball 2010, guests can also dress in costumes of the times of Empress Sisi and Emperor Franz Joseph.**

## Celebrating Empress Sisi



By the age of 16, Elisabeth of Wittelsbach, or 'Sisi', was already well-known for her beauty. Austrian Emperor Franz Joseph was due to marry her sister Helene, but fell in love with Sisi at first sight. They married in 1854 in a glamorous and magnificent wedding at the Augustinian Church in Vienna.

Although not an intensely political person, Empress Sisi (1837-1898) was nevertheless committed to an Austrian-Hungarian settlement, which led to reduced tension between Vienna and Budapest during the hardest times of the Habsburg Empire. Her liberal ideas and effort for the poor and needy also made her popular with the Austrian people, while her beauty earned her world-wide admiration and adoration.

In 1865, a famous portrait of Empress Sisi was done by Franz Xavier Winterhalter. It shows her in a courtly gala dress with diamond stars in her hair. Some stars were given away to court ladies and still reside in the ownership of their descendents. By all accounts, men and women alike were fascinated by Empress Sisi's beauty, grace, charisma and the mysterious aura that surrounded her.

## Quadrille and Debutantes



The highlight of the ball will be the traditional Opening Quadrille by debutantes from various schools in Hong Kong who will be trained by Heinz Heidenreich from Vienna.

A quadrille, a highly sociable dance from the 18th and 19th Century, is most commonly danced at the Opera Ball. The "Quadrille de Contre Danse" was originally a card game played by four people, but by the 19th Century the name was more commonly associated with this lively dance that uses the elements of waltz.

Debutantes, from the French word 'débutante', or 'female beginner', are young ladies who have reached the age of maturity and are formally presented to society. In Austria, many debutantes audition months before the Opera Ball for the honour of participating in the opening ceremony, which usually begins with a polonaise, followed by a polka and a waltz. Debutantes are required to wear floor length white ball gowns, and their male escorts wear black tails.

# PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

**1. Tables/Tickets** To maintain an intimate atmosphere, 30 tables of 12 persons each including a limited number of individual dinner tickets are available.

**Platinum** Tables of 12 persons at HK\$54,000

**Gold** Tables of 12 persons at HK\$42,000

**Silver** Tables of 12 persons at HK\$30,000

**Individual Gold** Ticket at HK\$3,500

**Individual Silver** Ticket at HK\$2,500

**After-Dinner** Ticket at HK\$880

*(Entrance at 22:00, ticket includes a seat, one glass of Champagne and Goulash Soup;  
Please note that only a limited number of After-Dinner-Tickets are available)*

**2. Special VIP Tickets** VIP Packages are available at HK\$15,000 each and include the following:

- A private dance lesson with Heinz Heidenreich (Choreographer from Vienna);
- 2 Platinum Tickets; and
- Special reception by the hosts at the ball

*Please note, that only the limited number of 6 packages are available!*

<b>3. Advertise in the Hong Kong Vienna Opera Ball Programme</b>	Colour Centre Spread	HK\$15,000	Colour Inside Full page	HK\$5,000
	Colour Inside Back/Front	HK\$10,000	Colour Inside Half page	HK\$2,500

**4. Donation to the Hong Kong Vienna Opera Ball Scholarship** The Hong Kong Vienna Opera Ball Scholarship is designed with the objective of developing demonstrated musical talent and strengthening the relationship between Hong Kong and Austria. A gifted student will be able to acquire broader perspective and deeper knowledge with this unique scholarship opportunity.

A donation of any amount to this scholarship will be greatly appreciated. Any donation of HK\$5,000 or above will be acknowledged in the ball programme.

# BOOKING FORM

NAME:	COMPANY:		
TEL:	FAX:	E-MAIL:	
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I/We would like to book the following:	QUANTITY:	SUBTOTAL:	
Platinum Table(s)	HK\$54,000 each		
Gold Table(s)	HK\$42,000 each		
Silver Table(s)	HK\$30,000 each		
Individual Dinner Ticket(s) Gold	HK\$3,500 each		
Individual Dinner Ticket(s) Silver	HK\$2,500 each		
After Dinner Ticket(s)	HK\$880 each		
<hr/>			
I/We would like to book a VIP package	QUANTITY:	SUBTOTAL:	
VIP package	HK\$15,000		
<hr/>			
I/We would like to make a donation to the	AMOUNT:	SUBTOTAL:	
Hong Kong Vienna Opera Ball Scholarship			
<hr/>			
I/We would like to advertise in the ball programme:	QUANTITY:	SUBTOTAL:	
Colour Centre Spread	HK\$15,000		
Colour Inside Back/Front	HK\$10,000		
Colour Inside Full Page	HK\$5,000		
Colour Inside Half Page	HK\$2,500		
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TOTAL:			
CHEQUE NUMBER	IN THE AMOUNT OF HK\$	IS ENCLOSED.	

*Please make crossed cheque payable to "The Austrian Chamber of Commerce"*

*Upon completion, please mail or fax to:  
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