

“Hong Kong Pop 60+” Exhibition

Audio Tour Script

Wong Ka-kui’s acoustic guitar

Late 1970s

Wong Ka-kui was the lead singer of Beyond. Founded in 1983, Beyond was one of the best-known bands in Hong Kong and in Chinese communities worldwide.

Wong Ka-kui was born in 1962. He enjoyed listening to Western pop music and loved the guitar. His younger brother, Wong Ka-keung, recalled that their family was not rich. When Wong Ka-kui was 17, he saved around HK\$3,000 to buy his first acoustic guitar. When not eating or bathing, Wong Ka-kui played his guitar from morning to night. Besides studying guitar skills, he always wanted to write original songs. Many of Beyond’s early works were written to the accompaniment of this acoustic guitar, a witness to Wong Ka-kui’s dedication to the pursuit of musical excellence.

Later, Wong Ka-keung took a shine to the guitar, and hoped Wong Ka-kui could give it to him. Wong Ka-kui offered to sell it to him for half price, saying Wong Ka-keung should not expect something for nothing, and encouraging him to work harder to pursue his musical goals.

As this acoustic guitar is of special significance to both Wong Ka-keung and Wong Ka-kui, Wong Ka-keung donated it to Hong Kong Heritage Museum to share the story behind it.

In the 1980s, Hong Kong’s music industry was prosperous and diverse, and Hong Kong experienced yet another band-forming craze. Besides Beyond, there were Tai Chi, Tat Ming Pair, Raidas and Blue Jeans, who injected new life into the music industry. They integrated Western rock and roll styles and electronic music into Cantonese songs, forming a “Cantorock” trend, which was an important part of the development of Cantonese songs, with Beyond being the most prominent example.

Beyond insisted on creating original Cantonese rock songs, which impacted the pop music world. Their songs covered a wide range of themes, involving social issues, ideals, family relationships, and even world peace – quite unlike the pop music world at that time. Beyond was founded in 1983, and was an indie rock band, mainly creating English-language songs. In 1987, after being repackaged by the record company, Beyond entered the mainstream commercial market and launched their first studio album, *Waiting Forever*, so their music could reach and influence more people.

In 1993, Wong Ka-kui died in an accident while working in Japan, leaving behind many classic songs for his fans. We can feel the power of music through the songs of Beyond.

With its strong appeal, the band's music can comfort people, touching them and making them feel warm. The music of Beyond truly gives expression to the magical power of music.