

Information about Michael Cheung 張天賦

Michael Cheung Tin-fu (born 1 December 1996), better known by his stage name MC Cheung Tin-fu, is a Hong Kong singer and actor. He rose to fame as the runner-up in the 2019 talent competition reality show King Maker II. He subsequently signed a record deal with Warner Music Hong Kong and made his debut with the single "Good Time" in 2021. He won various new artist awards, including 2021 Ultimate Song Chart Best Male Newcomer (Gold).

Born : December 1, 1996 (age 27)
Birth Place: British Hong Kong
Other names: MC
Occupations: Singeractor
Years active 2019 - present
Musical career Origin: Hong Kong
Genres: Cantopop
Instrument(s): Vocals
Labels: Warner Music Hong Kong Limited

Early life and education

In his early years, due to poor academic performance, Cheung Tinfu's father proposed sending him to Canada for studies, which unfortunately resulted in the breakdown of Cheung Tinfu's parents' relationship. Subsequently, Cheung father moved to Canada for work, and as a result, Cheung Tinfu completed his high school education in Canada. Afterward, Cheung father returned to Hong Kong due to being diagnosed with cancer (until his passing).

Career Summary

Cheung gained prominence as a first runner-up in the 2019 Hong Kong reality competition show, King Maker II hosted by ViuTV in Hong Kong. He rejected an offer from ViuTV to join a boyband to pursue a solo career. In December 2020, Cheung signed a record label deal with Warner Music Hong Kong and released his debut EP Have a Good Time (2021) a year later. His 2021 single "Pillow Talk" topped the Hong Kong Songs chart for 12 weeks and its accompanying music video earned more than 20 million YouTube views. The success helped Cheung earned the gold award for Best New Male Artist at the Ultimate Song Chart Awards Presentation 2021.

Debut details and initial success

Cheung Tinfu, originally known as a resident singer and freelance worker, participated in the talent show "Produce Camp 2019" with the stage name "MC." Throughout the competition, he received recognition from the judges for his performances, such as Eman Lam expressing a desire to collaborate with him. However, Cheung was also criticized for frequent lateness, which raised questions about his attitude. He had made a promise to withdraw from the competition if he was late again, but he did not fulfill that commitment. Nevertheless, he improved his punctuality issues over time. During the competition, his father's health worsened, and he eventually passed away, putting Cheung under immense pressure. On December 15, of the same year, Cheung Tinfu achieved a score of 83 points in the professional evaluation segment and ranked 5th (with 6 points) in the finale of "King Maker II" in 2019. In the public voting segment, he received a vote rate of 28.7% and ranked 1st

(with 10 points), ultimately becoming the first runner-up with a total score of 16 points. Additionally, in the top 10 of "JOOX SINGING IDOL Election," Cheung Tinfu secured victory with a total of over 100,000 votes, surpassing Phoebus Ng. After the competition, ViuTV expressed interest in signing Cheung Tinfu; however, he declined the offer to form a boy band. He preferred his independence and believed that establishing his own studio would allow him to focus on his creativity. During this time, he covered songs on his personal YouTube channel and collaborated with other artists, including a duet with Kaho Hung on "Self-Questioning" and a collaboration with Chau Kwok Yin on the song "Sealed Mask." In late June 2020, he held his first solo concert. However, due to a lack of resources and connections, his achievements fell short compared to artists signed under major record labels. Recognizing the challenges of managing his own studio, Cheung Tinfu joined Warner Music Hong Kong on December 31, 2020. After joining the record label, Cheung Tinfu officially debuted on March 30, 2021, with his first promotional single, "Good Time."

On June 3, 2021, he released his second single, "Opposition Invalid," an R&B love song that received widespread acclaim. The music video surpassed one million views on YouTube within ten days. On August 26, 2021, his third single, "Loser," was released. Just before his concert, on October 21, 2021, he released his fourth single, "Memory Foam," which received positive reviews shortly after its release. The song quickly climbed the charts on major music streaming platforms and secured the top spot on the KKBOX Local Singles Weekly Chart and Spotify's Comprehensive Singles Weekly Chart for at least four and ten weeks, respectively. Cheung Tinfu described his four singles released in 2021 as suitable for all seasons, with "Good Time" representing spring, "Opposition Invalid" representing summer, "Loser" representing autumn, and "Memory Foam" representing winter.

On January 1, 2022, Cheung Tinfu received the "Newcomer Male Singer Gold Award" at the Commercial Radio Hong Kong "2021 Ultimate Song Chart Awards," marking his first Hong Kong music award. On April 15, 2022, Cheung Tinfu collaborated with Wyman Wong for the first time, releasing the new song "Beware of Slippery Ground." The song, which conveys a cautionary message through greetings, sparked intense discussions among netizens regarding its subject matter Cheung Tinfu's interpretation. The song also topped the streaming charts on platforms such as Spotify, Apple Music, and KKBOX. On April 24, 2022, Cheung Tinfu won the Chill Club Newcomer of the Year Gold Award at the ViuTV "Chill Club Recommendation List 21/22." On July 24, 2022, Cheung Tinfu received the "Hong Kong Gold Song Silver Award for Male Newcomer" at the "Hong Kong Golden Song Awards 2021/2022" jointly organized by Radio Television Hong Kong and TVB.

On January 1, 2023, Cheung Tinfu received the "Bronze Award for Male Singer" at the Commercial Radio Hong Kong "2022 Ultimate Song Chart Awards." He was one of the few artists to win a male singer award in his second year since debut. Additionally, his song "Caution Wet Floor" earned him the second position in the "Professional Recommendation: Ultimate Song Top 10." On May 6, 2023, at the Radio Television Hong Kong's "95th Anniversary Top 10 Chinese Songs," Cheung Tinfu received the "Best Pop Male Singer Award" and won the "Global Chinese Supreme Song Award" with the song "Necessary Old-FI apologize, but I couldn't find any information on Cheung Tinfu beyond the details mentioned earlier. It's possible that there may not be any significant updates or developments about him since my knowledge cutoff in September 2021.

Impact

In 2023, Cheung was named among Forbes's Asia "30 under 30" list.

Discography

Number of Studio albums released: two

Details for the Studio albums:

Title: This is MC

Details about the album “This is MC”:

Digital release: 20 January 2023, Physical release: 15 March 2023, Label: Warner Music Hong Kong

Tracklisting (song name) of the studio album “This is MC”:

1. Overkill
2. This Is MC
3. The One For U (世一)
4. A Gentleman's Guide to Old-Fashioned Dating (老派約會之必要)
5. Obedience (乖乖報到)
6. Fun Fair (只限成人入場)
7. Caution Wet Floor (小心地滑)
8. Assurance (最低保障)
9. Drink Up (乾)
10. The One For U Not For Me (世一 (不可一世)) (feat. Kri T.)

Details for the Studio albums:

Title: Treble

Details about the album “Treble”:

Digital release: 12 March 2024, Physical release: 12 March 2024, Label: Warner Music Hong Kong

Tracklisting (song name):

1. Not My Problem (與我無關)
2. Floral Sea (花海)
3. September with You
4. Background Noise (隔牆有耳)
5. Permanent Damage (永久損毀) (feat. Panther Chan, who is a female singer in Warner Music Hong Kong limited)
6. Inhale (抽) AM730 (七點半鐘的陽光)
7. The Last Straw (救命稻草)
8. Secondary Personality (第二人格) Butterfly (feat. Hei-Z, Kwan.T)

Extended plays

Title of the extended plays:

Album details: Released: 22 December 2021, Label: Warner Music Hong Kong

Tracklisting: Good Time Overruled (反對無效), Loser, Pillow Talk (記憶棉), About Time (時候不早), How Many Times

Prestigious prizes won

- Ultimate Song Chart Awards Presentation 2021 → Gold prize as the most potential new singer in the music industry

- The song “Pillow Talk” was awarded the Top Ten Chinese Gold Songs Award Concert in 2021
- Ultimate Song Chart Awards Presentation 2023 → Silver prize as the most ultimate male singer

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Meet ‘MC’ Cheung Tin-fu, Hong Kong’s rising Cantopop star: the Gen Z singer came second on King Maker II in 2019 and rejected joining a boy band to embark on a solo career

Michael ‘MC’ Cheung Tin-fu has been rising up the Cantopop ranks since 2019, when he came second place on reality TV singing contest King Maker II – the same one that launched Mirror

Cantopop singer Michael Cheung Tin-fu, aka MC, is a force to be reckoned with.

At just 26, the Hong Kong star was recently added to Forbes’ 30 Under 30 Asia list, under the entertainment and sports category, putting him in the same ranks as the region’s leading movers and shakers.

He signed with Warner Music in 2020, released hits ‘Good Time’ and ‘Pillow Talk’ and has earned titles such as best new male singer in the Ultimate Song Chart Awards Presentation

Cantopop singer Michael Cheung Tin-fu, aka MC, is a force to be reckoned with. At just 26, the Hong Kong star was recently added to Forbes’ 30 Under 30 Asia list, under the entertainment and sports category, putting him in the same ranks as the region’s leading movers and shakers.

Born in Hong Kong and raised in Canada, Cheung is relatively new to the showbiz scene. He came second place in the reality TV singing contest King Maker II, a sequel of TV show Good Night Show – King Maker, in 2019, then released his debut EP Have A Good Time in 2021. His song “Pillow Talk” became a huge hit, topping local charts for 12 weeks and garnering over 20 million views on YouTube, per Forbes.

The musical talent has since enjoyed life in the spotlight and kicked off 2023 with a new album, This is MC, which became the bestselling album in Hong Kong the week of its release, Forbes reported.

Clearly, MC’s journey is only just beginning. So, who is he and what do we know about him?

He rejected joining a boy band to pursue his solo career

According to Hong Kong media, after Cheung made his breakthrough as first runner-up in King Maker II in 2019, he was offered a contract by ViuTV which involved him joining a boy band. King Maker is the local reality TV show that launched Mirror, Hong Kong’s colossal 12-member Cantopop group.

To some fans’ surprise, he turned it down to pursue a solo career. “I’m truly happy and grateful for all the awards and the recognition. But I’m not performing just to gain more

popularity, break records, or show off my sense of style,” he told Hong Kong media. “I only focus on working on projects and music I feel passionate about.”

In 2020, Cheung signed with Warner Music Hong Kong and released his debut single “Good Time” a few months later. It quickly landed top positions in the Hong Kong and Cantopop charts.

In 2021, MC won the gold award for best new male singer in the Ultimate Song Chart Awards Presentation, calculated based on the airplays on Radio 2 of Commercial Radio Hong Kong (CRHK). He also won the gold award for Newcomer of the Year and was on ViuTV’s Chill Club Promotion List Annual Promotion 21/22.

He wants to make “happy music”

According to Pianity, MC has been making music from a young age. In his interview with Hong Kong media, he described its influence on him, saying “Music makes me happy, and I hope to use my singing talents to inspire others and spread joy”.

“I just want others to hear my songs. My songs will make people happy, and people can feel my emotions through my songs. This is enough,” he shared with Esquire Hong Kong. He used his song “Good Time” as an example. “As the name suggests, ‘Good Time’ hopes that everyone can find a moment of happiness even in a bad situation.”

His late father is his driving force

Cheung credits much of his success to his father. In an interview on Stephen Channel, Cheung describes how his father was the one who always encouraged him to bravely pursue his dreams and find his own position in the music industry.

Cheung joined King Maker II to make his father proud, he said. But sadly, Cheung’s dad became critically ill and passed away, and wasn’t able to watch his son shine on stage. Today, Cheung is more willing to open up about his loss in interviews. “I think I’m a person who can bear unhappy things ... I have to keep telling myself that it will pass, to put it clichédly, time heals everything,” he told Esquire Hong Kong.

He has a daily skincare ritual

Not only is Cheung talented and hard working, but he also pays a lot of attention to skincare, which likely explains his flawless appearance. “Practising a skincare routine after a long day of wearing make-up has also now become a self-care ritual for me. It keeps me looking and feeling good, [especially] during the pandemic,” he told Hong Kong media. He revealed that his favourite cleanser and night cream are from Cetaphil’s Healthy Radiance collection.

His ideal type is petite, sweet and bold

Much to fans’ delight, Cheung is currently single. He openly talked about his love life in an interview earlier this year with Harper’s Bazaar, saying he’s been single after ending a three-year relationship. In the interview, he said that he was attracted to “petite” and “bold” girls, preferably with long hair – though these were general conditions and the main thing he looks for is how well he gets along with them.

News2 <https://www.scmp.com/yp/discover/entertainment/music/article/3243540/ive-made-it-here-hong-kong-singer-mc-shares-why-he-held-free-concert-his-old-busking-spot-tsim-sha>

‘I’ve made it here’: Hong Kong singer MC shares why he held free concert at his old busking spot in Tsim Sha Tsui

27-year-old Cantopop artist famous for hits like ‘Pillow Talk’ recalls his humble beginnings performing on the city’s streets

He considers this show at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Piazza to be bigger than any award he has received

Despite having conquered Hong Kong’s top concert venue earlier this year, Cantopop star Michael Cheung Tin-fu had one more wish: to return to his old busking spot and sing.

Last Monday, the 27-year-old, known as MC, turned his former haunt into a stage, hosting a free music show at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Piazza in Tsim Sha Tsui that drew a crowd of about 10,000 fans.

The performance was a way for the artist to pay tribute to his humble beginnings.

“It reminded me of those tough times when I was busking on the streets, where I could be dismissed at any time, without even being able to earn enough for my transport,” he said in an interview after the show.

“It’s incredible to see so many people who have come to watch me sing tonight.”

15 best Cantopop songs of 2022: music from Hong Kong you should hear

In Cheung’s opinion, singing at the open-air piazza is the pinnacle of Tsim Sha Tsui’s street performer scene.

“In the beginning, I was only singing in the passageway. As I gained a bigger audience, I levelled up and sang near the payphone, and later by the pier. Now, I’ve made it here,” the Cantopop artist said.

During the one-hour concert – with the scenic harbour night view as its backdrop – Cheung performed nine tracks, followed by two more during the encore.

Besides singing his chart-topping pop hits “The One For U” and “A Gentleman’s Guide to Old-Fashioned Dating”, the artist also brought back some of his busking classics, including Khalil Fong’s “Love Song”.

But one song he performed by American singer Bruno Mars holds a special place in Cheung’s heart: “Talking to the Moon”.

He had said in a previous interview that this soulful track reminded him of his late father, who passed away when the Cantopop artist was a candidate on ViuTV’s talent competition show, King Maker II.

“I have longed for a stage to sing this song. During the talent competition show, I wanted to sing it in the finale, but I could not. Being able to sing it at this familiar spot this time has truly fulfilled my wish,” Cheung said.

From busking to stardom

Before he became part of a new wave of Cantopop artists reviving Hong Kong’s music scene, the self-made artist was a member of a busking team called “Nothing Special”. He would perform with the group for passers-by in popular spots from Mong Kok and Tsim Sha Tsui to Tai Po.

Cheung’s journey to stardom began in 2019 after winning second place in ViuTV’s talent competition show, King Maker II, which had also produced the colossal success of the local boy band, Mirror.

Despite his success on the show, Cheung turned down the broadcaster’s offer to join a boy band.

How singer-songwriter Moon Tang embraces feeling lost in her music

Instead, he chose to pursue his dream as an independent solo artist. Though he lacked access to resources, Cheung relied on social media to make his name known and posted videos of his cover songs.

In 2020, he decided to sign with Warner Music Hong Kong, a record label that gave Cheung the support he needed to launch his career.

The following year, he made his debut, capturing Hongkongers’ hearts with his R&B single “Good Time” and his breakout hit, “Pillow Talk”, a ballad about a painful break-up. The viral song has been streamed more than 25 million times on Spotify.

At the 2021 Ultimate Song Chart Awards Presentation, Cheung won the gold award for best new male singer.

In January, he performed three sold-out concerts in the Hong Kong Coliseum in Hung Hom, becoming the first solo artist from ViuTV’s talent show to make it to the coveted stage that seats 12,500 people.

According to Spotify’s 2023 round-up released last week, Cheung’s first full-length album, This Is MC, was the most popular album in Hong Kong. Fifteen of his songs were featured on Apple Music’s year-end chart of 2023’s top songs in Hong Kong and Macau.

At his show in Tsim Sha Tsui last week, Cheung noted his appreciation for fans who stuck with him since his early days also made it to the show: “one of them was the former administrator of my fan club.”

Return to the beginning Cheung's show at the piazza was not the first time he returned to street busking: last year, Cheung did a surprise busking session in Mong Kok, where he performed some of his biggest hits.

But Cheung noted that because of his growing popularity, surprise shows were no longer feasible as he needed staff to help maintain order at his performances.

Still, the star has not forgotten the importance of cultivating spaces for up-and-coming singers in the city. In 2021, he posted an Instagram story of a sign banning musical performances in public spaces and voiced his support for new busking spaces in Hong Kong.

After his recent concert, he said: "In Taiwan, buskers could apply for permits to perform in designated areas ... If Hong Kong allows certain areas for people to play music, it would be a great support for busking and street culture."

Cheung also dug into his busking roots – when he used to sing for five or six hours straight – for the perseverance to deliver a stellar performance despite feeling a bit sick that morning.

"My throat was slightly swollen, and my voice was a little hoarse. But it does not matter. I will still do my best to sing. That's how busking is, after all," he remarked.

Asked if he would do another free show, the singer said after the success of this performance, he would consider doing more at other popular busking spots.

Singer Kaho Hung embraces every stage of his journey on 'Learning Curve'

"This show has given confidence to the company, and I hope we will have another one in the near future," he said.

Ahead of the Ultimate Song Chart Awards Presentation to be held in January, Cheung noted that "awards don't really matter" and that his night at the piazza was the "biggest prize".

"Compared to awards, it's enough for me when the audience listens to my songs and sings along with me," he shared.

News3 <https://www.tatlerasia.com/lifestyle/entertainment/hong-kong-singer-mc-cheung-cantopop-interview>

MC Cheung on His Metamorphosis—and the New World of Canto-Pop

The Hong Kong rising star, aka Michael Cheung Tin-fu, has earned legions of fans thanks to his chart-topping love songs. Here, he reminisces about his journey so far, and how he hopes to see the industry evolve

MC Cheung only made his official debut two years ago, but has already made a name for himself as a rising Canto-pop star to watch. Last year, the singer took home the Best New Male Artist (Gold) prize at the 2021 Ultimate Song Chart Awards Presentation. At the time of writing, he has over 330,000 followers on Instagram. But his path to stardom has been an unusual one.

In 2019, Cheung, who was working as an indie singer, competed in ViuTV's reality singing contest King Maker II—the show's previous season saw the creation of boy band Mirror. Winning second place in the contest, Cheung was offered a contract by ViuTV: it would involve him joining a band. In a surprising move—a contract with the TV channel is coveted among those who want an entertainment career, given Mirror's colossal success—the singer turned the offer down.

"I'm truly happy and grateful for all the awards and the recognition," Cheung tells Tatler. "But I'm not performing just to gain more popularity, break records, or show off my sense of style." A solo career was what he wanted, he adds. "I only focus on working on projects and music I feel passionate about."

In a twist to the story, Cheung was offered a contract by Warner Music Hong Kong—he has been signed to the label since 2020. Fortunately for his fans, this didn't mean a curbing of his creative freedom. "Signing with a label doesn't mean you lose control over your work," he says. "It actually helped me to grow as a singer and person—with more opportunities given to work with artists or producers I admire."

Working with a solid team—a resource available at a major label—is also a plus.

"When I was working as an independent artist, I found it quite challenging to build up my own network of industry contacts. It was tiring at times—I needed to handle everything from marketing to distribution on my own, [and] with a limited budget," he says. "Having a good team and support system around you is very important, because it's easy to lose focus of what you set out to do." The team around him also elevates his work and is a source of motivation, he adds.

Introduction to "Pillow Talk"

"Pillow Talk" is a single by Hong Kong singer Cheung Tinfu, released digitally on October 22, 2021, by Warner Music Hong Kong. After its release, the song quickly entered the top 10 of the 903 Professional Recommendation and topped various music streaming platforms' charts. The music video reached 600,000 views within a week and became one of the most viewed Cantonese music videos on YouTube the following year. Cheung Tinfu won the "Hong Kong Golden Song Gold Award" for the first time at the Hong Kong Golden Song Awards with this song.

Release date: October 22, 2021
Format: Online digital download and streaming media
Genre: Cantonese pop
Duration: 4:33
Record company: Warner Music Hong Kong
Composer: Terry, Chui Ho
Lyricist: Lam Bo
Producer: Terry, Chui Ho

English Lyrics of “Pillow Talk”

<https://lyricstranslate.com/en/gei3-jik1-min4-memory-foam.html>

I was hugging a blanket
Thinking of you from within the memory foam
The comfort of the pillow was all too perfect
I almost couldn't recall it, having lain in bed all day

Revisiting the curvy figure you left behind from your nap
Our relationship had rarely been rekindled
What the fibres endured won't change back instantly
I couldn't believe I'd completely lose sleep because of you

Revisiting the curvy figure you left behind from your nap
Our relationship had rarely been rekindled
What the fibres endured won't change back instantly
I couldn't believe I'd completely lose sleep because of you

I made up my mind, I won't feel desolate when I become single again
When I fall asleep, I'll be able to recuperate without losing memories
From now on, no matter how tired you and I are
Our beds won't face each other anymore
If only I had the nonchalance to be without a partner

I've made up my mind, I'd rather toss and turn in bed for hundreds of nights
Even when I feel lonely, there's no point in being a nuisance in your recent activity
Remember to turn your ringtone off
Don't feel embarrassed when we meet tomorrow
If I look spirited, it's me pretending I've slept well and smiling at you

I don't mind whoever's in my place now
Hypnotizing myself so I could be generous and accepting
I returned what was yours, and now this spacious room is half empty
Falling asleep countless times in my unkempt hair

Having made up my mind, I won't feel desolate when I become single again
When I fall asleep, I'll be able to recuperate without losing any memories
From now on, no matter how tired you and I are
Our beds won't face each other anymore
Even if I were left feeling empty, at least I've won my solitude

I'm too deeply stuck, how could I free myself and alter this ending?
As if it wasn't cruel enough, whom was that, that you're handing the wedding invitation to?
Even if we force ourselves to retell the tale
We would still have never become a couple
Maybe it'd suit us more if we were like close friends

The roof's collapsing, yet I'm congratulating him for counting sheep in bed with you
I guess I have a big heart, but how can I be carefree enough to sing and play music to myself?
Remember to turn your ringtone off It'd be better if we were to not meet tomorrow
I'd just assume my tear glands malfunctioned – you've seeped into my memories, and you
can't blame me for that