

“Hong Kong Pop 60+” Exhibition

Audio Tour Script

Vinyl record of *Pan Wan Ching 1965 Greatest Hits* 1965

When talking about Rebecca Pan’s songs, we think of their Chinese melodies, English lyrics and her emotional interpretation. Pan has been a star for more than half a century, and was the first Hong Kong singer to sing many songs with Chinese melodies and English lyrics – making her a pioneer in Hong Kong’s music circle.

Rebecca Pan was born in Shanghai, and entered the Hong Kong music world in the 1950s. In 1959, she made her debut in Bangkok, where she embarked on a career as a “travelling singer”. She became one of the few Hong Kong singers who first developed their careers in Southeast Asia and Western countries.

In 1964, Pan became the first Hong Kong singer signed by EMI (London). She was especially good at fusing features of music from the East and West, singing many pop songs that became well-known overseas, such as *Rose Rose I Love You* and *Ding Dong Song*. This vinyl record of *Pan Wan Ching 1965 Greatest Hits* features Pan’s songs in various styles, recorded in several languages. The English version of *Serenade of Green Island* was particularly popular.

In 1972, she devoted herself to the production and performance of the first Mandarin musical in Hong Kong, *Pai Niang Niang*, giving 60 public performances. The musical was an important milestone in Hong Kong’s music world, and was adapted from the Chinese folk story *Legend of the White Snake*. Utilising Western techniques, the curtain was never lowered and the stage set remained unchanged throughout the performance. Only changes in lighting, clothes and dances were employed for varying scenes, giving the audience an unprecedented artistic experience.

Rebecca Pan applied her innovative spirit and music creativity throughout more than half a century, deeply influencing countless successors.