



TAKE A BOW, DAD

FATHER'S DAY

Violinist Siow Lee Chin pens an open letter to her father, Siow Hee Shun

Dear father,

I remember so well the many stories and sayings you used to teach us when we were kids. One of your favourite sayings was: "Remember the source that quenches your thirst."

Even though I have lived abroad for many years, this saying has always reminded me where my heart is, and how much I want to do something special for you. And there seems to be no better time than Father's Day to tell you how much you mean to me.

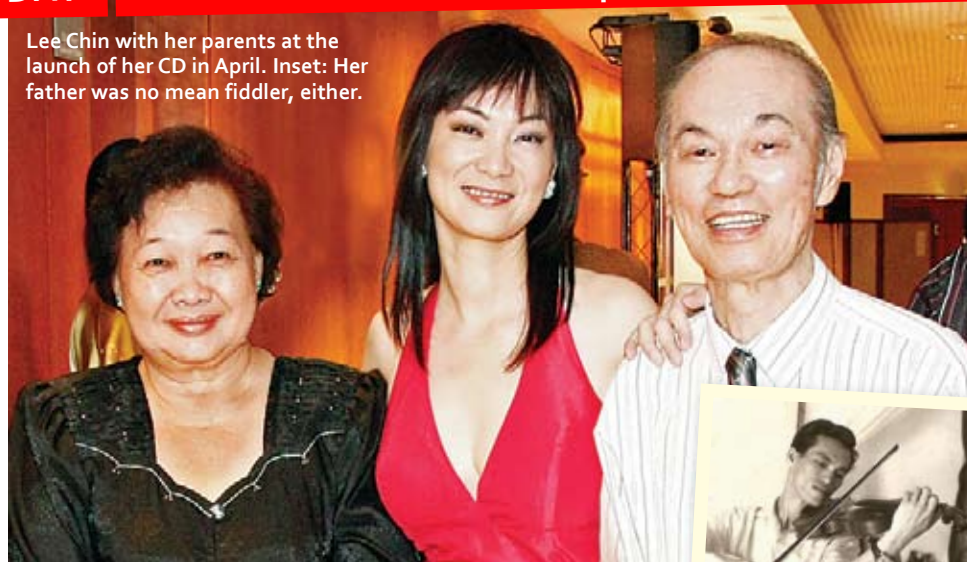
I treasure all that you taught me about music. I know I wasn't the easiest student to teach. Like any kid, I couldn't sit still and often didn't want to practice. But you were so patient and through your example, I learnt that no effort was too mundane, and even the smallest detail deserved attention. You showed me how to appreciate the beauty of a piece in the styling of a phrase, as well as the big picture.

Nothing was ever glossed over when I played for you.

I know that you had your own dreams of being a soloist, but in spite of that, you never forced your hopes on me. Instead, you taught me the songs that touched your heart, gave me the medium to express myself, and the opportunities to chart my own path.

You were always there for me, in every

Lee Chin with her parents at the launch of her CD in April. Inset: Her father was no mean fiddler, either.



way. There was always so much fun with you around. I still recall fondly our family excursion to the latest James Bond movies in our family "sports" car. The ride to the movie was the highlight for me, full of excitement and drama, especially for a little six-year-old girl, out and about in town with the grown-ups! To this day, I have such high expectations whenever I go to a Bond movie, and it's never quite the same.

I also remember the thrill I got when you bought me a new set of coloured pencils every birthday, and the games we used to play: Racing cars, playing with train sets

and climbing trees. People cannot believe what a tomboy I was!

You shower so much love on me and have never made me feel that because I am a girl, I have limitations. When I was offered a place to study at Curtis at 15, mum was concerned about how I would cope on my own. Yet you supported me wholeheartedly, even though I now realise how difficult a decision it must have been for the family.

In those days, a career in music was an unconventional route. And yet you followed your heart, worked hard at what you

loved, and inspired me and so many of your students to do the same. You have contributed to the growth of so many musicians, one student at a time, in your own quiet way.

I feel so proud whenever someone tells me that they once studied with you, and what a wonderful teacher you are!

The lessons you taught me have given me so much strength over the years. If I had known then how tough it would be, I might never have ventured down this path. But you always made me feel that nothing is impossible. One important lesson you still keep reminding me is: "Do not worry about the harvest. Keep sowing and the rest will take care of itself."

You taught me to have faith in myself, to keep working at what I love and to persevere in spite of set-backs. Through it all, you have always been there for me, and I am always thankful for everything you do.

But especially on Father's Day, I want to let you know how much you're loved and appreciated. Thank you for being a wonderful dad. Happy Father's Day!

*With love,
Lee Chin*

Siow Lee Chin's debut CD *Songs My Father Taught Me*, a tribute to her dad, is available in stores. **WEEKEND XTRA**

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PREVIEW SESSION

Speaker:
Mr. Mohamed Malik

Date: 25 June 2009

Time: 7pm

Venue: Capitol Centre

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Email: enquiries@tmc.edu.sg

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