[Short Biography] of Sirius Harmonica Ensemble

Sirius is a trailblazing band of pure-harmonica music , which is both high-energy and lively, that never fails to give an eye-opening experience to their audiences. Their repertoire consists of blending elements of tango, fusion jazz, latin and which are tinged with pop. Due to their love of refined sound quality and despite the size of the audiences, Sirius have unrelentingly high standards when it comes to the crisp and clear level of their sound system. They fervently believe in and insist on the perfect sound check to display the beauty of their harmonica sound. While pursuing their highest quality music in each performance, the band also craft their repertoire to maximise the pleasure and excitement of their fans.

When asked why they chose, let alone persisted with this "little-known" instrument, Sirius says "Harmonica is a very special and niche instrument and there are many of its potentials yet to discover. We aspire to bring the unique harmonica music to more people. We always aim to give our audiences different aspects to enjoy in every performance." The band has created music rearrangements for harmonica from different genres since 2004. In 2011, Sirius were invited to their first overseas concert at Singapore Esplanade - Theatre by The Bay. Since then, the band has toured regularly across Asia and Europe.

In the year 2014, the band founded Taiwan Harmonica Music Competition (THMC), which became a prominent annual harmonica event in Taiwan, with the intention of improving the musical environment for harmonica fans and musicians.



[Long Biography] of Sirius Harmonica Ensemble

When the band members of Sirius met in 2001 in HsinChu, Taiwan, little did they know that they would go on to stages all over the world to share their music.

Adoring (and often surprised) fans showered them in praise, with comments such as "I had never thought that the harmonica could make music like this!" and "This is the first time I realised that a harmonica show could be so captivating!". Fans tell the band time and time again how they are impressed they are with Sirius's harmonica music.

Sirius Harmonica Ensemble have been bringing their unique music with pure harmonica melodies to audiences in Asia since 2003. The band have never stopped exploring the possibilities by pushing the limits of their capabilities as musicians and their instruments. They are known for their high-energy and enthusiastic music that never fails to give an eye-opening experience to their audiences. One of their most popular and well-known songs, <u>Spain</u>, brought eight of the world's top harmonica virtuosos on stage during a Gala Concert in Korea that recorded an important and memorable moment in their meteoric career.

Sirius was formed in 2001 by a group of high school graduates with the pure intention of teaching juniors. As time passed, they grew gradually with inspirations and influences that motivated their growth as a band.

Over the past decades, Sirius has had more performances than they can count under their belt; including various leading international harmonica festivals, well-known theatres, convention and exhibition centres, culture and arts venues, clubs, hotels, to name a few. They kick-started their success with the first of many invitations to perform overseas, with a shining performance at the <u>Singapore Esplanade Theatres on the Bay event</u> in 2011. Not long after that, the band received the invitation from the <u>World Harmonica Festival</u> in Germany where they attended as jury members, where they also ran a workshop, as well as performed at the gala concert. To coincide with this invitation, the band released one of their most meaningful albums, Best Hits of Sirius Harmonica Ensemble, in 2013 with a special soundtrack. They sampled and collected harmonica rhythms from all over Taiwan and brought Taiwanese sounds to the world. Since then, they have been regularly invited back for performances across Asia and Europe.

Apart from the live performance invitations, <u>HOHNER</u>, one of the biggest and oldest harmonica manufacturers in the world, invited Sirius to co-produce their <u>new product video</u>. Sirius' music has become the soundtrack to the product video which has been used on many important occasions, so they are now synonymous with a high-quality product.



After more than a decade on the stage, Sirius decided to do something more than just performing. In 2014, Sirius initiated an annual harmonica festival, <u>Taiwan Harmonica Music</u> <u>Competition (THMC)</u>, with the intention to give back to society and improve the conditions for harmonica music in Taiwan, by cultivating the younger generation of would-be harmonica players. To date, the festival has become a prominent annual harmonica event. Not only did the event herald the quintessential harmonica date in every player's calendar, but the band also created the modern music category which broke away from tradition and opened up new doors to harmonica players in Taiwan.

