

*beauty homes  
foods shopping  
social fashions*

# Barbara Fei—

## music is a lot to her

An afternoon tea talk with lyric soprano Miss Barbara Fei can be a rewarding and pleasant experience. Her polished manners, frank attitude and charm easily set one at ease.

Miss Fei, a familiar and popular concert artist in talking of herself, said she once wanted to become a pianist. She had studied piano and theory at the Nanking Conservatory before coming to Hongkong at 1949. She would have continued with her piano studies had her teacher not told her that her hands were too small and arms not forceful enough to become an outstanding pianist. So she decided to study singing instead. Music means a great deal to her.

Miss Fei, who has now been singing for 17 years, has made countless TV appearances and given numerous charity performances abroad as well as at home. The Allegro Singers, a mixed chorus for young people, were formed three years ago through her efforts.

### **Busy woman**

Busy as she is, Miss Fei, who is married to Rotarian Mr. James Coe, manages to play all her roles well. She's strict with her children, two boys, Jammy Jr., 7, and Harvey, 5. "They have a tutor in the afternoon," said Miss Fei, "but I can't be at ease unless I have checked their homework in the evening." Then her own social life is quite active.

Like any woman, Miss Fei is interested in fashion shows. "I don't wear European dresses. I'm just too slim for them. But I usually

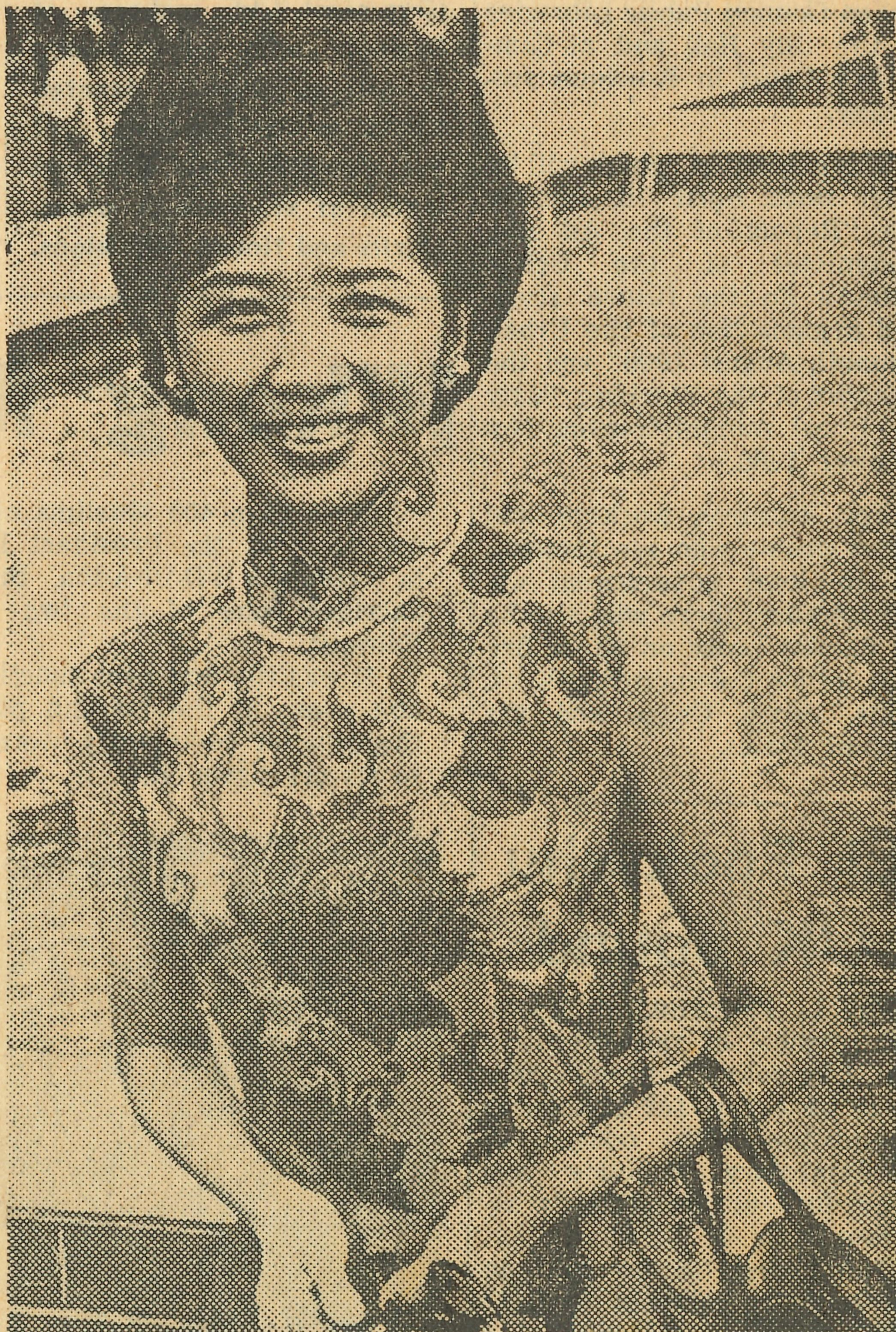
get ideas from these shows and design my own jackets to match my cheongsams."

### **A linguist**

A linguist, Miss Fei speaks English, French, Italian, German and Spanish fluently, not to mention her own language — eight Chinese dialects altogether. "Languages are important in singing. To master a foreign

language means you can appreciate what you sing," explained Miss Fei.

In her repertoire, Miss Fei usually includes folk songs, opera arias, French modern works and oratorios. Chinese folk songs are a must with her. Being Chinese, she thinks it's essential to introduce Chinese music to other peoples. Her cheongsam gowns for her concert shows also accentuate the point.  
— Yvette Woo



Barbara Fei . . . Hongkong's noted singer who once wanted to become a pianist.