



## Retirement Announcement

### *It's time to bid farewell after our long journey together*

It is always hard to say goodbye to friends. I have put off this moment for as long as possible, but the situation created by the pandemic has now made it unavoidable.

The reality is that I am 96 and am not getting any younger as the days and the weeks pass. Like countless others around the globe, I have found working these past many months in the presence of Covid-19 difficult, especially knowing that I am in the high-risk demographic, both for the virus and the vaccination.

Almost 20 years ago, I began to write an autobiography. Little did I think that it would take me until now to see it in print, or that I would still be hosting my flagship show.

Since finally completing the book's manuscript at the beginning of this year, I have had ample time to reflect on how lucky I have been to have had a career that has brought me so much joy: a career which I have mostly spent playing music and mixing with renowned local and international artists.

Seeing my life set out in this book: the decades of history, the anecdotes and the pictures of days long gone, has brought me a great sense of fulfilment. As a disc jockey, I have a very strong bond with my listeners and have long been unwilling to say goodbye to them. As much as I want to go on spinning my discs forever, I realise now I cannot.

Everything in life has a beginning and an end. My career began on a requisitioned river steamer in Macau that served as a refugee camp, where in a moment of insight I knew when the war was over, I would learn to play the drums and become a musician. Bringing my career to an end, however, isn't quite so easy. It is an excruciating decision to have to make for someone who has fully devoted himself to his job for more than 70 years. But stop I must, and I can take comfort in the fact that it will be on my own terms. As it should be.

I have decided to hang up my headphones and retire with the release of my book. Making the choice to retire will leave a great void in my life. But the memories will never fade, and the dreams will never end. The ultimate landmark of my life, 12 December 2024, when I become a centenarian, is one I dearly wish to celebrate. And I have every intention of doing it in style among my fans and my friends.

In the meantime, I sincerely thank RTHK, and my listeners, fans and friends for the enduring support you have given me and my show. Some of you I have known for well over 50 years, and I value our friendships profoundly.

*Uncle Ray*