

CLARICE SMITH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
PRESENTS

CHAMBER ENSEMBLE OF THE SHANGHAI CHINESE ORCHESTRA



Friday, February 3, 2012 . 8PM
Elsie & Marvin Dekelboun Concert Hall

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PROGRAM

**CHAMBER ENSEMBLE OF THE
SHANGHAI CHINESE ORCHESTRA**

Wang Fujian, artistic director
Wang Haiping, stage manager
Liang Xiaofen, foreign affairs executive

Relic
Composed by Wang Fujian (2009)
Guqin and Xiao

Drum Fantasia
Composed by Xie Peng (2006)
Chinese Percussion Trio

Moon's Reflection on Er-Quan
Composed by Hua Yanjun
Adapted by Wang Fujian (2006)
Erhu, Yangqin and Xiao

In the Still of the Night
Composed by Wang Fujian (2007)
Instrumental Quartet

The Silk Road
Composed by Jiang Ying (2007)
Ruan, Liuqin, Dizi and Percussion

Autumn Yearning by the Dresser
Traditional
Zheng and Xiao

PROGRAM

The Rainbow Skirt and the Feathered Coat
Traditional
String Ensemble

Jijiruling
Composed by Tang Jianping (1995)
Instrumental Ensemble

Moonlight on the Spring River
Traditional
Instrumental Ensemble

Program is approximately 120 minutes with one 20-minute intermission and encore.

The 2012 national tour of the Chamber Ensemble of the Shanghai Chinese Orchestra is part of a major, multi-year cultural exchange with Minneapolis-based **Arts Midwest**, the **Chinese Ministry of Culture**, and the **US Major University Presenter's consortium**. Support for the tour has been provided by the **Ministry of Culture, People's Republic of China**.



PROGRAM NOTES

Relic, for Guqin & Xiao

Composed by Wang Fujian (2009)
Guqin by Mi Songjie, Xiao by Qiao Haibo

This piece uses the guqin and xiao, two classical Chinese instruments, to represent the gallant and magnificent warriors of the past.

Drum Fantasia, Chinese Percussion Trio

Composed by Xie Peng (2006)
Percussion by Wang Yinrui, Dou Qiang & Rong Chenchu

Strong rhythm, fast melody and a variety of percussive sounds blend to explore the humor and fun of Chinese drums. The music is a frolic between musicians and drums that reminds us of the happy days of our childhood.

Moon's Reflection on Er-Quan, for Erhu, Yangqin & Xiao

Composed by Hua Yanjun, Adapted by Wang Fujian (2006)
Erhu by Duan Aiai, Yangqin by Gao Jing, Xiao by Qiao Haibo & Jin Kai

The erhu is a two-stringed, bowed instrument that is one of the most popular instruments in China. This work is adapted from a famous folk piece for solo erhu that was composed by a blind street musician and symbolizes his suffering, endurance, hope and triumph. The chamber music format enhances the artistic mood and conception of the original music. The music evokes a silent night with the moon reflecting in a clear spring, echoing the folk piece written decades ago.

In the Still of the Night, Instrumental Quartet

Composed by Wang Fujian (2007)
Performed by Shanghai Chinese Orchestra Instrumental Quartet

*I saw the moonlight before my bed,
And wondered if it were not the frost on the ground.
I raised my head and looked out on the mountain moon.
I bowed my head and thought of my far-off home.*

This is a classic poem by the ancient poet Li Bai (701-762 AD), who is widely considered one of the greatest poets from the golden age of Chinese poetry. Interpreting this poem, the composer used the mellow and simple timbre of Chinese musical instruments to present a clear and tranquil night.

PROGRAM NOTES

The Silk Road, for Plucked Instruments

Composed by Jiang Ying (2007)
Ruan by Liu Bo, Han Xue & Li Yueru, Liuqin by Wang Yan
Dizi by Jin Kai, Percussion by Wang Yinrui

The iconic Silk Road symbolizes the cultural exchange between the East and the West. This piece displays the exotic features of musical elements from Western China and Western Asia.

Autumn Yearning by the Dresser, for Zheng & Xiao

Ancient Music
Zheng by Fang Yu, Xiao by Qiao Haibo

This piece was originally composed for pipa as the fourth tune of Frontier Song Suite, based on the Chinese folk story of Zhao Jun traveling abroad. It pictured Zhao Jun's nostalgia and sadness when coming to the frontier.

The Rainbow Skirt and the Feathered Coat, for String Ensemble

Ancient Music
Performed by Shanghai Chinese Orchestra String Ensemble

This piece of work is ancient and elegant. Performed by seven female musicians, the music sounds like a colorful and romantic dream.

Jijiruling, Instrumental Ensemble

Composed by Tang Jianping (1995)
Performed by Shanghai Chinese Orchestra Instrumental Ensemble

The rapid beat of the percussion represents the busy and stressful life of modern people. Later, the free rhythm and familiar melody shows a return to peace and the sweetness of life.

Moonlight on the Spring River, Instrumental Ensemble

Ancient Music

Performed by Shanghai Chinese Orchestra Instrumental Ensemble

This piece is the earliest traditional melody adapted for modern Chinese instruments in Shanghai. It typifies the development of Chinese music in Shanghai at the turn of the twentieth century. Here, the arrangement provides a clean, terse form and a more complex instrumental configuration for rich acoustic effects. In this new interpretation, the lyricism in the original score is enriched with an opulent textural harmony.

ABOUT THE ORCHESTRA

Founded in 1952, the **Shanghai Chinese Orchestra** is the first large-scale modern Chinese orchestra in China. The orchestra is famous for the unique collaborations between its members and its mastery of diverse works. The orchestra plays an important role in the development of Chinese music.

The Shanghai Chinese Orchestra continues to develop an extensive repertoire, performed by renowned musicians. Its performance repertoire includes large-format Chinese orchestral works as well as mid- and small-scale traditional works, such as stringed and wind instrumental pieces, Cantonese music, plucked-string instrumental ensembles and percussion instrumental ensembles. The Shanghai Chinese Orchestra is also actively engaged in composition, which contributes to the orchestra's rich repertoire. These compositions have received awards from a variety of venues, including the Shanghai Spring International Music Festival and the Shanghai International Art Festival, as well as venues around the world.

The Shanghai Chinese Orchestra has performed in more than 80 cities in China and has toured to more than 30 countries and regions throughout the world. The orchestra often performs for prestigious audiences, including the presidents and chairmen of other countries when they visit China. In 2001 and 2003, the orchestra performed two Chinese New Year concerts — The Year of Snake New Year Concert and The Year of Goat New Year Concert in the Musikverein, Vienna — to wide acclaim in Europe. In addition, the orchestra is frequently invited to perform in major activities at home, such as the 2006 Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit, the ASEAN Summit, the 2007 Special Olympics Games, the 2008 and 2010 Shanghai National Day Concert and the 2010 Shanghai EXPO Week.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Professor **Wang Fujian** is the Artistic Director and Conductor of the Shanghai Chinese Orchestra. He is also the Vice Chairman of the Conducting Department at the Central Conservatory of Music and the Resident Conductor and Artistic Director of the China Youth Chinese Music Orchestra. Since 1985, Wang has conducted Chinese ensembles in performances throughout the world and has been a pioneer in presenting contemporary music in a traditional Chinese musical format. He has led the Shanghai Chinese Orchestra into a new era since joining as its Artistic Director in 2006.

A young erhu musician, **Duan Aiai** is the administrative erhu officer of the China Musicians Association and the vice president of the erhu committee of the Shanghai Musicians Association. She studied under the famous erhu instructor Professor Wang Yongde. Her awards include First Prize in the National Undergraduate Students of Performing Arts and the Excellent Performing Award in 2002 Shanghai Spring International Music Festival. As a soloist, she has been invited to perform in many countries and has attended many important events. She has held successful recitals in the Shanghai Concert Hall in 2002 and the Musikverein, Vienna in 2003. Her versatile techniques, her understanding of the music and her pursuit of the art make her erhu playing full of charm.

Fang Yu studied zheng performance in her early childhood and learned from renowned zheng instructors Zhu Shikuang, Wang Xun and Wang Wei. She studied at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music and was invited to join the Shanghai Chinese Orchestra after her graduation. She was featured in the recording of the album *New Shanghai* in cooperation with Australian composer John Huie, and has performed in France, Australia, the United States and Japan, among other countries. As part of the "Seven Fairy" group of the Shanghai Chinese Orchestra, she has also participated in a series of significant political missions, including the Olympic Games, the World Expo and President Obama's visit to Shanghai.

Qiao Haibo began learning the dizi at the age of eight, earning distinctions at the primary and middle school of the Central Conservatory of Music before entering the Conservatory itself. He studied under Professor Jiang Zhichao and won several awards for performances on the xiao, xun, panpipe, bawu and hulusi in addition to the dizi. He has also won several significant international awards, including the highest prize in the Small Ensembles Collection at the Second International Festival, and has toured internationally to Singapore, Germany, Austria and Macao, among other places.