

Merkin Concert Hall
Sunday, May 1st, 2016 at 3:00 P.M.

The Chinese Music Ensemble of New York

Fifty-Fifth Anniversary Concert

In Loving Memory of Mr. Tsuan-nien Chang, Founder

Li, Zong-Jun *Conductor*

Cantonese Music

Flowing Waters and Drifting Clouds 流水行云

Siu, Tit Hung 邵铁鸿

Using the idiom "Flowing Waters and Drifting Clouds" as the theme, the soloist creates a picture of nature's way that knows no obstacles.

On Horseback 走马

Traditional

Also known as "The Great Horseman". Adapted from the "Great Opening" set-tune from Cantonese opera, it describes a leisurely outing on horseback. The music progresses from slow to fast and from soft to loud as it comes to an end.

ZHU, JIANQIANG *Gaohu* **DENG, WEIHUA** *Yangqin* **LIANG, ZHONGLIN** *Xiao*

Erhu Solos

Birdsong in the Mountains 空山鸟语

Liu, Tian-Hua 刘天华

A virtuoso piece for solo erhu. It uses trills, turns, and the wide portamento characteristic of the instrument to imitate the sounds of birds chirping in the mountains and valleys.

Flight of the Bumblebee 野蜂飞舞

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakoff

The original "Flight of the Bumblebee" was composed for the opera *The Tale of Tsar Saltan*. Due to the speed of the melodic line, the piece has been arranged for a wide variety of instruments across different cultures as a showcase for virtuosic skill.

HINA ZHANG *Erhu*

Shendu 慎独

Gan, Yunzhuo 干云卓

Through its exotic melody, this trio fuses together the diverse cultural ideals found in Confucianism: to be cautious, guarded and self-disciplined, and to cast aside external sensations and honor one's heart, mind, thought and volition.

GAN, YUNZHUO *Yangqin* **CHEN, YUEQIN** *Zhongruan* **CHEN, ZHONGJIA** *Guzheng*

An Illusion 镜花水月

Gan, Yunzhuo 干云卓

A flower in a mirror, the moon on the water. Everything is elusively original, everything is abstractly illusional.

GAN, YUNZHUO *Yangqin*

Opening 小开门

Traditional

Adapted from an erhuang (二黄) mode set-tune from Peking opera used to accompany the opening of

doors. Its wide-ranging melodies and virtuosic conclusion make it a popular jinghu showcase piece.
JI, JIE *Jinghu*

Intermission

Full Orchestra

Li, Zong-Jun *Conductor*

On the Prairie 草原上

Liu, Mingyuan 刘明源, arr., Gan, Yunzhuo 干云卓

Featuring the zhonghu. With its rich and mellow sound, the zhonghu is similar to the morin khuur, a bowed string instrument of Inner Mongolia. In this piece the beautiful melody and lively rhythm describe a scene of a lovely day in the grasslands of Mongolia.

XIA, WENJIE *Zhonghu*

Chrysanthemum Terrace 菊花台

Jay Chou 周杰伦, arr., Chen, Xie-yang 陈燮阳

Featuring erhu and cello. This piece blends Eastern and Western musical cultures, and is adapted from a song of the same title, which served as the end-credit song in the movie "Curse of the Golden Flower".

YANG, FEIFEI *Erhu* **JAMES WALDO** *Cello*

The Road Across the Sky 天路

Yin, Qing 印青, lyrics: Qu, Yuan 屈塬

This song extols the Qinghai-Tibet railway. Like a flying dragon, from Golmud to Lhasa, it crosses a massive plateau nicknamed "The Rooftop of the World".

SHAO, WEILING *Vocalist*

Reed Flowers 芦花

Yin, Qing 印青, lyrics: He, Dong Jiu 贺东久

A song of love and romance. Reed flowers, caught in the wind, travel miles and miles, carrying dreams of love with them.

SHAO, WEILING *Vocalist*

Mountain Rhythms 山韵 *First and Second Movements*

Zhou, Yuguo 周煜国

Inspired by 3 lines of poetry: "Last night the west wind withered the green-clad trees; alone I climb the high tower and gaze my fill along the road to the horizon," (Yan, Shu 晏殊), "My clothes grow daily more loose, yet I care not; I waste away for you," (Liu, Yong 柳永), "I sought her among others myriad times. I turned as if drawn, and she was where the lamplight was fading," (Xin, Qiji 辛弃疾). These 3 lines characterize the 3 movements of the piece: "Gu (valley)", "Jian (ravine)", and "Feng (peak)". The piece draws on both traditional and modern performing techniques of the zhongruan to express subtle variations in emotion and musical form.

CHEN, YUEQIN *Zhongruan*

A Young Girl's Dream 春闺梦

Wang, Tian-Ming 王天明

Based on the play "The Peony Pavilion – A Walk in the Garden", written by Tang, Xianzu (汤显祖) in the Ming Dynasty. It tells the story of a beautiful young lady who falls asleep while taking a walk in the garden. In her dream she falls in love with a young scholar. The melody is exquisite and expressive, recounting the beauty of the garden and the sentiments of a young lady.

About the Chinese Music Ensemble of New York

A non-profit organization founded in 1961 by the late Mr. Tsuan-nien Chang (張銓念) (1917-1997), the Chinese Music Ensemble of New York is the oldest, and only full-scale Chinese orchestra in the United States and the Americas. Its present membership of over forty musicians plays practically every type of Chinese music and instruments. Its repertoire ranges from ancient classical to modern compositions spanning some fifteen hundred years of history. With the goal of promoting Chinese music, the Ensemble has performed in concerts at major concert halls in New York, and in schools, colleges, libraries and museums throughout the Eastern seaboard.

About the Conductor

Li, Zong-Jun 李宗駿 graduated from Shanghai Conservatory of Music majoring in conducting. He was conductor of the Shanghai Broadcasting Orchestra for many years and has been a member of the Shanghai Musicians Association. He immigrated to the US in the late 1990s.

About the Soloists

Chen, Yueqin 'Eugenie' 陈玥颢 is a NY-based ruan and liuqin artist. She has performed at venues including Carnegie Hall, Merkin Concert Hall, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Prior to coming to the US, she studied ruan and liuqin performance with Professor Wu Qiang at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. In 2007, Chen was invited by China Central Television to record a solo performance of "A Remote Song" for a program featuring young musicians. Later that year, her ensemble Jin Qi took first place in the Nat'l Classical Chinese Music Competition. She remains an active performer and has contributed to several albums featuring contemporary Chinese music. Currently, Chen serves as a core committee member of the Chinese Music Ensemble of NY.

Gan, Yunzhuo 干云卓 is a graduate of the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, majoring in *Composition* and *Yangqin*. She has played at the Shanghai World Expo, the Paralympic Games, the Cannes International Film Festival, and the Prague Spring Music Festival. Her compositions include the score of "The Continuation of Love" which broadcasted on CCTV-6 in China, and a commission by the SMG Chinese Instrument Orchestra. Gan has won prizes from the EACA Int'l Composition Competition and the TMSK Liu Tianhua Nat'l Composition Competition.

Ji, Jie 季节 (also affiliated with the China Eastern Song and Dance Troupe) is a master performer of Chinese traditional bowed stringed instruments and has been the concertmaster of the CESDT for over 30 years. He is a member of the Chinese Musicians' Association (China), a high-rank off-campus examiner for the China Conservatory of Music (Beijing), and a cultural committee member of the Jiusan (九三) Society.

Shao, Weilin 邵玮玲

Ms. Shao has been in the United States for twenty years. She has performed throughout the country, including Lincoln Center, Broadway, Carnegie Hall, Washington Music Hall, and Yale University East Asian Studies Music Hall. She is also active in Chinese community concerts and is a committee member of the American Chinese Musicians Association.

James Waldo, is active as a cellist and viola da gamba player in the New York City area. Principal ongoing projects include the touring cello/piano ensemble A.W.Duo, the Listen Closely Inwood Chamber Music Initiative, and LeStrange Viols. James studied with Timothy Eddy at Mannes College (MM, PDPL), and Uri Vardi at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Xia, Wenjie 夏文杰, studied *banhu* (wooden fiddle) with the southern *banhu* virtuoso Gao, Jian-jun. He graduated from the school of the Shanghai Traditional Music Orchestra in 1962. Later he joined the Shanghai Opera House as principal soloist on the banhu, erhu and gaohu and served as the concertmaster of its National Instruments Orchestra. He has been erhu and banhu soloist of the Chinese Music Ensemble of New York and its concertmaster for many years.

Yang, Feifei 杨飞飞 is a celebrated huqin artist and an award-winning singer. She is a member of the Chinese Musicians' Association and a researcher in the Digital Arts and Humanity Research Center at Pratt Institute. Ms. Yang has been invited to perform at notable institutions across the States, including Lincoln Center, the Barclays Center, the United Nations, Summer Stage, the New York Fashion Week among many others. Feifei's first self-composed and live-recorded huqin music album, *Dance of the Strings*, was released in 2015.

Zhu, Jianqiang 朱健强, studied with Tao Liu and Tian-Yi Liu, both famous gaohu masters in China. He worked for ten years with the Guangdong Provincial Performing Group in Hainan as a composer and performer. His works include *Duet for Erhu* and Dancing songs.

The Chinese Music Ensemble of New York

P.O. Box 1062, New York, NY 10002

Tel (212) 925-6110

Website: <http://www.chinesemusicensemble.org> Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/cmeny1961>

Music Director: Guo, Jing-Qiang

Conductor: Li, Zong-Jun

Executive Director: Sun, Hongtao

Directors Emeritus: Teng, Yu-Chiung and Terence Yeh

Bowed Strings:

Guo, Jing-Qiang

Xia, Wen-Jie*

Zhang, Bao-Li*

*Co-Concert Masters**

Choey, Kwok-kay

Jiang, Guo-Guang

Ji, Jie *Special Guest Artist

Lin, Anchi

Lu, Inna

Mo, Jie-Ren

Chow, Mei-Hua Shen

Teng, Yu-Chiung

Wang, Yang

Wayne Wong

Wu, Yong-Ping

Xiao, Qing-Ping

Yang, Feifei

Zhang, Nan

Zhu, Jianqiang

Plucked Strings:

Sun, Hongtao*

**Principal*

Chen, Yueqin

Fan, Chen

Alice Wou Choey

Gan, Yunzhuo

Ge, Jia

Gong, Qi

Liu, Lu

Shen, Jiaju

Wang, Xiao-Qin

Yang, Zhi-ping

Josephine Yeh

Chen, Zhongjia*

**Special Guest Artist*

Winds:

Wei, Lai-Gen*

**Principal*

Chin, Tsujui

Kevin Tien

Katelyn Weng

Xu, Yu-Yuan

Terence Yeh

Liang, Zhong-Lin*

**Special Guest Artist*

Percussion:

Deng, Wei-Hua

Jessica Lin

Liu, Hua-Dong

Vocalist:

Shao, Weiling

Merkin Concert Hall Coordinator: Donald Hou

Program Notes: Alice Choey, Kevin Tien

Chinese names written with family name first

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With Thanks to All the Individual Patrons of The Chinese Music Ensemble of New York!

We hope to see you all at our free community concert in November! Check our website and find us on Facebook for updates!

Summer Lessons and Private Study

The CMENY will be offering summer group lessons geared towards K-12 students on erhu, dizi, and yangqin. There is no instruction fee, only a nominal application fee! For more information and to request an application, please send an email to **info@chinesemusicensemble.org**.

If you are interested in learning any of the instruments used in this concert in a private lesson setting (for all levels and ages, based on instructor availability), please send an email indicating interest to **info@chinesemusicensemble.org**.

Annual Fundraising

We hope you enjoyed today's concert as much as we enjoyed presenting it to you. We are a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, and we need your support. Your gift will help us to bring more future concerts for your enjoyment.

[] I would like to make a tax-deductible contribution in the amount of \$_____ payable to *Chinese Music Ensemble of New York*.

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