

Acknowledgements

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More than 144 students and dozens of faculty have participated and contributed to the MSU-China project since 2005, the year I co-founded this collaboration with Fu Haijing. Conceived in rehearsal at the Metropolitan Opera, this collaboration continues to grow and develop. Great musical events, prize winning competition, astonishing cultural experiences, and abiding international friendships embody the MSU-China project. Please help this collaboration flourish by considering a donation to the MSU-China Exchange Fund. A gift of \$1,000, \$500, \$250 or \$100 supports a program students have described as a “life-changing experience”, as well as provided international visibility for Michigan State’s College of Music, and significant recruitment opportunities and impact for the Vocal Arts Area.

If you are interested in supporting this international exchange, please write your check payable to Michigan State University, and indicate “MSU China Exchange” on the memo line (AE06082). Your contribution can be sent to:

College of Music Advancement Office
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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | COLLEGE OF MUSIC

and

The Central Conservatory of Music

present

Master Pieces: A Faculty Fanfare of Opera, Chinese and American Song

Bi Baoyi, Alto
Melanie Helton, Soprano
Richard Fracker, Tenor
Xie Tian, Tenor
Elden Little, Piano
Wu Chun, Piano

Thursday, October 2, 2014, 7:30 pm
Fairchild Theatre, MSU Auditorium

**This concert is generously sponsored by Linda
Nelson**

A Note from the Director

Tonight, the MSU College of Music welcomes faculty alto Bi Baoyi and faculty tenor Xie Tian from the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, widely regarded as the finest music conservatory in China. My dear friend and co-founder Haijing Fu graduated from this esteemed conservatory. It is a joy and privilege to have these fine artists from CCOM performing with Melanie Helton and I in a collaborative evening of arias, duets, and songs from the great operatic, American and Chinese traditions.

I also want to share my profound gratitude for Linda Nelson, a long-time supporter of the MSU-China project who has chosen to sponsor both the faculty and student concerts again at MSU this year. Linda, our students and I cannot thank you enough . . . please be sure to return tomorrow evening at 8:00pm to hear the talented students from CCOM and MSU perform.

Special thanks as well to Elden Little and Wu Chun, our collaborative pianists this evening, and to my esteemed colleague—Melanie Helton, soprano and colleague extraordinaire. My deepest gratitude as well to Dean James Forger, without whose support this evening would not be possible, and to my academic, performance, and choral colleagues who daily contribute to the growth our students and me. Their special efforts to accommodate the challenging schedule of our student participants are deeply appreciated.

Finally, my most profound appreciation and admiration for Haijing Fu . . . Haijing not only has proven an extraordinary singer during his internationally renowned career – but an even more extraordinary man and friend.

Richard Fracker, Co-founder, Director

Act I

From *Tosca* Giacomo Puccini
Recondita armonia (1858-1924)

Cavaradossi paints a Madonna inside a Roman church and compares his picture of the Madonna to the darker beauty of his lover, Tosca.

Richard Fracker, Tenor

From *Il barbiere di Siviglia* Gioacchino Rossini
Una voce poco fa (1792-1868)

After reading a letter from Lindoro (who is really Count Almaviva), Rosina joyfully sings of her love for him.

Bi Baoyi, Alto 毕宝仪：女中音 教师

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From *Adriana Lecouvreur* Francesco Cilea
Ecco ... lo son l'umile ancella (1886-1950)

The Prince de Boullion meets the company of the Comédie-Française before their show. Although he is the patron of Adriana's acting rival Duclos, he compliments Adriana instead. Adriana replies that she is simply the vessel through which the muses work . . .

Melanie Helton, Soprano

From *La forza del destino* Giuseppe Verdi
O tu che in seno agli angeli (1813-1901)

Don Alvaro has changed his name to Don Federico Herreros and come to Italy to fight as a captain in the Spanish army. He reflects on his lost love Leonora, and decries the fate of his parents and his failed ascension to the royal throne.

Xie Tian, Tenor 谢天：男高音 教师

From *Lakmé* Léo Delibes
Viens, Mallika, les lianes en fleurs (1836-1891)

Lakmé, daughter of a Brahmin high priest—and her servant
Mallika venture to the river gather flowers and bathe.

Melanie Helton, Soprano
Bi Baoyi, Alto 毕宝仪：女中音 教师

From *West Side Story* Leonard Bernstein
Maria (1918-1990)

Tony bursts with his new found love for Maria, the sister of a
rival teenage gang in 1950's Upper West Side New York City.

Richard Fracker, Tenor

From *Zigeunerlieder* Johannes Brahms
Brauner Bursche führt zum Tanze (1833-1897)
Röslein Dreie in der Reihe blühen so rot

Two selections from Brahms's well-known cycle of "Gypsy" songs
based on Hungarian folk tunes . . .

Bi Baoyi, Alto 毕宝仪：女中音 教师

From *The Wizard of Oz* Harold Arlen
Over the rainbow (1905-1986)

Admonished by Auntie Em to avoid causing problems, Dorothy
muses with her dog Toto about a place somewhere without
trouble.

Xie Tian, Tenor 谢天：男高音 教师

From *Andrea Chénier* Umberto Giordano
Vicino a te s'acqueta (1867-1948)

Maddalena bribes the jailor so she can replace one Idia Legray
and die with Chénier. The couple looks forward to being united
after death in heaven.

Melanie Helton, Soprano
Richard Fracker, Tenor

Intermission

From *Susannah* Carlisle Floyd
Ain't It a pretty night? (b.1926)

Susannah Polk looks at the stars and wonders what it would be
like to be away from her hometown and the mountains.

Melanie Helton, Soprano

From *La tabernera del puerto* Pablo Sorozábal
No puede ser (1897-1988)

Leandro learns that the love of his life Marola may be using him
and wonders aloud if this accusation can be true. He
determines she cannot be that bad, she would never lie to him.

Richard Fracker, Tenor

From *Die Fledermaus* Johann Strauss
Ich lade gern mir Gaester ein (1825-1899)

Prince Orlofsky's playfully admonishes his guests to enjoy the party as he does, each in their own way. As long as they are not boring and drink with him, he will not throw them out.

Bi Baoyi, Alto 毕宝仪：女中音 教师

From *The Merry Widow* Franz Lehár
Vilja (1870-1948)

In the garden of her mansion, Hanna sings the ballad of Vilja, a forrest nymph who falls in love with a mortal.

Melanie Helton, Soprano

E bellissimo! Leonardo Marzagaria
E continua sognare! (b. 1949)

Xie Tian, Tenor 谢天：男高音 教师

From *Les soirées musicales* Gioacchino Rossini
La Danza (1792-1868)

Traditional Neapolitan song about dancing, romance and love...
Richard Fracker, Tenor

The Shepherdess Song Traditional

A shepherdess looks at the blue, blue sky and the wandering clouds, comparing her sheep to a scattering of silver.

Melanie Helton, Soprano

In a faraway place 在那遥远的地方 Wang Luobin
(1913-1936)

In a faraway place lives a lovely girl. When people pass by they turn their head and do not want to leave. I wish I was a little lamb so I could be near her. She could tenderly touch me with her thin whip . . .

Richard Fracker, Tenor

On The Mountain Of Horse Race Traditional

Bi Baoyi, Alto 毕宝仪：女中音 教师

This is Me Xiaoguang and Jianfen

Xie Tian, Tenor 谢天：男高音 教师