

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | COLLEGE OF MUSIC

and

Central Conservatory of Music

present

**Musical Shares:
A Youthful Celebration of Opera,
Chinese and American Song**

from the Central Conservatory of Music

He Qun, Zhai Xiaoru, Zhang Yi, Soprano

Jin Jiujiu, Mezzo-soprano

Wang Pai, Tenor

Kou Tianpei, Su Wenbo, Baritone

Han Zhengji, Bass

from the Michigan State University College of Music

Heather Benson, Jenna Buck, Schyler Sheltroun, Soprano

Gedeane Graham, Mezzo-soprano

Isaac Frishman, Stephen Martin, Tenor

Daniel Ewart, Baritone

Tyler Frisbie, Bass

Elden Little, Piano

Wu Chun, Piano

Friday, October 3, 2014, 8:00 pm

Cook Recital Hall, Music Building

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

College of Music

This concert is generously sponsored by Linda Nelson

A Director's Note

Since its inception in 2005, the MSU – China Collaboration, co-founded with my dear friend and internationally acclaimed baritone Haijing Fu, has served more than 144 MSU and Chinese students as well as utilized dozens of faculty from various Chinese conservatories, universities and MSU. Tonight's student concert represents the ninth collaborative performance at MSU for this program. This evening we welcome students from the Central Conservatory of Music, widely acclaimed as the finest conservatory of music in China, and coincidentally—the alma mater of my esteemed colleague and friend, Haijing Fu. It is an honor to have students and faculty from CCOM share their talent and expertise with us this in our 2014 collaboration.

For nine years, Haijing and I have watched this collaboration develop and grow. It has provided not only excellent musical experiences for its participants and audiences alike – it has fostered enduring friendships that bind two great nations together in a unique and personal way. The collaboration has proven everything Haijing and I hoped it would be and more . . . in 2016, we plan our first full opera production and collaboration between CCOM and MSU's Opera Theater as MSU celebrates the 2015-2016 academic cycle as a year focusing on the university's many partnerships with China. It is an exciting project celebrating 10 years of rewarding musical and cultural experiences for Chinese and MSU students alike.

I wish to extend a special thanks to Linda Nelson who has chosen to sponsor this evening's student concert once again. Special thanks as well to Elden Little and Wu Chun, our collaborative pianists, and a personal note of gratitude to my colleagues in the voice area whose expert training of their students has contributed so greatly to the success of this collaboration. Finally, special gratitude to Dean James Forger who makes this project possible at Michigan State University – and to all of my academic and choral colleagues who have made special efforts over the years to accommodate the challenging schedule of our student participants in addition to their daily thoughtful teaching and professional development of voice area students.

Richard Fracker, Co-founder, Director

Act I

From *I Pagliacci* Ruggiero Leoncavallo
Si può, si può? (1857-1919)

Tonio, playing his character Taddeo in a small traveling company comedic presentation ironically reminds the audience that actors are real people too—a portent of opera's tragic finale.

Daniel Ewart, Baritone

From *La Traviata* Giuseppe Verdi
Libiamo ne' lieti calici (1813-1901)

He Qun, Soprano
Stephen Martin, Tenor

From *Rusalka* Antonín Dvořák
Song to the Moon (1841-1904)

Rusalka, a water-nymph has fallen in love with a human prince who regular swims in the lake where she resides. Invisible to him Rusalka prays to the moon that her love can be revealed to him.

Zhang Yi, Soprano

From *Les pêcheurs de perles* Georges Bizet
Je crois entendre encore (1838-1875)

Nadir recalls how he broke his vows to his best friend Zurga by pursuing the beautiful priestess, Leila—whom they both loved, but swore they would never let come between them.

Isaac Frishman, Tenor

My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord Arr. Betty Jackson King
(1928-1994)

Gedeane Graham, Mezzo-soprano

Rainbow Sister Traditional

Traditional Chinese folk song from the He Bei Province ...

Han Zhengji, Bass

From *Linda di Chamounix* Gaetano Donizetti
O luce di quest'anima (1797-1848)

Linda is late for her daily rendezvous with Carlo, a young artist from Paris.

Jenna Buck, Soprano

From *Le Villi* Giacomo Puccini
Se come voi (1858-1924)

Anna slips a bouquet from her engagement celebration into Roberto's luggage hoping that he will discover the flowers and think of her . . .

Heather Benson, Soprano

From *Six Songs Op. 4, No. 4* Sergei Rachmaninoff
Ne poj, krasavitsa pri mnie (1873-1943)

Based on a poem from Alexander Sergeyevich Pushkin whom many consider Russia's great poet, the poem recalls with nostalgia the author's doleful and stormy love affairs during his exile to Russia's southern regions.

Jin Jiuji, Mezzo-soprano

From *Rigoletto* Giuseppe Verdi
Un di, se ben rammentomi (1813-1901)

The Duke flirts with Maddalena as Gilda witnesses all from outside and despairs at his betrayal.

He Qun, Soprano
Jin Jiuji, Mezzo-soprano
Wang Pai, Tenor
Su Wenbo, Baritone

Intermission

Act II

From *The Man of La Mancha*
I, Don Quixote

Mitch Leigh
(1928-2014)

Renaming himself as Don Quixote, the knight-errant who has lost his mind sets out for adventure with his faithful servant, Sancho Panza.

Tyler Frisbie, Bass
Isaac Frishman, Tenor

From *Breakfast at Tiffany's*
Moon River

Henry Mancini
(1924-1994)

Lyrics by Johnny Mercer, Mancini's iconic ballad among the most memorable tunes of all time in American history . . .

Kou Tianpei, Baritone

Fei-Tian (Traditional)

Jingxin Xu

Fei-Tian (flying fairy) represents a goddess or many goddesses in Chinese Buddhist legend. She often floats in the sky and tosses flowers that symbolize peace.

Schylar Sheltroun, Soprano

From *Manon Lescaut*
Sola, perduta, abbandonata

Giacomo Puccini
(1911-1951)

Des Grieux has gone to look for water. In his absence, Manon laments that she does not want to die.

Zhai Xiaoru, Soprano

From *Werther*
Va! laisse couler mes larmes

Jules Massenet
(1858-1924)

Charlotte confesses her pain that she is not married to Werther. Weeping, she admits her heart is too empty to be filled when Werther is away from her.

Gedeane Graham, Mezzo-soprano

La Clemenza di Tito
Se all' impero

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)

Titus signs the death warrant for Sextus, but tears it up. He sings of the heartbreak the circumstances have caused him.

Wang Pai, Tenor

Duetto di due gatti

Gioacchino Rossini
(1792-1868)

Rossini's playful song of dueling sopranos . . .

Jenna Buck, Soprano
Heather Benson, Soprano

From *New Moon*
Softly, as in a morning sunrise

Sigmund Romberg
(1893-1941)

Philippe, the best friend of the operetta's hero Robert Mission—sings this song of bitterness and yearning for lost love.

Stephen Martin, Tenor

Traditional
A Night Mooring by Maple Bridge

Li Yinghai
(1813-2007)

A Chinese folk song from the Hebei province, a weary traveler moors his boat at a maple bridge outside the city. His sleep is disturbed by three things—a fisherman's light, a crow's call, and the sound of a temple bell.

He Qun, Soprano

From *Tannhäuser*
O du mein holder Abendstern

Richard Wagner
(1813-1883)

As night falls, Wolfram sings this ode to the evening star.

Su Wenbo, Baritone

From *La Rondine*
Chi il bel sogno di Doretta ?

Giacomo Puccini
(1858-1924)

Magda sings the story of Doretta, a young woman who dreams that a student kisses her so passionately that she now knows what passion is . . .

Schyler Sheltroun, Soprano

From *Godspell*
We Beseech Thee

Stephen Schwartz
(1858-1924)

Based on the parable separating the sheep from the goats, our cast focuses on singing about love . . .

MSU Cast

Con te partirò

Francesco Sartori
(b. 1957)

With you I will leave . . . I'll go with you to countries I never saw and shared with you, now, yes, I shall experience them. I'll go with you on ships across seas which, I know, no, no, exist no longer; with you I shall experience them again. I'll go with you on ships across the seas which, I know, no, no, exist no longer; with you I shall experience them again. I'll go with you, I with you.

CCOM & MSU Casts

Acknowledgements

Fu Haijing and I wish to acknowledge and thank the following donors for their support over the years of the MSU-China Collaboration.

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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:

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