MSU Opera Theatre,
MSU-China X Collaboration
and
China Conservatory of Music
Present

THE SAVAGE LAND
&
BERNSTEIN SINGS AMERICA
WITH THE MSU SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

MAR 23, 25, 26, 27 • WED 7:30PM • FRI/SAT 8PM • SUN 3PM
MSU AUDITORIUM’S FAIRCHILD THEATRE

7:30 pm, Wednesday, March 23, 2016
8:00 pm, Friday, March 25, 2016
8:00 pm, Saturday, March 26, 2016
3:00 pm, Sunday, March 27, 2016
Fairchild Theatre, MSU Auditorium Building

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | College of Music
The 2015-2016 MSU Opera Theatre season is generously supported by
The Worthington Family Foundation

Special thanks to generous donors who have helped make MSU-China X possible:
Doug Jewell, Drs. Lou A. and Roy J. Simon,
Barbara Wagner, Loren and Carol Wall

This activity is supported by an award from the
Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs & the
National Endowment for the Arts

China Conservatory of Music
Producers: Professor Fu Haijing, Professor Song Yi

MSU-China Collaboration
Producer: Professor Richard Fracker

MSU Opera Theatre
Producer: Professor Melanie Helton
A Note

This year marks the 10\textsuperscript{th} anniversary of the MSU-China Collaboration I co-founded with my dear friend and internationally acclaimed baritone from the Metropolitan Opera, Haijing Fu. Incredibly, Michigan State University coincidentally celebrates its vast connections with the People’s Republic of China. Something special needed to happen and through Professor Melanie Helton and the Michigan State University Opera Theatre—it has. Our fully staged double bill of \textit{The Savage Land} and \textit{Bernstein Sings America} expands MSU-China X to heights Haijing and I could not have envisioned ten years ago. Who could have imagined participating students learning a complete role in Chinese or English with orchestra—or performing in the National Centre for the Performing Arts in Beijing?

Our students from the China Conservatory of Music and Michigan State University have been nothing short of remarkable—as have been my colleagues who have brought this all together. Melanie Helton brings incredible skill and patience to her work and her delightful \textit{Bernstein Sings America} fully represents her award-winning skill as a director and producer. Maestro Yang Youqing (DMA 2004 MSU) conducted a \textit{Hansel and Gretel} I directed at MSU before I joined the vocal faculty at MSU—how wonderfully ironic that the China Conservatory of Music selected Maestro Yang to conduct \textit{The Savage Land}. Dr. David Rayl has proven a wonderful musical ambassador as well as skilled conductor for the \textit{Bernstein Sings America} and he and his staff did yeoman work in helping prepare the orchestral parts for both operas. Dr. Elden Little provided great musical support for the students both here and in Beijing. As they say, it takes a village . . .

Haijing Fu, Song Yi (CCM co-producer) and I cannot thank Dean Forger or our wonderful colleagues enough for making this dream come true. Please enjoy tonight’s celebration of two great cultures.

Professor Richard Fracker
Cast of Characters

The Savage Land

Jin Zi
Jiao Mu
Chang Wu
Bai Shazi
Chou Hou
Da Xing
Schyler Sheltrown*
Yi-Han Xu*
Zaikuan Song*
Xiao-Jie Ji*
Chen Tan*
Xiaofei Liu

Luo-Ji Wang**
Christine Roberts**
Yi-Han Xu*
Chen Tan**
Jonathan Oakley**
Chen Tan*
Nicholas Kreider**
Stephen Martin*/

Ge-Zhun Kuan**

Bernstein Sings America!

From Michigan State University
Katie Bethel
Keileigh Koch
Tyler Martin
Aaron Petrovitch
Quinn Rulison
Alina Tamborini
Jonathan Walker-Van Kuren

From China Conservatory
Zhenying Qian
Xintang Bo
Tian Xia
Xiao-Fei Liu
Ding Yi
Xinmu Cao
Cong-Ju Song

Conductor
Youqing Yang
(Savage Land)***

Stage Director
Haijing Fu
(Savage Land)***

David Rayl,
Brandon Hults+
(Bernstein)

Melanie Helton
(Bernstein)

*Friday, March 25 & Sunday, March 27
+Sunday, March 27 only
**Wednesday, March 23 & Saturday, March 26
***Guest Artist
Staff for MSU Opera Theatre

Music Director: David Rayl
Producer: Melanie Helton
Scenic Design: Lex Van Blommestein
Set Construction: Mark R. Willoughby
Lighting Design: Brent Wrobel*
Costume Design: Em Rossi*
Projection Design: Peter Johnston*
Technical Director: Mark Willoughby
Production Stage Manager: Tianxi Wang, Quentin Fettig
Musical Preparation: David Rayl, Elden Little
Assistant Conductor: Brandon Hults
Logo artist: Barbara Hranilovich*
Head Electrician/Light Board: James Peters
Head Carpenter: Chris Guardiola
Head Flyman: Mike Wright
Head Video: Dustin Peiffer
Fairchild Theatre Stage Manager: Ron Fenger
Rehearsal Accompanists MSU: Lia Wang, Yoomin Jung
Rehearsal Accompanist CCM: Qiu Si-Qiang
MSU College of Music:
Recording Services: Jennifer Shangraw,
Publicity: Jon Whiting, Steve Boughton
Budget Officer: Tammy Hoebeke

*Guest artist

Grateful Acknowledgments

College of Music: James Forger, Dean
MSU Vocal Arts Area Faculty: Richard Fracker (Chair), Jane Bunnell, Marc Alan Embree, Melanie Helton, Harlan Jennings, Peter Lightfoot, Elden Little, Anne Nispel, David Rayl, Jonathan Reed, Sandra Snow
Orchestras, Kevin Noe; Piano: Deborah Moriarty; Collaborative Piano: Zhihua Tang; Development: Rebecca Surian (Dir.), Sean Lynch;
Operations: Gregg Bloomfield (Dir.); COM Staff: Christine Babiak-Smith, Barb Dougherty, Shawn Mahorney, Kevin O’Donnell, Charlene Reha, Amy Rivard
MSU Department of Theatre, Kirk Domer (Chair)
Wharton Center, Sandy Thomley, Production Manager
Michigan Council for Arts and Creative Activities: Chad Badgero
The Story
The Savage Land
Location: A small village in rural China

Chou Hu has been imprisoned for eight years and has now returned to his village. As he roars that he has come back, he is seen by the village idiot, Bai Shazi, who thinks he is a ghost. Chou Hu asks Bai Shazi what has happened to the man who was responsible for his imprisonment. The fool replies that the old man is dead and buried. Chou Hu says that he has come back in vain, and why couldn’t the old man have waited for revenge.

Chou Hu’s childhood sweetheart, Jin Zi, has been forcibly married to the son of the man who sent him to prison, Da Xing. Jin Zi is miserable, and she accuses Da Xing of being forever tied to his mother’s apron strings. Da Xing responds that his mother is old and blind and no threat to them. Jin Zi vows revenge, and Da Xing sings of his confusion about the nature of women.

Da Xing’s mother, Jiao Mu, hates her daughter-in-law and thinks her son is weak. Jin Zi longs for a day when the sun shines, as her heart is so dark.

Out of the darkness, Chou Hu comes to Jin Zi. She begs him to go away, and yet she wants him to stay. She sings to the spirit of the savage land for help. He asks if she does not still ache for him, and she finally says yes, she does. Chou Hu holds her and sings of his love for her.

After the lovers part, Jin Zi returns home. There is a knock on the door – it is Uncle Chang Wu, the local busybody. Jin Zi pretends to be chanting a prayer, and then plies him with wine. He confesses to Jin Zi that it is Jiao Mu who has sent him to check up on her. He advises her to stay with her married family, and not risk betrayal of Chou Hu.
Da Xing and Jiao Mu return home. She insists that he beat his wife. Jin Zi implores him to beat her to death because the legacy of the plot against Chou Hu has ruined her life and stolen her love.

Chou Hu and Jin Zi meet. She begs him to not kill Da Xing, and that two generations of hatred is enough. She begs him to run away with her. He scorns her pity for him, but she pleads that she cannot stand by and let him die.

Da Xing enters and the three sit down for a drink. They all think their own thoughts: Da Xing of his self-loathing, Chou Hu of his need for revenge, Jin Zi of her fear for both men. Chou Hu deceives Da Xing that they are seeking vengeance on the same man, the one who Jin Zi has loved. Chou Hu finally admits that it is he himself who is that man. Chou Hu attacks Da Xing with a knife, and Jin Zi throws herself in front of the attack. Da Xing finally acknowledges that Jin Zi truly loves Chou Hu.

Later, Da Xing begs Jin Zi to stay, and she vows never to live without Chou Hu. As Da Xing attacks Jin Zi, Chou Hu rushes in and stabs Da Xing to death. Jiao Mu vows vengeance over the death of her son as the lovers flee.

After months in the wilderness, the fugitive lovers hear a train in the distance. Jin Zi pleads for them both to catch it, but Chou Hu knows that his capture is inevitable. As they sing of their love, she agrees to catch the train and he is left to face his ultimate demise.
Bernstein Sings America!
Musical Numbers

From *On the Town* (lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green – 1944)

**New York, New York**
Jonathan Van Kuren, Tian Xia, Aaron Petrovitch*/
Cong-Ju Song, Tyler Martin, Xiao-Fei Liu**

From *Candide* (lyrics by Richard Wilbur – 1956)

**Glitter and Be Gay**
Xinmu Cao*/Alina Tamborini**

From *Wonderful Town* (lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green – 1953)

**A Quiet Girl**
Aaron Petrovitch*/Xiao-Fei Liu**

From *West Side Story* (lyrics by Stephen Sondheim – 1957)

**I Feel Pretty**
Ding Yi, Xinmu Cao, Katie Bethel, Keileigh Koch*/
Quinn Rulison, Alina Tamborini, Zhenying Qian,
Xin-Tong Bo**

From *Candide*

**I Am Easily Assimilated**
Katie Bethel*/Zhenying Qian**
Company

From *West Side Story*

**Maria**
**Tonight**
Jonathan Walker-Van Kuren, Yi Ding*/
Cong-Ju Song, Quinn Rulison**

From *On the Town*

**Lonely Town**
Tian Jia*/Tyler Martin**

From *Trouble in Tahiti* (lyrics by Leonard Bernstein, 1952)

**What a Movie!**
Keileigh Koch, Xinmu Cao, Jonathan Walker-Van Kuren,
Aaron Petrovitch*/Xintong Bo, Alina Tamborini,
Jonathan Walker-Van Kuren, Aaron Petrovitch**
From Wonderful Town

The Wrong Note Rag

Ding Yi, Katie Bethel*/
Quinn Rulison, Zhenying Qian**
Company

From On the Town

Some Other Time

Ding Yi, Keileigh Koch, Tian Xia, Aaron Petrovitch/*
Quinn Rulison, Xintong Bo, Tyler Martin, Xiao-Fei Liu**

From Candide

Make Our Garden Grow

The Company of the
MSU-China Conservatory Collaboration


About the Production

This program is intended to span two very different musical cultures. The Savage Land, although composed in a western style, still uses Chinese folk motifs and sonorities in its story of a Chinese family torn apart by jealousy, greed and thwarted love. We have made a decision to not try to make the Americans look like Chinese, instead focusing on the basic human tale.

Bernstein Sings America! is a celebration of the music of that quintessential American, Leonard Bernstein. Much as The Savage Land draws from Chinese traditional music, the theatre music of Bernstein is redolent of jazz, blues and traditional American musical theatre. But you must also listen for echoes of Ravel at the beginning of “Glitter and Be Gay,” deFalla in “I Am Easily Assimilated,” and perhaps a little Mahler in the choral finale of “Make Our Garden Grow.”

After three sold-out performances in Beijing, China, including two at the China Conservatory and one at the National Performing Arts Center, we are thrilled to be back in the USA and to bring you this collaboration featuring both our MSU and China Conservatory students – now new friends.
MSU Symphony Orchestra  
Kevin Noe, Director of Orchestras

Violin I  
Austin Burket  
Saikat Karmakar  
Andrew Hatfield  
Catalina Barraza  
Yulia Orlova  
Anna Khalikova  

Violin II  
Daniela Diaz  
SeaKyung Hur  
Hadiya Knight  
Piaras Kent  
Ashley Heska  
Diana Moisejenkaite  

Viola  
Nicholas Mowry  
Alyssa Moskowitz  
Isaac Sarver  
Kyle Krause  

Cello  
Jennifer Pittman  
Chae Won Hong  
Hakob Atyan  
Hyojung Yoo  

Bass  
Matthew Gibson  
Sam Thomas  
Lin Chang  
Zachery Suttner  

Flute  
Nicholas Buonanni  
Alex Kindel  

Oboe  
Jason Kennedy  
Woojung Kim  

Clarinet  
Sam Davies  
Cassandra O’Brien  

Bassoon  
Walter VanGieson  
Kaylee Whitfield  

Trumpet  
Eduardo Farias  
Perry Holmes  
Jacob Bronso  

Horn  
Chandler Nadig  
Tim Wright  

Trombone  
Sean Biehn  
Nathaniel Geiger  

Bass Trombone  
Steve Gellersen  

Percussion  
Kathryn Irwin  
Emilio Monreal  
Spencer Eaton
Guest Artists

Haijing Fu (stage director, The Savage Land) received an Artist Diploma in Opera from Boston University, where he studied voice with Dean Phyllis Curtin, and an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Fine Arts from Michigan State University. After winning the Auditions, Haijing made his Metropolitan Opera debut as Giorgio Germont in La Traviata; other Met roles included Riccardo in I Puritani, Enrico in Lucia di Lammermoor, Marcello in La bohème, Ford in Falstaff, Roucher in Andrea Chenier, Ping in Turandot, Stankar in Stiffelio, Paolo in Simon Boccanegra, Métivier in War and Peace, and the Chief Minister in Tan’s The First Emperor. The baritone made his San Francisco Opera debut as Conte di Luna in Il Trovatore, appeared at the Los Angeles Music Center Opera and the Washington Opera as Rigoletto, and appeared in leading baritone roles at San Diego Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Dallas Opera, Opera Company of Philadelphia, Opéra de Nice and the Teatro Municipal de Santiago in. His most recent stage role was Seikyo in Tan Dun’s Tea: A Mirror of Soul, a role he created for The Netherlands Opera and performed in Tokyo’s Suntory Hall, with the Opéra de Lyon, at Festival New Zealand, and with Philadelphia Opera. In concert he has appeared with the Cleveland Orchestra, Fort Worth Symphony, Geneva Symphony, Montreal Symphony and the Baltimore Symphony.

Youqing Yang (conductor, The Savage Land) is Professor of Conducting at the China Conservatory of Music, as well as Music Director and Conductor of the China Youth Philharmonic Orchestra. He received his Doctor of Musical Arts in Orchestral Conducting at Michigan State University with Professor Leon Gregorian in May 2004. After his graduation from Shanghai Conservatory of Music with Professor Huang Xiaotong, Yang was appointed Resident Conductor of the China National Opera Theater. He conducted the world premiere of the opera Savage Land by Xiang Jin in the China Arts Festival with success. He was invited to Germany to guest conduct the Saarlandische Staatsorchester in Saarbrucken with a concert tour of Bonn, Saarbrucken, Luxembourg, as well as the Classic Open Air Festival in Solothurn, Switzerland with critical acclaim.

He has appeared as guest conductor of many orchestras in China, including the Central Philharmonic of China, China Broadcasting Symphony, Central Opera Symphony Orchestra, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Tianjin, and Beijing Symphony Orchestras, among many others.
MSU Opera Theatre Graduates


**Student News**

**Isaac Frishman,** tenor, doctoral student of Professor of Voice Richard Fracker, was admitted to the summer 2016 San Francisco Opera Merola Apprentice Program. Frishman was also selected for the Young Artist Residency Program of OPERA Iowa through the Des Moines Metro Opera; **Steve Martin,** tenor, doctoral student of Fracker, was a regional finalist at the Metropolitan Opera Competition in Kentucky and won a Metropolitan Opera Young Artist regional encouragement award. Martin also earned an apprenticeship with the Santa Fe Opera; **Schyler Sheltrown,** a voice master's candidate and student of Helton, received an Encouragement Award from the Metropolitan Opera Michigan District Competition in November 2015. **Kyle White,** sophomore baritone student of Helton, returns to Seagle Colony in the Adirondacks to sing Belcore in *L'Elisir d'Amore* on a full
joining white will be soprano Catherine Goode — a master's student of helton — and jon oakley — a master's student of Fracker. Catherine also won 1st place among graduate students at Great Lakes Regional National Association of Teachers of Singing auditions; katharine nunn, senior mezzo-soprano student of helton, who received 3rd place in the national opera association vocal competition scholarship division. katharine will be a company member at ohio light opera in the summer of 2016; Leah Brzyski, senior soprano student of professor anne nispel, earned an apprenticeship at the ash lawn opera in charlottesville, va., in the summer of 2016.

Mark Your Calendars for our 2016-2017 Season!

Gaetano Donizetti’s
L’Elisir d’Amore
(The Elixir of Love)
Wednesday, November 16
Thursday, November 17
Friday, November 18*
Sunday, November 20
*Please notice slight change in regular schedule, no Saturday performance

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s
Le Nozze di Figaro
(The Marriage of Figaro)
Wednesday, March 22
Friday, March 24
Saturday, March 25
Sunday, March 26

joining our faculty in fall 2016 is internationally acclaimed baritone Mark Rucker. we are thrilled to welcome him as a new Spartan.
MSU Opera Society is the community support organization of the MSU Opera Theatre. We are grateful to our members for their generous contributions.

The 2015-16 MSU Opera Theatre season is generously funded by the Worthington Family Foundation

**Presenter ($5,000+)**
- Doug Jewell
- Drs. Lou A. and Roy J. Simon
- Barbara Wagner
- Loren and Carol Wall
- Jack and Dottie Withrow

**Underwriters ($1,000 - $4,999)**
- Susan and Jack Davis
- Douglas and Maureen DeYoung
- Rick and Lynne Fracker
- Earle and Virginia Helton
- Selma and the late Stanley Hollander
- Herbert and Mary Jim Josephs
- Tim Wuchter and John Vargo

**Impresarios ($500 - $999)**
- Anonymous
- Melanie Helton
- Cleo-Rae Lavey
- Charles and Nancy Theis

**Angels ($250 - $499)**
- Jennifer Barrymore
- Roger and Elaine Calantone
- Thomas Dean
- Frank and Katharine Dennis
- James Forger and Deborah Moriarty
Angels ($250 - $499) con’t
Ron Junttonen and Mary Black Junttonen
Bill and Shirley Paxton
David Rayl and Joel Maurer
Richard and Cheryl Rice
Ruth Worthington

Benefactors ($100 - $249)
Kenneth Beachler
Katie Bethel
Rodolfo and Mimi Brereton
R. Sekhar Chivukula and Elizabeth Simmons
Lee and Esther Dalrymple
Conrad and Judith Donakowski
Arlene Friedland
David Gander and Carol Steele
Carolyn Henderson
William and Mary Bosser Joyce
Juliana Kartsimas
Ellen Kirk
Joseph and Kathleen Lessard
Seth and Michelle Martin
Charles Mason
Frank and Jeanne McKowen
Charles and Susan Millar
Gordon Miracle
Alan and Harriett Posner
Milton and Sue Powell
Charles and Patricia Ruggiero
Richard Scala and Gretchen Bria
Charles and Nancy Seebeck
Eric and Carol Simmons
Loudell Snow
George and Marilyn Stephens
Christopher and Rebecca Surian
Ewen and Zora Todd
Richard and Joan Witter
Patrons ($50 - $99)
Pauline Adams
John and MaryJo Anderson
David Auge and Sandra Wright-Auge
  Dale Bartlett
Norris and Carol Bryson
Bruce Helmer
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Leo and Margaret Kennedy
Ross and Barbara Lowes
William and Orilla McHarris
  Eleanor Omoto
  Carla Spataro
  Carolyn White
  Audrey Wilson
  Amy Yeung

Become a member of the MSU Opera Society! Your contribution is tax deductible and will be used to assist with high production costs involving set design and construction, costumes and operations.

Please consider how much you enjoy the Opera Theatre productions and send your check or money order made payable to Michigan State University with “MSU Opera Society – AE0605” written on the memo line. Mail your contributions to:

Opera Theatre
College of Music Advancement Office
333 W Circle Drive, Room 105
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824

For information about the MSU Opera Society or sponsoring Fall 2016 - Spring 2017 MSU Opera productions, please contact the College of Music Advancement Office at (517) 353-9872 or e-mail Rebecca Surian at surian@msu.edu.