



THE CHINESE FINE ARTS SOCIETY

highlights 2009

A LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



中華才藝協會

Dear Friends of the Chinese Fine Arts Society,

Happy New Year and thank you for your ongoing support! 2009 was an exhilarating yet bittersweet year for the Chinese Fine Arts Society as we celebrated our 25th anniversary - thrilling as our programming reached new heights, poignant because our late founder, my mother Barbara Tiao, was only with us in spirit as we achieved many of her goals for the organization.

In the next few pages, we hope that you'll enjoy the story in pictures of CFAS, 2009. It has truly been a remarkable year! Many thanks to our long term sponsors - the Illinois Arts Council, City Arts, Target and the Tribune Foundation; and programming partners - the Chicago Cultural Center, Millennium Park, Chicago Sister Cities and MPEA. I'd also like to thank violinist Rachel Barton Pine, arts consultant Peter McDowell, graphic designer Anthony Ma, videographer Shaun Ho, our wonderful volunteers, and the tremendous ladies of the Chinese Fine Arts Society Board of Directors.

We invite you to join us as we embark on our next quarter century! We are enthusiastically seeking volunteers at all levels of involvement. Please visit www.chinesefinearts.org to learn more! In the face of a very challenging arts funding world, we also welcome your continued support! Please consider joining our membership, or making a donation at our website or by mail. Thank you!

Best wishes for 2010!

Julie Tiao Ma

Board President, Chinese Fine Arts Society

We began the year with our 5th annual Chinese New Year extravaganza of Chinese folk arts at Navy Pier, drawing record crowds as we moved to the picturesque new venue of the Crystal Gardens. In February, we made a foray into the world of ceramics - a stunning exhibition featuring three local artists, each bringing a distinctive yet Chinese point of view to their work. At our 20th Annual All Chinese Music Concert in May,

we introduced the Elite Trio, a highly acclaimed Taiwanese ensemble making their Chicago debut here in Preston Bradley Hall.



Ceramics by Shu Hei Hwang



The Elite Trio at Preston Bradley Hall



Niulang (Cowherd) and Zhinu (Weaver Princess) from the Little Star Dance Troupe



"Peach Fairies" from the Little Star Dance Troupe



All Star King Fu provided the Emperor's guards

The summer brought a dizzying array of special 25th anniversary programming, thanks to the opportunity created by the City's Chinese Cultural Week in Chicago in mid-July. Our astounding line-up of nine programs in nine days opened on July 19 with the groundbreaking original presentation of the



Emperor and Empress from Skyland Beijing Opera, the Little Star Dance Troupe Buddha Dancers



Musical interludes by Betty Haag's Magical Strings of Youth



"Milky Way" by Championship Martial Arts Academy



Chicago Chinese Cultural Center Lion Dancers led the procession.



China Spectacle: *QiXi, the Story of Niulang and Zhinu* in Millennium Park, which forged new partnerships with many leading Chinese arts organizations in the area.



CFAS Chorus at Navy Pier



Qixi Seven Sisters Dance at Daley Plaza



Simultaneously, we also presented spectacular performances at Navy Pier and the Evanston Art Fair. These were followed by a week of events in the Millennium Park Family Fun Tent and at Daley Plaza.



Alex Li, erhu and Kerry Leung, bamboo flute in the Family Fun Tent



Ling Ling Pao Dance Studio's Parasol dancers at Navy Pier



Morihiko Makahara conducts the Chicago Pro Musica.



In Tribute: A Chinese Voyage at Jay Pritzker Pavilion

Our Chinese Cultural Week programming concluded with the fulfillment of a 25-year dream to present a Chinese music concert in Chicago's most prestigious outdoor venue,

Cheng Da Percussion Ensemble



as we produced *In Tribute: A Chinese Voyage, a concert dedicated to the memory of Barbara Tiao*, at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park. An audience of more than 6,000 attended the highly acclaimed concert, featuring winning compositions from our International Music

Xiao Dong Wei, erhu and Wei Yang, pipa.



Betti Xiang, erhu

Honorary Event Chairwoman Rachel Barton Pine, violin and John Bruce Yeh, clarinet.



Composition Competitions, and traditional Chinese works. The concert was followed by a special Patrons Reception at the Harris Theater.

In the fall, our focus turned to our *25th Annual Music Festival in Honor of Confucius*, which experienced record-breaking participation and introduced a new category – Chinese Instruments! Our standing room only *Winners Concert* featured outstanding performances by this year's top performers and the inaugural Chinese instrument performance in this concert series.



CFAS Young Artists Ensemble at WFMT



We were delighted with several major media opportunities that presented themselves this year, most recently on WFMT's *Introductions* and WGN's *Sunday Papers* with Rick Kogan.



Choreographer Jin Qiu Yue with a few of the 100 dancers that she trained for QiXi



QiXi lead dancers in the ABC Studio

Dancers from our QiXi performance were featured on the *ABC Morning News* during Chinese Cultural Week. The popular *Chinese Fine Arts Society Young Artists Ensemble*, which features several MFHC participants, made its debut at the Evanston

Art Fair, performed in the inaugural *Chinatown Summer Concert Series*, and were the featured artists in an hour-long show on WFMT's *Introductions* in September. Board President Julie Ma was the guest speaker on Kogan's show in mid-October.

Looking forward to 2010...

We are pleased to announce that the Chinese Fine Arts Society's Third International Composition Competition, titled "Migratory Journeys" will kick off in early 2010 and culminate in the Fall of 2011

with a World Premiere Concert to be performed at a high-profile venue in Chicago. Our distinguished advisory panel includes Fulcrum Point New Music Project Executive Director Sophia Wong Boccio, Accessible Contemporary Music Executive Director

Seth Boustead, Dean of the Chicago College for the Performing Arts, Roosevelt University, Henry Fogel, and violinist Rachel Barton Pine. More information about this twice-a-decade competition can be found at www.chinesefinearts.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Chinese New Year at Navy Pier: Year of the Tiger 4708

Navy Pier Crystal Gardens
Sunday, February 14, 2010 from 12 – 5:30 pm

21st Annual All Chinese Music Concert

Chicago Cultural Center, Preston Bradley Hall
Sunday, May 16, 2010 from 3 - 5 pm

CFAS Board of Directors

Julie Tiao Ma, *President*
Katherine Jui Chang, *Vice President*
Shuguey Liu, *Secretary*
Michelle Kuo, *Treasurer*
Emily Lam, *Director*
Wen Ming Leung, *Director*
Mei Syun Lin, *Director*
Kathleen McMahon, *Director*
Nina Chen Sobota, *Director*
Nancy Teng, *Director*
Matthew Terry, *Director*

Grand Opening!

Purchase Concert DVDs, keepsakes and photos from our summer productions of China Spectacle: Qi Xi and In Tribute: A Chinese Voyage at our new online Store!

Featured Item:



For a limited time only, you can receive the Chinese Voyage Commemorative DVD/Program Book Set as a gift when you make a donation of \$45 or more to CFAS

What people are saying about

In Tribute: A Chinese Voyage

"There is an old cliché that says that music is a universal language - and this event proved the truth of that. Music breaks down barriers between people - and this evening more than accomplished that - it built bridges."

- **Henry Fogel**, *Dean, Chicago College for the Performing Arts, Roosevelt University*

"I truly enjoyed the concert... The caliber of music presented was extremely high along with the diversity of material... I walked away with a renewed interest in Chinese music and culture."

- **Troy Anderson**, *Dean of Programs, Merit School of Music*



THE CHINESE FINE ARTS SOCIETY



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Photography by
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