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**25th Annual Music Festival in Honor of Confucius, sponsored by
the Chinese Fine Arts Society, takes place October 25, 2009.
Winners Concert takes place November 22 at the Chicago Cultural Center**

Held every year in late October, at the time of the birthday of the legendary Chinese philosopher, hundreds of young musicians compete in the annual **Music Festival in Honor of Confucius**, where they perform selected Chinese music, as well as a western piece of their choosing, for a panel of judges. The Festival this year, although not open to the general public, will take place on **Sunday, October 25th, 2009 at the Sherwood Conservatory of Music.**

In celebration of our 25th Anniversary, the Chinese Fine Arts Society is pleased this year to introduce a **new Chinese Instruments Category** within the Festival, described later within this release.

All first prize winners of the MFHC Festival Competition are invited to perform at the Annual Music Festival in Honor of Confucius **Winners Concert**. This year's winners concert will be held on **Sunday, November 22, 2009 at 3:00 pm at the historic Preston Bradley Hall at the Chicago Cultural Center. As always, this concert is free and open to the public.** Parents and family, as well as the public, get the chance to hear and enjoy various musical pieces, originating from both the East and West.

Founded by the late Barbara Tiao in 1984, the Music Festival in Honor of Confucius introduces participants to the rich heritage of Chinese music through competitions and scholarships. An exciting required repertoire reflects the beauty and breadth of the Chinese musical tradition and proves to be challenging and inspiring for the contestants. It exposes students and their teachers to a wider world of music and styles. Participants will be performing selected pieces and divided by instrument and age.

From a storefront operation at its inception, attracting just a handful of participants, the Music Festival has become a very popular musical event for musicians of all ages in Chicago. Music teachers welcome it; young musicians look forward to participating in it; the packed audience at the Winners Concerts enjoy and appreciate it. Alumni of this popular program (examples include violinist Rachel Barton Pine and pianist Conrad Tao) have gone on to attend music conservatories, and many have developed successful professional music careers.

There are four sub-competitions:

The Confucius Competition

Our flagship competition for cellists, violinists and pianists ages 18 years or younger. Each contestant performs one piece from the required Chinese repertoire, and one piece of the contestant's choice to compete for cash prizes and participation trophies.

The Amei Hu Lin Violin Scholarship Competition

For advanced violinists ages 18 or younger. This competition commemorates the life of Mrs.

Amei Hu Lin and is sponsored by Mr. & Mrs. Jiumn-Wen Lin. Each contestant performs the required repertoire piece to compete for a \$500 scholarship.

The Virginia Geyser Behrendt Scholarship Competition

For advanced cellists, pianists and violinists performing together as a trio ensemble, ages 25 or younger. This competition commemorates the life of Mrs. Virginia Behrendt and is sponsored by the Virginia Geyser Behrendt Foundation. Each group of contestants performs the required repertoire piece to compete for a shared scholarship of \$1200.

Chinese Instruments Category (New this year!)

In celebration of our 25th Anniversary, the Chinese Fine Arts Society is pleased to introduce the Music Festival in Honor of Confucius – Chinese Instruments Category (MFHC-CIC). It is open to nonprofessional players of all Chinese instruments in any age group. In this introductory year, the MFHC-CIC will be run in a non-competitive festival manner. Participants are invited to perform a Chinese repertoire piece of their choice, and will be adjudicated by a distinguished panel of judges. As with other MFHC categories, judging sheets will be provided to the participants and Huang Zhong participation points will be awarded, but there will be no placement awards or cash prizes.

At their discretion, the MFHC-CIC Judges and the MFHC committee may select a participant from the Chinese Instruments Category to perform at the 25th Annual MFHC Winners Concert, which will take place on Sunday, November 22nd, 2009 at Preston Bradley Hall at the Chicago Cultural Center.

According to Chinese Fine Arts Society Board President Julie Tiao Ma, daughter of late founder Barbara Tiao, “The Music Festival is an event that reflects some of the best and most admirable desires that we all share: peace, harmony and a mutual appreciation for beauty and art. The diverse ethnicities of the participants from our past years shows that despite being from different cultural backgrounds, we are by no means separated by those differences.”

Celebrating its 25th anniversary, the Chinese Fine Arts Society is a not-for-profit organization based in Chicago. In Chicago’s culturally diverse society, CFAS provides programs and activities that promote the understanding of Chinese culture through music and other fine arts. In addition to the annual Music Festival in Honor of Confucius (MFHC), twice a decade CFAS also sponsors an International Music Composition Competition. For these competitions, they solicit new music compositions, inspired by a Chinese cultural theme, from composers worldwide. The winning compositions are premiered in a Chicago-area venue, performed by top-notch professional musicians. Through their Outreach program, CFAS presents cultural programming in nursing homes, schools, libraries, and underserved communities, as well as large scale events for locals and tourists in highly visible locations throughout the greater Chicago area, often engaging young participants from the Music Festival in Honor of Confucius to perform at these events. In July 2009 CFAS was engaged by the City of Chicago to create several highly acclaimed special events held throughout Millennium Park and Navy Pier as part of Chinese Cultural Week in Chicago.

For further information about the Chinese Fine Arts Society or the Music Festival in Honor of Confucius, contact 312-369-3197 or info@chinesefinearts.org. Visit www.ChineseFineArts.org

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