



## CHINESE FINE ARTS SOCIETY

### **For Immediate Release**

Photos: available on request

Contact:

Elizabeth Clawson

(773) 935 - 6168

[eclawson@chinesefinearts.org](mailto:eclawson@chinesefinearts.org)

<https://chinesefinearts.org>

### **Chinese Fine Arts Society Announces its**

#### **2019 Chinese New Year Celebrations**

*Celebrate the year of the pig, a symbol of good luck and prosperity, with a Lantern Procession through two of Chicago's most beloved parks, incredible acrobatics from the China National Peking Opera Company, performances by world renowned Silk Road pipa player Yang Wei, and other spectacular performances!*

**Chicago, IL (January, 2019)** —The Chinese Fine Arts Society (CFAS) announces an exciting series of Chinese New Year events celebrating the Year of the Pig **February 2 - 16** in partnership with **Choose Chicago, the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, Navy Pier, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Chicago Park District, Apple Michigan Avenue, and Roosevelt Collection Shops**. Event details are included at the end of this release.

CFAS will provide programming throughout the Chicagoland area, with performances showcasing the vibrancy, beauty and richness of Chinese New Year traditions. For 35 years, CFAS has been a leader in promoting excellence in Chinese music, dance, and visual arts. 2019 will usher in the Year of the Pig, which symbolizes wealth, good fortune, and prosperity.

CFAS previews the Chinese New Year season on **Saturday, February 2** with a Chinese New Year celebration and lantern procession presented in partnership with the **Art Institute of Chicago** (111 S. Michigan Ave), **Maggie Daley Park** (337 E. Randolph St), and the **Chicago Park District**. In celebration of Chinese New Year, patrons of all ages are invited to enjoy gallery tours, art-making, storytelling, music, and games at the [Art Institute of Chicago](http://ArtInstituteofChicago.org) from 1 - 4:30pm. Immediately following the events at the Art Institute, join CFAS in a lion dance-led lantern

procession through Millennium Park to Maggie Daley Park where the celebration continues with a lion dance performance, skating on the Skating Ribbon, and art making in the Field House.

Celebrations continue on **Tuesday, February 5**, the official first day of the Year of the Pig, with a city-wide Chinese New Year Kickoff Event presented by CFAS in partnership with **the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, and Choose Chicago**. This special, free event starts at **12:00pm** in the **Chicago Cultural Center's Preston Bradley Hall** (78 E. Washington St.), and features multi-arts performances including Lion dance; Silk Road pipa master Yang Wei; martial arts; the award-winning Flying Fairies dance troupe; and direct from Beijing, a sneak peak of the **China National Peking Opera Company's** comedic and acrobatic "At the Crossroads," a famous opera based on a story from the *Water Margin*, one of the classic novels of Chinese literature.

Students can also enjoy a presentation of the **China National Peking Opera Company** at a school matinee event at **Benito Juarez Community Academy** (1450-1510 W. Cermak Rd.). This performance includes the comedic and acrobatic "At the Crossroads," a famous opera based on a story from *Water Margin*, one of the great novels of Chinese literature and other opera excerpts. *Presented in partnership with Choose Chicago.*

On **Saturday, February 9, from 1:30 - 3:00pm**, pipa meets Garageband as CFAS presents Silk Road pipa sensation Yang Wei at a special "[Today at Apple](#)" performance at **Apple Michigan Avenue** (401 N Michigan Ave). Yang Wei will perform on the *pipa*, a Chinese lute, and then audience members will get hands-on learning to play the instrument in GarageBand using iPads. He will then integrate music created by the audience into an improvisational work. During the program, calligrapher Yijun Hu will write Chinese characters in response to the music performed. Opening the music lab, the Sound of Wishes ensemble will perform Chinese music on a trio of *guzheng*, a 21 stringed Chinese zither.

On February 15, [Roosevelt Collection Shops](#) will host "The Pig Freeze: Lunar New Year Celebration 2019" where they will unveil a larger-than-life, celebratory ice sculpture, which will include a "piggy bank" where guests can donate to support Chinatown's [Project:VISION](#). The event will feature a live performance from the Chinese Fine Arts Society Lion Dancers at 7pm, and lucky red envelopes with prizes inside for shoppers who spend \$100 at RC retailers. The first 200 guests will also receive a complimentary bao from Piko Street Kitchen food truck; other food will also be available for purchase.

Festivities will conclude at **Navy Pier** (600 E. Grand Ave), on **Saturday, February 16 from 1:00 - 5:00pm**. The **Aon Grand Ballroom** will be transformed into a festive Chinese marketplace with food, crafts, and performances for the whole family. Two stages will feature performances by the Chicago Chinese Cultural Center Lion Dancers, pipa master Yang Wei, Mongolian throat singer Tamir Hargana, the award-winning Flying Fairies dance troupe, Beidou Kung Fu, Zhong Hua Kung Fu, traditional Chinese music by the Eight Tones Chinese Instrument Ensemble, Cheng Da Drum Team, and many other luminaries from the Chicago Chinese community.

“The Lunar New Year is the biggest holiday of the year for Chinese people worldwide. We are thrilled to see a growing number of major cultural institutions in Chicago embrace this tradition and create opportunities to showcase China’s 5,000 year-old cultural heritage” remarked CFAS President Julie Tiao Ma.

For more information on CFAS and its upcoming Chinese New Year events, visit [www.chinesefinearts.org](http://www.chinesefinearts.org)

## **CFAS 2019 Chinese New Year Event Calendar**

### **Chinese New Year Celebration and Lantern Procession**

Date: Saturday, February 2 (PLEASE NOTE - Due to icy and slippery weather conditions, the lantern procession and activities at Maggie Daley Park have been postponed to Saturday, February 9th. The procession and Maggie Daley Park activities will take place at the same times.)

Time:

- Events at Art Institute of Chicago - 1:00 - 4:30 PM
- Lantern Procession from Millennium Park to Maggie Daley Skating Ribbon
  - Line-up: 5:00 PM on the west side of the Lurie Garden, across the street from the Modern Wing entrance of the Art Institute of Chicago (look for the lanterns! See Millennium Park map at the end of this release for exact location.)
  - Procession Begins: 5:30 PM
- Skating Demonstrations, Lion Dancing, and art-making at Maggie Daley Park - 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Location: The Art Institute of Chicago (111 S. Michigan Ave); Maggie Daley Park (337 E. Randolph St)

Admission:

- Normal admission rates apply for Art Institute of Chicago activities. Check the [Art Institute of Chicago Events](#) for more information.
- Lantern Procession and Maggie Daley Park activities are free and open to the public

### **City of Chicago Chinese New Year Kickoff Celebration**

Date: Tuesday, February 5

Time: 12:00 - 1:00 PM

Location: Chicago Cultural Center - Preston Bradley Hall (78 E. Washington St)

Admission: Free

### **China National Peking Opera Company - School Matinee**

Date: Thursday February 7

Time: 1:00 - 2:00 PM

Location: Benito Juarez Community Academy (1450-1510 W. Cermak Rd. Chicago, IL 60608)

Admission: \$8 with student ID. School field trips encouraged and attractive group pricing is available. Contact the Chinese Fine Arts Society at [info@chinesefinearts.org](mailto:info@chinesefinearts.org) for more information.

### **Today at Apple**

#### **Music Lab: Chinese New Year Celebration with pipa master Yang Wei**

Date: February 9

Time: 1:30-3:00 PM

Location: Apple Michigan Avenue (401 N Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60611)

Admission: Free

### **The Pig Freeze: Lunar New Year 2019**

Date: February 15

Time: 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Location: Roosevelt Collection Shops (150 Roosevelt Rd, Chicago, IL 60605)

Admission: Free

### **Global Connections: Chinese New Year Celebration at Navy Pier**

Date: Saturday, February 16

Time: 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Location: Navy Pier - Aon Grand Ballroom (600 E. Grand Ave)

Admission: Free

###

### About the Chinese Fine Arts Society

The Chinese Fine Arts Society (CFAS) is a Chicago-based non-profit dedicated to promoting the appreciation of Chinese culture, enhancing cultural exchange, and pursuing excellence in Chinese music, dance, and visual arts. Since its founding in 1984, CFAS has been a leading champion of Chinese culture, bringing together people from diverse backgrounds to celebrate the beauty and majesty of both traditional and contemporary Chinese art. Find more information about the Chinese Fine Arts Society's events at [chinesefinearts.org](http://chinesefinearts.org).

### About Choose Chicago

Choose Chicago is the official destination marketing organization for Chicago, Illinois. Its mission is to bring regional, national and international business and leisure visitors to Chicago for the economic benefit of the City, the community and its membership. Choose Chicago and the China International Cultural Association signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2015, strengthening cultural ties between Chicago and China. For a comprehensive listing of many of the amazing events and activities awaiting visitors, visit [ChooseChicago.com](http://ChooseChicago.com).

Get answers to your Chicago questions on the go, restaurant recommendations, and tips on citywide events and activities by following [@ChooseChicago](https://twitter.com/ChooseChicago).

#####

### Map of Millennium Park Including line-up location and route for February 9 Lantern Procession

