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 Jiujie, 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 Sheltrown, 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

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
Ruggero 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  
(1797-1848)

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

Jenna Buck, Soprano

From Le Villi  
Giacomo Puccini  
(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  
(1873-1943)

Jin Jiujie, Mezzo-soprano

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.

From Rigoletto  
Giuseppe Verdi  
(1813-1901)

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

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

Intermission
Act II

From *The Man of La Mancha* I, Don Quixote (1928-2014)

Renaming himself as Don Quixote, the knigh-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 (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)*

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.

Schyler Sheltrown, Soprano

From *Manon Lescaut* Sola, perduta, abbandonata (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 (1858-1924)

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

Gedeane Graham, Mezzo-soprano

La Clemenza di Tito Se all’ impero (1840-1893)

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 (1792-1868)

Rossini’s playful song of dueling sopranos . . .

Jenna Buck, Soprano
Heather Benson, Soprano

From *New Moon* Softly, as in a morning sunrise (1887-1951)

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
(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
(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?
(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 Sheltrown, Soprano

From Godspell
We Beseech Thee
(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.

Roger and Elaine Calantone
James Forger and Deborah Moriarty
Richard and Lynne Fracker
Jackson National Life
Melanie Helton
Douglas and Ellen Hoard
Selma and the late Stanley Hollander
Cecil and Clare Mackey
Maner Costerisan Corporation
Alfred and Agnes Marco
Gordon Miracle
Linda Nelson
Bill and Shirley Paxton
David Rayl and Joel Maurer
Carolyn and David Schuurmans
Charles and Nancy Theis
Charles and Mary Ellen Toy

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:

College of Music Advancement Office
333 W Circle Drive #102
East Lansing, MI 48824

GIVING TO THE COLLEGE OF MUSIC

PRIVATE GIFTS play a vital role in our ability to maintain and enhance the quality of the programs we offer. Donations support student scholarships, fellowships, program endowment, instrument acquisitions, guest artists, professorships, outreach activities, operations, and other crucial areas that make the College of Music an exemplary place of learning. To learn more about concert sponsorships and giving to the college, please contact the Advancement Office at (517) 353-9872.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2014-2015 SPONSORS

- Ken and Sandy Beall (The French Connection)
- William David Brohn (Viva Vivaldi)
- Kurt and Cheryl Burmeister (Opera – Cosi fan tutte)
- Joanne and Bill Church (West Circle Series)
- April Clobes and Glen Brough (Bach Plus)
- Byron and Dee Cook (Viva Vivaldi)
- Pam Dilley (Faculty Recital – Suren Bagratuni, cello and Ralph Votapek, piano)
- Martin Fuchs and Friends (Maurice Ravel, Man of Mystery and Schubert and Dvořák)
- Stanley and Selma Hollander (Cello Plus Chamber Music Festival and The Silent Movie, 2015)
- Doug and the late Ginny Jewell (Piano Monster)
- Hari Kern and the late Ralph R. Edminster, M.D. (Happy Birthday Mozart)
- Clare and Cecil Mackey (Scholarship: Supporting the High C’s)
- Patrick and Victoria McPharlin (MSU Professors of Jazz)
- Michigan State University Federal Credit Union (Showcase Series and Spartan Spectacular)
- Beth and the late Dr. Milton Muelder (Schubertiade)
- Craig and Lisa Murray (A Jazzy Little Christmas)
- Linda Nelson (MSU – China IX Exchange Faculty Concert and Student Concert)
- Jim and Elaine Rauschert (Faculty Recital – MSU Professors of Jazz)
- In memory of Distinguished Professor Emeritus Harold L. Sadoff, by Rosetta N. Reusch, Ph.D. and William H. Reusch, Ph.D. (Bach Plus)
- Jerry Schuur and Elaine Karle (Bach Plus)
- Drs. Lou A. and Roy J. Simon (A Fairchild Fanfare)
- Linn Van Dyne and Mike Knox (Symphony Orchestra – Gustav Mahler, Symphony No. 3)
- WKAR (Faculty Artist Recital Series)
- Wolverine Development Corporation, Joseph Maguire (A Jazzy Little Christmas)
- Worthington Foundation (2014-2015 Opera Season)

SPONSORSHIPS ARE STILL AVAILABLE FOR

MSU’s Home for the Holidays – $5,000
Opera Theatre production (spring) – $5,000
Faculty and guest artist recitals – $1,000

RECOGNITION

Sponsors will receive recognition in the form of event publicity, promotions, programs, and pre-concert announcements. Complimentary tickets will also be provided. For information, or to learn more about event sponsorships and giving to the college, please contact the College of Music Advancement Office at (517) 353-9872 or e-mail Rebecca Surian at surian@msu.edu.