A Note from the Director

The concert this evening represents a return to our early years when a faculty performance provided a regular and exciting component of the MSU – China Collaboration. Tonight, Michigan State University welcomes faculty baritone Mao Hui from the Tianjin Conservatory of Music who will perform with my esteemed MSU faculty colleagues and I in an evening of arias, duets, and songs from the great operatic, American and Chinese traditions. How wonderful to preview our new Cook Recital Hall! This is a special evening for many of us in so many ways.

Haijing and I want to issue special thanks to Linda Nelson, a long-time supporter of the project who has chosen to additionally sponsor this year’s student concert which will be presented tomorrow evening at 8:00 pm. Please be sure to return tomorrow evening to hear our talented students from Tianjin and Michigan State perform.

Special thanks as well to Alan Nathan, Judy Kabodian, and Ren Chun-Ying this evening’s collaborative pianists and admired friends, and to my colleagues in the voice area – Molly Fillmore, Melanie Helton, Harlan Jennings, Peter Lightfoot and Anne Nispel. I am not only honored to sing with them this evening – but equally privileged to work with on a daily basis. My deepest gratitude to Dean James Forger, whose support for this project makes this all possible and to all my academic, performance and choral colleagues who make special efforts to support and accommodate our MSU student participants during this collaboration’s challenging schedule.

Finally, my most profound appreciation and admiration for Fu Haijing . . . Haijing is not only an extraordinary singer – but an extraordinary man and friend.

Richard Fracker, Co-founder, Director

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | COLLEGE OF MUSIC

and

The Tianjin Conservatory of Music

present

Two Nations – One Voice

Molly Fillmore, Soprano
Richard Fracker, Tenor
Melanie Helton, Soprano
Harlan Jennings, Baritone
Judy Kabodian, Piano
Peter Lightfoot, Piano
Mao Hui, Baritone
Alan Nathan, Piano
Anne Nispel, Soprano
Ren Chun-Ying, Piano

Friday, October 5, 2012, 8:00 pm
Cook Recital Hall
Act I

_Il Barbiere di Siviglia_  
*Una voce poco fa* (A voice a little while ago)  
(1792 – 1868)

The ward of Dr. Bartolo who plans to marry her, Rosina is smitten by the young student Lindoro (really the Count Almaviva) who has serenaded and exchanged notes with her. With a note to Lindoro in hand, Rosina vows to foil Bartolo and follow her own heart.

Melanie Helton, Soprano  
Judy Kabodian, Piano

_Don Pasquale_  
*Bella siccome un angelo* (Beautiful as an angel)  
(1797 – 1848)

Dr. Malatesta proposes his fictitious sister as the perfect bride for his friend Don Pasquale, an old codger who has commissioned Malatesta to find him a mate.

Mao Hui, Baritone  
Ren Chun-Ying, Piano

_Le nozze di Figaro_  
*Deh vieni non tardar* (Please come, don’t delay)  
(1756 – 1791)

Disguised as her mistress (Countess Almaviva), Susanna conspires with the Countess (disguised as Susanna) to trick her husband (Count Almaviva) who believes he is meeting the real Susanna. Married only a few hours earlier to Figaro, Susanna tweaks Figaro knowing that he fears her infidelity and that he is hiding and listening to her.

Anne Nispel, Soprano  
Judy Kabodian, Piano

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
- Melanie Helton
- Douglas and Ellen Hoard
- Selma and the late Stanley Hollander
- Cecil and Clare Mackey
- Alfred and Agnes Marco
- Gordon Miracle
- Linda Nelson
- Bill and Shirley Paxton
- David Rayl and Joel Maurer
- Carolyn Schuurmans
- Charles and Mary Ellen Toy

More than 110 students and dozens of faculty have participated and contributed to the MSU-China project since 2005, the year I co-founded this collaboration with my dear friend and internationally acclaimed baritone Fu Haijing. Conceived in rehearsal at the Metropolitan Opera, this collaboration continues to grow and develop. Last year, our students competed as an ensemble in an international competition held in Tianjin, China and won the Grand Prize! Great musical events, 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 proven to provide life-changing experiences for MSU students, 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 complete the pledge form in this program, write your check payable to Michigan State University, and indicate “MSU China Exchange” on the memo line (AE06082). Your contribution and this pledge form can be sent to:

College of Music Development  
102 Music Building  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, MI 48824-1043
The New Moon

Lover Come Back to Me

Sigmund Romberg

(1887 – 1951)

Michigan State’s own Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy share their mutual yearning.

Ann Nispel, Soprano
Harlan Jennings, Baritone
Judy Kabodian, Piano

Granada (Capital City of the Spanish province Granada) 

Agustín Lara

(1897 – 1970)

Granada, land of my dreams and red with blood from bull-fighting afternoons – enchants like a woman with Moorish eyes. I have nothing to give you but a bouquet of roses, your soil full of beautiful women, blood and the sun.

Richard Fracker, Tenor
Alan Nathan, Piano

Die Lustige Witwe

Lippen Schweigen (Silent Lips)

Franz Lehár

(1870 – 1948)

Danilo and Hanna sublimely express their passion as they waltz.

Molly Fillmore, Soprano
Mao Hui, Baritone

Alan Nathan, Piano

Cosi fan tutte

Soave il vento (May the wind be gentle)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

The sisters Fiordiligi and Dorabella, believing that Ferrando and Guglielmo are sailing off to war—join a less than honest Don Alfonso in a plaintive farewell to their lovers . . .

Melanie Helton, Soprano
Molly Fillmore, Soprano
Peter Lightfoot, Baritone
Judy Kabodian, Piano

L'arlesiana

È la solita storia del pastore

(It’s the old tale of a shepherd)

Francesco Cilea

(1866 – 1950)

Federico loves a girl whom his family finds unsuitable. Lamenting his family’s arrangement of an alternate bride, Federico speaks of his heartbreak and torment as if it were a legendary tale.

Richard Fracker, Tenor
Alan Nathan, Piano

MacBeth

Nel di del vittoria…Vieni t'affretta…Or tutti sorgete

(In the victory of…come hurry…now rise…)

Giuseppe Verdi

(1813 – 1901)

Lady MacBeth reads of her husband’s encounter with witches who foretell MacBeth’s ascension to the throne. Eager for his quick ascension, Lady MacBeth is determined to see his only impediment – King Duncan – killed.

Molly Fillmore, Soprano
Alan Nathan, Piano

Othello

Credo in un Dio cruel (I believe in a cruel God)

Giuseppe Verdi

Iago reveals his destructive beliefs and hatred for humankind.

Peter Lightfoot, Baritone
Judy Kabodian, Piano
Othello

_Gia nella notte densa_ (Now in the dark)

Giuseppe Verdi

Othello and Desdemona recall their love for one another. Othello invites death, fearing he will never experience such joy again . . .

Molly Fillmore, Soprano
Richard Fracker, Tenor
Alan Nathan, Piano

Intermission

Act II

_Lohengrin_

_Einsam in trüben Tagen_ (Lonely in troubled days) (1813 – 1883)

Richard Wagner

Elsa shares a dream in which God sends a knight in white to champion and defend her.

Molly Fillmore, Soprano

Alan Nathan, Piano

_Tosca_

_Te Deum_ (You God – hymn of praise) (1858 – 1924)

Giacomo Puccini

Scarpia, the chief of the secret police – believes Cavaradossi shelters the fugitive Angelotti. Encountering Cavaradossi’s jealous lover Tosca, Scarpia fuels her jealousy by revealing a fan with the Attavanti crest on it. Her suspicions confirmed – Tosca vows revenge. While the church fills with worshippers for the Te Deum, Scarpia declares he will bend Tosca to his will.

Peter Lightfoot, Baritone
Judy Kabodian, Piano

La Bohème

_O Suave Fanciulla_ (O Lovely Girl)

Giacomo Puccini

After quickly acquainting themselves, Rodolfo shares his passion for the beautiful Mimi. Their moment is interrupted by Rodolfo’s friends who urge him to join them. Mimi modestly offers to go with him and leaves a return to the loft open. The lovers depart and declare their love.

Molly Fillmore, Soprano
Richard Fracker, Tenor
Alan Nathan, Piano

_Susannah_

_Ain't It A Pretty Night_

Carlisle Floyd

(b. 1926)

An ultra-conservative community targets the young Susannah Polk as a sinner. While walking home through the woods, Susannah notes the innumerable stars that light her path.

Melanie Helton, Soprano
Judy Kabodian, Piano

_Traditional Chinese_

_Missing_

Huang Zi

After Sporting Life attempts to persuade Bess to run away with him to New York and offers her dope, Porgy chases him away. Porgy and Bess declare their new happiness.

Melanie Helton, Soprano
Peter Lightfoot, Baritone
Judy Kabodian, Piano

_Porgy and Bess_

_Bess, You Is My Woman Now_

George Gershwin

(1898 – 1937)