PRESENTS

MSU-MUSIC XII
“TRADE LORES”

With students from
Tianjin University of Finance and Economics Pearl River College,
China Conservatory of Music,
Harbin Conservatory of Music,
and
Michigan State University College of Music

Yanjue Wang, piano
Elden Little, piano

Friday, October 5, 2018, at 8:00 p.m.
Cook Recital Hall
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 180 MSU and Chinese students as well as utilized dozens of faculty from various Chinese conservatories, universities, and MSU. Tonight’s student concert represents the twelfth collaborative performance at MSU for this program. This evening we welcome students from the Tianjin University of Finance and Economics Pearl River College, China Conservatory of Music, as well as for the first time, the Harbin Conservatory of Music. It is an honor to have these students and faculty from Tianjin, Beijing, and Harbin share their talent and expertise with us this in our 2018 collaboration.

For more than a decade now, 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, the collaboration presented its first full opera production and collaboration between CCOM and MSU’s Opera Theater celebrating MSU’s “Year of China.” This 2016 collaboration was made into a documentary film which recently aired on WKAR.

I wish to extend to our collaborative pianists, Elden Little and Wang Yanjue, my personal thanks for their skill and support. I would also like to express my gratitude for my colleagues in the voice area whose expert training of their students has contributed so greatly to the success of this collaboration. Finally, special commendation 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 as they thoughtfully teach and professionally develop College of Music students daily.

- Richard Fracker, Co-founder, Director
PROGRAM

The Greatest Show
Benj Pasek and Justin Paul
from The Greatest Showman
(b. 1985)
Ensemble

Nobles seigneurs, salut!
Giacomo Meyerbeer
from Les Huguenots
(1791—1864)
Megan Magsarili, mezzo-soprano

A page (Urbain) arrives and delivers an anonymous letter to Raoul. The letter states that a lady of noble heritage has chosen a love and that no lord present would have such glory and good fortune than to be the chosen one...

Si, tra i ceppi
G.F. Handel
from Berenice
(1685—1759)
Eric Frost, baritone

Demetrio, the object of Berenice (Queen of Egypt) love prefers the queen’s sister Selene. Berenice orders him imprisoned and tortured. Defiantly, Demetrio sings steadfastly for his love of Selene and discounts his impending torture...

Je dis que rien ne m’épouvante
Georges Bizet
from Carmen
(1838—1875)
Ding, Hui, soprano

Searching for Don José, Micaëla is alone in the mountains inhabited by dangerous smugglers. Still in love with José, Micaëla prays for courage so that nothing will frighten her...

O Columbina, il tenero fido Arlecchin
Ruggiero Leoncavallo
from I Pagliacci
(1857—1919)
John Henrikson, tenor

Beppe, playing the role of the Harlequin in Canio’s small traveling acting troupe, serenades Columbina—the character played by Nedda. He calls for Columbina to show her sweet face as his love for her torments him...

Romance
Sigmund Romberg
from The Desert Song
(1887—1951)
Justine Alexander

Set in Morocco, Margot, a spirited and ardent young French woman is soon to marry Captain Fontaine—the right-hand man of the general commissioned to quell the resistance fighters known as the Riffs and their notorious leader, the Red Shadow. She unknowingly confides to the masquerading Red Shadow her desire to be swept into the arms of a dashing sheik – perhaps even the Red Shadow himself...
Là ci darem la mano
from *Don Giovanni*
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756—1791)
Justine Alexander, soprano
Jian Chen, bass-baritone

*Don Giovanni has just met Zerlina and her fiancé Masetto. Successfully distracting Masetto, Don Giovanni attempts to seduce Zerlina when Masetto leaves...*

Una furtiva lagrima
from *L’elisir d’amore*
Gaetano Donizetti (1797—1848)
David Anderson, tenor

*Heavily influenced by a “love potion”, (which in truth is only wine) Nemorino ignores Adina. Hurt by the snub, Adina leaves. Comprehending that Adina really does care for him, Nemorino sings his joy over this discovery...*

Jasmine Flower 茉莉花
Anonymous
Charlotte Darr, soprano

*What a jasmine flower! Of all the flowers and grasses in the garden, there are none so fragrant. I want to pluck and wear it, but the gardener would scold me. When it blooms, not even snow is whiter. No other flower compares. I want to pluck it, but I’m afraid it won’t bud again next year.*

Love Song of the Kang Ding 康定情歌
Yiruo Li (1911—1951)
Megan Magsarili, mezzo-soprano
Grace Reberg, mezzo-soprano

*Horses run on the mountain, wrapped in clouds. The moon, the crescent moon brightens Kang Ding city. Big sister from the Li family is a pretty girl. Big brother from the Zhang family falls in love with her. First, he loves her because she is pretty. Second, because she knows how to care for her family. All the girls in the world—love them. All the boys in the world—choose from them. The moon, the crescent moon—lets you choose from all of them.*

Suoni la tromba, e intrepido
from *I Puritani*
Vincenzo Bellini (1801—1835)
Lei Li, baritone
Jadrian Tarver, baritone
Set in England during the English Civil War, Elvira has been promised to Riccardo by her father, Lord Valton. Elvira loves another (Arturo) and the ensuing torment drives her mad. Giorgio encourages Riccardo to save Elvira's lover for her sake and the sake of their own souls. Initially rejecting the plea, Riccardo agrees to save Arturo but if Arturo himself appears before him in the impending battle—Arturo will die at his hand...

INTERMISSION

Think of Love 思恋
   Anonymous
   Traditional Chinese
   Yue Liu, soprano

An ancient Uyghur folk song about love...

Verranno a te sull'aure
   Gaetano Donizetti
   from Lucia di Lammermoor
   Lie Liu, soprano
   David Anderson, tenor

Two lovers from bitterly feuding families meet in secret. Edgardo announces that he will leave soon for France and insists Lucia tell her brother Enrico of their love upon his return. Fearing for Edgardo's safety, Lucia refuses his request, enraging Edgardo who reminds her he has sworn to avenge his father's death at the hand of her family. Lucia calms him, and lovers exchange rings, swearing their eternal faithfulness...

Non più mesta
   Gioacchino Rossini
   from La Cenerentola
   Grace Reberg, mezzo-soprano

Now married to the Prince, Cinderella recounts how her fate has changed. No longer does she sadly sit by the fire alone. A flash of lightening, a dream, a “joke/game” has changed her long heart ache...

Parmi veder le lagrime
   Giuseppe Verdi
   from Rigoletto
   Peng Fai Cao, tenor

Discovering that someone has abducted Gilda, the Duke’s most recent seduction—the Duke swears revenge and laments Gilda’s beauty and innocence now taken from him...

Volta la terrea
   Giuseppe Verdi
   from Un Ballo in Maschera
   Peng Fai Cao, tenor
Riccardo, Earl of Warwick and governor of Boston—has been asked to authorize the exile of the fortune teller, Ulrica. Oscar, Riccardo’s page, mounts a spirited defense of Ulrica’s power to foretell the course of love and with the devil himself, she is partnered...

O Carlo, ascolta
from Don Carlo

Giuseppe Verdi
Lei Li, baritone

Rodrigo, has been mortally wounded, but he does not fear his impending death. His sacrifice has saved his best friend Don Carlo and given Spain a saviour...

In a faraway place 在那遥远的地方
Wang Luobin 王洛宾
(1913—1996)

John Henrikson, tenor

There was a good girl in that faraway place. People walked past her house and looked back in love. I wish I could be a lamb, and be with her, and she could softly tap her whip against me.

The Impossible Dream
from Man of La Mancha

Mitch Leigh
(1928—2014)
Jadrian Tarver, baritone

Don Quixote is confronted by Aldonza the serving girl at the inn and part-time prostitute who questions Don Quixote’s irrational behavior. Don Quixote shares his credo, the impossible dream...

Gadameilin 嘎达梅林
Anonymous
Traditional Inner Mongolian Folk Song
Jian Chen, bass-baritone

Little wild geese flying from the south, do not fall into the Yangtse River. Do not fly away. Speak of Gadameilin who led the uprising and fought for the Liberty and happiness of our people. The wild geese flying north to south, fly away from the chilliness of the North Sea. Gadameilin rose up against the royal highness and fought for our Mongolian people. The wild geese flying south to north, seek warmth from the sun. Gadameilin fought for the benefit of the Mongolian people...

Make Them Hear You
from Ragtime

Stephen Flaherty
(b. 1960)
Ensemble

Weaving stories together from three very different perspectives at the turn of the 20th century, Ragtime’s themes addressing race,
violence, immigration, equality, and justice for all challenge everyone to hear and be Heard...

Sing to Love from Die Fledermaus
Johann Strauss (1825–1899)
Ensemble

The cast celebrates new friendships and understanding.

Acknowledgements

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More than 180 students and dozens of faculty have participated and contributed to the MSU-China project since 2005. Conceived in rehearsal at the Metropolitan Opera, this collaboration has produced great musical events, prize winning competition, astonishing cultural experiences, and abiding international friendships that 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 University’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:

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