

SUNY New Paltz Department of Music Presents



Music Without Borders

The Story of Asian Heritage Music

Shepard Recital Hall

Tuesday, September 3

7:30 p.m.

— Program —

The story of Chinese musical tradition as a keeper of Asian Heritage Music - a journey of integration and infusion of musical heritage from all parts of Asia

(Presented as part of the Research and Creative Project Award for Dr. Jingwen Zhang Dr. Phyllis Chen)

Anchi Lin

Executive director of the Chinese Music Ensemble of New York

This introductory session shares the story of how traditional Chinese music and instruments developed and evolved over two thousand years of journey from the historical Asia regions. Through the silk road, musicians and merchants from the Middle East, Central Asia, and South Asia brought their music and instruments to China.

The capital of China, from approximately 200 BC until 14 AD, was like modern New York or Paris, where many traveled and brought their musical heritages there. Over a period of 1600 years, Chinese musicians observed and preserved some of the instruments and musical elements that came from different parts of Asia, which ended up in what we now understand to be “Chinese classical music”.

The heritage “Chinese” music is a story of continuous integration and infusion of diverse musical traditions from different parts of Asia. Music is a powerful way to connect and to continue such historical memories from the past. Many of the nomadic tribes were lost through centuries of wars or political struggles, however, some glimpse of their musical heritages can still be traced from the instruments and genres kept by the traditional Chinese music tradition.

The mission of CMENY is to share the beauty that we learn from this Asian heritage music and to bring the story back to the contemporary world. The design of this presentation is meant to deliver a unique cultural experience. This presentation intends to open a window of a rich and diverse historical tradition that is very different from the Western one but equally deserves to be known.

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