

**January 2010
PRESS RELEASE**



**Chinese New Year Concert
8pm, 14 February 2010
Chinese Fair 12-4pm, Aberystwyth Arts Centre Foyer**

'Enthralling. A feast your ears' World Music Magazine

An extraordinary group of Chinese virtuosos will be touring a Chinese New Year Concert, performing at Aberystwyth Arts Centre on Sunday 14th February.

In 2010, the lucky Tiger, the Chinese New Year's day falls on western Valentine's Day, February 14th. Exceptional musicians, Dong Qui-Ming, Zhu Xiao-meng, Wang Wei-ping, Chen Da-can and Zhou Jin-yan, guarantee an enthralling evening of both solo and ensemble performances of a selection of Chinese masterpieces that have endured for centuries.

The music of China is truly unique and touches the heart and soul. Variations of rhythm, tone, ornamentation and composition are created and played with exquisite style and techniques refined over thousands of years. This is a rare chance to witness the beautiful music that comes from the ancient instruments guzheng, pipa, erhu and bamboo flute. The ensemble of different instruments creates a harmonious and beautiful atmosphere of elegance, beauty and wonder.

Concert Director Liu Li says "The best of Chinese music is still largely undiscovered although Chinese cuisine, circus and Kungfu are widely recognised internationally. These selected pieces, with a range of stylish compositions, offer an alluring introduction to Chinese music."

Prior to this concert the Arts Centre will once again be marking the Chinese New Year with a special Chinese Fair - come along and join the celebrations, with stalls offering traditional Chinese produce and special activities for all the family! The Fair will feature Chinese medicine, massage, acupuncture, calligraphy, Chinese food, Green tea, Chinese crafts, cloths, and a painting exhibition, as well as performances and demonstrations including the Dragon and Lion Dance, Chinese Dance, Kung Fu & Tai-chi, music, songs, and poetry recitals.

Tickets for this performance are £18 (£14 students/children) or £30 a pair of tickets and can be booked by contacting the Arts Centre Box Office on 01970 62 32 32 or online at www.aber.ac.uk/artscentre

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Notes to editors:

Further information is available from Rachel Taylor on 01970 622894 email rst@aber.ac.uk
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Further Aberystwyth Arts Centre press releases can be found at
www.aberystwythartscentre.co.uk/press.shtml.

Concert Programme:

春江花月夜 **Spring River Blossom Moon Night**

Ancient Music

Dated: Ming Dynasty 14th Century

梁祝 **Butterfly Lovers**

Composed in 1959 by Nanjing Music Group

Inspired by an old Chinese love story. Due to an arranged marriage, a young couple could not fulfil their love when they were alive. They were reincarnated as butterflies free to love each other for ever.

秦川抒怀 **The Air of Qin River**

Compiled by Ma Di

Based on material drawn from the repertoire of the Shan-xi Opera. The piece is lyrical and imbued with the spirit of Northwest China.

二泉映月 **Reflection of the Moon in the Pond**

Composed by Ar Bin in 1950

The piece has topped the Chinese music chart in both the USA and Germany.

渔舟唱晚 **The Song of Fishing Boats at Sunset**

Composed by Lou Shi-hua (1907-1952)

A song expressing the beauty of the southern Yangzi river landscape.

阳关三叠 **Yang-guan Faraway**

Ancient music

Dates from the Tang Dynasty (618 ---907AD). Inspired by Wang Wei's poem describing his deep sorrow when seeing off his good friend leaving their hometown. The popular line goes: 劝君更进一杯酒，西出阳关无故人 'Have another drink my dear friend, you will see no more familiar faces after departing Yang-guan inn.'

彝族舞曲 **Dance Tune of the Yi People**

Composed by Wang Hui-ran in 1965

Along with the Han people China consists of 55 distinct minorities. Yi people is one of them based in Yunnan province, south west China. This piece is composed for festival occasions.

赛马 **Horse Racing**

Composed by Huang Hai-huai in 1959

良宵 **New Year Eve Tune**

Composed by Liu Tian-hua in 1927

It was created on the spot when his friends visited him for the festival gathering.

战台风**Against Typhoon**

Composed by Wang Cang-yuan in 1965

A vibrant piece using the full range of the Guzheng ability to portray the coming and going of the mighty typhoon.

高山流水**Lofty Mountain and Running Water**

Ancient Music

Dates from 475-221 BC. It was based on a story that went back before the first emperor Qin. It goes like this, a musician was playing, an audience could tell what was in the player's mind, either about lofty mountains or running water, soon the two people become great friends. The term 'Lofty mountain and Running Water' has entered the language as a Chinese idiom meaning to seek congenial friends.

荫中鸟**Birds Shading in the Trees**

Composed by Liu Guan-yue

梅花三弄**Three Variations on the Plum Blossom**

Ancient music

Originated during the East Jin Dynasty 316-420 AD. A clear and unchained melodic theme is repeated three times in different parts of this memorable piece. Illustrating the purity of plum flowers and their heroic fight to survive against the cold weather.

十面埋伏**Ambushed**

Ancient music

Dates from the Tang Dynasty (772—846). Illustrates the major phases during ancient war, such as commanding, lining up, marching towards, fighting, ambushed and finally, coming back or dying in triumph or defeat.

节日的天山**Festival at Tian Mountain**

Compiled by Gio Ming-qin

Tian Mountain is in the west of China, North of Tibet. Populated by Xing-jiang people, who are famed for their singing and dancing.

旱天雷**Thunder without Rain**

Compiled by Qiu He-chou in 1921

A representative piece of Cantonese music, originating in South East China, Guangdong province, where Hong Kong is situated in.

茉莉花**Jasmine**

Compiled by He Fang

Emblematic of Chinese folk music. The piece comes with lyric and has been frequently used in many international events.

彩云追月**Colour Clouds Run after the Moon**

Composed by Ren Guang and Nie Er in 1936

喜洋洋**Beaming with Joy**

Composed by Liu Ming-yuan in 1958

One of the pieces specially composed for Chinese New Year.

