

University, Confucius Institute, Chinese musicians invite community to an evening of 'Galloping in the Grassland'

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While exploring China during a spring 2014 cultural exchange program, 19 Alfred University (AU) music students and alumni visited three different universities and saw various Chinese and Mongolian music performances.

In order to further the connection and rapport with these universities, the Performing Arts Division and the Confucius Institute at AU are sponsoring a visit by five music professors from Inner Mongolia Normal University (IMNU) which will include a free public concert, "Galloping in the Grasslands," Wednesday, Sept. 24 in Miller Theater at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments and a reception will follow.

The visiting musicians two singers, a horse-head fiddle virtuoso, a pianist, and a dancer - will be joined by AU professor and soprano Luanne Crosby and guzheng (Chinese zither) master Daisey Wu from the Confucius Institute.

The concert will feature classical and folk music of Inner Mongolia, where the horse is central to life and to identity. The evening will include "The Little Yellow Horse" performed by Mongolian folk artist Zhaligafu and "Green, Green Grassland," a dance performed by the Mongolian dancer, Anaer. In addition, the Mongolian performers will play the piano; a Chinese double reed instrument called a guanzi; a Chinese plucked zither called a guzheng; and a horse-headed lute.

This group will perform the same concert at the Northstar Christian Academy in Rochester on Saturday, Sept. 27, Confucius Institute Day. There will also be an exhibition of Mongolian art at the school beginning at 1 p.m. followed by an opening ceremony beginning with a few words from AU's President, Dr. Charles M. Edmondson at 2 p.m. After various performances, dinner will be served followed by the concert at 7 p.m.

Crosby, professor of voice and chorus, earned bachelor's and master's degrees in music education from the State University of New York at Fredonia and a doctor of musical arts degree in vocal performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music/Case Western Reserve University.

She has sung professionally with the Cleveland Opera, Aspen Opera Theater, the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra, Cleveland Chamber Orchestra, Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes, and the Fredonia Chamber Players. At AU, she directs the chorus and the Chamber Singers, an elite group of singers who travel internationally and domestically for performances.

Zhongbei (Daisy) Wu earned a bachelor of arts degree in music education from Hunan Normal University, Hohhot, and a master of arts degree in musicology from the Graduate School of the Chinese National Academy of Arts. She currently heads the Guzheng Branch of the Hunan Musicians Association as deputy chair. Additionally, she has been a music teacher and associate professor of art at the Art Center of Hunan University of Commerce.

The Confucius Institute is "dedicated to promoting the study of Chinese language, culture, ethics, and philosophy, and furthering the understanding of China today."