

Chinese news promotes AU concert stop

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Some 19 Alfred University (AU) students and alumni have just completed a 16-day tour of China, co-sponsored by the Confucius Institute at the University and the AU Study Abroad program. The group visited five cities and performed exchange concerts at three institutions during the tour.

One of the stops, at The Inner Mongolia Normal University where a concert was performed by students from both institutions, was documented by several Chinese media outlets. One of the accounts, in the *China Daily* begins:

“The Inner Mongolia Normal University and Alfred University in New York plan more cooperation in the coming years, said Yun Guohong, president of IMNU, at a recent concert presented by students from both universities.

Professor Fred Bild, a former Canadian ambassador to China, and his wife, together with representatives from AU, also attended the concert on the IMNU campus in Hohhot.

A guzheng (Chinese zither) ensemble from Alfred University, with its members wearing traditional Chinese garments, gave a performance that featured Chinese musical elements, while students from IMNU presented the culture of ethnic groups of the region, including dance and playing of the morin khuur, also called the horse-head fiddle.

Shenandoah, an American folk song and Dance of the Youth, a popular Uygur folk song, were sung by students and teachers from both universities at the end of the concert.”

To read the full article, please visit: http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2014-06/03/content_17560245.htm

Additional concerts were performed at Changsha; and Wuhan. The students and alumni also visited Beijing, Shanghai, and ZhangJiaJie National Forest, a national park where the film “Avatar” was shot.

The AU musicians participating in the excursion included four Guzheng (Chinese zither) players and a small choir of 13 students.

Renee Vogelle from Miller Place; Ricky Lopez, New York City; Vanessa Englerth, Rochester; and Alexander Harder, Colton, have spent the semester working with Daisey Wu of the AU Confucius Institute to perfect four Chinese folk songs on the Guzheng. While in China they will play as a solo ensemble but will also accompany the choir on a song about the Liu Yang River.

The choir includes students Rachel Romack from Brookdale; Aubrey Fry, Greenwood; Rebecca Hayes, Manorville; Kasey (Cassandra) Hall, Bath; Julie Verdone, Rocky River, Ohio; Alexandra Long, Spencer; Shannon Cirulnick,

Ozone Park; Danny Gray, Madison, WI; Peter Hoskins, Newfield; and Casey Babcock, an Alfred State College student from Hornell; and alumni, Pattilyn McLaughlin &13, Robert Cilino &13, and Adam Fiegl &10.

The choir, under the direction of Dr. Luanne Crosby, professor of voice and chorus, has learned repertoire in both Chinese and English and will combine with Chinese choirs for “Youth Dance” (a piece that won Alfred University Choirs third prize for the Chinese New Year video competition from Hanban&s www.chinesecio.com.) and “Shenandoah,” an American folk song.