

# Image China

## Program

**8:00pm, 7 December 2010**

J. F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts  
Eisenhower Theater

**Outstanding Chinese Artists  
and  
Baltimore Symphony Orchestra ( BSO )**

*Li Wang, Soprano*

*Liming Chi, Tenor*

*Liang Chai, Violinist*

*Carolyn Kuan, Conductor*

*Tao Fan, Artistic Director*

*Light Cavalry: Overture*

Suppé

“Les oiseaux dans la charmille” from *Les Contes d’Hoffmann*  
*A Glass of fine wine* (Uighur folk song)

Offenbach  
Ekebaier

Soprano: Li Wang

Violin Concerto in D. Op.35 (1<sup>st</sup> movement)

Tchaikovsky

Allegro moderato

Violin: Liang Chai

----- Intermission -----

*The Barber of Seville: Overture*

Rossini

“La donna e mobile” from *Rigoletto*

Verdi

“O Sole Mio”

Capua

Tenor: Liming Chi

<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream: Wedding March</i>	Mendelssohn
“Je veux vivre dans ce rêve” from <i>Romeo et Juliette</i> “Velvet Flowers” from the film <i>Flowerlet</i> Soprano: Li Wang	Charles Gounod Wang Ming
<i>The creek drips water</i> (Yunnan folk song) “Libiamo, ne' lieti calici” from <i>La Traviata</i> Soprano: Li Wang Tenor: Liming Chi	Xiaoling Wang Verdi

**Subject to change**

## **Introduction of Artists**

### ***Li Wang***

Li Wang is a young and promising soprano who impresses the contemporary field of classical music. She has incredible infectivity and stunning voice. With exquisite tone and extraordinary techniques, she easily wins over followers in fashionable elegance. She has won numerous awards, starting with gold prize for bel canto of the 11th CCTV Young Singers TV Grand Prix in 2004, and “The Best Tone” award for the German “New Voice” International Singing Contest. She has devoted herself to the modernization of the bel canto genre. Her achievements are considered representative of latest development of China’s vocal music profession in the 21st Century, which brings her the reputation of “the most fashionable soprano of today.” She broke out on the scene starring in the original musical “Jasmine,” which garnered her rave reviews from the media. She has toured numerous countries in Europe and North America, winning acclaims in Western media as “a beautiful Jasmine from the East,” a play on her name “Li” that happens to mean jasmine. She starred as lead operatic soprano in Chinese titles of “Jiang Jie” and “The Wilderness;” and in the French title of “The Story of Hoffman,” in addition to “Jasmine”, the original musical, etc.

### ***Media Review***

She has the voice of a young nightingale.

“People’s Daily”

Her voice is incredible and representative of contemporary China.

“Beijing Youth Daily”

She is the Chinese Sarah Brightman.

“Beijing Evening News”

### ***Liming Chi***

Liming Chi, a nationally commissioned first-class actor, is considered one of the best contemporary Chinese tenors. He has been praised by American media as “the most promising tenor singer in the world” in recent years, and has been praised also by European media as “a real master of Italian Opera.” In November and December 2005, Chi was invited by Virginia Opera to act the leading roles in Opera *Romeo and Juliet* composed by Charles Gounod, and received mainstream media praises as “a promising tenor singer” and “endowed with fabulous tenor voice.” In March 2006, Chi took the leading role (Calaf) in the renowned Italian Opera “Turandot” at Teatro La Fenice. In July 2007, Chi was cast as the lead tenor in the original opera production “Poet Li Bai” at Colorado Central City Opera House. Other leading performances Chi participated in include the “Shanghai Street” -- opening performance of “the Year of China in France” in 2004, the Chinese Culture Tour in Africa in 2004, and the American New Year Concert in Washington, D.C., in 1999, etc. Chi has worked with many well-known international conductors, including John Nelson, Alberto Zedda, Bruno Dal Bon, Peter Mark, Patrick Summers, Pascal Verrot, and Paolo Olmi, etc.

### ***Media Review***

Only a few lucky singers can have a glorious voice like his.

“Virginia View”

The most promising world- class tenor.

German newspaper

A real master of Italian opera

German newspaper

A tenor who won great popularity among Italian directors

Opera Magazine

## ***Liang Chai***

Adjunct Professor and director of Violin instructions at the China Central Conservatory of Music, Liang Chai is a native of China, now residing in New York City. As a concert violinist, Liang Chai is considered among the foremost artists of his generation. He was a top-prize winner at both the Yehudi Menuhin International Violin Competition and the Japan International Music Competition, and has been hailed by *The Strad* as a "broad-ranged player with a warm, pleasing sound."

Liang Chai has been guest soloist with London's Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra, Central Philharmonic Orchestra of China, Chinese National Radio Orchestra, Sydney Philharmonic Orchestra, under the baton of Neeme Jarvi, Sweden's Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra and, with Keith Lockhart, the Singapore Symphony Orchestra. In the United States, he has been heard with the Grand Teton Music Festival Orchestra as well as the Butte, Pensacola and Waterbury Symphony Orchestras, Tennessee Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra and, in New York State, the Asiana Sinfonia, Cayuga Chamber Orchestra and Westchester Symphony Orchestra.

He made his New York City solo debut with the Korean Symphony Orchestra at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts' Alice Tully Hall. In recital, Mr. Chai has been heard in three Lincoln Center auditoria - The Steinway Hall, Paul Recital Hall and Bruno Walter Auditorium, Washington, DC's National Gallery of Art, Hancock Auditorium in Los Angeles, Harris Concert Hall in Aspen, Germany's Städtisches Konservatorium and the Auditorium de Louvre in Paris. During the summer of 1999, he made his debut at the famed Newport Music Festival, to which he returned in 2000.

## ***Media Review***

His play has a wide range and is full of enthusiasm. The tone is graceful and beautiful. Chai is a charming musician.

Magzine <Strad>

Chai Liang is a rising star of the musical world. He will be the next Perlman.

“China News” Australia

The new century genius of China, the eastern Perlman

“Central Daily” Taiwan

Although Chai Liang does not recognize himself as a born talent; his outstanding talent is leading him to great success.

“The China Post” Taiwan

Chai’s incredible play has won great credit. It is a combination of the spirit of great masters and the enthusiasm of red blood.

“Straits Times” Singapore

Liang Chai’s play has incredible attractiveness, which has won the heart of every music fan.

World famous conductor B. David Anvid

During my life, I have taught a lot of famous violinists, such as Perlman, Zukerman, Zhaoliang Lin and Mints. I have also worked with a lot of world famous musician such as Stein. I think Liang Chai is the peer of anyone of them.

World famous Violin Professor Torres Delyn

### ***Tao Fan***

Nationally commissioned Class-A conductor, Tao Fan is a student of famous conductor and music educator Xiaotong Huang. Currently, he is the conductor of the Motion Picture Orchestra of the China Broadcasting Art Troupe. On a full scholarship he became a student of the famous conductor Phillip Spurgeon. In 2003, he was invited to conduct original scores of various contemporary American composers. In September 2003, he conducted the Florida Orchestra, which staged a successful concert in the Carnegie Music Hall, New York.

In 2000, Tao Fan won the special jury award as a contestant of the second International Sibelius Conductor Competition in Finland, becoming the first Chinese who won a prize in this competition. The chief musicians of Amsterdam Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra and the Helsinki Philharmonic referred to him as “a great professional conductor who has strong control of the whole orchestra.” He went on to garner great popularity in Finland as he appeared in the annual Summer Music Festival of Finland.

Tao Fan has been the conductor of Finish National Broadcasting Orchestra, the Helsinki Philharmonic, the AVANTI Orchestra of Finland, the string Orchestra of Sibelius Music Institute, Columbia National Philharmonic, America Oborin Philharmonic, China Central Opera Theatre, China Central Ballet Theatre, Shanghai Philharmonic, Shanghai Orchestra, Shanghai Opera Theatre, and numerous orchestras of Hongkong, Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Qingdao, Sichuan, Hunan, and Zhejiang. He has also cooperated with many outstanding conductors at home and abroad.

In 2007, Tao Fan went to American as the judge of the 13th Oborin International Piano Competition; and in 2009, he was invited as a judge of the Oborin Concerto

Competition.

### ***Carolyn Kuan***

Carolyn Kuan is increasingly recognized as one of the most exciting, innovative and outstanding conductors of her generation. With explosive passion, impeccable technique and profound musical depth, her performances have included concerts with the Baltimore Symphony, Bournemouth Symphony, Detroit Symphony, Festival del Sole, Florida Orchestra, Milwaukee Symphony, New York City Ballet, North Carolina Symphony, Orchestra de la Suisse Romande, Orquesta Sinfonica de Yucatan, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Seattle Symphony and San Francisco Symphony, which she has returned annually since 2007.

A keen advocate of contemporary music, Carolyn Kuan has worked closely with the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music and Music Director Marin Alsop since 2003. In this same vein she has conducted world premiers in Merkin Hall New York City for Music from Japan and has served as a producer for multiple recordings of new orchestral compositions. Upcoming 2010-11 season highlights include debuts with the Hartford Symphony, Hong Kong Philharmonic, Louisville Orchestra, Symphony Silicon Valley, Tacoma Opera, her return to the Baltimore Symphony, Florida Orchestra, New York City Ballet, San Francisco Symphony and Seattle Symphony, as well as two recording projects for Naxos Records.

### ***Baltimore Symphony Orchestra***

The Grammy Award-winning Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO) is internationally recognized as having achieved a preeminent place among the world's most important orchestras. Acclaimed for its enduring pursuit of artistic excellence, the BSO has attracted a devoted national and international following while maintaining deep bonds throughout Maryland with innovative education and community outreach initiatives.

Under Music Director Marin Alsop's leadership, the BSO has rapidly added several critically acclaimed albums to its already impressive discography. The BSO recently released Dvořák's Symphonies Nos. 6, 7 and 8, the final two discs in its three-disc Dvořák cycle. In August 2009, the BSO and Marin Alsop released Bernstein's Mass featuring baritone Jubilant Sykes, the Morgan State University Choir and the Peabody Children's Chorus. The album rose to number six on the Classical Billboard Charts and received a 2009 Grammy nomination for Best Classical Album. The Orchestra made its foray into online distribution in April 2007 with the release of a live-concert

recording of Stravinsky's The Rite of Spring on iTunes, which quickly become the site's number one classical music download.

In addition to the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall, where the orchestra has performed for 28 years, the BSO is a founding partner and the resident orchestra at the new state-of-the-art Music Center at Strathmore, just outside Washington, D.C. With the opening of Strathmore in February 2005, the BSO became the nation's only major orchestra with year-round venues in two metropolitan areas.

## **CAEG**

Established in April 2004, China Arts and Entertainment Group (CAEG) is the first large publicly-owned cultural enterprise approved by the State Council. It was restructured on the basis of China Performing Arts Agency and China International Exhibition Center. CAEG consists of nineteen wholly owned enterprises including China Performing Arts Agency (CPAA) and China International Exhibition Center (CIEC), and other groups. As the CAEG's core companies, both CPAA and CIEC have over half-century's history and are the largest worldwide providers of Chinese performing arts and visual arts, as well as China's biggest presenters of international performances and arts exhibitions. Over the past decades, CPAA and CIEC have accumulated rich experiences and earned good reputation by undertaking governmental cultural exchange projects, as well as organizing commercial tours of performances and exhibitions both at home and abroad. Since its founding, CAEG has arranged 400 overseas performances and exhibitions, and has presented more than 15,000 performances in nearly 60 countries and regions with audiences over 20 million. For decades, CAEG serves as the main official channel for cultural exchanges with foreign countries. Carrying the mission of reviving Chinese cultural industry and reinforce the competitive strength of Chinese cultural productions in international market, CAEG serves as the cultural cooperation complex that integrates the industry chain of investment, research and production, theatre management, ticketing and large-scale cultural events. With its innovation of system and mechanism, CAEG will play a more active role in promoting Chinese culture and arts to the world.

## **Introduction of Chinese Songs**

*Eckebayer*

*A glass of wine*

*Uygur folk Song*

**【Introduction of the song】** The song “A Glass of Wine” is a folk song of the Uygur ethnic group in Xinjiang. The melody is very graceful and the rhythm is full of joy. It is a perfect illustration of ethnic characteristics of western China. It shows the pursuit for freedom and love of the Uygur people, and praises love as a glass of good wine.

My love is like a glass of good wine,  
Please take it my lover  
May you like the eagle,  
which keeps flying around the mountain  
and stay with me all the time  
My love  
Your beauty attracts me all the time  
I am suffering for you  
Please take the glass of wine from my heart  
You will be drunk and sweet

***Ming Wang                  Velvet Flowers                  From Film “Flowerlet”***

**【Introduction】** “Velvet Flowers” was created in 1979 as the theme song for the movie “Flowerlet”. The melody was full of the flavor of graceful folk music. The song praised village girls such as Xiaohua, who was willing to sacrifice and contribute themselves during the revolution.

There is a beautiful flower in the world,  
That is our wonderful youth  
Our perseverance and spirit is the beauty  
And our blood gives it vivid color  
Velvet flowers,  
The fragrance is full of the mountain  
There is a heroic flower in the world  
That is our youth  
We fight for freedom and happiness for our loved ones  
Velvet flowers,  
The fragrance is full of the mountain

***Xiaoling Wang                  The flowing creek                  Yunnan Folk Song***

**【Introduction】** The Yunnan folk song “The Flowing Creek” has melodious, stretchable



rhythm, and graceful melody with unique Yunnan features. It displays a beautiful and wonderful fairyland-like picture. The bright and lovely girl was missing her lover while looking up to the moon, and she embodies her love in this gorgeous song.

Here comes out the moon, so bright a moon.

I miss my darling brother in hills.

Brother is, like the moon, walking in sky.

Dear, dear, my dear!

Downhill flows a clear brook.

Hey!

Here comes out the moon, halfway up the hill slope.

Sight of the moon reminds me of my darling.

A gentle breeze comes up the slope.

Dear, dear, my dear!

Have you heard my calling of 'darling'.

Hey!

Here comes out the moon, so bright a moon.

I miss my darling brother in hills.

Brother is, like the moon, walking in sky.

Dear, dear, my dear!

Downhill flows a clear brook .

Hey, my darling!