



MEDIA CONTACT
Rik Malone
415.503.6204 | rik.malone@sfc.edu

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CONSERVATORY STUDENTS, ALUMNI, FACULTY INVITED TO PERFORM IN SHANGHAI

Sister City Committee Welcomes Conservatory Delegates to “San Francisco Week” at Shanghai World Expo

The San Francisco-Shanghai Sister City Committee has invited several students, alumni and faculty from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music to perform in Shanghai, China, as part of the 30th anniversary celebration of the San Francisco-Shanghai sister city relationship. The Conservatory musicians join a prestigious delegation of political, business, tourism and cultural leaders in celebrating “San Francisco Week,” June 17-25, 2010, at the recently opened Shanghai World Expo, and will further present an additional special concert at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music.

The Expo performance takes place June 19 at the Gala Dinner at the Shangri-La Hotel in Shanghai. Violinist **Yinbin Ben Qian** and pianist **Hanqian Serena Zhu**, both Conservatory students, along with clarinetist, faculty member and alumnus **Jeff Anderle**, perform *The Tune Far Away*, a trio by former Shanghai Conservatory President and composer Liqing Yang. This piece was previously performed at the San Francisco Conservatory’s Shanghai Celebration Concert, held this past February. **Wei He**, a Conservatory faculty member and former San Francisco Symphony violinist, also appears with his newly established chamber ensemble **Bridge Chamber Virtuosi**, featuring Conservatory alumni **Jory Fankuchen**, viola, **Ming Xue**, cello and **Jonathan Goldstein**, percussion as guest artists along with **Shenshen Zhang**, a world-renowned performer on the *pipa* (a Chinese four-stringed instrument). They present a special performance of *Shanghai Trilogy*, a piece for violin, viola, cello, percussion, *pipa*, electronics and slide show by Joan Huang, a Shanghai-born composer currently based in Los Angeles.

This special piece was commissioned by the Sister City Committee as a gift from San Francisco to Shanghai.

The Conservatory trio of Qian, Zhu and Anderle will also perform at Shanghai Conservatory's He Luting Concert Hall on June 22, further strengthening a formal relationship between these schools that was forged during the Conservatory's February celebration concert. At that time, the two institutions signed a formal "Sister School" agreement designed to increase student and faculty exchanges and foster new artistic collaborations. For this occasion the trio performs Béla Bartók's *Contrasts* and a special arrangement of the city's unofficial theme song, *Ye Shanghai* (Nights of Shanghai), by students of the Shanghai Conservatory composition department. Professor He also joins with **Weicong Zhang**, professor of chamber music at the Shanghai Conservatory, to perform Brahms's *Violin Sonata in G Major*.

"We are honored to have been invited by the Sister City Committee to represent San Francisco's diverse cultural landscape during this momentous event," says Alexander Brose, the Conservatory's Associate Vice President for Advancement, who will also be traveling as a delegate. "The Conservatory has a long, rich history with the musicians of Shanghai and we, along with the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, look to celebrate this past while we also search for new ways through which our partnership can be strengthened."

The Conservatory delegates join an impressive roster of cultural ambassadors to Shanghai, including Chanticleer, the St. Mary's Drum & Bell Corps, the Glide Ensemble, the Children's Peace Choir from Northern Light School, the Murphy Irish Dancers and dancers from the Pacific Islander Youth Alliance. The Committee's programs include both cultural events and a "sustainability showcase" highlighting San Francisco's green and sustainable businesses and programs.

About San Francisco Conservatory of Music:

Founded in 1917, the San Francisco Conservatory of Music is the oldest conservatory in the American West and has earned an international reputation for producing musicians of the highest caliber. Notable alumni include Yehudi Menuhin, Isaac Stern, Jeffrey Kahane and Aaron Jay Kernis, among others. The Conservatory offers its more than 400 collegiate and graduate students fully accredited bachelor's and master's degree programs in composition and instrumental and vocal performance. Its Preparatory Division provides exceptionally high standards of musical excellence and personal attention to more than 550 younger students. The Conservatory's faculty and students give more than 400 public performances each year, most of which are offered to the public at no charge. Formerly located at 19th Avenue and Ortega Street in San Francisco's Sunset District, the Conservatory moved to its new home in the heart of San Francisco's Civic Center in 2006. The new school is an architectural and acoustical masterwork for the Conservatory's second century. Its Caroline H. Hume Concert Hall was lauded by the *New York Times* as the "most enticing classical-music setting" in the San Francisco Bay Area. For more information, visit www.sfcm.edu.

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