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Feb. concert to honor past and future relationship between SF, Shanghai conservatories

SF Conservatory faculty, students, alumni and friends to perform new works by Shanghai Conservatory composers at groundbreaking concert

On Feb. 8, 2010, at 8 p.m., the San Francisco and Shanghai Conservatories of Music will honor their longstanding relationship and deepening ties—in addition to the 30th anniversary of the signing of the first sister city agreement between the U.S. and China—with a historic concert in the S.F. Conservatory’s Caroline H. Hume Concert Hall.

More information is available at www.sfc.edu/Shanghai.aspx.

Held as San Francisco begins a six-month long “Shanghai Celebration” spearheaded by the Asian Art Museum, the concert will feature San Francisco Conservatory faculty, current students, alumni and friends—including world-renowned mezzo-soprano Zheng Cao—performing new works composed by Shanghai Conservatory faculty, students and colleagues. Among the composers whose pieces will be performed is Mr. Shuya Xu, president of the Shanghai Conservatory, whose work *San* for 11 instruments will receive its U.S. premiere.

Though the two Conservatories have long had an informal connection—mostly represented by Shanghai Conservatory graduates coming to study in San Francisco—this event is the first of its kind. It



follows six years of annual visits by San Francisco Conservatory officials and faculty to Shanghai, each serving to bolster ties and pave the way for future alliances.

“This concert represents the most significant collaboration yet between the two schools,” said Associate Vice President for Advancement Alexander Brose. “We are honored to welcome President Xu and his delegation from Shanghai and look forward to future partnerships. Broadening the Conservatory’s international perspective is sure to benefit our students as they pursue careers on the international stage.”

The Conservatory is fortunate to have leading Chinese mezzo-soprano Zheng Cao, a Shanghai Conservatory alumna and favorite of the world’s top opera houses, performing on Feb. 8. She will accompany a selection of the San Francisco Conservatory’s most talented and recognized faculty, friends, students and alumni, including The Bridge Chamber Virtuosi, a new string trio featuring Conservatory violin faculty member Wei He and San Francisco Symphony members Yun Jie Liu and Amos Yang (himself a Conservatory Preparatory Division alum). On Feb. 8, these esteemed artists will present a diverse program of works composed by Shanghai Conservatory faculty, current students and graduates, including President Xu’s *San, Intonation* by Jia Daqun, professor of composition, and *Trio-The Tune Far Away* by Yang Liqing, immediate past president of the Shanghai Conservatory.

More information on the San Francisco Conservatory of Music’s “Shanghai Celebration” Concert is available at www.sfcm.edu/shanghai.aspx

Members of the media are invited to cover this historic event. To RSVP, contact Ian S. Port at 415.503.6211 or iport@sfc.edu.

About San Francisco’s “Shanghai Celebration”

The “Shanghai Celebration” is a San Francisco Bay Area-wide collaboration of cultural institutions honoring the region’s long-standing relationship with Shanghai. The Celebration includes exhibitions, performances, film series, lectures, special events, and more presented by dozens of Bay Area organizations. The cornerstone of the Celebration is the Asian Art Museum’s presentation of Shanghai, a major exhibition examining the visual culture of one of China’s most cosmopolitan cities, scheduled for February 12 through September 5, 2010. The Celebration will be observed through 2010, when Shanghai will host the World Expo.

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, many 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.sfc.edu. ###