A Musical Journey

to

the Olympics

Xiao Xiao

*Operation Director, China Music Tour*

October 10, 2007
About This Tour

- Grandest international music tour for Stanford ever!
  - Stanford Symphony Orchestra
  - Stanford Taiko
  - Stanford Chamber Chorale
  - Stanford Choral Union (combined Stanford choruses)
  - Approximately 300 people

- A featured part of the China International Youth Arts Festival (associated with the Olympics)

- Sponsored by China’s Ministry of Culture and the Beijing Olympic Committee
The entire trip will be from June 16 to July 5.

It will take us to 5 cities in China:
- Shanghai
- Hangzhou
- Xi’an
- Guilin/Yangshuo
- Beijing
Concerts and Dates

A total of 14 concerts with the following highlights:

- June 18: A joint concert in the Hangzhou Grand Theater (all ensembles)
- June 20: Taiko Ensemble concert in the Shanghai Concert Hall
- June 20: Chamber Chorale concert in the Shanghai Grand Theater
- June 21: SSO concert in the Xi’an People’s Grand Theater
- June 22: Taiko and Chamber Chorale concert in the Xi’an Xincheng Theater
Concerts and Dates (cont.)

- June 27: A Symphonic concert including Carmina Burana and Gershwin in the Shanghai Oriental Art Center
- June 28 and July 5: St. Lawrence String Quartet and Jon Nakamatsu chamber music concerts in Shanghai Concert Hall and Beijing National Grand Theater
- June 29: A Symphonic concert including Beethoven’s Ode to Joy and Gershwin in the Shanghai Oriental Art Center
- July 2: Opening Concert of the China International Youth Arts Festival in the Great Hall of the People on Tiananmen Square, Beijing
- July 3 and 4: Stage performance of Carmina Burana with the Jinxing Modern Dance Company in China’s National Grand Theater in Beijing
Collaborations

- Leading universities in China:
  - Beijing University
  - Tsinghua University
  - Zhejiang University
  - Jiaotong University
  - Fudan University
  - Xi’an Conservatory of Music

- 2008 Olympic Games Organizers

- Stanford Alumni and Friends
  - Jon Nakamatsu
  - St. Lawrence String Quartet
  - Alumni in China—Panel Discussion

- Chinese musicians
Leading Universities in China
Venues: The Oriental Art Center

By French architect Paul Andreu:
“What is it? Simply this: a place for music. Covering very few square meters in a city where so much is being built every day, but encompassing so much happiness and enthusiasm. And, beyond the architecture, which is but a servant, plenty, plenty of music.”

The complex encompasses three venues: a 1,979-seat philharmonic orchestra hall, a 1,054-seat lyric theater, and a 330-seat chamber music hall. It also features ancillary public facilities such as an exhibition hall, music shops, a restaurant, and an arts library, as well as a multimedia and training center.
Venues: Great Hall of the People

- The Great Hall of the People was built in 1959. It was built in 10 months by volunteers and is considered one of the world's architectural marvels.
- Located on the west side of Tiananmen Square
- The Great Auditorium seats 3,693 in the lower tier, 3,515 in the balcony, 2,518 in the gallery, and 300 to 500 on the dais, seating approximately 10,000 representatives simultaneously.
Venues: China National Grand Theater

The “Egg” is located on the south side of Tiananmen Square. There are three major performance halls: a 2,416-seat Opera Hall, a 2,017-seat Music Hall, and a 1,040-seat Theater Hall.
Shanghai: the Asian Paris

Shanghai is a multi-cultural metropolis with both modern and traditional Chinese features. It is a shopper's paradise. A wide variety of cuisines can be found any time, anywhere.
Hangzhou is famous for its natural beauty and cultural heritage. The West Lake region nearby retains its reputation as one of the most beautiful spots in China, with landscaped gardens on its banks, tree-shaded walks, and in the nearby hills, temples, pagodas, and monasteries. The National Silk Museum and Tea Museum are representative of Chinese culture.
Xi’an: The Most Ancient City

Xi’an, the eternal city, records the great changes of the Chinese nation just like a living history book. It is one of the birthplaces of the ancient civilization in the Yellow River Basin area of China. During Xi’an's 3,100 year development, 13 dynasties placed their capitals here. Xi’an enjoys fame equal to Athens, Cairo, and Rome as the capital of one of the major ancient civilizations.

The cultural and historical significance of Xi’an, as well as the abundant relics and sites, help the province of Shanxi enjoy the laudatory title of “Natural History Museum.”
Guilin is regarded as China’s most picturesque city. Two crystal-clear rivers meander through the city, which are encircled by mountains with unique and bizarre rock formations and caves.

The Guilin area is home to a number of China's ethnic minority groups.

Impression Sanjie Liu: A night show featuring a cast of 500 singers, dancers, bamboo fishing boats, and cormorants that grace the world’s largest natural theater, utilizing the waters of the Li River as its stage, with twelve mist-shrouded mountains and the heavens as its backdrop.
Beijing was the capital city of the Liao, Jin, Yuan, Ming, and Qing Dynasties of China. The largest palace of the world, the Forbidden City, is located on the central axis of the city. Beijing has over 7,300 cultural relics and historical sites, as well as more than 200 scenic spots.

Among the possible cultural activities in Beijing are:

- A cultural lecture on the Great Wall by William Lindsey.
- A possible visit to the Olympic Games venues.
Fundraising Plans

We are proactively seeking funding via:

- Participants’ costs
- Ensemble fundraising (concerts, gigs, student fees, and The Stanford Fund Partnership)
- Departmental and University support
- Corporate support
  - Goldman Sachs/China has already pledged $100K
- Local Chinese and Chinese-American community interest
- Private donors
Questions?