

Channel Islands Chamber Orchestra

presents

# *World Music Gala*

## *Music of the Orient*

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*KuanFen Liu*

Artistic Director and Conductor

Friday, March 1st, 2019 at 7:30pm

Sunday, March 3rd, 2019 at 3pm

# Program

- Taiwan Rhapsody No. 1  
*DiuDiuDeng* (丟丟銅)  
*Longing for the Spring Breeze* (望春風)  
Fabian Müller  
(1964-
- Taiwanese Folksongs  
*Flowers in the Rainy Night* (雨夜花)  
*Dark Sky* (天黑黑)  
Dr. Ming-Yen Lee, Erhu  
Fabian Müller  
(1964-
- Ode to Hero, Ode to Love* (楚頌)  
Dr. Ming-Yen Lee and Dr. Hsin-Chih Lin, Erhu  
Bo-Chan Li  
(1992-

# Intermission

- The Yellow River Piano Concerto*      Based on the Yellow River Cantata  
by Xian Xinghai (1905-1945)  
Arranged by Yin Chengzong, Chu Wanghua
- I. "Yellow River Boatman's Song" (黃河船夫曲)  
II. "Ode to the Yellow River" (黃河頌)  
III. "The Wrath of the Yellow River" (黃河憤)  
IV. "Defend the Yellow River" (保衛黃河)

Miriam Arichea, Piano

*A special thank you to the The Barbara Barnard Smith Fund for World Musics, which was established in 1992 to enhance understanding of global intercultural and local multicultural environments through expanding acquaintance with artistic heritages beyond those of Euro-American concert traditions.*

# *Program Notes and Biographies*

## Taiwan Rhapsody No. 1

This delightful concerto-like work in two parts is based on Taiwanese songs. The Swiss composer Fabian Müller wrote this work for his Taiwanese wife, a cellist. The first part, "DiuDiuDeng," is a song about a train chugging through a tunnel as water-drops fall on its roof, while the second part, "Longing for the Spring Breeze," is both tuneful and timely. Both melodies are recognizable as Asian-influenced music because of the frequent use of the pentatonic scale. It is interesting to note that the pentatonic scale is the most common scale in the world if you include all the world's indigenous music. (It can easily be heard by playing only the black keys on a keyboard.) Müller wraps both songs in Western harmonies, producing a fascinating cross-cultural effect, made even more fascinating by today's performance featuring the Chinese erhu accompanied by Western European instruments.

## Taiwanese Folk Songs

Like the previous work, "Flowers in the Rainy Night" and "Dark Sky" form the basis for two more pieces which Fabian Müller wrote for cello and orchestra. Here too, Oriental pentatonic melodies are backlit by Western harmonies, and an Oriental instrument is accompanied by a Western European orchestra. Listen for the raindrops at the end of "Flowers in the Rainy Night" and the thunder and lightning in "Dark Sky."

## Ode to Hero, Ode to Love

This work is a double concerto for two erhus and orchestra written by the young composer Bo-Chan Li when he was just 22 years old. The concerto depicts two thematic images of the "hero" and "love" as they are represented in the traditional Chinese opera "Farewell My Concubine." (Lilian Lee's novel by the same name and its subsequent film adaptation are partly based on the story of this opera, as follows: King Xiang Yu is battling Liu Bang for the unification of China. Surrounded by Liu Bang's forces, the king summons his horse and begs it to run away for its own safety, but the horse refuses. Then he summons Yu, his favorite concubine, and when she sees the hopeless situation, she begs to die alongside her king. When the king refuses, Yu waits until he is distracted, then commits suicide with his sword.

## Yellow River Piano Concerto

Xian Xinghai is one of China's most famous and frequently-programmed composers. A writer of much nationalist and propaganda music in the 1930s, he is best known for his eight-movement Yellow River Cantata, for chorus, soloists and orchestra, written in 1938-39. During the Chinese Cultural Revolution (1966-76), at the request of the Central Philharmonic Society of China, it was revised in the form of a Piano Concerto, with several composers contributing to its final version (not unusual in Chinese classical music). Yin Chengzong wrote the piano part and gave its first performance in 1970. While the piano was frowned upon by the Communists, it was Yin Chengzong's friendship with Mao Zedong's wife that made the performance possible.

The first movement, "Yellow River Boatman's Song," describes the boatman's struggle with the strength and power of the river. The second movement, "Ode to the Yellow River," features an expansive and moving melody beginning in the cellos, which was a tenor solo in the original cantata. The lyrics told of the history of the Chinese people who lived along the Yellow River. The third movement, "The Wrath of the Yellow River," begins with a lovely piccolo solo, after which the piano picks up the pentatonic tune and develops it, sounding much like the ancient Chinese instrument called the guzheng. The orchestra joins in, and the mood suddenly becomes more serious and somber as the music depicts the suffering of the Chinese people during the Second Sino-Japanese War. The final movement, "Defend the Yellow River," is a march-like patriotic call to the Chinese people. It features music from the original cantata, and after a thrilling crescendo, the orchestra and the piano play the Chinese Communist anthem, "The East is Red," a not-so-disguised tribute to Chairman Mao. The exciting climax blends music from the original cantata with a brief musical quote from the Socialist anthem, "The Internationale."

Program notes by Ted Lucas

**Hsin-Chih Lin** is an Assistant Professor of Music at the School of Arts, Minnan Normal University. He is also an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Department of Chinese Music of National Taiwan University of the Arts and at the General Education Center of National Tsing Hua University.

Lin received his B.A. and M.A. from the Department of Chinese Music, Chinese Culture University, under the tutelage of Lin Yuting, Liao Muchun, Ou Guangxun, Chen Shufen, Wang Huode, Gao Yuqing, Zhao Yichen, Yan Jiemin, and Song Fei. He also studied conducting under the guidance of Li Ying, Guo Liangchang, and Ye Hezhong. He received his Ph.D. from Feng Chia University with his dissertation entitled, "The History and Musical Development of Chinese Folk Songs and xiaoxi."

Lin is Founder and Artistic Director of the Yuenyun Chinese Orchestra. An experienced performer and conductor, Lin has performed and conducted at various colleges and social organizations in Taiwan and overseas. He has been invited to serve as a writer for the "Taipei City National Orchestra" annual exhibition and as a judge for the "Hu Qin and "Chinese Orchestra" categories of Taiwan Music Competition.

**Ming-Yen Lee** is Assistant Professor of Music at the Graduate School of Art and Humanities Instruction, National Taiwan University of Arts. She received her PhD in Ethnomusicology from Kent State University. Her research interests include musical interactions in Greater China, modern Chinese orchestra, Indonesian music, and Buddhist music. She is currently working on her book manuscript, "Making Music in Greater China: The Chinese Orchestras of China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan," which explores the evolution and musical interactions of three modern Chinese orchestras across Greater China. She has published articles and reviews in journals such as Asian Culture, Asian Music, Journal of Aesthetic Education, Kuandu Music Journal, Kyoto Review of Southeast Asia, Malaysian Journal

of Humanities and Social Sciences, Modern China Studies, and Taiwan Folk Art.

Dr. Lee is also an erhu player and has performed around Taiwan and internationally. She founded the Cleveland Chinese Music Ensemble in 2008 with the goal of introducing Chinese music to the northern mid-west of the United States.

**Miriam Arichea** has been privileged to perform with CHICO since its inception in 2004. Miriam has also performed with the Ventura College Symphony and San Luis Obispo Chamber Orchestra, as well as in solo and collaborative performances at the Ojai Arts Centre and Ventura Music Festival.

Miriam is slated to perform with the Ventura College Symphony on May 4, 2019, in a concert honoring retired conductor Dr. Burns Taft, with whom Miriam played for many years.

Miriam has also served as music director and pianist for a number of community groups and events, including the Rubicon Theatre Company, the Ventura Unified Festival of Talent, and Temple Beth Torah. Miriam founded and directed the Rubicon Harmonix, a youth vocal troupe that has performed with CHICO twice, and was known for its performances throughout the community. Miriam was the honored recipient of the 2014 Ventura Mayor's Arts Award for Arts Educator. Miriam studied with the late, renowned pianist Sofia Cosma, as well as with Tibor Szasz and Loren Withers of Duke University, and Halimah Brugger. She presently receives valuable coaching from Natasha Kislenko, faculty at University of California Santa Barbara.

A lawyer by training, Miriam received her undergraduate and law degrees at Duke University. She presently handles criminal appeals as a court-appointed attorney with the California Appellate Project. Miriam also coaches the Ventura High School mock trial and academic decathlon teams. Miriam and her husband Jeff Brackett have three adult children – Josh, Arielle, and Daniel.



## Duke Chorale in concert

Wednesday, March 13, 7 pm

First United Methodist Church

1338 E Santa Clara St., Ventura, CA 93003

# *Channel Islands Chamber Orchestra*

KuanFen Liu, Artistic Director and Conductor

## Violin I

Steven Chang  
Concertmaster  
Paul Kerstein  
Karen Darnall  
Barbara Poehls  
Franky Ohlinger  
Vera Dragicevich

## Flute

Mariana Smith  
Ann Erwin

## Timpani

Terry Schonig  
Clinton Cody

## Violin II

Cyndi Hall  
Katie Helms Banday  
Ruthy Kay  
Karen Nelson  
Kathie Kottler  
Christine Snipes Mazor

## Piccolo

Ann Erwin

## Timpani

Gail Smith

## Oboe

Paula Dublinski  
Louis Grace

## Harp

Elaine Lister

## Viola

Judy Garf  
Natalie Spevak  
Bill Hamilton  
James Rumenapp

## Clarinet

David Singer  
Steve Marsh

Librarian: Cyndi Hall

Contractor of musicians:  
Cyndi Hall

## Bassoon

Cavit Celayir-Monezis  
John Marston

Stage Manager:  
Tom Hundley

Program Design:  
Laura Mihalka

Video Engineer: Mark  
Smith and Renata  
Hundley

## Cello

John Fare  
Celine Gietzen  
Ervin Klinkon  
Chris Dimond

## Trumpet

Randy Jones  
Linda Rhymes

Audio Engineer:  
David Atkins

## Trombone

Michael Vaughn  
Cathy Sanders  
Ed Hufschmidt

## Double Bass

Hal Onserud  
Paul Sharp

## Board of Directors - Channel Islands Chamber Orchestra

Laura Mihalka - President, Bruce Walker - Treasurer, Nancy Sieh - Secretary,  
Miriam Arichea, Ted Lucas, Henning Ottsen, Steve Perren, Les Vielbig

# *Chico 2018-2019 Season*

## *Opening Gala - New World Symphony*

Dvořák's Symphony No. 9 and music by Bernstein, Strauss, and Shostakovich

Friday, Oct 12th at 7:30pm - St. Mary Magdalen Church

Sunday, Oct 14th at 3pm - First United Methodist Church of Ventura

## *Hark! A CHICO Holiday Concert*

Featuring fresh, contemporary arrangements of carols and holiday songs.

Directed by Miriam Arichea, the cast will include

local professionals and a youth ensemble.

Friday, Nov 30th at 7:30pm - Rancho Campana High School

Sunday, Dec 2nd at 3pm - First United Methodist Church of Ventura

## *Young Artists Series*

Daniel Newman-Lessler, guest conductor; Stephen Saw, violin;

David Shiang, piano; Noah Laber, oboe

Friday, Jan 25th at 7:30pm - St. Mary Magdalen Church

Sunday, Jan 27th at 3pm - First United Methodist Church of Ventura

## *World Music Gala - Music of the Orient*

Award winning Double Erhu Concerto by the young Chinese composer, Bo-Chan Li, performed by internationally renowned Taiwanese erhu masters, Dr.

Ming-Yen Lee and Dr. Hsin-Chih Lin.

*Yellow River Piano Concerto* featuring Miriam Arichea on piano.

Friday, March 1st at 7:30pm - St. Mary Magdalen Church

Sunday, March 3rd at 3pm - First United Methodist Church of Ventura

## *Choral Spectacular 2019 - Opera Choruses*

CHICO, joined by Channel Islands Choral Association and outstanding soloists, will present some of the best and most beloved opera choruses.

Pieces by Wagner, Bellini, Puccini and Verdi.

Fri, April 26th at 7:30pm - Rancho Campana High School

Sunday, April 28th at 3pm - Rancho Campana High School

## VENUE ADDRESSES

St. Mary Magdalen Church - 25 N. Las Posas Rd, Camarillo

First United Methodist Church of Ventura - 1338 E. Santa Clara St, Ventura

Rancho Campana High School Performing Arts Center - 4235 Mar Vista Dr, Camarillo

\$20 suggested donation; kids and students free

visit [www.chicovc.org](http://www.chicovc.org) for more information

# Acknowledgements

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