Chinese Performing Arts Entertainment and Cultural Presentation by
Xuzhou Normal University

Program Introduction

About the Performing Troupe:

Xuzhou Normal University Performing Troupe provides spectacular Chinese performing arts entertainment programs including live music, Chinese folk dances, and martial arts with awarding winning faculty and students from the university. The troupe has had performing tours in many cities and universities throughout China, and received various awards at China’s national performing arts competitions. The first visit by Xuzhou Normal University Performing Troupe to Miami will strengthen the educational exchanges and cultural ties between this Chinese university and Miami Dade College and the local community at large.

1. Suona Solo (a woodwind instrument)
   Performer: Cai Zhentong

   All Birds Paying Homage to the Phoenix was a piece of folk music originating in the provinces of Shandong, Henan and Hebei. Now it’s popular all over the country. The pleasant, cheerful sound melody of various singing birds is seen as a dynamic and exuberance of nature.

2. Yangge Dance (a traditional Chinese dance)
   Dancer: Wang Jie

   This dance aims to project an image of a petite, cute young lady. The amusing dancing scene creates a jubilant atmosphere. The dancer moves flexibly with heavy lifts, light steps and floating waist like a willow floating in the wind, and the dancer is accompanied on an ensemble of Chinese folk wind and percussion instruments with changing pitches and lively rhythms.

3. Xun Solo (an ancient peach-shaped, holed wind instrument in China)
   Performer: Jiang Yan

   An old Xun was actually a fired earthenware musical instrument. With its primitive simplicity and long history, it is regarded as an age-old civilization in music history. The Xun is peach-shaped, pointed on the top, bulged out in the middle and flat at the bottom. Six thousand years ago while creating agricultural civilization; the Banpo ancients invented an embryonic form of Xun, the oldest musical instrument in the world. Over six thousand years, intoxicated with its
sweet and pleasant timbre, feudal kings and queens in China took Xun as court music. It then started to be in vogue in royal palaces. Having developed from one to seven, and to ten holes, Xun can play 5-note scale or 7-note scale music now.

The music, Charming Rhythm of Xun in Han Dynasty, draws its materials from the music of Han Dynasty, reproducing the scene of local people in Xuzhou city praying to the gods for peace and a good harvest at the sacrificial rites two thousand years ago. The music composition is filled with solemnity, dignity and a strong sense of mystery.

4 、 Chinese and American Folk Songs: Green Willow, Jambalaya

Singers: Zhang Wenjing, Chen Xiaoxi, JiaXin

This is a popular folk song of the Han ethic group and it originated in the southeastern part of China including Jiangsu, Anhui and Zhejiang provinces. The song gains its title from the second sentence of the lyrics, and the narrative lyrics can be composed impromptu with free variations on the melody.

The American folk song, Jambalaya, is set in the Mississippi River of southern America. With witty lyrics and light melody, Jambalaya has become one of the world's most well-known classical songs, worth listening to hundreds of times.

5 、 Dance of Dai Ethnic Group: Flying Peacock (a traditional dance popular among the Dai ethnic group of China)

Dancer: Zhou Shiqi

Flying Peacock is characterized by a distinctive style of the Dai ethnic group. With a strong smack of energy and flavor of modern age, the traditional folk dance is full of aesthetic implication. The Flying Peacock is considered to be the incarnation of happiness and good fortune having befallen the earth, expressing the Dai people's good wishes for a better life.

6 、 Chinese Zither Solo: The Moon Over Guan Mountain

Performer: Zhao Xing

The music was handed down from a composer named Wang who lived in the ancient city of Zhucheng. The tune of the music is miserable, sentimental and solemn, yet moving, expressing homesickness of soldiers who garrisoned the national frontiers far away from home.
7、Pipa Solo: A Red Rose for You
Performer: Wang Jia
The music has distinctive local characteristics of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. With cheerful, bright and forthright melody, it expresses deep feelings of adoration and fondness between lovers longing very much for each other.

8、Beijing Opera: The Heavenly Maiden Scattering Flowers
Singer: Liu Zixin
This opera “The Heavenly Maiden Scattering Flowers” is one of the Beijing opera performances by the Beijing opera master Mr. Mei Lanfang in ancient costumes. The lyrics with a deep Buddhist implication are gorgeous and the vocal music is sweet and agreeable. While watching the performance you can appreciate an image of a smart heavenly maiden deporting herself in a calm and unhurried way, praying for a peaceful and prosperous life for the people.

9、Classical Dance: The Sisters, Green Snake and White Snake
Performer: Wang Jie, Zhou Shiqi
Brief introduction: The dance is based on a well-known classical Chinese Love story, The Legend of the White Snake. The distinctive dance shows the sisters’ deep sisterhood by depicting their happy life details like amusing themselves, having fun together and sulking etc, before the elder sister Bai Suzhen, the white snake, met her fiance Xuxian.

10、Ensemble of Traditional Folk Music: Moonlight over the Spring River
Performer: Meng Xing, etc
Moonlight over the Spring River played by the ensemble of traditional folk orchestra is based on a Pipa solo of the same name, formerly known as 'The Setting Sun and the Drum.' This work is compared to a dazzling bright pearl of traditional Chinese music. The melody of the music sounds sweet and agreeable and the style is unsophisticated and refined. The music vividly depicts a fine moment and a beautiful scene of the moon casting its light on the Spring River, eulogizing the beauty and charm of the south of China.
11、 Ensemble of Traditional Folk Music: Flying Peacock
Performer: Meng Xing, etc
The music is performed with erhu, pipa, dulcimer, zheng and ruan. The performers use these music instruments to imitate the sounds of beating gongs and drums, blowing trumpets, acting clowns and thrilling acrobatic shows, depicting people in a cheerful frame of mind.

12、 Embroidery
Performer: Li Shijuan
Suzhou embroidery is an art or handicraft of embroidering colorful predesigned patterns, pictures or words on silk cloth or other similar materials with embroidery needles, threads or yarns. The embroidered works has a unique artistic value. Chinese suzhou embroidery is one of our country’s most famous traditional embroidery arts, with a history since Neolithic age. It is some of the oldest needlework extant.

13、 Making of Kites
Performer: JiaXin
Kites also known as paper kites, wind kites or wood kites were an age–old invention in China. Flying kites has a history of approximately 2,800 years. Kite making involves steps of designing a draft, making a framework, drawing, papering etc. Designers often emulate flying insects, birds, and other beasts, both real and mythical. With these steps done, an ideal kite is completed.

14、 Paper Cutting
Performer: JiaXin
Chinese Paper Cutting is a folk art with a long history. It’s handed down and spreading far and wide among the masses. Technically speaking, papercutting is to cut or pierce designed patterns on colored paper, presenting images of desired figures. The paper cutouts are used to decorate doors and windows in China. They are sometimes referred to ‘chuanghua’ (window flower).
15. The Art of Infusing Chinese Tea

Performer: Li Shijuan

The Art of Infusing Chinese Tea originated in the Tang Dynasty. As a part of Chinese etiquette, infusing Chinese tea is considered as a way of cultivating one’s native sensibility and nourishing one’s inborn nature. The tea-making ceremony involves the ceremonial preparation and presentation of tea leaves. Through making, appreciating and drinking tea people tend to promote friendship, cultivate their nature and learn courtesies of life. It is a ceremony of showing harmonious and friendly relationships among people.

16. Spirit of Chinese Martial Arts

Performers: Hu Rong, Zhang Chen, Liu Mengyao

Chinese martial arts, also popularly referred to Kung Fu, are a number of fighting and defending styles that have developed over the centuries in China. These styles are often classified according to common traits, identified as ‘families’, ‘sects’ or ‘schools’ of martial arts. Examples of such traits include physical exercises involving animal mimicry, or training methods inspired by Chinese philosophies, religions and legends. Today martial arts have a deep influence on Chinese popular culture.

(1) Straight sword: The movements are brisk, graceful, elegant, soft and quick like blowing wind.

(2) Drunken style boxing: Drunken style boxing is a kind of Chinese boxing imitating the movements of a staggering and swinging drunkard. The boxer seems to be physically intoxicated, but not a bit mentally tipsy.

(3) Long Fist: Long Fist is characterized by the long punch with a stretched hand or leg. The movements are unfolding with muscles limbered up. By taking advantage of long punching with longer stretched fist, the player gives full play to his own advantage of “one inch long one inch strong”

(4) Tai Chi: It is full of profound Chinese knowledge and cultural spirit. The movements are quite flexible, surmounting hardness with softness, and the power of the movements is inexhaustible.

(5) Southern Fist: With stable steps, strong fists, less jumping and nimble hands, the Southern Fist movements are light, swift and powerful, upper limps and hands full of changes.
Double Broadswords: The double broadswords are of the same type with two symmetrical pieces of colored silk wrapped up around the handles. Attacking with one broadsword is hard to defend from one side, while double broadsword attacking is tough to resist from any side. With practice you will have a perfect command of the double broadswords and handle them skillfully.