



Ancient Chinese drumming and percussive traditions date back thousands of years and are representational in nature, meaning that each passage you will hear in this performance tells a story or imparts emotions that transcend mere drum music, and convey many meanings. These selections reveal the pageantry of epic sagas depicting Ancient battles, vignettes about mythical characters in exotic locales, legendary fables and the beauty of nature. Due to the importance of the Yellow River to the daily lives of the people of Shanxi Province, her bounty is highlighted among nature's many gifts in their music and this important aspect of their culture is explored in our program. As you experience our show, consider the thousands of years of rich and ancient cultural tradition being shared through the awesome, majestic, and exuberant musical expressions of **JIGU! THUNDER DRUMS OF CHINA!**

~ Short Program Performance ~

Lady Warriors of the Yang Family ~ Symbolizing the passion and romance of ancient battlefields, this composition tells the story of a generation of female heroes and their sacrifice for their loving and appreciative nation.
Composed by: Mr. Zhang Lie

Yellow River Music ~ Indicative of the personification of nature in man, this selection uses the Yellow River as a metaphor for the hearts and minds of the youth of China. Flowing thousands of miles and sustaining her people for centuries, the great waves of this legendary body of water represent the hearts of the people and the river itself is like the mind of the people, brave and unyielding.
Composed by: Mr. Wang Bao Can

Drums of Triumph ~ Quick rhythms and brilliant tunes are heard as the General and his people celebrate triumph on the battle field. The music comes from ancient army rhythms and symbolizes the joy of the people and their warriors at their victory.
Composed by: Mr. He Hua Jun, Mr. Liu Han Lin & Mr. Hu Jun Quan

Yellow Ground Music ~ This musical sketch offers up to the audience the inevitable march of nature and how the earth tells us tales of eons gone by. This piece, with its emotional drum sounds, passionate tone and tom-tom performances speak to the changes of the ages and to renewal of the earth.
Composed by: Mr. Li Zhen Gui

A Mouse-Fairy Wedding ~ The scene is whimsical and idyllic as the mouse-fairies are wed. All of their clan celebrate with happiness and delight...until an unwelcome guest arrives at the festivities!
Composed by: Mr. Hao Shi Xun

Garden City Gathering ~ As farmers and their families gather to share stories of the fields; this music is about the harvest and the excitement of bringing in the bounty for all to share. The fascination with the tales imparted here so enthralls the villagers that no one wants to leave when the festival ends!
Traditional Drum Composition

Boatmen of the Yellow River ~ A symphony of drum and percussive sound, this orchestration describes with great musicality and lyricism the boatmen's courage and spirit of cooperation. Feel the boatmen's spirits rise as their centuries-old tale is told musically by Jigu! Thunder Drums of China!
Composed by: Mr. Zhang Lie

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Sounds of Rolling Walnuts ~ In a celebration dedicated to the harvest, when the walnuts are ripe, the farmers put them on their roofs to dry. As they dry, the winds blow the walnuts down from the rooftops and, as they hit the ground, they make a 'ping-pong' sound. This selection uses a series of drum and percussive sounds to evoke this wonderful noise and expresses the happiness of the farmers at their good fortune!
Composed by: Mr. Wang Bao Can & Mr. Hao Shi Xun

The Bull and The Tiger ~ Invoking the nature of animals and their contradictions as used allegorically in Chinese literature and legends, this composition signifies the brave, yet uncontrollable nature of the Bull and the power and ferocity of the Tiger and is suggestive of these qualities that are alive in each of us.
Composed by: Mr. Wang Guo Jie

The Qin Emperor Assembles His Army ~ As the West wind calls the Qin Emperor, Li Shimin, assembles his army and they prepare to set out across the vast Northern Desert. The tone of this selection is marked by tight drum tones and the clanging of gongs, representing the sheer power and epic scope of Emperor Lu Shimin leading his army into battle.
Composed by: Mr. Wang Bao Can, Mr. Jing Jian Shu and Mr. Huai Hai

As this represents our short program, there will be NO intermission.

*Actual program content for all performances will be selected from the above.
This program is subject to change without notice and at the discretion of management.*

The use of cameras, flash or video photography and tape recorders are strictly prohibited.

For Educators and Instructors: Please be aware that the Management has provided a Study Guide to supplement the program and notes to assist in preparing your students for our performances. You can obtain a copy of this Study Guide by visiting the producer's website: www.iaipresentations.com or the booking agent's website: www.sroartists.com. You may also call the Production Office at (805) 474-8422 or the booking agent at (608) 664-8160 to request a copy. Please note that this is only a suggested guide. As each group of students differs, instructors may wish to focus on only a few of the proposed topics of discussion or create their own study guide more suited to their particular student group. An original study guide may be derived from our Study Guide's background on China and Chinese drumming tradition, the bibliography provided therein or by using other sources of choice. The Management hopes that your students enjoy this cultural experience which we believe will deepen their understanding of this unique and ancient culture and its rich traditions!

(Program Credits on Next Page...)



2010 North American Tour Program Credits

JIGU! THUNDER DRUMS OF CHINA®
is produced by



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STAFF FOR JIGU! THUNDER DRUMS OF CHINA®:

Company Director:	Mr. Ken T. Hai
Principal Artist:	Mr. Wang Bao Can
Technical Director:	Mr. Mark Mallory
Group Leader:	Mr. Li Nai Zhong
Stage Managers:	Ms. Wang Zhi Zeng and Mr. Wan Shao Kun
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(Program Credits Continued on Next Page...)



JIGU! THUNDER DRUMS OF CHINA®

2010 North American US Tour Program Credits (Con't.)

THE COMPOSERS:

Mr. Hao Shi Xun
Mr. Guo Min Zhi
Mr. He Hua Jun
Mr. Li Min Xiong
Mr. Hu Jun Quan
Mr. Liu Jin Zhu
Mr. Jing Jian Shu

Mr. Wang Guo Jie
Mr. Liu Han Lin
Mr. Wan Bao Can
Mr. Zhang Lie
Mr. Li Zhen Gui
Mr. Huai Hai

THE PERFORMERS

Mr. Bo Yong Liang
Ms. Cao Ya Qin
Mr. Guo Pan
Mr. Han Hong Kai
Ms. Lan Tian Tian
Ms. Li Li
Ms. Li Na
Mr. Li Nai Zhong
Mr. Li Peng Fei
Mr. Liang / Er Jian

Mr. Pei / Rui Long
Mr. Qiao / Yan Bin
Ms. Song / Ya Wen
Ms. Sun / Jing
Ms. Sun / Li Sha
Mr. Wang / Jing
Mr. Wang / Zhi Zeng
Ms. Yun / Xiao Xin
Mr. Zhang / Jing Yu
Mr. Zhang / Yan Qing

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Jigu! Thunder Drums of China ~ Program Notes

Hailing from the Shanxi Province in China, the Shanxi Jiangzhou Drum Arts Ensemble, as they are known in China, comes to the West as “**JIGU! Thunder Drums of China.**” In Chinese, *jigu* (pronounced *jee GOO*) means to 'beat or touch the drum' and the performance you are about to experience is the culmination of thousands of years of Chinese musical tradition. **JIGU! Thunder Drums of China** has performed in many countries and major cities worldwide including China, Denmark, Morocco, Singapore, Malaysia, Korea, Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan, and the United States. Their performances at the Hong Kong Arts Festival were lauded to be as “varied as the beats and drums themselves” and featured “dramatic, heart-stopping pieces” while also displaying a playful attitude with passages that are “entirely humorous!”

Their participation in Festivals and Arts Events are numerous and include: CCTV's (Chinese Central Television's) Spring Festival; the Macao International Music Festival; the Shanghai International Arts Festival; the Chinese Folk Art Festival; the Summer of Ha'ErBin Arts Festival; the Hong Kong Drum Festival and Competition; the internationally renowned Arhus Cultural Festival in Denmark and the 2004 NBA's International Games, where they were the featured performers. **JIGU! Thunder Drums of China** has also won many awards including the 1992 Chinese Folk Competitions for Percussion and Drums Performers and they were the Gold Medalists at the 2004 National Star Awards in China given for excellence in their fields of drumming and percussive performance. They also won Gold Medals at the National Star Awards competition in China for 1992, 2000, and 2001. Company members also participated in the Cultural Entertainment programming at various venues throughout Beijing, as part of the Beijing Olympic Games celebrations in 2008. The performers of **JIGU! Thunder Drums of China** were very honored to be selected to participate in all of these very prestigious events!

In 2007, **JIGU! Thunder Drums Of China** embarked on their very first North American Tour to great success and acclaim. Their sold-out shows were joyous celebrations of Chinese music, culture, drumming and percussive arts...and fun! On their initial tour, they visited over twenty-five North American cities including Seattle, WA, San Francisco, CA, Detroit, MI and Philadelphia, PA among others. **JIGU! Thunder Drums Of China** enchanted American audiences with their unique talents, awesome drumming techniques, and powerful musical skills. While on this tour, the Group also visited Canada for the first time, where they debuted in that country for enthusiastic audiences in Vancouver, British Columbia. On their 2008 and 2009 US Tours, Western audiences clamored to see their shows in such cities as Los Angeles, CA; San Diego, CA; Dallas, TX; Houston, TX, many cities throughout Florida and several other states. All in all, **JIGU! Thunder Drums Of China** visited over forty cities on these highly successful, sold-out tours. As 2010 marks their fourth North American Tour, the artists look forward to entertaining North American audiences once again with their unique and thrilling art form. In addition to visiting many US cities this year, **JIGU! Thunder Drums of China** will return to Canada, this time performing in several cities throughout the Ontario province.

Since their North American debut in 2007, **JIGU! Thunder Drums Of China** has released their very first DVD and CD as part of an exciting entertainment package. These digitally produced media products feature their thrilling performances live and were recorded on their premiere US Tour. Vibrant costumes and stunning visual effects heighten the experience as viewers and listeners are transported to another realm by these amazing musicians, experiencing the awesome power of this incredible show. The DVD and CD capture all the joyful exuberance of a performance by **JIGU! Thunder Drums Of China** and are available at all of their public performances and on-line at www.iaipresentations.com.

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Jigu! Thunder Drums of China ~ Program Notes (Con't.)

The drummers, percussionists, and musicians of **JIGU! Thunder Drums of China**, come from many villages within the Shanxi Province, and range in age from about 18 to 30 years old. Their families have passed down their musical skills from generation to generation. Their drumming tradition can be traced back centuries within the Chinese city of Jiangzhou, in Xinjiang County. In the Seventh Century, A.D., Jiangzhou was the home of the Emperor Li Shimin of the Tang Dynasty (618 A.D. – 907 A.D.). Li Shimin has also been called Tang Taizong in many historical records, and his renown comes, in part, from the impressive precision of his celebrated drum and percussion orchestra. Part of the legend of Emperor Li Shimin lives on in performances by **JIGU! Thunder Drums Of China**. In fact, one of the musical vignettes in our program tells part of the Emperor Li Shimin's story.

Some of the earliest archaeological evidence of Chinese drums and percussion music has been unearthed in the Shanxi region of China. Chinese drumming and percussion music is generally placed in one of two categories. The Yuchui, (*pronounced "Yu-Shwee"*) or drum and wind style, is mainly performed at weddings and funerals to bring good fortune or peace to those being honored. The Saishe, (*pronounced "Sigh-Sheh"*) or festival style of performance, was performed by villagers praying for prosperous weather and rich harvests. **JIGU! Thunder Drums of China's** repertoire embraces both of these styles, the more formal and traditional, as well as the more joyful, light-hearted style found in daily life.

China has a long and rich theatrical history, dating back many centuries to the Shang dynasty (1766 B.C. - 1050 B.C.). In this period, "seers" performed ceremonial songs and dances to honor the gods, invoking them to drive out pestilence; cause crops to be abundant; or create other "miracles" in nature. By the time of the Han dynasty, beginning around 206 B.C., court entertainments were very popular. Clowns, wrestlers, acrobats, singers, and musicians entertained emperors and their attendants by acting out mythical stories and famous fables.

These entertainments were the precursors of Peking Opera, which is a multi-faceted art form, and is very unlike Western Opera. Peking Opera combines singing, dancing, acrobatics, martial arts, pantomime, highly stylized acting, costume, make-up, and more to create fantastic stage productions. The fundamental belief of Chinese theatre-goers is that theatre, at best, should be an illusion of life. Good Chinese theatre, therefore, must show the real struggle of humans to succeed and survive as well as display the trials and joys of living.

The percussion section is among the most important aspects of Chinese opera. The artists of **JIGU! Thunder Drums of China** takes part in the aforementioned philosophies of Peking Opera and expresses it through percussive style. In China, being selected to become a member of **JIGU! Thunder Drums of China**, is an honor, and brings with it a great deal of prestige and the possibility of travel for the artists. Imagine being chosen to be part of a professional music troupe from China and traveling the world! While on tour, the artists will see many corners of the globe and will meet new and different people. The musicians are representatives of their country and their art, and they take great pride in being selected to perform for audiences worldwide. So, prepare to be transported to another realm as you experience the joyful, thunderous roar of **JIGU! Thunder Drums of China!**

Updated September 2010.

END OF PROGRAM AND NOTES