



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!**

### **Performance Program ~ Act One ~**

**Hear The Tiger and The Dragon Roar!** ~ In this spectacular opening to our performance, the performers welcome the audience with a commanding piece that exemplifies the strength and courage of two of the most revered animals in Chinese lore, the Tiger and the Dragon. This selection displays the incredible talents of the musicians while symbolizing the qualities of these two great beasts, one that is in existence today and one that may have walked the Earth in mythical legends of ancient times past.

*Composed by: Mr. Wang Bao Can, Mr. Jing Jian Shu and Mr. Huai Hai*

**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. With its emotional drum sounds, passionate tone and tom-tom performances this selection speaks to the changes of the ages and to renewal of the earth.

*Composed by: Mr. Li Zhen Gui*

**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*

**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 uninvited guest arrives at the festivities!

*Composed by: Mr. Hao Shi Xun*

**The Bull and The Tiger** ~ Invoking the nature of animals and their contradictions as used allegorically in Chinese literature and legend, 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*

**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. Note the virtuosity of the performers and the beautiful costumes in this thrilling selection!

*Composed by: Mr. Zhang Lie*

**~ INTERMISSION ~**



## **Performance Program ~ Act Two**

**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. Color, sound, light and emotion evoke the spirits of the boatmen as they are summoned in this intricately woven, centuries-old tale!

*Composed by: Mr. Zhang Lie*

**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 whimsical 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*

**Drums of Triumph** ~ Quick rhythms and brilliant tunes are heard as the General and his people celebrate triumph on the battlefield. 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*

**An Autumn Ode** ~ Innovative and fresh, this music describes a time in the Fall when the persimmons are ripe and the wind moves through the bamboo forest. As the winds of change echo the shifting of the seasons, a new and beautiful world comes into view and the seasonal change is captured in this compelling Autumn Ode.

*Composed by: Mr. Zhang Lie*

**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 enralls the villagers that no one wants to leave when the festival ends!

*Traditional Drum Composition*

**The Qin King Assembles His Army/Drums of Freedom** ~ 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 Li Shimin leading his army into battle. In this symphonic selection, the expression of freedom reigns supreme. The epic and powerful sounds of many musical instruments are employed to let freedom ring throughout the land!

*Composed by: Mr. Li Min Xiong*

**Dogs Chasing Ducks** ~ In this playful and ebullient piece, everyone gets to have a little fun as we hear the sound of many dogs chasing ducks in the water. Creating these happy sounds are small cymbals used by the performers to evoke the image of romping dogs chasing wily ducks that are just too quick for their canine pursuers!

*Composed by: Mr. Guo Min Zhi & Mr. Liu Jin Zhu*

**Springtime Paradise** ~ As singularly beautiful and full of life as the first day of Spring, this jubilant and energetic finale to our performance features the entire company melding modern performance skills and ancient art in an ultra-sensory kaleidoscope of sight and sound, sharing with the audience the exhilaration to be found in this Season of Renewal and in the joy of life!

*Traditional Drum Composition*

*There will be one intermission.*

*The program for this performance will be selected from the above. The Management reserves the right to make alterations in the order of the program or in the cast due to illness or any cause whatsoever. The use of cameras, flash or video photography, and sound recorders are strictly prohibited.*

**(Continued on Next Page...)**



### **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 America 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 Denmark, Morocco, Singapore, Malaysia, Korea, Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan, and the United States. Their performances at the Hong Kong Arts Festival were lauded “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.

Last year, **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 this tour, they visited over 25 North American cities including Seattle, WA, San Francisco, CA, Detroit, MI and Philadelphia, PA among others. **JIGU! THUNDER DRUMS OF CHINA** amazed the crowds with their unique talents and powerful musical skills. Also while on this tour, the Group visited Canada for the first time ever, where they played to enthusiastic audiences in Vancouver, British Columbia. 2008 marks **JIGU! THUNDER DRUMS OF CHINA'S** second North American Tour and they look forward to entertaining American audiences once again with their unique and thrilling art form.

The drummers, percussionists, and musicians of **JIGU! Thunder Drums of China**, come from 28 villages within the Shanxi Province, and range in age mainly from 18 to 30 years old. Their families have passed down their skills from generation to generation. Their drumming tradition can be traced back centuries in the city of Jiangzhou, within Xinjiang County. 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 come in part from his celebrated drum and percussion orchestra. Part of the legend of Emperor Li Shimin lives on in this performance as one of the scenes tells some of his story. Some of the earliest archaeological evidence of Chinese drums and percussion music has been unearthed in the Shanxi region. 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. The **JIGU! Thunder Drums of China** repertoire embraces both of these styles, the more formal and traditional, as well as the more joyful, light-hearted style found in daily life.

**(Continued on Next Page...)**



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

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.” 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, 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 theatregoers 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 for a professional music troupe 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 thunderous roar of **Jigu! Thunder Drums of China!**

**(Program Credits on Next Page...)**



## 2007 Tour Program Credits

# JIGU! THUNDER DRUMS OF CHINA®

IAI Presentations, Inc.  
P.O Box 4, Pismo Beach, CA 93448, USA.  
Telephone (805) 474-8422  
Fax: (805) 474-8426

[www.iapresentations.com](http://www.iapresentations.com)

Mr. Don Hughes, President  
Ms. Cynthia A. Dike-Hughes, Vice President  
Ms. Marissa Bywater, Production and Marketing Associate

AND

International Asia, Inc. ~ Mr. Ken T. Hai, President  
PO Box 546 ~ Walnut CA 91788

### STAFF FOR JIGU! THUNDER DRUMS OF CHINA®:

Company Director:	Mr. Ken T. Hai
Principal Artist:	Mr. Wang Bao Can
Group Leader:	Mr. Li Nai Zhong
Technical Consultants:	Mr. Sun Jian and Ms. Wan Sen
Stage Manager:	Mr. Wu De An
Technical Director:	Mr. Steve Kirkland
Assistant Technical Director:	Mr. Daniel Kells
Translator:	Mr. Chang Te Long
Merchandise Manager:	Mr. Gregory Bebout

### TOUR DIRECTION BY:



(Program Credits Continued on Next Page...)



# **JIGU! THUNDER DRUMS OF CHINA®**

## **2008 US Tour Program Credits (Con't.)**

### **THE COMPANY**

Ms. Cao Ya Qin  
Ms. Cong Wen Wen  
Mr. Di Rui Jun  
Mr. Fang Shuai Shuai  
Ms. Guo Xiao Juan  
Mr. Li Nai Zhong  
Mr. Li Peng Fei  
Ms. Lian Jian Ying  
Mr. Liang Er Jian  
Mr. Liang Er Long  
Ms. Liu Su Zhen  
Mr. Meng Dei Gao  
Ms. Meng Hong Yan

Ms. Meng Qiong Qiong  
Mr. Qiao Yan Bin  
Ms. Song Ya Wen  
Mr. Sun Jian  
Ms. Sun Li Sha  
Mr. Wang Jian Qiang  
Mr. Wang Jing  
Mr. Wang Zhi Zhang  
Mr. Wei Chao Hua  
Mr. Wu De An  
Mr. Zhang Shao Yong  
Ms. Zhang Xiao Rong

### **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. Wang Bao Can  
Mr. Zhang Lie  
Mr. Li Zhen Gui  
Mr. Huai Hai

### **END OF PROGRAM AND NOTES**