



JIGU! THUNDER DRUMS OF CHINA®

GENERAL PRESS RELEASE ~ 2014 North American Tour

JIGU! THUNDER DRUMS OF CHINA® has been enchanting audiences for nearly two decades in many countries throughout the world. Now, the thunder is rolling into _____ (city) _____ ! Prepare to experience the vibrant and colorful roar of **JIGU! THUNDER DRUMS OF CHINA!**

Hailing from the Shanxi Province in China, this world-renown company of drummers, percussionists, and musicians thrill audiences around the globe with awe-inspiring performances. **JIGU! THUNDER DRUMS OF CHINA** will appear at _____ (venue) _____ on _____ (day and date) _____ at _____ (time) _____.

In Chinese, *jigu* literally means 'to beat or touch the drum', and beat the drum with passion and vigor is what these performers do best! Audiences will be transfixed by the awesome musicality and power of **JIGU! THUNDER DRUMS OF CHINA**. The fine art of drumming and percussive performance is demonstrative of China's rich and historic culture, especially in and around the Shanxi Province, which is where these performers call home. In China, the drum and percussive arts are passed down from generation to generation, and ancient drumming tradition can be traced back many centuries to the ancient city of Jiangzhou, located in what is now Xinjiang County, in modern China. The old city of Jiangzhou was the home to Emperor Li Shimin (Tang Dynasty A.D. 618-907), and his celebrated percussion orchestra. In fact, some of the earliest archaeological evidence of Chinese percussion music found has been unearthed in the Shanxi region.

Performances by **JIGU! THUNDER DRUMS OF CHINA** are deeply rooted in this rich heritage. An intricate blend of traditional and modern elements, this fascinating and innovative show, is conceived and produced by IAI Presentations, the producers of THE PEKING ACROBATS®, and has captivated audiences of all ages. The drummers, percussionists, and musicians of **JIGU! THUNDER DRUMS OF CHINA**, range in age from about 16 to 30 years old, and their youthful exuberance shines through in every performance they give on their tours. The show offers intense, high-tech lighting and special effects that patrons won't want to miss. Not only will audiences be immersed in a wonderland of sight and sound, they will be swept away by the incredible drumming power and astounding musicianship displayed by these talented performers!



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Founded in 1988, the *Shanxi Jiangzhou Drum Art Ensemble* is known as **JIGU! THUNDER DRUMS OF CHINA** when they perform in the West. They have performed in many countries around the world including the United States, Canada, Denmark, Morocco, Singapore, Malaysia, Korea, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. 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 acts that are “entirely humorous!”

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 fun! The group 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. The group also visited Canada for the first time on this tour, where they played to enthusiastic audiences in Vancouver, British Columbia.

After the success of their initial tour, **JIGU! THUNDER DRUMS OF CHINA** was promptly booked for a second North American Tour, in the Spring of 2008. This tour brought the group to such US cities as Los Angeles, CA; San Diego, CA; Dallas, TX; Houston, TX, and several cities in Florida. In 2009 and 2010, they toured North America yet again, this time in the Fall of both of those years. On these tours, they visited Albuquerque, NM, Louisville, KY, Johnstown, PA, Daytona Beach, FL, the Chicago-land area in Illinois, several cities in the Carolinas and, once again, they returned to play several performances in Florida. Their 2010 North American Tour also included a visit to Eastern Canada, where they performed for 10 days at various venues throughout Ontario province. These performances marked the Group’s second visit to Canada and their first performances for audiences in the Ontario province. Now, as **JIGU! THUNDER DRUMS OF CHINA** embarks on their current North American Tour, they look forward to bringing their ancient and thrilling art form to an ever-expanding audience!

JIGU! THUNDER DRUMS OF CHINA recently released their very first DVD and CD as part of an exciting entertainment package called *JIGU! FEEL IT IN YOUR SOUL!* These digitally produced media products feature their thrilling performance “live” and were recorded on their initial US Tour.



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Vibrant costumes and stunning visual effects heighten the experience as viewers are transported to another realm by these talented musicians through the awesome power of this amazing show. The DVD and CD *JIGU! FEEL IT IN YOUR SOUL!* captures all the joyful excitement of a performance by **JIGU! THUNDER DRUMS OF CHINA** and both the DVD and CD are available at their public performances and on-line at www.iaipresentations.com.

When not on tour, **JIGU! THUNDER DRUMS OF CHINA** continues to participate in many National and International Festivals and Arts Events. These appearances 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 International Games, where they were the featured musical performers. Company members also participated in the Cultural Entertainment programming at venues throughout Beijing, as part of the Beijing Olympic Games celebrations in 2008. The performers were very honored to be selected to participate in all of these very prestigious events!

JIGU! THUNDER DRUMS OF CHINA has also won numerous 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 1992, 2000 and 2001.

Bringing something special from the People's Republic of China, this exuberant ensemble has thrilled and astounded audiences around the world and is now sharing their ebullient talents with an ever-widening Western audience...experience the vibrant and colorful roar of **JIGU! THUNDER DRUMS OF CHINA!**

(Please see JIGU! THUNDER DRUMS OF CHINA's Press Reviews on Next Page...)



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The following **REVIEWS** tell the unique story of this incredible drum art ensemble and their very special world music approach. Below are a few highlights from publications and presenters across North America and the world, describing the thrill and spectacle of this innovative, unique, and fun cultural attraction:

“JIGU’s virtuosic command of style and technique tells wordless tales of man and nature, war and peace, love and delight ~ all through an imaginative fusion of music, movement, color, and costume!”

~ Rochester City News (New York, USA)

“A troupe of highly professional caliber that, with talent and charm, takes the audience by storm!”

~ Mitjutland Paper (Arhus Festival, Denmark)

“The thunder dragon roared in the Cultural Grand Theatre on Monday night...it roared, then, it began tapping its toes to the insistent rhythms of JIGU! THUNDER DRUMS OF CHINA!”

~ South China Morning Post (Hong Kong, China)

“During the two hours, I was never bored...the sounds of every drum rumbled through the hall! With resonating melodies, the elegance and tradition in every act throughout the show and the overall intensity, I was easily able to see why JIGU has become a world-renowned and respected group of percussionists and musicians!”

~ Idaho State University Bengal (Pocatello, Idaho, USA)

“Thanks so much for a great performance of JIGU! Thunder Drums of China! We didn’t just watch, we experienced JIGU in our bodies! It was a magnificent, multi-sensory experience. The performances were visually stunning, gorgeous, and gracious!”

~ Ms. Ronna Kalish, New Mexico Tech Performing Arts Series (Socorro, New Mexico, USA)

“This was one of the smoothest presenting experiences I’ve had. The show looked wonderful and met all of my expectations. The show was a great success!”

~ Mr. Jeff Martin, Brigham Young University Arts Series, (Provo, Utah, USA)

“JIGU told stories that interwove legends and fairy tales with everyday life expressed eloquently by this fantastic, very skillful drumming group before a huge and appreciative audience!”

~ Jutlands Morning Post (Arhus Festival, Denmark)

“JIGU offers a new way of presenting music to an audience by combining it with a unique visual element...demonstrating just how diverse the concept of family entertainment & world music can be!”

~ The Montgomery County Sentinel (Maryland, USA)

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