

The University Musical Society

The University of Michigan



Presents

The Chinese Acrobats of Taiwan

DR. CHING-HSIEN HO, *Director*
YU-KUANG HSU, *Associate Director*

Musicians

Ju-hui CHANG/percussion instruments Fu-chi SHEN/*sheng* (17-tube pipe)
Teng-ko CH'EN/*ti-zu* (Chinese piccolo) Chin-hsiung OU/*yang-ch'in* (dulcimer)
Li-ch'ing HSU/*ta-yuan* (Chinese cello) Ch-ching WANG/*erh-hu* (Chinese fiddle)
Shu-o KUO/*p'i-p'a* (lute) Chi-chung CHANG/*chung-hu* (Chinese viola)

SATURDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 6, 1976, AT 8:30
HILL AUDITORIUM, ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

PROGRAM

Chinese Carnival

Yu-ch'ing CHANG, Feng-t'ing CH'EN, Chin-chang CHANG, Chiu CHANG, Yu-lung CHANG, Neng-chen SU, Chin-kuei CHU, Chang-min TSENG, Yua-shien WANG, Ming-tang WU, Ming-hsiung HSIAO, Hsieh-fa HSU, Huo-chu CHANG, Chun-mei CHANG, Pao-chuan TANG, Ming-yu CHU, I-jen K'O, Yung-sen CHENG, Kuo-ch'ing WANG, Ming-fa LIN, K'o-jen CHANG, Jung-hui SUN, Wen-cheng HUANG, Man-li WU, Hsiu-hua CHU, Yueh-chih HSIA, Pei-chieh WU, Yu-lin WU, Shu-hui LIN, Shu-chuan HSU.

Recreates some of the tradition-rich festive celebrations in China that are vignettes of the past. An authentic dragon dance which is still seen today, a classic dance by seven lovely maidens dressed in ancient costumes, and an adaptation of operatic tumbling above a huge silk banner waved by a strong man. The fast action and rich variety serve as a prelude of the dazzling performances to come.

The Green Ladder

Fu-hsiung WANG

Ch'ing-hsiang YUAN

Assisted by:

Chang-min TSENG

Neng-chen SU

Kuo-ch'ing WANG

Daring feats are performed by a lovely girl atop a 12-foot green bamboo ladder resting on the shoulder of her male partner. The balancing acts are precarious enough, but watch for the moment of climactic surprise.

Feather Dance

Man-li WU

Yueh-chih HSIA

Yu-lin WU

Shu-chuan HSU

Hsiu-hun CHU

Pei-chieh WU

Shu-hui LIN

The feather dance has had a long tradition in China, going back many dynasties. Contrary to what many would think, it was not invented by Sally Rand, and it was not necessarily meant for scantily clad showgirls.

Balancing Rhapsody

Ch'un-mei CHANG

Huo-chu CHANG

Assisted by:

Chin-kuei CHU

K'o-jen CHANG

One girl with another standing upside down over her climbs up and down a 12-foot ladder which, instead of leaning at an angle, stands straight up. It is difficult enough to climb up such a ladder, but even more so to come down one, and with a load on one's mind.

Rolling Jars

Yu-ch'ing CHANG

Assisted by:

Mei-yu CHANG

Feng-t'ing CH'EN

Rolling Jars is another act that dates back centuries. Porcelain jars are heavy objects and easily breakable. To be able to juggle them at will, not only with hands but also with one's head, back or chest, is a unique art mastered so far only by the Chinese.

Flying Chinese Dolls

Fu-hsiung WANG

Chia-nan WANG

An-nann WANG

Ch'ing-hsiang YUAN

Mei-hsiang WANG

Chun-mei WU

Pi-chu WU

The man swirls an 11-foot high pole. The girl flies around it, literally hanging by her teeth, and with both hands free. An act not to be imitated by those who wear dentures.

Rings and Rods

Chun-mei CHANG

Feng-t'ing CH'EN

Ming-yu CHU

Ming-huan CHU

Ming-hua CHU

Chin-chang CHANG

Pao-chin TANG

Juggling as popular entertainment is as old as civilization itself. What distinguishes this act from others of a similar nature is its variety and fast-changing patterns.

Seesaw Rockets

Huo-chu CHANG

K'o-jen CHANG

Yu-ch'ing CHANG

An act that normally is familiar to circus-goers the world over. Again, what sets these Chinese acrobats apart are their seemingly effortless grace and precision that come with years of training and discipline.

Chinese 'Ch'i-kung'

Yung-sen CHENG

I-jen K'O

Neng-chen SU

Ming-fa LIN

Tai-ying Hsia CHENG

'Ch'i-kung' are extraordinary feats that seem to defy physical laws, which the Chinese attribute to the cultivation of Ch'i, roughly translated as inner strength or life energy.

How else can one explain levitation, or winding a steel rod around one's neck, or using one's bare hand to hammer a nail through double inch-and-a-half thick boards?

Pagoda of Chairs

K'o-jen CHANG

Pei-chieh WU

Man-li WU

Yu-lung CHANG

Shu-chuan HSU

Yueh-chih HSIA

Yua-shien WANG

Chin-kuei CHU

Ya-lin WU

Pao-chuan TANG

Ming-tang WU

Shu-hui LIN

Hsiu-hua CHU

Chin-chang CHANG

Half a dozen chairs are placed one upon another, the bottom one resting on four beer bottles, which in turn stand on a rickety table. There is no safety wire around the acrobats' waist, nor any safety net underneath. Any slip of his or her hand from this precarious pagoda could be fatal.

I N T E R M I S S I O N

Dancing Plates

Chun-mei CHANG

Pi-chu WU

Ch'ing-hsiang YUAN

Chiu CHANG

Pao-chuan TANG

Chun-mei WU

Shu-yun LI

Chin-kuei CHU

Chia-nan WANG

Hsiu-ying SHIH

Huo-chu CHANG

Shu-chun HSIAO

Mei-hsiang WANG

Mei-yu CHANG

K'o-jen CHANG

An-nan WANG

Feng-t'ing CH'EN

Yua-shien WANG

Assisted by:

Ming-hua CHU

Ming-tang WU

Yu-lung CHANG

Ming-yu CHU

Ming-huan CHU

A bevy of lovely girls, each spinning as many as four or six plates on long sticks, move in kaleidoscopic formations to the rhythm of Chinese classical music. Their precision, dexterity, grace, and ease make you forget that they are performing difficult gymnastic feats at the same time.

Jugglers' Delight

Chin-ch'ang CHANG

Pao-chuan T'ANG

For a change of pace, a series of stunts showing the light side of the Chinese Acrobats at their relaxed best. The trick with the bricks seems to defy Newton's law of gravity. Like those with sticks and balls, however, it is but a display of consummate skill combined with long practice.

Fancy Feet

Chiu CHANG
Ming-huan CHU
Ch'ing-hsiang YUAN

Chia-nan WANG
Chun-mei WU⁺
Ming-hua CHU

Ming-yu CHU
Mei-hsiang WANG
Pi-chu WU

Mei-yu CHANG

Assisted by:
Mei-yun WEN

A host of girls, all lying on their back, vie with each other in the things they can juggle with their nimble feet. One of them winds up as a human football with whom her sisters play catch.

Circle of Knives

Yu-lung CHANG
K'o-jen CHANG

Yua-shien WANG
Chin-kuei CHU

Ming-tang WU

This is precision tumbling at its best. The five acrobats, in rapid succession, dive head first through three rings lined with sharp knives. Hold your breath for the end when they have to dive blindfolded through the burning rings, right into the lap of those who made the trip before.

Flower Drum Dance

Man-li WU
Yueh-chih HSIA
Yu-lin WU

Shu-chuan HSU
Hsiu-hua CHU

Pei-chieh WU
Shu-hui LIN

The folk dance that gave its name to "Flower Drum Song," the Broadway musical made into a movie. It originated from Fengyang of Anhwei province, birthplace of the first emperor of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644 A.D.). The costumes are what Chinese village girls wore in more recent days.

Chinese Somersault

Ming-hua CHU
Ming-yu CHU

Ming-huan CHU

Three sisters show off their acrobatic skills. During their 1975 tour, Burt Lancaster, no mean acrobat himself, especially praised this act as so difficult that he had never seen before.

Bicycle Jamboree

Chin-kuei CHU
Huo-chu CHANG
Mei-hsiang WANG
Shu-chun HSIAO
Ming-yu CHU
Mei-yun WEN

Ming-hun CHU
Mei-yu CHANG
Chun-mei CHANG
Ch'ing-hsiang YUAN
An-nan WANG

Pi-chu WU
Shu-yun LI
Hsiu-ying CHIH
Feng-t'ing CH'EN
Shu-chuan CHU

Yu-ch'ing CHANG

Assisted by:
K'o-jen CHANG

Yu-lung CHANG

Whether it is a unicycle or a bicycle, high seat or low seat, these riders manipulate their mount as effortlessly as if they were born on wheels. Watch for the climax when eleven—yes, count them—acrobats climb onto the same bicycle.

Chinese 'Kung-fu'

Neng-chen SU
Jung-hui SUN

Wen-cheng HUANG
I-jen K'O

Ming-hsiung HSIAO
Hsieh-fa HSU

Six masters of ancient martial arts demonstrate their specialties. The difference between this act and Bruce Lee movies is that this is all for real. All the performers in this number have their own *kung-fu* schools in Taiwan. The concluding skit, in which a man wielding a three-section staff is pitted against three others with more conventional Chinese weapons, represents real danger for injury or death for each of the participants.

Human Pyramids

Yu-ch'ing CHANG
K'o-jen CHANG
Chun-mei CHANG
Chiu CHANG
Shu-yun LI
Hsiu-ying CHIH
Yua-shien WANG
Ming-tang WU
Chang-min TSENG
Mei-hsiang WANG

An-nan WANG
Pi-chu WU
Shu-chun HSIAO
Ming-huan CHU
Shu-chuan CHU
Yu-lung CHANG
Chin-chang CHANG
Huo-chu CHANG
Mei-yu CHANG
Feng-t'ing CH'EN

Mei-yun WEN
Pao-chuan TANG
Fu-hsiung WANG
Kuo-ch'ing WANG
Chia-nan WANG
Ch'ing-hsiang YUAN
Chun-mei WU
Ming-hua CHU
Ming-yu CHU
Chin-kuei CHU

The grand finale shows the exciting variations and possible combinations of Chinese acrobatics. With most members of the company on stage, it presents a fitting climax to an evening of entertainment in old Cathay.

COMING EVENTS

- RUTH LAREDO, *Pianist* (aft.) Sunday, November 7
 Beethoven: Sonata in E-flat, Op. 81a; Scriabin; Poème, Op. 32, Sonata No. 9; Rachmaninoff:
 Three Etudes Tableaux; Ravel: Valses nobles et sentimentales, La Valse.
- VICTOR HERBERT'S *Naughty Marietta* Friday & Saturday,
 November 12 & 13
- LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA/HAITINK Sunday, November 14
 Arnold: The Philharmonic Concerto; Elgar: Introduction and Allegro for Strings; Mahler:
 Symphony No. 5.
- ELLY AMELING, *Soprano* Tuesday, November 16
 Mozart: Six Songs; Schubert: Five Songs; Martin: Drey Minnelieder; Fauré: Mandoline,
 Au bord de l'eau, Arpège, Les Roses d'Ispahan, La Rose; Satie: Ludions, La Diva de l'Empire.
- AEOLIAN CHAMBER PLAYERS Saturday, November 20
 Haydn: Trio in G, No. 31; Bolcom: "Whisper Moon"; Bartók: "Contrasts"; Brahms: Trio
 in C minor, Op. 101.
- HANDEL'S "MESSIAH" Friday & Saturday, December 3 & 4,
 (aft.) Sunday, December 5
 University Choral Union, Interlochen Orchestra, Kathryn Bouleyn, *soprano*, Lili Chookasian,
contralto, Vinson Cole, *tenor*, Simon Estes, *bass*, Donald Bryant, *conductor*.
- TCHAIKOVSKY'S *Nutcracker* Ballet . . . (sold out) Thursday, Friday, Saturday,
 The Pittsburgh Ballet December 16, 17, 18
- VERDI'S *La Traviata*—Canadian Opera Company Sunday, January 9
- JEAN-PIERRE RAMPAL, *Flutist* (sold out) Friday, January 14
- PRAGUE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA Saturday, January 15
- MICHAEL PONTI, *Pianist* Tuesday, January 25
 Beethoven: Eroica Variations, Op. 35; Chopin: Sonata in B-flat minor; Scriabin: Three
 Preludes, Op. 35, Satanic Poem, Op. 36; Rachmaninoff: Sonata in B-flat minor, Op. 36.
- ROYAL WINNIPEG BALLET Saturday & Sunday,
 January 29 & 30
- DANZAS VENEZUELA Wednesday, February 2
- WARSAW QUINTET (piano and strings) Thursday, February 3
- JORGE BOLET, *Pianist* Saturday, February 5
 Haydn: Sonata in E-flat major; Schumann: Carnival, Op. 9; Brahms: Sonata in F minor,
 Op. 5.
- RAJKO—GYPSY ORCHESTRA AND DANCERS Sunday, February 6
- LENINGRAD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA/TEMIRKANOV Thursday, February 10
- GUARNERI STRING QUARTET Saturday, February 19
 Beethoven: Op. 18, No. 1 in F major; Op. 74 in E-flat major; Op. 131 in C-sharp minor.
- GUARNERI STRING QUARTET (sold out) Sunday, February 20
- ALVIN AILEY DANCE THEATER Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,
 February 21, 22, 23
- JEAN-PIERRE RAMPAL, *Flutist* (sold out) Friday, February 25
- YAMINI KRISHNAMURTI, South Indian Dancer Monday, February 28
- CZECH PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA/NEUMANN Thursday, March 3
 Smetana: Overture to *The Bartered Bride*; Martinu: Symphony No. 6; Dvořák: Symphony
 No. 7.
- JANOS STARKER, *Cellist* Monday, March 14
- MASKED DANCE-DRAMA OF KOREA Wednesday, March 16
- DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA/CHORAL UNION/SOLOISTS Sunday, March 20
 Ceccato conducts Beethoven's "Missa Solemnis"
- FRANS BRUEGGEN, *Flute & Recorder* (sold out) Tuesday, March 22
- YUGOSLAV NATIONAL FOLK BALLET Thursday, March 24
- OSIPOV BALALAIKA ORCHESTRA Saturday, March 26
- THIRD ANNUAL BENEFIT CONCERT Friday, April 15
- GUARNERI STRING QUARTET Saturday & Sunday,
 April 16 & 17
- MAY FESTIVAL Wednesday through Saturday,
 April 27, 28, 29, 30

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