



*International
Presentations of
Music & Dance*

THE UNIVERSITY MUSICAL SOCIETY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Chinese Acrobats and Magicians of Taiwan

SATURDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 3, 1979, AT 8:30

HILL AUDITORIUM, ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

P R O G R A M

Chinese Carnival

Yu-lung CHANG
Yu-ching CHANG
Ko-jen CHANG
Mei-yu CHANG
Huo-chu CHANG
Hsu-yang LI
King-chang CHANG
Ying-lung HSU
Ying-chia HSU
Hsu-mei HAI
Fu-nan WANG

Ching-hsiung YUAN
Pi-chu WU
Chun-mei WU
Yu-kuei HON
Nien-su HSU
Tien-chu CHIANG
Ming-hwa CHU
Ming-huan CHU
Ming-yu CHU
Su-chuan CHU
Ming-tang WU

Chinese Carnival recreates highlights of a typical Chinese festival, which took place several times a year in every village or township of yesterday. The acrobats fly around the stage, on the strength of muscles and nerves educated to what seems an almost superhuman degree.

Spinning Jar

Yu-ching CHANG

Assisted by: Mei-yu CHANG and Hsu-yang LI

Spinning Jar is another act that dates back 2000 years. Porcelain jars are heavy objects and easily breakable. To be able to spin 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 Doll

Fu-nan WANG
Pi-chu WU
Ming-hwa CHU
Ming-yu CHU

Hsiu-chuan WANG
Chun-mei WU
Ming-huan CHU
Ming-tang WU

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

The Green Ladder

Ming-tang WU Ming-huan CHU

Assisted by: Ming-hwa CHU, Te-feng CHANG, Ko-jen CHANG

Daring feats are performed by a lovely girl atop a 17.5-foot ladder resting, of all places, on the shoulder of her male partner. The balancing acts are precarious enough, but watch for the moment of climactic surprise.

Chinese "Ch'i-kung"

Te-feng CHANG
Pi-ying HSU
Tai-ying Hsia

Te-lung CHANG
Yong-sen CHENG
Cheng-yuan KAO

"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.

The Lion Family

Yu-kuei HON
Tien-chu CHIANG
Ying-chia HSU

Nien-su HSU
Ko-jen CHANG
Hsu-mei HAI

Spring has a special meaning to the farmer and so to the animals. Chinese Lunar New Year is the starting point of the spring. Farmers always perform the Lion dance to celebrate the New Year and pray for a splendid spring. In this number we see a lion family at play.

Grand Illusion

Chia-chen LIU
Mao-po HSU
Pi-jung WU

Tai-shen LIU
Hsieh-ying LIANG

The mighty magician can make fire fly and a handkerchief dance. All this magic exists only in the illusive world. Watch the magician as he practices a Chinese skill thousands of years old.

Fan Dance

Ch'i LIU
Shaw-ing WANG
Ying YANG
Su-sing TAI

Sophia LIN
Nai-nee CHEN
Hong-yen TAI
Peggy WU

A folk dance describes village girls enjoying their country life in the flower season. The flowers will remind the girls to think of their boyfriends who are far away from home now.

Flaming Rings

Ko-jen CHANG
King-chang CHANG
Ming-tang WU

Yu-lung CHANG
Yu-ching CHANG
Ying-chia HSU

This is precision tumbling at its best. Note that the three rings are lined with sharp knives. Hold your breath for the climax.

Pagoda of Chairs

Ying-lung HSU Tse-ping Chang HSU

Assisted by: Jen-ho CHIH, Ko-jen CHANG, Yu-lung CHANG

Have you ever seen a pagoda resting on four beer bottles on a table? There is no safety wire around the acrobat's waist, nor a safety net underneath. Any slip of his hand from this precarious pagoda could be fatal.

Dancing Plates

Ko-jen CHANG
Chun-mei CHANG
Huo-chu CHANG
Fu-nan WANG
Chun-mei WU
Hsiu-chuan WANG
Ming-huan CHU
Su-chuan CHU
Yu-ching CHANG

Yu-lung CHANG
Mei-yu CHANG
Hsu-yang LI
Pi-chu WU
Ching-hsiung YUAN
Ming-hwa CHU
Ming-yu CHU
Ying-chia HSU
Ming-tang WU

A bevy of lovely girls, spinning as many as four or six plates each 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.

Juggling Delight

King-chang CHANG

Assisted by: Peggy WU and Yu-kuei HON

For a change of pace, this boy kicks up cups and saucers, one after another, into the air, catching them on his head, or rather with his head. Tension mounts as the sets accumulate. No one can help chuckling over what he last attempts to put into the cup on the top of the pile.

Disappearing Swords

Chien-hwa CHEN
Shu-yang CHEN

Chien-ying CHEN

A pretty young girl has a super throat and stomach.

Roll-up

Ching-hsiung YUAN
Pi-chu WU
Chun-mei WU

Ming-hwa CHU
Ming-huan CHU
Ming-yu CHU

Three sisters show off their acrobatic skills. Try to figure out for yourself how this one is done.

Invisible Beauty

Chia-chen LIU
Mao-po HSU
Pi-jung WU

Tai-shen LIU
Hsieh-ying LIANG

A girl climbs up a rope hanging from the ceiling and then disappears. Only the magician can cause her reappearance.

Balancing Fantasy

Chun-mei CHANG Huo-chu CHANG

Assisted by: Yu-ching CHANG and Yu-lung CHANG

One of the most remarkable balancing feats in the world. We don't recommend it for home use.

Ribbon Dance

Ch'i LIU
Shaw-ing WANG
Ying YANG
Su-sing TAI

Sophia LIN
Nai-nee CHEN
Hong-yen TAI
Peggy WU

Ribbon Dance is perhaps the oldest of Chinese dances, as recorded by Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-220 A.D.) bas-reliefs. The girls are dressed as the immortals in Chinese mythology. The fluttering ribbons weave intricate patterns and are never supposed to rest completely on the ground.

Chinese Kung-Fu

Cheng-mao ONG
Kuo-ton YEH
Yien-shyen YEH
Yu-kuei HON
Tien-chu CHIANG

Chi-cheng LIU
Yuan-mao LIN
Mei-hsiu CHAN
Nien-su HSU

These are the unbelievable Chinese martial arts. A beautiful young girl with bare fists pitted against eight strong young men!

Human Pyramid

Yu-lung CHANG
Ko-jen CHANG
Huo-chu CHANG
Hsu-yang LI
Ying-lung HSU
Hsu-mei HAI
Jen-ho CHIH
Ching-hsiung YUAN
Chun-mei WU
Ming-hwa CHU
Ming-yu CHU
King-chang CHANG

Yu-ching CHANG
Mei-yu CHANG
Chun-mei CHANG
Ming-tang WU
Ying-chia HSU
Tse-ping CHANG
Fu-nan WANG
Pi-chu WU
Hsiu-chuan WANG
Ming-huan CHU
Su-chuan CHU

The Grand Finale shows the exciting variations and possible combinations of Chinese acrobatics. A fitting climax to an evening of entertainment in old Cathay.

THE MUSICIANS AND THEIR INSTRUMENTS

Yuan-hsin CHENG *percussion instruments*
Fang-yu KU *erh-hu (Chinese fiddle)*
Yuan-ying YEH *p'i p'a (lute)*
Ping LIN *erh-hu (Chinese fiddle)*
Yueh-yun HUANG *chung-hu (Chinese viola)*
Lee-jen LIN *yang ch'in (dulcimer)*
Wuu-shyng WU *ta-yuan (Chinese cello)*
Tong-ko CHEN *sheng (Chinese 17-tube pipe)*
Sung-hui LIU *hsiao (flute)*

Jwo-min CHEN, *Company Director*
Rex Ta-Kung WANG, *Associate Director*
Huan-Chi LIAO, *Stage Manager*
Pao-Yung LIN, *Assistant Stage Manager*
Kuang-Yen NIEH, *Lighting Director*
Huei-Mei HSU, *Dance Director*
Rom-Shing CHENG, *Director of Music*

About the Artists

The Chinese Acrobats and Magicians of Taiwan, a company of 75, including musicians, are making their third North American tour this season and their second Ann Arbor appearance this evening. The troupe once again shows Chinese acrobatics in its many varieties—superhuman acts of levitation, kung-fu and ch'i-kung, dances, tumbling and juggling acts, thrilling feats on bicycles, and breathtaking balancing acts. Far more than a series of stunts, Chinese acrobatics is an ancient and integral part of the Chinese culture, based on a desire for man to find perfect harmony between mind and body and thus achieve perfection.

On the current tour, Western audiences will have the opportunity, for the first time, to see astonishing feats of magic and illusion which go back over 2000 years in Chinese culture. These age-old illusions of the mysterious East are performed by the master Magicians of Taiwan, who are making their long-awaited North American debut.

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