

The Chinese Fine Arts Society Salutes the CSO on its Gala Opening Night....

September 30, 2006 6 PM
Symphony Center
220 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago

LION DANCERS

The Chicago Chinese Cultural Center Lion Dance Troupe

The Chicago Chinese Cultural Center, which provided today's Lion Dancers, was founded in 1990 as a non-profit organization with the dual mission to promote Chinese culture and to promote health and physical fitness. The troupe has participated in many CFAS sponsored outreach programs and events.

For more information about the Chicago Chinese Cultural Center, please contact P.C. Leung at 773-636-8080.

MUSICIANS

Erika Gray, age 10, began violin at the age of three, viola at five, and piano at seven. She has received many honors, including prizes from several competitions: the MYA Walgreen's Concerto Competition, the Society of American Musicians, the Chinese Fine Arts Society's Music Festival in Honor of Confucius, the Chicago Viola Society, and the Sonata/Sonatina Piano Festival. Erika currently studies violin with Desiree Ruhstrat, piano with Soo Lee, and composition with Matt Hagel, all at the Chicago Institute of Music. Erika is currently a member of Team Evanston's U-11, Blue Team. Her other interests include puzzles, chess, reading and math.

Johannes Gray, age 9, obsessed with and passionately drawn to the cello, listened to Bach Suites as a youngster and began cello at two and a half. In May of 2006, Johannes was appointed principal cello of the Suzuki Association of America's Youth Orchestra, where he also participated in a master class with Tim Eddy. Johannes was the First place winner in the youth division of the 2005 Music Festival in Honor of Confucius. He is a student of Gilda Barston at the

Music Institute of Chicago, where he also studies piano with Soo Lee and composition with Matt Hagel.

Johannes performs with his string quartet, Shades of Gray. He enjoys sharing his love of music with people and animals. He regularly practices for his cat Bandit and his Beanie Babies. He has also studied with Nell Novak and Hans Jensen, and has performed for Janos Starker, Aldo Parisot, and Yo-Yo Ma. When away from his cello, Johannes studies animals and science.

Herah Kim, 14 years old, studies violin with Ms. Desiree Ruhstrat at the Music Institute of Chicago. She has received numerous awards and prizes from competitions such as the Society of American Musicians, Music Festival in Honor of Confucius, Sejong Music Competition and Strings International Camp Concerto Competition. She was a recipient of the Merit Scholarship from the Music Institute of Chicago in 2004. Herah has performed with Rachel Barton and had the honor of performing for Isaac Stern at the 70th Anniversary Celebration of the Music Institute of Chicago. In 2004 summer she performed at a master class with David Kim at the Strings International Camp and performed as a soloist at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia. She is a member of the BAM string quartet. Her quartet won a bronze medal at the 2005 Fischhoff International Chamber Music Competition in the junior division and has appeared on National Public Radio, Mostly Music series at NEIU and on WFMT. Recently she performed "*Baetaraghi* for clarinet and string quartet" with John Bruce Yeh, Yumi Hwang-Williams, Sel Kardan and David Cunliffe at the "East Meets West - music with Korean themes" concert, a part of Silk Road Chicago project. She has published a novel and works on her second book in her spare time.

Joanna Hui, age 17, is a senior at the Libertyville High School. She studies violin with Desiree Ruhstrat and piano with Emilio del Rosario at the Music Institute of Chicago. She fell in love with the violin at a very young age, and began playing at the age of two and a half. She has won numerous music competitions, including four awards in the Society of American Musicians Competition, four awards in the Music Festival in Honor of Confucius, ten awards in the Granquist Music Competition and one award in the Chinese Performing Arts Competition. Joanna was selected to be a soloist in the 2003-2004 Young Steinway Concert Series. She

was also the soloist in the Music of Asia program at the Mount Prospect Public Library. She has been the concertmaster of her school orchestras since seventh grade. Currently, she is the concertmaster of both symphony and chamber orchestras of Libertyville High School, and her chamber orchestra was invited to perform at the inaugural 2006 Orchestra America National Festival in Indianapolis, IN. Joanna loves chamber music; her quartet was selected to perform at the Allerton Chamber Music Symposium. She was also chosen as a first violinist for Illinois Music Educators Association (IMEA) All State Honor Orchestra. She is a member of the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra, and a past member of the Trinity International University Symphony Orchestra. Joanna is a frequent invited violinist to perform with the Red Rose Children's Choir of Lake County. She has been invited to perform, on numerous occasions, in representation of her Asian heritage around the Chicago area. She performs frequently for galas and benefits in the area. Joanna also enjoys singing; she has many vocal recordings, including curricula for Kindermusik and a NCAA TV commercial. She accompanies her church choir, plays violin and piano in the worship team, and has been the music director of vacation bible school at her church for the past 3 years. She is also a chosen student leader of her church's youth group. Joanna is a straight A student, and ranked at the top of her class. She is a Student Council Representative, a First Class Leader, a National Honor Society member and an active participant in many extracurricular activities. During her spare time, she teaches music lessons and volunteers at the Manor Care for Seniors in Libertyville, IL.

Tabitha Oh, age 10, is a fifth-grader at the Lycee Francais in Chicago. She began the violin at age 5 1/2 at DePaul University and is a student of Desiree Ruhstrat at the Music Institute in Winnetka. She is the second place in the Chinese Fine Arts 2005 Music Festival in Honor of Confucius and a recipient for her first Hunag Zhong Trophy in this Competition. Her hobbies include drawing and writing short stories, swimming and ice skating.

Santiago Osorio, age 15, was born in London and began playing the violin at the age of three. He sang in George Crumb's *Ancient Voices of Children* at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago and the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia. He studies violin with

Desirée Ruhstrat and chamber music with David Cunliffe at the Music Institute of Chicago. Last year he won second prize in the Music Festival in the Honor of Confucius sponsored by the Chinese Fine Arts Society.

Janis Sakai, is a senior at Highland Park High School and is currently a student of Desiree Ruhstrat. She has attended summer music programs at Indiana University, Meadowmount school of music, the music festival in Utah, the International Music Academy of Montpellier, France, and the Heifetz International Institute of Music. She has performed in master classes for Midori, Sherry Klauss, Patinka Kopec, Ruggerio Ricci, and Anthea Kreston. Janis has been studying the violin for twelve years and has won numerous awards in competitions such as Society of American Musicians, the Walgreens Concerto Competition, CFAS, the North Suburban Symphony concerto competition, MFM, and the Chicago Youth Concert Orchestra concerto competition. Janis is currently the concert master at her school orchestra and a member of the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra and the American Chamber Strings, who traveled to Italy to perform at the Music Festival in Aosta last spring.

Ensemble Coordinator

Desiree Ruhstrat The violin artistry of Ms. Ruhstrat has captivated audiences throughout Europe and the Americas. A seasoned performer, Ms. Ruhstrat made her professional debut at the age of twelve with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and at age 16, Ms Ruhstrat performed Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto in Chicago's Orchestra Hall by invitation of Sir George Solti. She has worked with many renowned conductors such as Lukas Foss, Eric Kunzel, William Smith and has appeared as soloist throughout the US and abroad. Ms. Ruhstrat performed in Hamburg, Göttingen, Baden-Baden and Stuttgart, with the Philharmonia Da Camera Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Michael Holtzel, and in Berlin where she was featured on a live radio broadcast performing Sibelius's Violin Concerto with the Berlin Radio Symphony under the direction of Ricosaccani. The Berlin Morning Post proclaimed, "Her wonderchild youth years already behind, she now stands with early maturity at the beginning of a likely brilliant career. At the same age once upon a time such violinists as Menuhin, Misha Elman and Schneiderhan excited the public in a similar sensation".

Ms. Ruhstrat has won numerous awards including first prize, as well as a special award for a young performer with extraordinary talent at the National Young Musicians Debut Competition in Los Angeles. She became the youngest prizewinner ever at Switzerland's Tibor Varga International Competition and also won the award for best interpretation of the commissioned contemporary composition. She went on to earn top prizes at the Carl Flesch International Violin Competition, Julius Stulberg International String Competition and the Mozart Festival Violin Competition.

As an active recitalist, she has appeared in Europe as well as the United States including Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, Denver, and at the White House by invitation of President and Nancy Reagan. Ms. Ruhstrat's distinguished career as a chamber musician includes appearances as guest artist of the Chamber Music Series of the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Apollo Chamber Ensemble, the Colorado Chambers Players, Pacifica Quartet, University of Oklahoma, University of Wisconsin and the University of Tennessee.

Festival appearances include the Aspen Music Festival, Peninsula Music Festival, Laurel Festival of the Arts, the Breckenridge Music Festival, Green Lake and Utah Music Festivals where she has also served as faculty.

She is a member of the Lincoln Trio Ensemble in Residence at the [Music Institute of Chicago](#). She is also a founding member of the [Virtuosi Chicago Chamber Orchestra](#). Ms. Ruhstrat is a graduate of the [Curtis Institute of Music](#) and her teachers have included Joseph Gingold, Dorothy Delay, Harold Wippler and Aaron Rosand. This season Ms. Ruhstrat recorded the Stamitz Duo for Violin and Viola for Centaur Records.

Piano Accompanist

Bryan Shilander, pianist, graduated from the Sherwood Conservatory of Music, Chicago, M.M. in Piano Performance. Solo piano recitals and concerto appearances in Chicago and other cities: Cleveland, Toronto, Pittsburgh, Los Angeles, San Diego, Mexico City, Seoul, Pusan (Korea). He was accompanist and chamber musician for recitals and competitions in USA, England, Korea and Taiwan. Numerous performances in Chicago, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Washington D.C., and England tour 2004 as accompanist for the Chicago Boy Choir. A much sought after piano accompanist for the Music Festival in Honor

of Confucius Winners' Concert at Chicago Cultural Center, Preston Bradley Hall. Mr. Shilander is music director of St. John's Episcopal Church, Chicago and a faculty member at the Metropolis School of Performing Arts in Arlington Heights. He was for many years the Associate Dean of the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University.