

# U.S. calls Cincinnati Ballet dancer's visa into question



Cincinnati Ballet is in the middle of a backstage drama.

Company member Liang Fu, a citizen of the People's Republic of China and a rising star in the company, is waiting to have his work visa renewed by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service.

The ballet first received word of issues with a renewal of Fu's work visa in April, and as of now, it cannot be sure he'll be able to dance in the 2010-11 season, which starts at the end of September.

According to Ballet spokesperson Missie Santomo, the Immigration Service is delaying visa renewal and has asked for specific evidence that Fu has achieved "distinction" through a high level of achievement in his field, substantially above that ordinarily encountered, and an explanation of why an American dancer could not bring the same ability to the stage as Fu.

Fu, 26, a graduate of the Beijing Dance Academy, has signed on for a third year with Cincinnati Ballet in 2010-11, and he's scheduled to participate in the Jackson International Ballet Competition this summer. He joined Cincinnati Ballet in 2008.

Ballet artistic director and CEO Victoria Morgan says, "It's been amazing to have (Fu) with us. He's so smart. Choreographers love working with him."

Because the company is currently reduced to 23 dancers "all the dancers are essential; they all impact the quality and artistic integrity of the com-

pany." Because dancer contracts for 2010-11 were finalized in February and March, "at this late date, it would be literally impossible to replace Fu, and therefore the artistic caliber of our company would be gravely impacted if we could not secure

his visa," Morgan said.

Cincinnati Ballet has until May 27 to make its case with the Immigration Service.

Fu says he has "no idea, no clue," why the difficulty with his visa this year. He said here were issues with his first work visa two years ago, but this pressure is greater.

"It's frustrating that we're still having the same problem," he said.

Fu hopes to make his dancing career at Cincinnati Ballet, moving up to soloist and principal dancer and enjoying "the variety of the repertoire and the environment."

Diversity, says Santomo, is another argument the ballet is making as it collects support letters.

"One of the greatest strengths of Cincinnati Ballet is its wealth of diversity, which includes international dancers who come from different backgrounds and methods of ballet training," Santomo said.

"Fu has met and spent much time with our wonderful and large Chinese community," Morgan added. "He is involved with them in teaching dance, galas, working with the Chinese Chamber and generally being a special part of that community. They rally to his performances and cheer him on."

"The Chinese community has also been generous in their financial support of Cincinnati Ballet in large part because of Fu."

# Senior Level Chinese Trade and Investment Delegation to visit the Tri-State

The largest trade and investment delegation ever to visit Mid-America will arrive here on May 26 for two days of meetings. Led by the Assistant Minister of Commerce Mr. Wang Chao, the prestigious group of 100 business and government leaders is coming for investment and trade opportunities.

The firms include many of China's largest automotive manufacturers including Beijing Automobile Works, SAIC, Cherry and Brilliance China Automotive and leading firms in the energy, machinery, electronic, food and agriculture industry sectors. The Greater Cincinnati Chinese Chamber of Commerce (GCCCC) in cooperation with the US China General Chamber of Commerce, US Department of Commerce (Cincinnati Commercial Services), Ohio Department of Development

Global Market Division, the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber and Northern Kentucky International Trade Association, will be hosting the delegation and have a variety of activities and meetings planned. "This will be a wonderful opportunity for us to show case our region as a dynamic location for business investment" said Ben Zhang, Chairman of the GCCCC and Vice President at Duke Energy. "We have never had a delegation of this size and stature visit the region before. It reflects strong interest on the part of China's industry in what we have to offer".

A list of the companies, their representatives and websites is available soon on the GCCCC website [www.cincychinesechamber.org](http://www.cincychinesechamber.org)

For more information on planned events please call 513 852-4100 or email [chinesechamberoffice@gmail.com](mailto:chinesechamberoffice@gmail.com)

For news media interviews please call Ben Zhang at 513 543 1298 or Shau Zavon at 513 259 3058.



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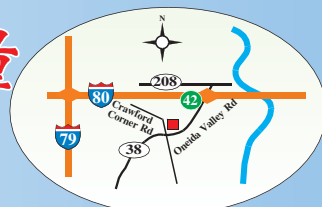


淨化寺大慧法師將在5月21日(星期五)佛誕日上午9:30 AM - 11:30PM 主持浴佛節法事活動, 下午1:00 PM - 4:00PM 對外開放。請有佛緣的善男信女前往參加, 屆時將為來賓免費提供茶點招待!

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