



Reflections of the 'East Meets West - A Butterfly Lovers Concert'

By Steven Greenman



My name is Steven Greenman and I was a co-producer and violin soloist for the "East Meets West - A Butterfly Lovers Concert" that took place at the historic Hermit Club in downtown Cleveland March 23rd,

2013. I had the privilege of working intensely with Stephen A. Eva, director of the Chagrin Falls Studio Orchestra and David Badagnani, director of the Cleveland Chinese Music Ensemble. Together we took an idea of performing the Butterfly Lovers Violin Concerto, the most beloved work in the Chinese classical repertoire with full orchestra, and expanding the concert to include other instrumental Chinese classical works for orchestra plus an artistic program of traditional Chinese folk music by the Cleveland Chinese Music Ensemble. The concert featured the city of Cleveland's premier performance of the Butterfly Lovers Violin Concerto and it was an event that was shared by Cleveland's Chinese community as well as Cleveland's ardent supporters and fans of classical and traditional folk music. Of course, a concert like this took months of planning and preparation. After performing excerpts of the Butterfly Lovers Violin Concerto with a pianist as part of several concerts with David's ensemble, I set a goal and challenge for myself to learn the entire work. I had performed shorter East European Gypsy violin showpieces with orchestras in the past but this was a full classical concerto with unique musical phrasings and expressions combined with serious violin pyrotechnics and violin technique. It took

me several months to learn the piece and once completed I approached several local music directors to gauge interest in performing it with me. Steve Eva, whom I had known for a few years, was quite intrigued with the concert idea. His feeling was that this project would make for a creative and exciting evening event at the Hermit Club where he often conducts. We both thought that it would be important to include Cleveland's Chinese community and I suggested we work together with David Badagnani and his ensemble. The Hermit Club was thrilled with the concert idea and the three of us set out to bring the inspiration to reality. David's northeast Ohio contacts with the Chinese community brought us into contact with Anne Y. Pu, editor of the Erie Chinese Journal where the organizing committee (me, Steve Eva and David) spent a splendid afternoon discussing ideas for the concert and how best to advertise while meeting more supporters and eating lots of delicious food provided by Anne. David worked extremely hard to secure all the scores and parts for the various pieces we were to perform and even wrote out by hand all the instrumental parts for one of the orchestral pieces! Steve Eva and I met with members of the Cleveland State University Confucius Institute including Anthony Yen, Wenzheng Liu and Dr. Haigang Zhou to describe the project and our goals and how this concert could be the impetus for future collaborations. One of the thrills during the organizing process was our interview on WCPN 90.3FM with renowned radio personality Dee Perry. We talked about the upcoming concert and I performed the main theme of the concerto. Through David's indulgence, Steve Eva and I accompanied David's wonderful sheng (Chinese mouth organ) playing with Chinese percussion instruments he provided. Steve Eva successfully assembled his orchestra and after our two rehearsals the excitement mounted in anticipation of the big

event. Ticket sales were successful and the evening of the concert we were greeted to a full house of enthusiastic audience members. The atmosphere was electric. The Cleveland Chinese Music Ensemble, led by director and performer David Badagnani, performed the first half of the concert. Always assuming the highest ideals of musical artistry and supreme musicianship, the ensemble performed beautifully and splendidly. After intermission, Steve Eva led his Chagrin Falls Studio Orchestra with wonderful performances of the tone poem "Dance of the Yao People" and the festive overture "The Flowers are Beautiful, The Moon is Round." As with the upcoming concerto, these pieces were also Cleveland premieres. The moment was set for the main event: The Butterfly Lovers Violin Concerto. Our special Master of Ceremonies, Zhang Ying, gave a brief but informative description of the work. The orchestral opening of the piece set the mood drawing the audience into the past world of the two tragic lovers - Liang Zhanbo and Zhu Yingtai. I faced the audience and played the opening theme. As the concerto progressed, the audience was mesmerized by the contrasting themes represented by the dialogue between solo violin and orchestra. It was such a thrill to have the opportunity to perform such a moving and enraptured piece with full orchestra in front of a warm and supportive crowd. My wife, my parents (from Pittsburgh) and my in-laws (from Detroit) were present as well as friends and colleagues. After the final notes drifted into the infinity of night the crowd rose to give everyone a standing ovation. It was gratifying to be sure for me but also gratifying for the completion of a hugely successful project that had started many months ago. Just as the two lovers emerged from tragedy to eternal love as butterflies so did David, Steve and I emerge from our intense work and preparation to the triumphant euphoria of a beautiful concert

event. In conclusion, myself, David Badagnani and Steven A. Eva gratefully acknowledge the generous support of Margaret Wong, Alex Machaskee, Anthony Yen, the Cleveland State University Confucius Institute, the Cleveland Contemporary Chinese Culture Association of Solon, Ohio, and Anne Y. Pu and the "Erie Chinese Journal" for their assistance in making this concert a success.

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梁祝
Butterfly Lovers
李秋暉 (Alice Li)
Translated by David Badagnani and Alice Li

伊利湖畔彩雲飛，
Colorful clouds drift by over the Lake Erie
shore this night,
花好月圓惹人醉。
Beautiful flowers and full moon overwhelm
the senses with delight.
梁祝化作蝴蝶舞，
If Liang and Zhu could dance together as
Butterfly Lovers in this far-off land,
文姬思漢何須歸。
Why would Lady Wenji need to return to
Han, with music so grand?



(圖片:衆星捧月,攝影:沈祥輝)



中國民族風將于四月下旬登陸克城

克利夫蘭州立大學孔子學院 供稿

受克利夫蘭州立大學孔子學院之邀，中南民族大學大學生藝術團“多彩中國·孔子學院巡演”將于4月27日抵達克利夫蘭，在克利夫蘭刮起一股強勁的“中國民族風”。

中南民族大學坐落於中國湖北省武漢市，直屬國家民族事務委員會，為中國少數民族提供高等教育。中南民族大學大學生藝術團成立於1981年，為中國最早成立的大學生藝術團之一。

該團創作的許多作品都曾屢獲殊榮，如廖靖宇原創曲目《帝鄉》在中國湖北省武漢市第九屆高校文藝表演中獲得金獎。

近年來，中南民族大學大學生藝術團多次出國、出境參加交流演出。2008年，在美國威斯康辛州立大學孔子學院成立的揭牌儀式上，藝術團歡快的音樂、活力四射的舞蹈，獲得了現場觀眾的贊譽和好評；同一年，藝術團團員赴香港參加“第二屆中華民族文化周”，為香港觀眾奉獻了多台精彩節目。2010年，藝術團赴意大利羅馬參加“中意青少年大聯歡”演出活動；隨後又赴德國表演。2012年，赴澳門參加“中華民族文化周”表演。這些演出使藝術團獲得了寶貴的演出經驗。

本次克利夫蘭巡演由中國國家漢辦/孔子學院總部主辦，中南民族大學和克利夫蘭州立大學孔子學院共同承辦。屆時，藝術團將給觀眾展現獨特的舞蹈、歌曲、樂器和鮮艷的少數民族服飾。藝術團所帶來的舞蹈都是經過了長時間的思想沉澱集體創作出來的。這些舞蹈反映了各民族的生活與鬥爭，以及他們的審美情感、思想情緒、願望理想。其服飾也展現出每一個少數民族在編織和刺繡方面的成就。

演出時間：2013年4月27日(星期六)
演出地點：克利夫蘭州立大學的主教學樓禮堂 (Main Classroom Auditorium), 位於 Euclid Avenue 與東 22 街東北角 (Main Classroom Bldg, CSU, Cleveland OH 44115)。

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巡演的詳細消息將在下一期《伊利華報》和我們的社交網站 <http://www.facebook.com/ci.csuohio> 上刊登，敬請關注。

