

A Night of Celebration: First Annual Chinese New Year Gala a Success for Columbus Chinese Chamber

The Greater Columbus Chinese Chamber of Commerce hosted its first annual Chinese New Year Gala, on February 16 at New Albany Country Club. The event, sponsored by the City of New Albany, welcomed prominent members of business, education, and government from Central Ohio for a night of networking and celebration. (Photo 1)

The emcees of the evening set the tone, beginning the night with traditional Chinese New Year greetings and calling attention to the contribution of the Chinese community to the state of Ohio.

As of August 2018, China had 40 establishments throughout Ohio, who employed over 5,000 people. Additionally, several local companies share a portion of their manufacturing and supply chain with China, or have found new markets for their domestic products overseas. Based on a February 2018 report from the Ohio Development Services Agency, 2017 exports to China totaled over \$3.8 billion, ranking number three behind Canada and Mexico.

Mayor of the City of New Albany, Sloan Spalding, accompanied by members of the City Council, gave a welcome address at the Gala and expressed support of the Chinese Chamber mission. The City of New Albany joined the Chinese Chamber in 2017 as it continues to promote diversity

and globalization.

Board Chair of the Chinese Chamber, Monica Xia, took the podium next, and congratulated those in attendance for making 2018 a successful year for US-China relations in Central Ohio. The Chinese Chamber and its members offered a year full of dynamic business events, including a Seminar on "Launching Your Business in Columbus", a Policy Luncheon with the Vice Governor of Hubei Province and Acting China Consul General, a Round Table with China Foreign Affairs University, a Trade and Tariff Panel Discussion, and successful networking events and collaboration with Columbus 2020 and JobsOhio. Xia concluded by announcing new events planned for 2019, most notably a celebration to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Hubei-Ohio Sister State relationship. (Photo 2)

The Chinese New Year Gala also featured professional performances from the community. The Oriental Dance Troupe enchanted the audience with their rendition of Misty Memories. Soprano Grace Chen gave a striking interpretation of the Qing dynasty classic, Jasmine Flower. Members of the Chinese Folk Music Orchestra introduced the crowd to the erhu, pipa, bawu,



and dizi, impressing the crowd with traditional and modern pieces -- Horse Racing, Dance of the Yi People, On the River, and The Moon Represents My Heart. (Photo 3 and 4)

The evening

was also a celebration of Chinese Chamber members. Andy Arduini, SVP & Head of Global Advisory Solutions at Huntington and Jack Feng, Vice President for Operational Excellence at Commercial Vehicle Group, gave toasts in English and Chinese, briefly speaking on their history in the Chinese market and stressing the importance of the US-China relationship. Special honors were also awarded Commercial Vehicle Group, when Board Chair Xia returned to the podium to present the Chinese Chamber's first annual Member of the Year award.

Commercial Vehicle Group is a global leader in the supply of complete cab systems for the heavy-duty truck, construction and agricultural equipment markets and has been a strong supporter of the Chinese Chamber since its founding in 2015. CVG organized one of the first networking events at the Chinese Chamber and is a key collaborator for the Boot Camps series (designed to help service providers, manufacturers, importers, and exporters take advantage of new opportuni-

ties for growth). They also hosted the US China Business Council and Bank of China during their time in Columbus. Kirk Feiler, Vice President of Corporate Development and Strategy, accepted the award on behalf of the company. (Photo 5)

At the end of the event, Deb Scherer, the Managing Director of Global Trade and Investment at Columbus 2020, took to the podium to deliver the Closing Address. Scherer summarized the events of the night; thanked all sponsors, attendees, and performers; and reiterated the potential of the US-China relationship moving into 2019.

Photos

Photo 1: The Columbus community gathers at New Albany Country Club for a night of networking and celebration.

Photo 2: (from left to right) City Council Member Mike Durik, New Albany Mayor Sloan Spalding, Chinese Chamber Board Chair Monica Xia, City Council Member Kasey Kist

Photo 3: Oriental Dance Troupe

Photo 4: Members of the Chinese Folk Music Orchestra

Photo 5: Members of Commercial Vehicle Group pose for pictures after winning the Chinese Chamber Member of the Year award.



十五年心血的澆灌 - 記燕來舞蹈學院二〇一九年的大型演出 - 匹茲堡海老 KK 撰文



今天晚上“匹茲堡燕來舞蹈學院”每年一度的大型舞蹈節目，在匹茲堡市中心的 August Wilson Center 盛大演出。

有濃鬱中國傳統風格和現代風格的舞蹈以及蒙、藏、新疆等少數民族的地區的舞蹈。整場演出，由幾十演員總共表演了十九個節目，令人目不暇接。

按出場順序這些舞蹈的名稱如下：

1. Lotus Flower in June(六月蓮花)
2. Under Sieges(十面埋伏)
3. Cat and Kangaroo(貓和袋鼠)
4. Missing(念)
5. Moonlit Night(月色)
6. Jazz(爵士)
7. Golden Peacock(金色孔雀)
8. Season of Flowers(月季花)
9. The Sounding Wind(風之聲)
10. Daughters of the Water(水的女兒)
11. Drifting Feathers(飛舞的羽毛)
12. Romance by the Riverside(河邊的浪漫)
13. March(三月)
14. Happy Little Tibetan Girls(快樂的西藏小姑娘)
15. Like Two Drops of Water(兩滴水)
16. Luo Fu Xing(Mo Shang Sang)(雙人舞)
17. Red Blossom(盛開的紅色花朵)
18. A White Cloud(白雲)
19. Jasmine Blossoms(茉莉花)

不必再用更多的筆墨描述每一個節目的表現，從劇場座無虛席，和熱烈的掌聲，就知道這場

演出有多么精彩。

想更多著墨於吳燕來老師這十五年來，是在傳播中國舞蹈藝術方面所作的努力。

是的，整整十五年了，吳燕來老師堅守在傳承傳播中國舞蹈藝術的這個崗位上。培養了大批熱愛中國舞蹈藝術的學生，真可謂桃李芬芳。

一個高水平的專業老師，教授舞蹈藝術之外，每年的大型演出從舞蹈編排，動作設計，教授排練，舞臺設計，音樂配置，燈光佈景，舞臺監製，節目介紹，海報設計，宣傳推廣，邀請嘉賓...等等等等，

這本來需要一個團隊來完成的事情，幾乎每每都是吳燕來老師舉一人之力來完成的。

更令人驚訝的是，幾十名學員，從四歲到四十歲以上都有，有一些節目，還安排七十歲以上的演出人員出場，年齡跨度超過六十歲；參加學習舞蹈的時間也相差懸殊，對基本動作的掌握也程度不同，演出人員再個方面的差異，如何在一場大型演出中協調得天衣無縫，這需要謀殺多少腦細胞才能完成？

如果胸中沒有對與舞蹈藝術的大邱壑沒有對舞臺展現的豐富經驗，這根本就是一個完不成的任務！但吳燕來老師卻把它圓滿的完成了！

打開今天這場演出的小冊子，可喜的看到，由賓夕法尼亞州州長 Tom Wolf 先生，親筆簽名對吳燕來老師十五年在傳播中國舞蹈藝術方面的讚揚和對這場大型演出的祝賀。

華人社區，熱心傳承和傳播中華文化的同胞，從吳燕來老師身上可以學習到一種執著，一種堅守，一種精神，一種匠心...

