

Orange County Chinese Association, New York

## Professional Artists' Bibliographies



Central Valley Elementary School, NY

## **Mr. Ben Liao**

Mr. Ben Liao is a famous Chinese theatre scholar and calligraphist. He is the vice president of Chinese Writers Association. Formerly, he was the president of the Chinese Association of Theatre Scholars and the vice president of China Federation of Literary and Art Circles. He published many books about art, opera, and Chinese tradition, and received numerous awards for them. Mr. Ben Liao admires two Jin dynasty calligraphists and two Song dynasty calligraphists; he was able to combine what he learned from each of them in order to create his own style. Feel free to watch his CCTV special that aired July 2013.

## **Dr. Ruthanne Schempf**

Pianist Ruthanne Schempf is an active chamber and solo musician and has performed throughout the United States. She is on the faculties of SUNY-New Paltz and Interlochen Arts Camp, and is a member of the Poné Ensemble for New Music. She has also taught at Marist College and was the pianist for the Cadet Glee Club at West Point. She earned undergraduate degrees from Michigan State University and a D.M.A. from the Manhattan School of Music. Her teachers include Ralph Votapek, Robert Golds and, Constance Keene, and Marc Silverman. She is also a co-founder of the non-profit Hudson Valley Society for Music which produces Potluck Concerts and an annual Hudson Valley BachFest. Her solo piano recording, "An American Mirage: Exotic Piano Images," was released in March of 2009 on the MSR Classics label. This recording features works by American composers of the late 19th century and early 20th century. Selected as "CD of the week" on July 4, 2009 by radio station KBAQ of Phoenix, Arizona, this recording has also been heard on Wisconsin Public Radio. James Manheim of allmusic.com said, "Schempf is technically solid...she has a very nice singing tone... A strong recital recommended to those interested in American concert music."

## **Miss Zihan Jin**

Miss Zihan Jin is 14 years old. She began studying dance when she was 7 years old. In 2007, she won the Gold Award for the "vocal group and dance group" category at the third Chinese Children's Art Festival. She also performed in the award ceremony for CCTV China Central Television, held in the auditorium of the CPPCC National Committee. In 2008, she won gold for her Shandong dance in the fifth Future Stars Competition for Talented Students. In 2010 she won an award on behalf of Shandong Province in the Shanghai World Expo. In 2011, she participated in the third United States Youth Talent Contest, winning gold for "Chinese Dance" and the "Popularity Award."

## **Ms. Weiling Shao**

Ms. Weiling Shao is a soprano of Sino-American Musician Association. She specializes in Chinese folk songs and opera. Since coming to the United States, she has been an active performer for 10 years. She has performed on several occasions at Lincoln Center, Broadway, Carnegie Hall, Washington Hall, and the East Asia Center at Yale University, representing the Chinese community as the lead solo singer.

## **Mr. Ke Pei**

Mr. Ke Pei is a tenor. He graduated from the Art Institute of Nanjing under the teaching of famous Chinese singer Huang Youkui. In 1985, he studied in America. In 1988, he graduated from SUNY with a major in Opera, earning his Master's Degree in music. He has played the male lead several times in numerous operas and often participates in concerts in North America. In addition, Mr. Pei is the president of Sino-American Musician Association.

## **Ms. Theresa Gao**

Ms. Theresa Gao is a Master of the violin. She is a solo violist for the Song and Dance Troupe of the Jiangsu Province. She currently works in the Education Music Service. She has been dedicated to teaching the violin and is currently Orange County's most renowned violin teacher, sending students with perfect scores to New York All-State Orchestra for 12 consecutive years.

## **Mr. Paul Tsao**

Mr. Paul Tsao was born into an opera family, trained by his father at an early age. He later graduated from Tianjin Conservatory of Music. He was the principal musician, a soloist and the artistic director at Tianjin Song and Dance Theatre. He is an expert in playing the Erhu, GaoHu, banhu, Jinghu, dizi, suona, Hulusi, and other percussion instruments. Ellen Stewart, founder of La Mama Theater in New York, called him "King of instruments".

## **Ms. Shumin Yang**

Ms. Shumin Yang is a percussionist. Since she was young, she started learning how to play Chinese percussion instruments. She attended the Music Institute of Shanghai and remained there as a professor after graduating. Her detailed, precise style makes her unique. She often collaborates with others at several national theaters. She has taught and performed in 10 countries throughout Asia, Europe, and North America. Now, she is First Chair of the percussion section at the Cultural Arts Center in New York City.

## **Ms. Xiuying Yang**

Ms. Xiuying Yang is a famous Chinese contemporary female magician. She is a teacher at the North America Magic Center. In 1975, she performed "Magic Lamp" and has been a famous magician ever since. In "Magic Lamp," she conjures up a burning candle with her bare hands and changes it from one candle to two, two to four, and finally four to eight. This trick is a very high level skill and requires refined technique. Because of her skill, she was invited for various TV and movie performances.

## **Ms. Ping Xu Moroney**

Author and award-winning artist, Ping Xu Moroney, recent published book, "Fun and Easy Chinese Characters," is the topic for today's program. Ping's local landscape paintings can be seen on display at her Greenwood Lake Artist Studio and at various artistic stores in town. Her work is also permanently on display at Greenwood Lake Library, where ping graciously painted a historical mural of : Greenwood Lake in the Library's Youth Study Center.



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