

## **A Musical Encounter on the Silk Road**

From bamboo flutes, mouth organ to silk stringed zithers and lutes; from the pipa music in Mogao Caves' Dunhuang Manuscripts to tanbur in Ottoman music; from ancient Chinese music to the 10th century music along the Silk Road, this program features music, poetry, dancing and singing which can be traced back to the 4th century. Joined by guest performers from different cultural backgrounds, Ba Ban Chinese Music Society of New York takes the audience on a musical odyssey that connects ancient historical China and its worldwide neighbors.

### **ARTISTS**

**Yimin Miao:** Chinese woodwind virtuoso and educator, he is the founder of the Ba Ban Chinese Music Society of NY. Miao is a former member with the internationally acclaimed Shanghai Traditional Orchestra, with whom he has performed across Asia, North America and Europe.

**Jie Ji** is a National First Class Artist in China. He is a distinguished musician and 28 years concert master of multiple Chinese folk stringed instruments of the Oriental Song and Dance Troupe of China. He was featured in numerous major media outlets in China including CCTV, Beijing Daily, Musical Instruments Magazine, and many others.

**Tsujui Carrie Chin** won her first national championship for sheng (Chinese mouth organ) when she was 12 years old. She toured the USA with the Chinese orchestra by the invitation of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. She has appeared in Carnegie Hall, Merkin Concert Hall and Community Concerts in New York City.

**Junqing Li** specializes in the role of Sheng (young male character) of Yu School and the role of Dan (young woman character) of Cheng School. He was enlightened by Nanjing famous Cheng School fancier Ming Shi and Aobo Xu as well and educated by renowned Cheng School master Jiping Xu and Peking opera master Shuyuan Li.

**Ling Tang**, dancer, educator, and consultant. She has performed at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Harman Center for the Arts, Smithsonian Freer & Sackler Galleries among other venues. She has choreographed for President Obama's Inaugural Parade in 2013 and Drama League produced play F.O.B (David Henry Hwang) in 2018.

**Judy Wu** played pipa as part of the Ba Ban ensemble in Brooklyn Central library. She recently begun playing ruan, another type of traditional Chinese lute, and performed as part of an ensemble of Tang Dynasty songs at the Music of Dunhuang program hosted by Queens Library in 2019.

**Qingyang Xu** She has performed at venues such as China Institute, Brooklyn Central Library, Columbia University, and United Nations. Qingyang relishes the unique sound of Qin (zither), its ancient rhythm and notation, as well as the archaic stories behind each song.

**Zhou Yi:** Praised for her "breathtaking" meticulous technique and expressiveness by the Washington Post, pipa/qin soloist and educator, Zhou Yi graduated from the Shanghai Conservatory of Music in China. She is the artistic director of the Ba Ban Chinese Music Society of NY.

### **GUEST ARTISTS**

**Yi He:** Singer and qin (zither) player, she published the CD album, "Wind from the South - Qin Songs," featuring both traditional and contemporary qin repertoire. She is the Art Ambassador of Philadelphia Saint Joseph's University of USA and the judge of "Yuanbai Cup" China National Qin Competition.

**Rex Benincasa:** a world music percussionist in NY since 1978. He has performed with many world renowned groups and ensembles, recorded CDs and movie soundtracks, and had numerous Broadway appearances. He has been featured in works such as: Sesame Street, NFL Films, The Full Monty, Little Shop of Horrors, Hairspray, The Color Purple, How the Grinch Stole Christmas, Shrek, In The Heights, Motown The Musical, The Play Of Daniel, to name a few.

**Matthew Sellier:** his primary instrument is the Tanbur, a plucked lute played in Ottoman classical music, although he also utilizes pipe organ, keyboards, prepared guitar, electronics, and homemade instruments and objects. From 2012 to 2018 he resided in Istanbul, Turkey, where he studied Tanbur and Turkish makam.