



1-28-2011

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Recommended Citation

Evans '12, Kasey, "Symposium of Contemporary Music to Host Guests from Sichuan Conservatory of Music, Chengdu" (2011). *News and Events*. 1815.
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Symposium of Contemporary Music to Host Guests from Sichuan Conservatory of Music, Chengdu

January 28, 2011

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Guests from the Sichuan Conservatory of Music, Chengdu will be featured at Illinois Wesleyan University's annual **Symposium of Contemporary Music**.

The symposium will include a panel discussion titled "New Music and Music Education in China" on Thursday, Feb. 3 at 4 p.m. in the Westbrook Auditorium of Presser Hall (1210 N. Park St., Bloomington) and a concert of music at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 4, also in the Westbrook Auditorium. Both events are free and open to the public.

The symposium, which began in 1952, brings prominent guest composers and performers to campus each year. The guests participate in discussion of music-related issues, and Illinois Wesleyan faculty and students perform the work of the visiting composers.

This year's guests from the Sichuan Conservatory of Music, Chengdu are Yang Xiaozhong, composer, Song Mingzhu, composer, and Zhou Tianli, guzheng player.

Yang is a professor and the director of the composition teaching and research sections at the Sichuan Conservatory of Music. In addition to having his work featured worldwide, Yang has received awards from the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education, and the State Administration of Radio, Film, and Television. He has also been the featured composer for many national cultural events in China.

Song, a professor and director of the composition department of the Sichuan Conservatory of Music, has been invited as both a scholar and judge to multiple countries including Japan, Switzerland, Korea, and the United States.



Yang Xiaozhong



Song Mingzhu



Zhou Tianli

He was awarded the first prize from both the Sichuan provincial government and China's Education Ministry for the Sichuan Higher Education Achievement and Excellent Music Education Award, and has won numerous prizes in other top competitions in China.

Zhou is a member of the China National Orchestral Society, China Guzheng Society, and Tianlai Guzheng Band of the Sichuan Conservatory of Music, as well as a faculty member there. Zhou has won numerous gold and first place prizes for her mastery of the guzheng (which is a plucked zither) including Women's Musical Instrument Competition, the China, Japan, and South Korea Youth Art Talent Competition, and the FangYing Cup All-China Guzheng Competition.

"In 2007, I attended two concerts presented by the Conservatory, and was thrilled by the beauty and craftsmanship of the compositions I heard as well as the vigor and musicianship of the performers. In particular, I was struck by how organically many characteristics of traditional Chinese music interfaced with elements of contemporary western concert music," Illinois Wesleyan Professor David Vayo said of his decision to bring these guests to IWU.

For additional information, contact the School of Music Office at (309) 556-3061.

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