



2023

Lantern Festival Gala



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
Asian Initiatives
wmich.edu/asia



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY Asian Initiatives

Asian Initiatives of Haenicke Institute for Global Education at WMU oversees and helps to support university community outreach efforts, collaborated international academic programs, and scholarly conferences. Our community outreach efforts bring Chinese and Japanese language and culture programs into area schools, libraries, and other community center. We also offer community classes for the public including Taichi, Chinese language, Chinese painting and calligraphy. We are proud to annually host Chinese speech contests and major cultural events such as the Lunar New Gala and the China Festival.



Bringing Taichi to the community

Explore more about us: wmich.edu/asia

Enroll a class with us: wmich.edu/asia/courses/community

Become a member of Friends of Asian Arts and Cultures:
wmich.edu/international/FAAC-registration

LANTERN FESTIVAL 元宵节



The Lantern Festival is also called Shàngyuán Festival, or Yuánxiāo Festival. Aiming to promote reconciliation, peace, and forgiveness, the Lantern Festival marks the first full moon of the new lunar year and the end of the Lunar New Year celebration. On the night of the Lantern Festival, streets are decorated with colorful lanterns, often with riddles written on them. People eat sweet rice balls called yuánxiāo, watch dragon and lion dances, and set off fireworks.

Director
Master of Ceremony
Stage Director
Program Coordinator
Program Support

Dr. Ying Zeng
Lynn Chen-Zhang
Karin Li
Karin Li, Jingcai Chen, Dr. Ying Zeng
Lianyu Yang, Dr. Changzheng Liu,
Cheng Tao, Elaine Lui,
Dr. Samantha Zhang
Junliang Fei, Dr. Vun Doublestein
Eliza Cai
Lianyu Yang
Maggie Lu
Libby Stefanich, Keanu Tono
Chenery Auditorium

Graphic Design
Stage Manager
Pre-program Video
Photograph
Video
Technical Support

2023 Lantern Festival Gala Program

Dragon Dance 舞龙

Program Directors

Dr. Ying Zeng, Alex Bosak,
Dr. Changzheng Liu

Drum

Alex Bosak

Cymbal

Faye Scott-Farnsworth

Panda

Melinda Hueng

Western Michigan University Dragon Dance Troupe

Justin Chua, Jiadong Gui, Er Ha, Yanhao Li, Yili Liu,

Danji Lu, Peng Luo, Haodong Lv, Ziqing Wei, Pengwei Zhang

The Moon Over the River on a Spring Night 春江花月夜

Conductor

Julian Kuerti

Violin Soloist

Junqi (Sophie) Tang

Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra

Caitlin Kramer, Georgiy Borisov, Edward "Kip" Hickman,

Mark Guthrie, Lisa A. Williams, Nicholas Jeffery, Igor Cetkovic

Dance Director

Karin Li

KCA Performing Arts

Karin Li, Eliza Yuan

Little Rabbits 小白兔

Program Director

Sisi Chen, Promise Zhang

Mother Rabbit

Faye Scott-Farnsworth

Comstock Early Learning Academy

Kenna Asiala, Mila Clarke, Cooper Henry, Johan Jessup,

Thomas Maas, Elicia Newton, Hazel Perez,

Tarquay "JJ" Pratt, Jr. Kaylee Pulz, Adalynn Richards,

Lillian Sharp, Nailah Stevenson, Santana Villeneuve-Ortiz,

Avah Werner, Izayah Williams

Kalamazoo Chinese Academy

Hannah Dong, Jayce Helmbold, Alexandra Hypes,

Hannah Lam, Joshua Lam, Lyric Lindsey, Sam McMullan,

Carson Meng, Aiden Schoenherr, Aila Schoenherr,

Judah Westgate, Georgie Zhang

Long Sleeves Dance 长袖善舞

Linghui Tu

Happy Rain on a Spring Night 春夜喜雨

Program Director Sisi Chen

Zheng Sisi Chen

Loy Norrix High School

Jaydah Greer, Katherine James, Akyra Mabon, Leslie Tellez,
Hannah Boothby, Conner McBride, Armaree Stewart

Dunhuang 敦煌

Dance Director Karin Li

KCA Performing Arts - Youth Dance

Katherine Li, Eliza Yuan, Claire Tong, Isabelle Tai

Ring Out the Old, Ring in the New 辞旧迎新

Script & Director Dr. Changzheng Liu, Cheng Tao

White family

Jesse White, Kevin White, Anthony White, Jessica White

** Prize Drawing 抽奖 **

Jasmine Flower 茉莉花

Program Directors Cynthia Cross, Kimberly Licavoli,

Corlis Watkins-Nash

Crescendo Community Voices

Cer Bolton, David Dahiman, Amber Hooker, Jacob Mills,
Victoria Miner, Tom Pinto, Adam Redfield

Kalamazoo Central High School

Fan Song, Jaleah Smith-Brashers

The Murmuring Stream & Heavenly Road 小河淌水, 天路

Hong Zhang

Dance Director Karin Li

KCA Performing Arts - Youth Dance

Katherine Li, Claire Tong, Isabelle Tai

Xiao 晓

Program Director Karin Li

KCA Performing Arts - Adult Dance

Karin Li, Eliza Cai, Lydia Hodshire

Chinese Language and Culture Programming, WMU

Sisi Chen, Cheng Tao

Ode to Pear Blossoms 梨花颂

Linghui Tu

Lion Dance 舞狮

Program Directors Faye Scott-Farnsworth,

Melinda Hueng

Script Dewen Luo-Li

Narrators Faye Scott-Farnsworth,

Melinda Hueng

Panda Mark Newhouse

Rabbit Cheng Tao

KCA Performing Arts - Lion Dance

Kameron Doublestein, Alexander Jeng, Landon Coughlin,

Vincent Jiang, Aiden Schoenherr, Elle Newhouse,

Chenxian Zhang, Shizhang Tao, Shoni Newhouse

We thank our volunteers for their time and support:

Lily Bosak, Juanjuan Chen, Wan Chen, Xiaoyi Covell, Ryan Doublestein, Ben Edlefson, Sisi Jin, Zhixiang Li, Jane-Jane Lo, Danji Lu, Peng Luo, Ivan Tai, Yuxin Xie, Bangrui Yang-Dzioba, Pengwei Zhang, Mingchen Zhao

Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra (KSO)

The Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra has been making symphonic music a part of everyday life in Southwest Michigan for over 100 years. Every season KSO creates lifelong musical experiences and learning throughout the community. KSO is actively collaborating with other Kalamazoo area organizations to inspire, care for, educate, and connect people through the arts. As Michigan's third-largest orchestra, KSO works to curate exceptional symphonic music, world-class guest artists, and vibrant educational programs, reaching up to 50,000 patrons every year. The musicians performing tonight are a part of the Symphony's Artist in Residence program.

Julian Kuerti | Music Director

With a strong international reputation for his interpretations of both orchestral and operatic music, Canadian conductor Julian Kuerti combines a confident style, artistic integrity, and passion for collaboration bringing him to the forefront of the music scene. Julian Kuerti has led major symphony orchestras and has appeared in renowned opera houses and concert halls on five continents and enjoys close working relationships with many of the leading soloists and singers of today.



Junqi (Sophie) Tang | Violin Soloist

As the newly appointed Assistant Professor of Violin at Western Michigan University beginning August 2022, Sophie Tang has over ten years of teaching experience in universities with distinguished students in music. She served on a distinguished panel of judges for the 2022 New York Laureate International Music Competition and 2021 Hong Kong International Violin Competition & Chamber Music Competition. Sophie is the founder and artistic director of the Hantong International Summer Music Festival as well as the music director of the Cincinnati Music and Arts Society. She has been a First Prize winner in multiple competitions of international level including the 2021 Golden State International Music Competition.



Comstock Early Learning Academy (CELA)

CELA is an innovative early childhood education center operated by Comstock Public Schools. It is one of Western Michigan University's local partners in global learning efforts. A collaboration between CELA and Asian Initiatives at WMU made it possible for the children to learn Chinese language with a native speaker at an early age.

Kalamazoo Chinese Academy (KCA)

KCA is a 501c (3) non-profit educational organization dedicated to providing Chinese language and cultural experiences to youth from all cultural, racial, and ethnic backgrounds in the greater Kalamazoo area. KCA is also a partner of Asian Initiatives at WMU and co-sponsor of the 2023 Lantern Festival Gala.

The KCA Performing Arts project includes three performing groups: Chinese folk dance, lion dance, and Chinese YoYo. KCA Performing Arts aims to expand opportunities for artists of all ages, skill levels, backgrounds, and identities through its performing arts program. In addition to establishing Chinese culture as an integral part of the Kalamazoo community through performing arts, the expansion and diversification of programs showcases the uniqueness of Chinese art and culture to a wider audience without them having to travel to China. KCA Performing Arts strives to provide performing arts programs to promote access, in a safe and welcoming environment, to Kalamazoo County students underserved in the arts through the transformative power of the arts.

Linghui Tu

Linghui Tu is a National Tier-One Performer. She has won the 4th Plum Blossom Award for Chinese Theatre and the 1st Wenhua Performance Award. She is a professor of the National Academy of Chinese Theater Arts and served as the director of the Operative Art Education Centre and Continuing Education Department. Tu has also directed Chinese operas, among which two have been awarded Class-One Performance Awards. She is invited by the Center for Theater Arts Collaboration to teach Beijing Opera at Binghamton University and participate in tours and other cultural activities.



Kalamazoo Public Schools (KPS) Chinese Language Program

In the fall of 2016, Kalamazoo Public Schools started Chinese language program in its high schools with support of the Asian Initiatives at WMU. Students of KPS' Chinese program have participated in Chinese language competitions, and other culture events such as China Festival and Lunar New Year gala. Some students have also visited China through summer camp trips. Today, professional native Chinese speakers are teaching at Kalamazoo Central High School, Loy Norrix High School, and Hillside Middle School.

Crescendo Community Voices (CCV)

CCV offers individuals with intellectual disabilities and those who love them a space to gather and make music in a supportive environment. The class is led by a board-certified music therapist, an Orff Schulwerk specialist, and a choral specialist from the Kalamazoo Regional Education Service Agency's Young Adult Program. Working collaboratively, the participants broaden their musical experiences in addition to developing vocational and cognitive skills. During weekly classes, CCV members experience singing, chanting, movement, drumming, playing rhythmic and tonal instruments, and an introduction to Orff Schulwerk, which stresses a non-competitive atmosphere where the reward is simply the pleasure of making music with others. Participation is open to anyone in our community. The only prerequisite is an open mind and an open heart!

Hong Zhang

Hong Zhang holds a Master's Degree in Voice Performance. She is an internationally acclaimed singer and award-winning educator. She has been an active soloist at many concerts and has given many lectures, recitals, and workshops on Chinese music in the US and abroad. She has performed and presented at nearly 100 universities in the U.S., China, Canada, Singapore, and Cuba. Zhang is currently a tenured Instructor of Chinese and associate faculty member of Music at Binghamton University. Her students have won many awards in international competitions.

