



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

January 10, 2018

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

presents

A Lunar New Year Celebration **February 15–17, 2018**

featuring

Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra led by Conductor Tan Dun
Free Millennium Stage performances: music, puppetry, acrobats
Free Family Day with arts and crafts for all ages

(WASHINGTON)—From February 15–17, 2018, the Kennedy Center presents its third annual celebration of the Lunar New Year, honoring the traditional holiday as commemorated in countries and territories around the world. The popular free Family Day returns this year to celebrate the Year of the Dog with live demonstrations and hands-on craft activities throughout the building.

A highlight of this year's Lunar New Year festivities is a concert led by renowned Chinese conductor and composer **Tan Dun** as he leads the Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra in a spectacular multimedia program. The performance opens with Igor Stravinsky's *Feu d'artifice* Op. 4 (*Fireworks*), followed by **Guan Xia's** *100 Birds Toward the Phoenix* with traditional Suona soloist **WenWen Liu**, Tan Dun's own *Triple Concerto for Piano and Violin and Violoncello: Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* featuring **Dan Zhu** (violin), **Jiapeng Nie** (cello), and **Yumin Wu** (piano). The evening closes with Stravinsky's *Firebird Suite*.

“This Lunar New Year, the Kennedy Center, will celebrate with an array of events from the Sichuan Opera and an exciting family day celebrating the culture of Chengdu to extraordinary music under the baton of Maestro Tan Dun,” says **Alicia Adams**, Vice President of International Programming. “We are so thrilled to see him return to the Kennedy Center with the Shenzhen Orchestra to conduct such an exciting selection of music including a one of his signature compositions.”

A full schedule of events follows:

Thursday, February 15, 8 p.m.
Kennedy Center Concert Hall
Tickets \$19 – \$39

Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra
Tan Dun, conductor

Program:

Igor Stravinsky *Fireworks*

Tan Dun *Triple Concerto for Piano*
Violin and Violoncello: Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon
Dan Zhu, violin
Jiapeng Nie, cello
Yumin Wu, piano

Xia Guan *One Hundred Birds Flying Towards the Phoenix*
Wenwen Liu, Suona

Igor Stravinsky Suite from *The Firebird* (1919)

Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra is one of the most outstanding professional groups in China today. Throughout its history, it has developed a broad and diverse repertoire, with its artistic exploration and excellence giving it a glowing international reputation. Having performed on five continents, the orchestra has taken part in prestigious festivals and performed at prominent venues worldwide, including the Sydney Opera House and the Berlin Philharmonic Concert Hall. “Being the finest orchestra, performing a public service, and bringing over elegant music into the society” is the motto of the orchestra, which is fulfilled through both their performances and efforts to propagate/promote music literacy in Shenzhen.

Tan Dun, world-renowned artist and UNESCO Global Goodwill Ambassador, has made an indelible mark on the world's music scene with a creative repertoire that spans the boundaries of classical music, multimedia performance, and Eastern and Western traditions. A winner of today's most prestigious honors including the Grammy Award, Oscar/Academy Award, Grawemeyer Award, Bach Prize, Shostakovich Award, and most recently Italy's Golden Lion Award for Lifetime Achievement, Tan Dun's music has been played throughout the world by leading orchestras, opera houses, international festivals, and on radio and television. As a conductor of innovative programs around the world, Tan Dun has led the China tours of the Mahler Chamber Orchestra and Japan's NHK Symphony Orchestra. His current season includes leading the NDR Radiophilharmonie in a five-city tour in Germany, as well as engagements with the London Symphony Orchestra and at the Venice Biennale. Tan Dun currently serves as the Honorary Artistic Director of the China National Symphony Orchestra. Tan Dun has led the world's most esteemed orchestras, including the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, the Philadelphia Orchestra, Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Orchestre National de France, BBC Symphony Orchestra, among others.

Puppetry

Thursday, February 15,

Terrace Gallery

Chengdu puppetry is characterized by its beautiful sculpture, exquisite performance, and colorful music. Puppets will sing, dance, and even perform acrobatics, showcasing a variety of puppetry genres from the region, including shadow puppetry and marionettes.

Traditional Music

Friday, February 16,

Millennium Stage

Experience the allure of Chengdu's traditional folk music, with its flowing stringed instruments and bamboo flutes. World class artists from Chengdu will guide your journey with a diverse musical program.

Sichuan Opera, Folk Dance, and Acrobatics

Saturday, February 17,

Millennium Stage

Witness firsthand Sichuan Opera's famed mask changing technique, which reveals the changes of a character's emotion in the blink of an eye. This sleight of hand, combined with stunning acrobatics and dance, will keep you on the edge of your seat.

KC Chinese New Year Family Day 2018

“PANDA CHENGDU”

Saturday, February 17, 2018

9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

The Kennedy Center will be kicking off the year of the Dog by celebrating the arts and culture of the Chengdu Plain region of China. Located in the Sichuan province, the Chengdu Plain is known for its beautiful landscapes, frequent rain, and being home to the majority of the world’s population of giant pandas—D.C.’s very own giant panda Bao Bao, moved to the city of Chengdu just last year.

A number of free activities will be offered for children of all ages including: a panda bear dress-up photo booth, traditional costumes photo booth, a paper umbrella coloring station, paper cutting station, block printing, sugar painting demonstrations, folk dance and acrobatic performances, shadow puppet performances, calligraphy demonstrations, Chinese opera make-up tutorials, a traditional Chinese instruments petting zoo, a live-feed of Bao Bao from Chengdu along with a station to write letters to her, and more.

In 2005, the Kennedy Center presented a month long Festival of China. The festival featured four weeks of unprecedented performances and exhibitions from 900 artists, including eight premieres and more than a dozen free events. In 2011, the Center presented *China: The Art of Nation*, a month long celebration of Chinese art, featuring music, dance, performances for children, and visual art installations. In 2016, the Kennedy Center launched the inaugural Lunar New Year Celebration (now an annual event), which included a special concert by the Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Maestro Muhai Tang.

FUNDING CREDITS

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International Programming at the Kennedy Center is made possible through the generosity of the Kennedy Center International Committee on the Arts.

For more information, please visit the Kennedy Center website.

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