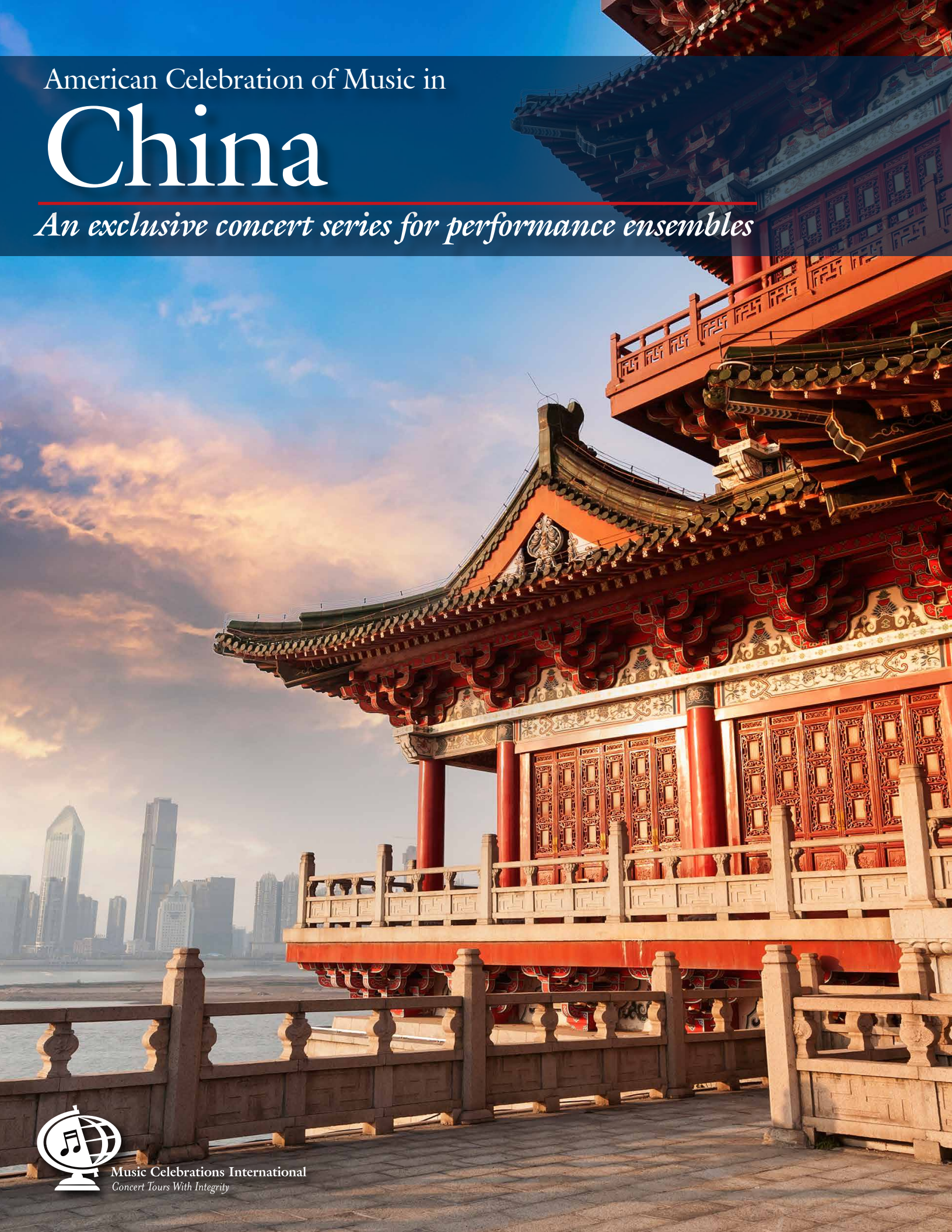


American Celebration of Music in

China

An exclusive concert series for performance ensembles



Music Celebrations International
Concert Tours With Integrity



An Exclusive Concert Series

The People's Republic of China is opening wide its doors to Western ideas, culture, and business. It is very anxious to promote cultural exchanges at many levels. In 2001, the China International Travel Service, along with the governments of Beijing, Xian, Guilin, Guangzhou and Shenzhen exclusively requested Music Celebrations International to bring American ensembles to China and perform in the top music conservatories and interact with their music students to help them build their music programs. This has now led to the annual American Celebration of Music in the People's Republic of China. Recommended bands, choirs, and orchestras are now annually invited to perform in the most prestigious concert halls throughout China.

The American Celebration of Music is a special annual performance-tour program, co-sponsored by local governments, music associations, community organizations, and tourist boards around the globe. In many countries this has developed into a prestigious, recognized, year-long concert-series festival. Recognition of this festival facilitates greater access to performance venues, official publicity, generally very successful concert arrangements, and the ability to touch local cultures in a way that may not be done through other affiliations. This equates to more meaningful musical and emotional experiences for participating performance ensembles.

No other place on earth possesses such an intensity of beauty and strangeness, nor has a longer, richer historical legacy, and few other nations are likely to be as important in the 21st century. China's culture remains exotic, despite rapid modernization and growing Western influences.

It is now possible to travel to most of the interesting places in China in a style not dreamed of ten years ago, or barely possible five years ago. China travel is a mobile feast of sights and sensations, new and old. Chinese art and history are a constant delight, and to see China's past made visible, whether in the vaults where the First Emperor died among his terra-cotta armies or in the Forbidden City where the last emperor was born, brings the dreamy Middle Kingdom to life.

The interest by the Chinese in Western culture is such that an American orchestra, choir or concert band can captivate a large and enthusiastic audience no matter where it performs. Imagine your musical group performing near the Great Wall, an ancient city square, a cultural center auditorium, or perhaps participating in a musical cultural exchange at a Chinese school -- all these things are possible! Music Celebrations International and their official colleagues are ready to transport you to another world -- the Middle Kingdom!



California Philharmonic Youth Orchestra

Sample Itinerary

BEIJING

DAY ONE: ARRIVE

Depart via scheduled air service to Beijing

DAY TWO: BEIJING

Arrive in Beijing Airport, where you will be met by MCI's Chinese staff who assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoaches for the transfer to a downtown hotel

Time permitting, enjoy a brief orientation tour of Beijing en route to hotel check-in

DAY THREE: BEIJING

Aboard your motorcoach en route to sightseeing, enjoy some orientation about Chinese culture, a brief history, and a discussion of the economic and political situations. Visit Tian An Men Square, the largest open plaza in the world (it accommodates half a million people at one time!). Visit the Forbidden City (Palace Museum), the former Imperial Palace for the 24 Emperors of the Ming and Qing Dynasty Also visit the Summer Palace, the summer resort for the Royal Family This evening, enjoy a traditional Beijing Duck Banquet

DAY FOUR: BEIJING

Take an excursion to the Great Wall of China at Ju Yong Pass, one of the world's architectural wonders

Performance on the Great Wall as part of the American Celebration of Music in China

Lunch included

On the way back stop for photo opportunities at some of the 2008 Olympic venues (Birds Nest, Water Cube, etc.)

In the evening, attend the Beijing Acrobatic Performance

DAY FIVE: BEIJING

Visit the Temple of Heaven, the largest temple and altar complex in China, where the ancient Emperors worshiped Heaven and prayed for good harvests

Visit a school in Beijing that specializes in training students in traditional Chinese musical instruments, and participate in a cultural exchange with a school affiliated with the Central Music Conservatory ***Joint performance at the Music School of the Central Conservatory as part of the American Celebration of Music in China***

DAY SIX: BEIJING / TIANJIN

Morning tour will take us to Yonghe Palace, one of Beijing's most spectacular palaces, and on a Hutong Rickshaw tour

In the afternoon, visit a Children's Palace, where music and Chinese traditional instruments, paintings and calligraphy, dancing, martial arts, and other art lessons are taught

Perform a mini-concert (30 min) to the children (ages 5-16)

Following the concert, explore the Wangfujing Pedestrian Shopping District for the rest of the day and night

DAY SEVEN: TIANJIN / XI'AN

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Beijing's airport for return flight



Tiananmen Square
Beijing



Great Wall
Beijing



Otterbein College Concert Choir
Temple of Heaven



Forbidden City
Beijing



"My head still is spinning from our recent trip to northern China, arranged by MCI. I took 93 instrumentalists from Santa Rosa High School (California) to this fascinating country. Our itinerary included the bustling, sprawling and rapidly changing city of Beijing and the colorful, ancient capitol, Xian. The Great Wall experience at Ju Yong Pass, on the outskirts of Beijing, was the highlight of our 10-day trip. None of us ever will forget the concert we played on the wall, or the nearly two hours we had after the concert to explore this world wonder. MCI's Chinese staff, led by the estimable Sheldon Poon, is amazing! Each of the comfortable, spacious buses has at least one of these folks at all times. Our guide, Judy, is quite possibly the most charming person I've ever met. I'm sure that every group falls in love with her. We heard similar expressions of gratitude and appreciation for the other guides from people on the other buses. I am offering an unequivocal and enthusiastic endorsement of (MCI's) tour package."

Mark Wardlaw,
Santa Rosa Band & Orchestra
California

Standard Performance Tours in China

Tour 1 8 Nights / 10 Days
6 nights in Beijing (with an excursion to Tianjin),
2 nights in Xi'an

Tour 2 8 Nights / 10 Days
5 nights in Beijing, 2 nights in Qinhuangdao,
1 night in Tianjin

Tour 3 8 Nights / 10 Days
4 nights in Beijing, 2 nights in Hangzhou,
2 nights in Shanghai

Tour 4 5 Nights / 7 Days
5 nights in Beijing

Tour 5 8 Nights / 10 Days
1 night in Suzhou, 2 nights in Wuxi, 1 night in Nanjing, 2
nights in Hangzhou, 2 nights in Shanghai

Tour 6 8 Nights / 10 Days
2 nights in Hong Kong, 2 nights in Shenzhen,
2 nights in Guangzhou

*These and all other Standard Tours may be viewed on our website at www.musiccelebrations.com.
Fully-customized tours may also be created to meet your specific needs and interests.*



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