



RICEFIELD

CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

新春联欢会



7:30pm-8:30pm GMT
Friday 26th February 2021



INTRODUCTION

Ricefield Arts & Cultural Centre, in partnership with the Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools (CISS), is delighted to present a special online event in celebration of Chinese New Year. This activity is funded by Foundation Scotland and Glasgow Communities Fund as part of our online Community Recovery & Wellbeing project.

This evening our UK-based performers will showcase Chinese culture in a variety of forms, with performances of traditional musical instruments, martial arts, dance, song and poetry. We hope you enjoy learning more about the long history of China's most important annual festival, and the unique traditions which accompany it.

Let's safely welcome the Year of the Ox with new & old friends from around the world.

CHINESE NEW YEAR

Chinese New Year, or Lunar New Year, marks the first day of the first month of the lunar year. This occasion is celebrated by communities across the world, and in China it is the most important annual event. The celebrations there continue over the first 15 days of the year, in a period called Spring Festival. This ends on Lantern Festival - which is today! This is a special day for hosting lantern parades, guessing lantern riddles and eating tangyuan & yuanxiao - glutinous rice balls.

Spring Festival is a time for connecting with family, visiting friends & relatives and sharing meals together. Before the new year, houses are cleaned to sweep away old and evil spirits. On New Year's Eve, couplets and paper-cuttings are hung up to express good wishes for the year ahead. In Northern China families will prepare and eat dumplings together, while in Eastern China it is more popular to eat New Year Pudding (niangao). Throughout the festival, red envelopes (hongbao) are gifted by the old to the young. Dragon & lion dances are also popular ways to celebrate, as are firework displays and loud firecrackers.

The Chinese Zodiac system is over 2,000 years old, and has its roots in a legend about the Jade Emperor selecting 12 animals to be his palace guards. This year it is the Year of the Ox, the second zodiac animal. People born in the Year of the Ox are said to be loyal, honest and hard-working.

Red is an important colour during the festival, as it symbolises luck and vitality, and people will buy red clothing, firecrackers, lanterns and other decorations in preparation for the new year. This custom can be traced back to Nian, the mythical beast at the heart of the Chinese New Year origin story who was scared away by the colour.

Common Chinese New Year greetings in Mandarin are 春节快乐 (chun jie kuai le), meaning happy Spring Festival and 新年好 (xin nian hao), meaning happy new year. In Cantonese, the most famous greeting is 恭喜發財 (gong hei fat choy), meaning 'wishing you wealth and prosperity'.

PROGRAMME

Welcome Speech

Else Kek, Chair of Ricefield Arts & Cultural Centre

Speech

Fhiona Mackay, Director of Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools (CISS)

Erhu | 二胡独奏

Onwards and Upwards | 步步高

This a famous Guangdong song with a lively rhythm, expressing the joy of looking forward to a new spring.

Performed by Shengnan Qiu | 邱晟楠

Choy Lee Fut Kung Fu | 蔡李佛功夫

Small Plum Blossom Fist Form | 小梅花拳

In its entirety, this is a complex fighting form. It takes a long time to master, and is known to separate the serious student from the casual trainer. This performance is of the first half, popular for public events.

Performed by Pui Lee | 李佩雯

Song Medley | 歌曲

Congratulations, Sweet Honey & Winter Jasmine | 恭喜恭喜, 甜蜜蜜, 迎春花

These three songs are some of the most popular melodies for Chinese people to sing during the Spring Festival period.

Performed by Fong Liu | 刘芳

Poetry | 诗歌朗诵

The First Day of Lunar New Year & New Year's Day | 元日, 己未新岁

This first poem is by Wang Anshi, and the second is by Lu You, both from the Song Dynasty. Both poems describe joyful scenes on New Year's Day, and express the author's positive expectations for the year ahead.

Performed by Xiaochun Shen | 沈晓纯

Tea Ceremony | 敬茶礼仪

Art of Chinese Tea | 中国茶艺

The tea ceremony is a Chinese cultural activity involving the ceremonial preparation and presentation of tea leaves. Tea is China's national drink, and has a 5,000 year history in the country due to its health benefits.

Performed by Shanshan Jiang | 姜珊珊

PROGRAMME

Sheng | 笙独奏

Mangshi Dam Tune & Wedding Banquet Song

These are both Dai folk songs - the Dai people of China live mostly along the border of Myanmar and Laos, in Yunnan Province. The Longjiang Dam is an arch dam on the Long River near Mangshi in Dehong Prefecture of Yunnan.

Performed by Lawrence Dunn

Tai Chi | 太极拳

24 Steps and 42 Steps Forms | 24式简化太极拳及42式太极拳

This short performance combines extracts from both the 24 and 42 Steps Tai Chi forms, with a focus on Yang and Chen style movements.

Performed by Hing Fung Teh | 谭馨芬

Fan Dance | 扇子舞

Butterfly Lovers | 梁祝

This dance is based on the romantic story of Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai, classmates during the Jin Dynasty. Family ties mean that the couple are unable to be together. Eventually their spirits are reunited as a pair of butterflies.

Performed by Annie Au | 欧明珠

Dizi | 笛子独奏

Purple Bamboo Melody | 紫竹调

This is a traditional melody adapted from Shanghai Opera. It became popular all over China in the 1950s when it was performed by the 'silk and bamboo' music groups and well known singers.

Performed by Eddie McGuire

Closing Speech & Thanks

Lin Chau, Co-founder of Ricefield Arts & Cultural Centre

PERFORMERS

Shengnan Qiu | 邱晟楠

Shengnan Qiu is an exchange teacher at the Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools, and teaches Mandarin in both primary and high schools. She was born in Tianjin, China, and has been living and working in Scotland for over one year. She has studied erhu for 8 years, since childhood.

Pui Lee | 李佩雯

Pui Lee is a British-born Hakka Chinese visual artist working throughout the UK. She is also a dedicated martial artist with over 16 years experience training in a variety of disciplines including Kung Fu, Taekwon-Do, JKD, Karate and Kickboxing. She is student of the world renowned Sifu Edmund Ng from Newcastle Choy Lee Fut Kung Fu club (est.1975). Pui Lee is also a qualified Personal Trainer, Gym Instructor, Advanced Fitness Instructor, Mat Pilates Instructor and Nutrition & Weight Management Advisor. She believes in promoting a healthy mind, body and soul. Pui Lee also teaches as part of Ricefield Arts' online workshop programme, leading Get Drawing, Fitness and Kung Fu sessions.

Fong Liu | 刘芳

Fong Liu is from Suzhou in the Jiangsu province of China. She was taught to sing by her father, an accomplished singer of Peking Opera. Fong first performed in her hometown at the age of five. Since then she has delighted in the songs of her native land. After studying Chinese language and literature at Suzhou University she spent a brief period as an advertisement designer before launching her singing career. Ten years later, she is welcomed internationally and has been acclaimed during residencies in China, India and, since 2006, Great Britain. Fong sings Chinese folk, Peking Opera, Chinese Jazz and modern Chinese pop. Since 2007, she has enjoyed singing with Harmony Ensemble, specialist exponents of Chinese music. Fong has a YouTube channel called Fongsings where you can listen and watch her perform live. Fong is also interested in education, and works as a secondary school Mandarin teacher.

Xiaochun Shen | 沈晓纯

From China, Xiaochun moved to Scotland to study Adult Education, Community Development and Youth Work, MEd at the University of Glasgow. She joined Ricefield Arts in September 2020 as a Community Engagement work placement student and is passionate about Chinese history and cross-cultural communication.

Shanshan Jiang | 姜珊珊

Shanshan is a visual artist based in Glasgow. She received her undergraduate degree from the Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing and an MLitt in Fine Art Practice from Glasgow School of Art. She has lived in Glasgow since 2017, and is the Founder & Director of Dachu Studio Ltd, an arts venue which promotes Chinese art in the UK. There are now more than 150 students from various locations studying art with Dachu Studio.

PERFORMERS

Lawrence Dunn

Lawrence is leader of the Edinburgh Light Orchestra and is Director of Philomusica of Edinburgh. He is a founder member of Gladstone's Bag - a group specialising in Victorian popular music, and TV and radio signature tunes, and providing live music for silent films. He also works outside the field of classical music, having performed regularly as a folk singer when a student, taken part in Celtic Connections, and recorded with the band The Pearlfishers and Carol Laula. He is particularly interested in making and playing unusual instruments - from the past and from countries around the world. For many years he has been arranging and performing music for silent films - at the Panopticon in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Bo'ness and elsewhere.

Hing Fung Teh | 譚馨芬

Hing Fung has lived in Scotland for more than 40 years. She learned Taiji as a young girl in Malaysia and has continued a lifelong learning journey since then, studying under Master Tan Ching Ngee of Singapore and Master Wang Yan Ji and Professor Li De Yin, both from China. She has been teaching Taiji and Qigong in Glasgow, and now online, for over 20 years. Although Taiji is a martial art, she is particularly interested in the health and wellbeing benefits of the practice. This led to her study of the Dao Yin Qigong system, compiled by Professor Zhang Guan De, as well as various forms by the Chinese Health Qigong Association.

Annie Au | 欧明珠

Annie is a Scottish performing artist, choreographer and teacher, specialising in Classical Chinese dance. Annie has trained in Hong Kong since 1989 and has experience in various dance types including: contemporary, jazz, social and aerobic. Annie is the Founder-Director of Glasgow Oriental Dancing Association, a dance school based in Scotland. As a dance artist, Annie is currently engaged in creating new choreographic work collaborating with diverse artists in UK communities. Annie's aim is to help develop people's interest in and knowledge of Chinese culture and art. Annie teaches Classical Chinese dance and contemporary dance for all ages.

Eddie McGuire

Eddie is well known as a composer, winning a British Composer Award in 2003. He plays with The Whistlebinkies, touring China with them in 1991 and with Hong Kong City Chamber Orchestra in 2006. He also performed for several years with zheng soloist Dong Yi. He co-founded Harmony Ensemble in 2004 with dancer and musician Yanmei Wu. He worked with her, winning a Creative Scotland Award in 2004, to create a one act ballet Heaven Earth Fate which combined Scottish and Chinese folk dance styles. His 3 act ballet Peter Pan has been performed over 120 times by Scottish Ballet and Hong Kong Ballet and he has composed operas and orchestral works (broadcast on BBC Radio 3), as well as songs in Chinese style with Fong Liu. He studied Chinese bamboo flute with Ruijun Hu at the Asian Arts Circuit in London. He studied composition at the Royal Academy of Music until 1970 and now lives and works in Glasgow.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to extend a warm thank you to:

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Yujing Chi
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Laura Matheson
Jarvis Gray

RICEFIELD ARTS

Ricefield Arts & Cultural Centre is a registered charity and social enterprise based in Glasgow that has gained an excellent reputation for delivering original and inspiring Chinese arts and cultural experiences, events and exhibitions for Scotland's diverse communities. Ricefield was founded in December 2004 by Lin Chau and Julia Hung. 17 years on, Ricefield continues to work with a wide range of partners to present a lively and innovative programme to promote Chinese arts and culture in Scotland. Find out more by visiting [our website](#).

CISS

The [Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools](#) (CISS), based at the University of Strathclyde, is a national centre funded by the Scottish Government and the Centre for Language Education and Cooperation. It is an award winning Confucius Institute working with schools across Scotland to engage pupils with Chinese language learning and culture. Follow on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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