

2018 New Years Concert Tourism Confucius Institute at Griffith University

On February 2nd, the Tourism Confucius Institute (TCI) at Griffith University hosted a 2018 New Years Concert and Phoebe's Pipa Solo Special at the Princess Theater in Brisbane. This concert featured traditional Chinese instruments including *pipa*, *dizi* (bamboo flute), *erhu*, *konghou* (Chinese harp), *xiao* (vertical bamboo flute), performed in front of an audience of approximately 300 people.

Currently working as a cultural teacher at the TCI, Phoebe will leave the office to return to China this February, marking this particular performance as her farewell concert. Phoebe has a bachelors degree in musicology from the China University of Mining Technology (CUMT) and is a graduate student majoring in music education at CUMT.

During the concert, Phoebe performed two pipa solos of her own composition, *Yi* and *Listening to the Ancient Times*, as well as several famous eastern and western pieces including *Ambush from All Sides*, *Jin Li Chao*, *Habanera* and *Rose*. Accompanying Phoebe throughout the night was the *dagu* (Chinese large drum), *erhu*, *dizi*, piano, guitar and bass. Through the combination of these eastern/western and modern/traditional instruments, our audience was immersed in an exquisite and unique music experience. Ms Shuang Wu, a TCI Chinese teacher, guided this spectacular night, providing the audience with insight into the performances and musicians, including special guest performances from Professor Jianda Qi, a nationally accredited first-level *erhu* player in China, *Konghou* player Siyuan Pang from the Shenyang Conservatory of Music and Junyu Tian from the TCI.



The concert commenced with a collaborative piece of the pipa and *dagu*, *Ambush From All Sides*. This arrangement displayed an extensive range of various pipa techniques, capturing and immersing the audience in fight scenes from ancient times and mighty champions.



Phoebe performing *Ambush from All Sides*

Konghou player Siyuan Pang performed *Xiangfei Bamboo*, which depicted the bamboo and cheerful dancing under the autumn sun.



Siyuan Pang playing *Xiangfei Bamboo* on the konghou

Junyu Tian performed a dizi solo, *The Harvest Celebration on Horse Carts*. Listeners from the audience said they could vividly picture a harvest scene with smiling farmers singing harvest songs and clicking horses' hooves as they pulled the grain-laden carts.



Junyu Tian playing *The Harvest Celebration on Horse Carts*

Professor Jianda Qi performed *Czardas* on the erhu accompanied by guitar. *Czardas* was composed originally for the violin but later was rearranged for the erhu. *Czardas* began with slow rhythm progressing to an increasingly faster tempo for the finale. Being performed with the erhu successfully added some exotic eastern elements into this Gypsy dance.



Professor Jianda Qi playing *Czardas*

The last piece performed, *Spring River Moonlit Night*, was a collaboration of pipa, erhu, and dizi with a dance accompaniment. Tenielle Cridland, a member of Chinese club at TCI, joined the performance playing the erhu in her first public performance.



Spring River Moonlit Night

At the conclusion of the last piece, the audience insisted on an encore. In response to the extensive applause from the audience, Phoebe and her fellow returned once more to the stage, wrapping up the night with a Spanish piece, *Besame Mucho*.



Sherry interviewing Mr. Kieron Roost, Executive Director of Business Performance at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre

Music is a bridge of friendship connecting China and Australia. After the concert, many of the audience members went to the stage to have photos taken with the artists and to express their appreciation for the performance. Mr. Kieron Roost, the executive director of business performance at QPAC, stated that he was very lucky to be invited to such an exquisite concert, and thanked the TCI for enabling the local community to encounter traditional Chinese instruments. Professor Colin Mackerras from Griffith University also provided many compliments to Phoebe and the other performers, and expressed his hope that the TCI will organize future concerts featuring Chinese folk instruments.