

Asian Arts & Culture

Causing a Commotion: Ju Percussion Group Performs Mountain's Beat



"The sheer energy of this ensemble is infectious"

Since its founding in 1986, **Ju Percussion Group (JPG)**, Taiwan's first percussion ensemble has been in perpetual motion – touring all over the world, composing, commissioning and premiering new works, and collaborating with other performing groups in multi-media projects, to name just a few of their accomplishments. The sheer energy of this ensemble is infectious – there has never been a yawn in the audience and no one has ever left a concert without feeling refreshed and uplifted. The Asian Arts & Culture Center is pleased to celebrate its **30th anniversary** with **Mountain's Beat**, a performance by **JPG** on **Sunday, October 14**, at **Stephens Hall Theatre**.

Ju Percussion Group was founded by Tzong-ching Ju on the premise of reviving the appreciation for percussive music in Taiwan. It has succeeded in this by commissioning and promoting the works of contemporary Taiwanese composers in their repertoire, creating new arrangements for traditional Taiwanese folk songs, and has since expanded into the realm of education, presenting original performances geared toward young audiences each year.

JPG has captivated audiences in Asia, Europe, Canada, Australia and the U.S. with its theatrical and sometimes experimental presentations on a variety of

percussive instruments. Although many of **JPG's** members received their formal education in Europe or the U.S., they have all returned to Taiwan with a fresh insight into the possibilities of blending the sounds of disparate cultures. One of the tenets of **JPG's** philosophy is that anything and everything can be used as a drum. Their music has been described as a hybrid of Western and Chinese, with a few surprises. The instruments range from large to small, from the expected – traditional drums, gongs and xylophones – to the unexpected – empty bottles, steel pipes and popping balloons.

Aside from their own projects, the **JPG** has collaborated with such prestigious groups as the Cloud Gate Dance Theater and the Lanling Theater Workshop and has produced a series of multi-media productions. They are currently on tour in North America, making other stops in Boston, New York, Denver and Canada. **JPG** comes to us, under the auspices of the Council of Cultural Affairs, Taiwan, as a goodwill effort. We fully expect them to bring down the house when they perform at **Stephens Hall Theatre** on **Sunday, October 14** at **3 p.m.** Reserve your tickets in advance by calling **410-704-2787**. One show only.

From the Director

Suewhei Shieh

This year the Asian Arts & Culture Center turns 30. In Chinese custom, a life is viewed in stages with each 10-year increment signifying a new purpose and series of accomplishments. The 30th birthday marks the time when a person "stands on his or her own feet." It is the high point of life where the past has laid the foundation for the possibilities offered by the future and the path to success has been mapped out. The Center, too, has reached this stage of life. It has grown and changed much over the years, increasing in size and scope, and will continue to do so in the next stage.

The references to the moon in the titles of the upcoming programs are intentional. The cycle of the moon lasts for 30 days before it begins anew. In celebration of this new phase in our organization we have planned a series of stimulating events for all to enjoy. The celebration opens with the Many Moons Festival featuring arts and crafts of Asia, musical performances, tea tasting and much more. Ju Percussion Group drums up excitement with **Mountain's Beat**, and in the spring, the Center holds its third **Once in a Blue Moon Silent Auction**.

Thanks to all of you who have given your endorsement and support to help the Asian Arts & Culture Center become established on the cultural landscape of the Baltimore region and "stand on its own feet."

We could not have done it without you. Please join us in celebration!

Calendar of Events

Meditation – Yonder the Flickering Flame: Recent Work by Hang-Ryul Park



Antique Window, Hang-Ryul Park

Asian Arts Gallery,
Center for the Arts
September 22 – December 7

Members Preview
Friday, September 21, 6-8 p.m.
Preview the exhibition, meet the artist, enjoy a private reception accompanied by live music.

Meet the Artist

Opening Reception: Saturday,
September 22, 3-5 p.m.

As I again ponder the question of life, this is the very time when the chaos of the world around me is replaced by the chirps of birds and the whispers of insects.

– Excerpt from *Shadows of the Picture* by Hang-Ryul Park

The tranquil and carefully composed works of Hang-Ryul Park invite the viewer into his enchanted reverie. They act as a safe harbor from the rigors of daily life – the peaceful expressions on the faces of children, the hovering butterfly, and the flickering candle give one the impression of being suspended in time. Each moment is significant unto itself and each moment is to be treasured. *Organized in cooperation with Bill Hodges Gallery, NY, New York.* Admission is free.

Gallery Hours:
Monday-Friday 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
and Saturday 1-4 p.m.
(during special exhibitions only)

30th Anniversary Celebration

Many Moons Festival

Center for the Arts

Saturday, October 6, 12-5 p.m.

The Asian Arts & Culture Center invites the entire community to help celebrate 30 years of preservation and promotion of the arts of Asia. Bring the whole family for a day of discovery and fun!

12-5 p.m.

Artisans from various Asian countries demonstrate their native crafts. Learn the arts of kite making, doll making, dough sculpture, paper folding, batik and more – take your creations home. Displays of Asian arts and crafts will be on view and available for purchase. Try different Asian refreshments, sample moon cakes in celebration of the Moon Festival and taste different types of tea.

1-1:45 p.m. Japanese Taiko Drum



Taikoza

Opening the festivities, Japanese Taiko drum ensemble Taikoza (New York), led by its founder, Marco Leinhard, plunge into their lively renditions of modern and traditional compositions from different regions of Japan.

2-4:30 p.m. Gamelan Ensemble

A presentation of Indonesian/Balinese gamelan music led by Mr. Soeprapto (Washington, D.C.) will provide opportunity for hands-on experimentation with the instruments and interaction with the musicians.

3 p.m.

Announcement of results of drawing contest sponsored by the Baltimore Chinese Language School.

All ages are welcome. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Admission: \$5 in advance (by September 29); \$7 at the door; free for members of the AACC (*please pre-register*).

Mountain's Beat Ju Percussion Group



Stephens Hall Theater
Sunday, October 14, 3 p.m.

The award-winning, internationally renowned Ju Percussion Group from Taiwan gives a dazzling performance of traditional and contemporary compositions showcasing their mastery of Western and Asian forms of percussion with many surprising techniques. *Co-sponsored by the Council of Cultural Affairs, Taiwan, and the Overseas Chinese Affairs Commission.*

Tickets: \$15 general; \$12 TU faculty, staff and senior citizens; \$10 AACC members and students.

**Tickets are on sale at the
Center for the Arts Box Office.
To order, call 410-704-2787**

**For information:
Asian Arts & Culture Center
410-704-2807
www.towson.edu/tu/asianarts**



Counsel of
Cultural Affairs



BURKSHIRE
Marriott
CONFERENCE HOTEL



McCORMICK & COMPANY, INC.

This programming is made possible through the support of Asian Arts & Culture Center members, McCormick & Co., Inc, Towson University Foundation, Inc., TU International Education Office, The Chinese Language School of Baltimore, and by program grants from the Maryland State Arts Council, an agency funded by the state of Maryland and the National Endowment for the Arts and the Baltimore County Commission on Arts & Sciences.

Grants and Support

To start the 2002 programming season off on the right foot, the Asian Arts & Culture Center has once again been awarded a substantial program grant from the **Maryland State Arts Council** for \$8,000 as well as a \$2,000 project grant from the **Baltimore County Commission on Arts & Sciences**. **Towson University Foundation, Inc.**, **TU International Education Office**, and **McCormick & Co., Inc.** have all signed on to co-sponsor the events in our 30th Anniversary Celebration. We appreciate the encouragement that we receive from the aforementioned institutions, and the members of the community who demonstrate their support in countless ways each year. The time has come to renew our pledge to continue bringing a variety of original, innovative and top-quality arts events to the Baltimore/Washington area with high hopes of gaining more patronage in the corporate sector and new support from the community in general.

Financial Summary 7/1/00-6/30/01

Income

Parent Org. Support*	\$64,795
Membership & Donations	29,415
Sales (tickets, fees, fundraising)	11,267
Grants	11,000
Federal Work Study	3,520
Total	\$119,997

Expenses

Administration	\$76,995
Programs	25,470
Printing	5,865
Mailing	3,226
Materials, Supplies, Services	3,223
Marketing & Development	3,080
Art Shipping & Insurance	1,296
Total	\$119,155
Balance	\$842

*In Kind Salaries, Services, & Facilities: \$63,670

Contributors (February-June, 2001)

DRAGON CIRCLE

The Chinese Language School of Baltimore
McCormick & Co., Inc.
Overseas Chinese Affairs Commission
Hoke Smith, TU
President, Office of the President
Towson University Foundation, Inc.
TU Office of International Education

PHOENIX CIRCLE

Nancy M. Chu
Cynthia Su & Chan Leung
Kenneth & Carol J. Lew

TIGER SOCIETY

Kenneth & Carole Hsu

CRANE CLUB

Beverly C. Leetch
Wayne & Junko McWilliams

PEACOCK CLUB

Mahnoosh Alemi

Janet Bruns
Bradley Dunnells
C. Thomas Dunnells
Bob Greenberg
Patricia Hanrahan
Edward Holmes
Joel M. Houck
T. Thomas Hsiao
G. Evans Hubbard
Amy C. Hunter
Vickie Kaneko
Ching-Cherng & Lily Lee
Robert & Pamela Macht
Michael Miller
Donna R. Omata

Ie-Ming Shih
Jun Villones

TORTOISE CLUB

David & Irene P. Firman
Geraldine Hisle
Harry Leffmann
Gwyn Sirota
Asako Eileen Titus
Ann L. Von Lossberg

CICADA SOCIETY

Hannah Li Lerner
Ruth Li
Evan Mentzell

Donor Spotlight: John Gilmore Ford



Berthe and John Ford

In this 30th anniversary year it is time to reflect on the successes of the Center and the people who have helped to achieve them. **John Gilmore Ford** has been recognized as an exemplary figure in the Center's history. He has acted as an adviser, designer, curator, appraiser and longtime friend. Mr. Ford is well known in the field of Asian art, as a collector, lecturer and published author.

Mr. Ford has always shown his affection for his hometown of Baltimore by inviting the community into his home for tours of his extensive collections,

lecturing regularly at local universities and founding the Friends of the Asian Collection at the Walters Art Museum to help the Walters expand their holdings. His knowledge of and passion for the arts of Asia have helped others appreciate them.

The Asian Arts & Culture Center is proud to recall that Mr. Ford was the chief designer of the Asian Arts Gallery as it is now known. Furthermore, he has curated two exhibitions for the Center, *Marylanders Collect Asian Art* (1996) and *The Art of Tibet* (1999) and has offered his expertise in the execution of many others. Mr. Ford is a great inspiration to the Center and we are proud to have his mentorship. Be sure to visit the remarkable exhibition titled *Desire and Devotion: Art from India, Nepal and Tibet* in the John and Berthe Ford Collection at the Walters Art Museum opening in October.

Appreciation

In a rescheduled **Appreciation Event**, members of the **Crane Club, Tiger Society, Phoenix and Dragon Circles** and other distinguished benefactors from last year will be recognized. The Spring event was postponed due to an unprecedented and unforeseeable situation. Be our guests to **Mountain's Beat**, by Ju Percussion Group on **Sunday, October 14, 3 p.m. in Stephens Hall Theatre**. The performance will be followed by a buffet reception.



Artscape 2001: The Center hosted a booth in the Cultural Resources tent at Artscape this summer. Student employee Stella Lee and volunteer Jennifer Yen, share information with visitors.

Board Notes

Calvin and Kitty Chin

As members of the Asian Arts & Culture Center Advisory Board from its inception to the present, both Calvin and I are proud to see how this Center has developed through these many years.

We are first generation Chinese. Calvin was born in Baltimore and I was born in Washington, D.C. Because of our deep affinity for our own heritage and our love for all Asian cultures, we have long been interested in the preservation and promotion of the diverse arts of Asia. Our ultimate goal is to share these same ideals with other diverse communities. Being a part of the AACC helps us to accomplish this. Through the hard work, and dedication of Mrs. Suewei Shieh,

(continued)

Think Tank

Advisory Board president, **Dr. Gilbert Brungardt** and members **Ginger Lai, Yue-Cheng Yang, Tony Montcalmo, Sandra Esslinger** and **John Danz** are busy updating the AACC's **Strategic Plan**. Donating their time, ideas and expertise, these devoted board members are developing new tactics for reaching the Center's goals in line with TU's overall plan.

Board Notes *(continued)*

director, and the loyalty and advocacy of each member of the Advisory Board, we have seen the Center grow and change right before our very eyes from its humble beginnings to its present organizational status. With the help of the Center's members and supporters, we continue to make progress in letting everyone know that Asia, the oldest continent, has much to share with the world.

AACC Advisory Board

Gilbert Brungardt, *President*
Ginger Lai, *1st Vice President*
Yue-Cheng Yang, *2nd Vice President*
Bud Cornell, *Secretary*
Priscilla Caasi, *Treasurer*

Mahnoosh Alemi	Eugenia Henry
Susan Behm	Ro Johnson
Calvin Chin	Mien Kioune
Kitty Chin	Wayne McWilliams
Stella Cho	Anthony Montcalmo
Lu Beth Cornell	Stanley Pollack
John Danz	Bina Raval
Maureen Danz	Young Hee Shin
Sandra Esslinger	Yue-Ling Yang
James Flood	

College of Fine Arts and Communication Faculty Advisory Committee

James Anthony, *President*
Kay Broadwater
Tom Casciero
Jocelyn Curtis
Greg Faller
Karl Fugelso
Jaye Knutson
Robyn Quick
Juanita Rockwell

Ex Officio

Maravene Loeschke, *Dean, College of Fine Arts and Communication*
Suewei Shieh, *Director*
Vanessa Quinn, *Program Assistant, Editor*

For more information, call 410-704-2807 or visit our Web site at www.towson.edu/tu/asianarts.



Be A Friend

Yes, I would like to become a member of the Asian Arts & Culture Center.

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|---|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cicada Society | \$20 (teacher or student) | <input type="checkbox"/> Crane Club | \$100-249 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peacock Club | \$30 (individual) | <input type="checkbox"/> Tiger Society | \$250-499 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mandarin Duck Club | \$50 (couple) | <input type="checkbox"/> Phoenix Circle | \$500-999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Panda Club | \$60 (family) | <input type="checkbox"/> Dragon Circle | \$1,000 + |

Senion citizens enjoy a 10% discount on all membership levels except Cicada Society.

Please make checks payable to **TU Foundation - Asian Arts** and mail with this form to Asian Arts & Culture Center, Towson University, Towson, MD 21252-0001.

Name: _____ Phone: (H) _____ (W) _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Date: _____ Contribution: _____ YES, please send me information about becoming a volunteer.

A portion of your contribution is tax deductible. Your tax deduction is a contribution less the fair market value of goods received. Your company may match your gift to the Asian Arts & Culture Center. Contact your employer for the appropriate form.

Funds for the Asian Arts & Culture Center are administered by the Towson University Foundation, Inc. for the benefit of Towson University.

Asian Arts & Culture Center

Towson University
8000 York Road
Towson, MD 21252-0001



NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TOWSON UNIVERSITY