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## **SEATTLE SYMPHONY PRESENTS *CELEBRATE ASIA!***

**Cultural Celebration Features Seattle Symphony, Chinese Lion Dancers,  
Japanese Taiko Drummers and More, Hosted by Lori Matsukawa**

**From A.R. Rahman to Mendelssohn, Program Highlights  
the Musical Traditions of China, Vietnam, Japan,  
Korea, India and the Philippines Alongside Those of the West**

**Seattle, WA** – Seattle Symphony will present the second annual *Celebrate Asia!* event on January 22 at Benaroya Hall. Hosted by KING 5 News co-anchor **Lori Matsukawa**, the evening begins with pre-concert performances by students from the **Liên Tâm Vietnamese Music Academy**, Filipino guitarist **Angelo Pizarro** and **Chinese Lion Dancers** from Belltown Martial Arts. Former Seattle Symphony Associate Conductor **Carolyn Kuan** will then take the stage, leading **Seattle Symphony** and soloists, including violinist **Chuanyun Li**, Mongolian morin khuur player **Li Bo**, and Indian band **Farmaish**, in a “love-themed” program of contemporary and traditional works. The post-concert presentation will feature Japanese Taiko drummers One World Taiko. *Celebrate Asia!* will take place on Friday, January 22, with pre-concert performances in the Samuel and Althea Stroum Grand Lobby starting at 6:30 p.m., followed by a Seattle Symphony performance in the S. Mark Taper Foundation Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Concertgoers are invited to wear festive dress or their national costume. Tickets are available from \$20–\$50.

In partnership with numerous local community groups, Seattle Symphony honors and celebrates Seattle’s Asian community with *Celebrate Asia!* The concept originated a few years ago when local Asian leaders wanted to find a way to strengthen bonds with the broader community through a cultural celebration. *Celebrate Asia!* is part of Seattle Symphony’s Celebrate Asia! series, which will also present Märkl Conducts German Romantics on May 15, featuring conductor Jun Märkl and pianist Jon Nakamatsu, both of Japanese descent.

### **Carolyn Kuan**

Most recently serving as Seattle Symphony’s Associate Conductor from 2006–2009, Carolyn Kuan was

also the Assistant Conductor for North Carolina Symphony and Baltimore Opera Company. She continues her post as Assistant Conductor of the Cabrillo Music Festival under Marin Alsop. An Artist-in-Residence in 2004 and 2005 at the New York City Ballet, Kuan made her conducting debut in the Ballet's American Music Festival.

As a guest conductor, Kuan has performed with Bournemouth Symphony, Boulder Philharmonic, Charleston Symphony, Detroit Symphony, National Symphony, Richmond Philharmonic, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande and San Francisco Symphony. This season marks her debuts with Baltimore Symphony, Eastern Music Festival, South Carolina Philharmonic, Symphony of Southeast Texas and a return engagement with San Francisco Symphony.

The recipient of numerous awards, Kuan holds the distinction of being the first female to be awarded the Herbert von Karajan Conducting Fellowship by the Herbert von Karajan Centrum and American Austrian Foundation in 2003, an honor that resulted in her residency at the 2004 Salzburg Festival. Also a winner of the first Taki Concordia Fellowship, she has received additional awards from Women's Philharmonic, Conductors Guild, Kate Neal Kinley Memorial Fellowship and Susan W. Rose Fund for Music.

Kuan studied with Marin Alsop, Kurt Masur, Gustav Meier and Leonard Slatkin. Kuan graduated cum laude from Smith College and received a Master of Music degree from the University of Illinois and a Performance Diploma from the Peabody Conservatory.

### **Lori Matsukawa**

Lori Matsukawa currently co-anchors KING 5 News Weeknights at 10 on KONG TV 6/16, and KING 5 News at 11 on KING 5. She has covered many major stories, including the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City; Governor Gary Locke's first mission to China in 1997; and a series of reports on Washington apples and businesses in Japan in 1995 and 1991. She also filed live reports for NBC affiliates during the 50th Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Matsukawa currently co-chairs a committee seeking to build a Japanese cultural and community center in Seattle. In 1999, she organized the Student Broadcast Project for UNITY, a multi-cultural journalism convention held in Seattle. She was chosen as an Asian-American Living Pioneer by the Northwest Asian Weekly Foundation in 1996.

### **Chuanyun Li**

Violinist Chuanyun Li is quickly earning recognition of one of China's foremost violinists. At age 11, he won First Prize through a unanimous vote at the Wieniawski International Youth Violin Competition, followed shortly by a win at the Nakamichi Violin Concerto Competition in Aspen. Li studied at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing for 10 years before entering The Juilliard School with a full scholarship, studying with Dorothy DeLay and Itzhak Perlman. He has toured extensively in Asia, Western Europe,

Australia and North America, collaborating with conductors including Valery Gergiev and Neeme Järvi. In 2008, Li was awarded the Chinese Gold Record Award; in 2009, he won the Best Artist Award of Hong Kong Arts Development Council. Among his several recordings are Paganini's complete *Caprices*, which he recorded at age 15.

### **Li Bo**

Born in the Xilingoro region of Inner Mongolia, Li Bo began performing on the morin khuur (horse-head fiddle) at age 10, and became a professional performer at age 15. He is now considered to be one of the world's leading morin khuur performers, and has been an effective ambassador of his native Mongolia, sharing his enchanting artistry and the many unique qualities of his instrument. Li Bo has given more than 1,000 concerts around the world and has performed with many well-known ensembles, including the Chinese National Symphony Orchestra, Northern German Philharmonic Orchestra and Tokyo Philharmonic. In addition to performing and recording, he is the founder of the Morin Khuur NPO Foundation, which is dedicated to promoting and preserving the cultural heritage of his homeland.

### **Farmaaish**

Farmaaish was founded in 2007, when a group of Indian musicians gathered to provide music for a wedding party. Recognizing their superb mix of talent and versatility, they decided to organize into an Indian/Bollywood band, with Prasanna Ganapule as director. Frequent "requests" for more concerts from their die-hard fans gave the band a name — "Farmaaish," the Hindi term audiences use to request songs from the musicians on stage. From the quiet reflection of Hindi Ghazals, to folk and dance music, to the shout-out-loud exuberance of the latest music in Bollywood, Farmaaish's live shows leave audiences asking for more.

### **Program Information**

**A.R. Rahman's *Jai Ho*** is a Hindi song that was composed for the 2008 award-winning film *Slumdog Millionaire*. It draws from the modern Bollywood song tradition and, when performed, is often accompanied by colorful choreographed dance sequences. In 2009, it won the Academy Award for Best Original Song.

At age 17, **Felix Mendelssohn** created one of his most endearing pieces, the Overture to ***A Midsummer Night's Dream***. Sixteen years later, he "completed" the job, producing a sequence of musical numbers to accompany a production of Shakespeare's play. Among the most familiar tunes in *all* music, the ubiquitous ***Wedding March*** celebrates in festive and noble tones the joy and optimism of a "match made in Heaven."

**Li Bo's *The Tale of Matou Qin*** is based on a classic folk-tale in which a poor boy rescues a white foal and raises the young horse to stunning maturity. Following the horse's death, the white stallion in a dream tells the boy to fashion a fiddle from its body parts. The boy quickly constructs the horse-head fiddle, carrying it with him and playing it wherever he travels.

**Franz von Suppé's Overture to *Light Calvary*** definitely lives up to its name: its delectably energetic gallop has assured its place in history.

***Arirang*** is arguably the most popular and well-known Korean folk song, both inside and outside of Korea. Although the title does not translate in modern Korean, it was thought to mean "beautiful dear" in an ancient Korean dialect. Audience members are invited to sing along.

**Georges Bizet's *Carmen*** is among the most popular operas ever written. Its famous *Habanera* aria, often referred to as *L'amour est un oiseau rebelle*, employs a descending chromatic melody followed by variants of the same phrase in the minor and major keys, meant to evoke the fluctuations of love. *Chanson du toreador* ("Toreador Song") is sung by the opera's matador Escamillo, who describes the experience of being in the ring and the thrill of victory that can follow.

***The Butterfly Lovers Concerto*** by **Chen Gang** and **He Zhanhao** is as much beholden to the Chinese folk literature (for its programmatic story line) as to its distinctly Western harmonies put to the service of Chinese melody. The musical themes, derived from traditional Shanghai opera, flow from one section to the next with a passionate and recurring love theme.

### **Tickets**

Tickets are available from \$20 to \$50 and can be purchased by calling the Seattle Symphony Ticket Office at (206) 215-4747 or toll-free at (866) 833-4747, faxing the Symphony at (206) 215-4748, ordering online at [www.seattlesymphony.org](http://www.seattlesymphony.org), or visiting the Seattle Symphony Ticket Office in Benaroya Hall at Third Avenue & Union Street, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday, 1 to 6 p.m. For group sales information, call (206)215-4784. Student and senior rush discount tickets, subject to availability, go on sale in person at the Seattle Symphony Ticket Office at 6 p.m. prior to evening performances and two hours prior to afternoon performances.

### **Program**

#### **SYMPHONY EXTRAS/CELEBRATE ASIA SERIES CELEBRATE ASIA!**

**Friday, January 22, 2010, at 6:30 p.m.**  
Benaroya Hall

**Pre-concert Performances** (Samuel and Althea Stroum Grand Lobby)  
**6:30-6:45 p.m.** Students from Liên Tâm Vietnamese Music Academy

6:45-7 p.m. Angelo Pizarro, Filipino guitarist  
7-7:20 p.m. Belltown Martial Arts, Chinese Lion Dance

**Concert Program** (S. Mark Taper Foundation Auditorium)

7:30-9:45 p.m.

**Carolyn Kuan**, conductor  
**Lori Matsukawa**, host  
**Chuanyun Li**, violin  
**Li Bo**, Mongolian morin khuur  
**Farmaaish**  
**Seattle Symphony**

**A. R. RAHMAN**  
/Arr. by Prasanna Ganapule

*"Jai Ho"*  
**Farmaaish**

**FELIX MENDELSSOHN**

*Wedding March* from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Op. 61

**LI BO**  
/Arr. by Karen Thomson

*The Tale of Matou Qin*  
**Li Bo**, Mongolian morin khuur

**FRANZ VON SUPPÉ**

Overture to *Light Cavalry*

**INTERMISSION**

**TRADITIONAL**

*"Arirang"* \*  
**Young Hee Kim**, vocals  
**Woong Kim**, vocals

**GEORGES BIZET**

Excerpts from *Carmen*, Suite No. 2  
*Habanera*  
*Chanson du toreador* ("Toreador Song")

**CHEN GANG & HE ZHANHAO**

*The Butterfly Lovers Concerto*  
**Chuanyun Li**, violin

\*The audience is invited to sing along.

**Post-concert Performance** (Samuel and Althea Stroum Grand Lobby)

9:45-10 p.m. One World Taiko

*All programs and artists subject to change. Photos of guest artists and Seattle Symphony are available to the media on request.*

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