

# Ma Xiaohui

erhu



# Burnett Thompson

piano

**Recital: *Erhu Holding Hands with the World*  
Dialogue with Piano**

Friday, Nov. 9, 2007 at 8:00 p.m.  
Arts Club of Washington  
Washington, DC

**Ma Xiaohui** is China's leading traditional musical artist. She became concertmaster of the Shanghai Traditional Orchestra upon graduation from the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. In 2003, Ms. Ma undertook her own solo project "Erhu Holding Hands with the World." She founded and directs the Xiaohui Arts Center in Shanghai and is an artistic advisor to the Shanghai Grand Theater. She travels worldwide and has appeared in most of the European capitals as a soloist. She has won numerous competitions and awards including First Prize for the National Guangdong Music Competition, the Baosteel Classic Arts Award, and the First Prize for the 1st Shanghai Spring International Music Festival. She has appeared as the first Chinese traditional performer in numerous major festivals worldwide. Her concert at the Kennedy Center was named one of the Center's Ten Best Concerts of the Year. She has appeared internationally with countless major orchestras and conductors. She has produced over 40 CD's.

Ms. Ma gained popular recognition after her performance of the erhu solos and duet with cellist Yo-yo Ma in the movie *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*. The soundtrack won the Oscar for Best Original Music.

Ma Xiaohui was Love Ambassador to the Special Olympics this fall in Shanghai and Cultural Ambassador for the World Expo in 2010. In 2007 her appearances have included concerts in Zurich, Vilnius, Germany, Shanghai, Tokyo, Stockholm, St. Petersburg, Singapore, and Los Angeles. She is a cultural ambassador for China, and in the last year has performed as part of diplomatic missions of former President Jiang, President Hu and Premier Wen.

As a soloist, Ma Xiaohui has collaborated with orchestras in more than a hundred concerts, including the Berlin Chamber Orchestra and Hamburg Philharmonic Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra of France, Opera Orchestra of Florence in Italy, St. Gallen Symphony Orchestra in Switzerland, Stavanger Symphony Orchestra in Norway, the Greek Symphony Orchestra, American Chamber Ensemble, Yokohama Symphony Orchestra and NHK Symphony Orchestra in Japan, National Symphony Orchestra in Mexico, Hong Kong Traditional Orchestra, Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, Taipei Traditional Orchestra, Macao Traditional Orchestra, Singapore National Symphony Orchestra, Korean Traditional Ensemble, and National Symphony Orchestra in China.

Ma Xiaohui has lectured at the University of Notre Dame, Northwestern University, University of Michigan, Tanwai University, Fudan University, Jiaotong University and Tongji University. She has performed for major events, including APEC in Shanghai's bid for 2010 World Expo and Bravo China (2002). Her globetrotting appearances in international art festivals have won her a large following worldwide.

"the erhu, an extraordinary instrument in appearance, gains an incredible strength through the interpretation of Ma Xiaohui." *Nuremburg Daily*

"non-lyric song by a mezzo-soprano." *Oxford Times*

**Burnett Thompson** pianist, composer and educator, has collaborated with numerous artists and organizations covering a wide scope in the world of music. He has worked with Lorin Maazel, Mstislav Rostropovich, Luis Haza, and Arturo Sandoval to name a few. Since 1999 he has had the distinct honor of appearing with erhu soloist Ma Xiaohui in China, Canada and the U.S. while performing traditional Chinese music. His orchestral associations have included the Kennedy Center Orchestra, the Washington Chamber Orchestra, and the National Chamber Orchestra, among numerous others. Mr. Thompson is the director of the New Columbia Swing Orchestra big band.

## program

|                                |                                     |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Mustafa                        | Egyptian Folk Melody                |
| clarinet: Kiera Thompson       | <i>arr. Ma Xiaohui/Ji Dong Yong</i> |
| Air on the G String            | J.S. Bach                           |
| Birds Singing in the Mountains | Liu Tianhua                         |
| <i>erhu solo</i>               |                                     |
| The Night Moon                 | Liu Tianhua                         |
|                                | <i>arr. Gu Guan Ren</i>             |
| Romanian Dances #1, #5, #6     | Bela Bartok                         |
| The Spirit of My Erhu          | Ma Xiaohui                          |
| In the Deep Night              | Beijing Opera Melody                |
|                                | <i>arr. Qin Shi Yue</i>             |

*Intermission (15 minutes)*

|  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| Love Duet                                  |                            |
| <i>“Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon”</i>    | Tan Dun                    |
| cello: Christopher Hsing                   |                            |
| Elegie                                     | Liu Tianhua                |
|  | <i>arr. Zhou Qian</i>      |
| Humoresque                                 | Antonin Dvorak             |
| The Story of Two Strings                   | Ma Xiaohui                 |
| <i>erhu solo</i>                           |                            |
| Por Una Cabeza                             | Carlos Gardel              |
| Follow the Soul                            | Jin Wang                   |
| Sophisticated Lady                         | Duke Ellington             |
| Love Song and Horse Race in the Grasslands | Huang Haihuai & Ma Xiaohui |

### **The Spirit of My Erhu**

**composed by Xiaohui Ma**

Xiaohui Ma composed this first piece in 1991 in honor of her erhu teacher Wang Yi. She wanted to express her deep feelings of how she understands her instrument. The melody contains ancient themes and recalls the long history of China. At the same time, she attempted to develop a variety of new tone colors and modern techniques, and, most importantly, wanted to provide wide space and freedom for new feelings and understanding.

### **The Story with the Two Strings**

**composed by Xiaohui Ma**

Created in 2001, this work depicts the rich experiences Xiaohui made in growing up with her instrument. At the age of six when she started to play the erhu, she couldn't imagine what it would bring to her life. But afterwards, through the erhu, she got into contact with many people, traveled to dozens of countries, and encountered multiple cultures. She experienced a wide variety of human feelings from joy and happiness to confusion and suffering, thereby learning to better understand herself and to pursue her dreams while improving the rich potential of the erhu. The work was presented the first time in the Beethoven Concert Hall in Bonn.