

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Vancouver Chinese Instrumental Music Society is pleased to announce

Vancouver Chinese Music Ensemble's
2008 National Tour
Montreal, Toronto, Richmond Hill and Hamilton
April 19-27, 2008

The Vancouver Chinese Music Ensemble, Canada's finest Chinese instrumental group, will bring its exquisite and virtuosi performances of traditional and contemporary music to eight venues in Quebec and Ontario, April 19-27, 2008. The program, including new arrangements of Jin Zhang's *Gazing* and Rui Shi Zhuo's *Ling*, will be presented at five venues as part of Festival Musique de Multi Montreal as well as at the Music Gallery in Toronto, the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts and the Hamilton Art Gallery.

Jin Zhang's works are performed by the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra and the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra among many other orchestras and chamber ensembles and have been recorded for broadcast by the BBC, CBC and VTV among other televisions and radio networks. In 2006, the Canadian Music Centre selected Zhang for its online initiative, *Composer Portraits – Influence of Many Musics*. This project focuses on Canadian composers who emigrated from other countries and highlights their valuable contribution to music in Canada.

Rui Shi Zhuo has been commissioned by the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, Vancouver New Music, Vancouver Pro Musica, the National Film Board of Canada, the Far East Broadcasting Corporation and the Vancouver Oratorio Society among other ensembles and presenters. He has received several commissioning grants from Canada Council and the British Columbia Arts Council and his works have been broadcast nationally by CBC Radio.

The Vancouver Chinese Music Ensemble, established in 1989, was invited to perform for the Governor General's Concert at the Orpheum Theatre in Vancouver for its first appearance. The ensemble, which has performed in hundreds of concerts across Canada and in the United States, was chosen as one of only five Canadian artists to showcase at the Canada Council for the Arts Conference at Toronto's Harbourfront Centre in December 2007. The six members of the national touring ensemble are highly accomplished instrumentalists, who combine technical mastery with a passionate approach to music.

The ensemble has a broad repertoire encompassing traditional music from various regions of China, to adaptations of Canadian folk songs and contemporary composition. In addition to evening concerts, the ensemble has performed at folk music festivals, including ones in Vancouver, Edmonton and Winnipeg. Its performances have been broadcast on national radio and television. *Transplanted Purple Bamboo*, the ensemble's first CD released in 2000, features traditional Chinese music. Its 2006 CD release, *New Frontiers*, which features original music for Asian and western instruments, has garnered rave reviews.

"...undeniably gifted musicians..." —*Alexander Varty, The Georgia Straight*

"... what new classical music of the future should sound like; pan cultural, expressive and exciting."
—*Stuart Derdeyn, The Province*

Media Contact: Vancouver Chinese Instrumental Music Society 604.683.8240

We gratefully acknowledge the financial assistance of the Canada Council for the Arts.



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts
du Canada

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Members of the Vancouver Chinese Music Ensemble

Ji Rong Huang, *erhu*

Zhi Min Yu, *ruan*

Gui Lian Liu, *pipa*

Wei Li, *zheng*

Jian Ming Pan, *dizi*

Bruce Henczel, *percussion*

Performance Dates

Saturday, April 19th – Montreal, QC

8:00pm Maison de la Culture Notre-Dame-de-Graces, 3755 rue Botre

Presented by Maison de la Culture Notre-Dame-de-Graces

Tel. (514) 872-2157

Sunday, April 20th – Montreal, QC

3:00pm Auditorium Patro-le-Prévost, 7355 Christophe-Colomb

Presented by **Maison de la culture** Villeray/Saint-Michel/Parc-Extension

Tel. (514) 872-2266

Tuesday, April 22th – Montreal, QC

8:00pm Maison de la culture Ahuntsic-Cartierville, 10300 rue la Jeunesse

Presented by Musique Multi-Montreal's Music and People Festival

Tel. (514) 872-8479

Wednesday, April 23th – Montreal, QC

8:00pm Maison de la culture Côte-des-Neiges, 5290 de la Côte-des-Neiges

Presented by Maison de la culture Côte-des-Neiges

Tel. (514) 872-6889

Thursday, April 24th – Montreal, QC

8:00pm Maison de la culture Rosemont, 6707 de Lorimier

Presented by Maison de la culture Rosemont

Tel. (514) 872-1763

To be continued...

Vancouver Chinese Music Ensemble's
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April 18-27, 2008

Friday, April 25th - Toronto, ON

8:00pm Music Gallery, 197 John Street

Presented by Music Gallery

Tickets: \$20, \$15 and \$10

Tel. (416) 204-1080

www.musicgallery.org

Saturday, April 26th – Richmond Hill, ON

8:00pm Queen's University, Grant Hall, 99 University Avenue

Presented by the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts

Tickets: \$28 online or phone purchase

Tel. (519) 473-3320

Sunday, April 27th – Hamilton, ON

2:00pm Art Gallery of Hamilton, 123 King Street West

Presented by the Art Gallery of Hamilton

Tickets: \$12, \$14 and \$16 online or phone purchase

Tel. (905) 527-6610 ext. 232