

# Features

Wednesday, October 12, 1988

THE GAMECOCK

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## Goodwill Mission performers put on impressive show

By SCOTT PRUDEN  
Staff writer

Having spent most of the weekend doing things like car washing, attending a sorority band party and shopping at K-mart, I had had about as much Americana in one three-day period as one man can stand. Luckily — thanks to my

intrepid editor — I was provided with some welcome relief from the joys of the American Way in the form of the Chinese Youth Goodwill Mission's *An Adventure in Chinese Songs and Dances*. The group performed Sunday at the Booker T. Washington Center.

I must admit, when I received the call asking me to do

this piece, I was dubious. However, when I saw the literature that I was supposed to use in compiling this article, I was floored. This wasn't a bunch of kids who got together and said, "Hey, let's put on a show." Far from it.

Sixteen students — eight boys and eight girls — make up the performing group of the mission, with two directors and a stage manager rounding out the group. The students are picked from 152 universities and colleges in Taiwan and must endure an intense selection period which involves both live auditions and tests of their English speaking ability. After the students are selected, they are subjected to a week of training at 12 to 14 hours per day. At this point in the literature, I was beginning to get tired myself. But I read on.

After the first week, half of the candidates drop out, and the rest go on for even more training and evaluation. Finally, after two months, the group is whittled down to 50 students who become members of the mission.

The paraphernalia fell from my hand. I was exhausted. I came to the conclusion that if I didn't attend this show, I wouldn't be able to live with the guilt of knowing how hard these kids had worked and then denying them a journalistic presence, and so I slipped into my reporter clothes and made my way to Booker T.

Not surprisingly, the audience consisted mostly of Chinese- and Taiwanese-Columbians, but there was a healthy sprinkling of just about every other type of folk as well, speaking a wide variety of languages. Sort of like a Tower of Babel reunion party, I thought. It was enough to make a Mr. Suburbia like myself feel like Mr. International.

But now about the program itself. Elaborate costumes and intricate choreography were the order of the day as the members of the mission took the stage beneath a long Chinese dragon. Appropriately titled, "The Dragon Dance" began the first half, called "A Mysterious China," which featured several variations on and adaptations of Chinese history and folklore. The most spectacular of these were "The Ancient Battle," which featured complex dancing along with some honest-to-goodness swordwork, and "Wang Chao-chun's Journey into the Barbarous Land," which was adapted from the Peking Opera.

### Show Review

After the first few segments, I had to remind myself that there were only 16 people in this show, because they were accomplishing costume and — beyond my comprehension — makeup changes faster than I had thought possible.

Next were "The Court Dances of the Tang Dynasty," which featured the young ladies of the troupe performing such dances as the Capacious-sleeve dance and the Long-sleeve dance. These were quite graceful and lovely. Don't take the name for granted, either. Those sleeves were at least 10 feet long from the shoulder. The court dances were followed by "The Golden Pasture," which presented some of the traditional dances and songs of Mongolia, as well as a beautiful romantic piece called "The Courting Swallows."

After a 15-minute intermission, the program continued with "Folk Melodies," which actually succeeded in topping the first half of the show. The second segment of this half featured an amazing Kung-fu exhibition, involving some rather tense moments for the audience as the students slashed and jabbed at each other with various nasty-looking weapons.

Only once during the whole evening was I struck by a sense of corniness. "The Cozy Island" was intended to "present a lovely picture of Taiwan's rural life," but ended up as a sort of Chinese *Oklahoma*. It succeeded only in proving that people in other countries make their rural inhabitants look just as goofy as we do here in the States.

Finally, "The Love Songs of the Yunnan Province" provided a lovely end to a culturally enriching evening. This segment featured four love songs strung together with a loose plot of conflicting love interests between four "lads and lasses of the Yunnan Province," and managed to be romantic and funny at the same time.

Needless to say, I was quite impressed. When I spoke to one of the students afterwards, she told me about their busy schedule, which usually involved only three days in each city, with a total of 25 stops during the course of the two month tour. With that, my respect for the members of the Chinese Youth Goodwill Mission increased tenfold.



BRIAN BURKHART/The Gamecock

A member of the Chinese Youth Goodwill Mission

## Jazz 'stellar sidemen' gonna jam today

### From staff reports

Musicians will gather for jazz and jam sessions today at USC.

The USC Jazz and Media Music Stellar Sidemen festival offers an all-day jazz clinic from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., featuring prominent jazz performers from New York and Los Angeles. All sessions are free and open to the public.

"We're expecting to attract quite a few people who want to jam," said John Serry, associate music school professor and accomplished pianist and percussionist. Serry, who has been a pianist with Doc Severinson, is new to the music school and has two Grammy award nominations.

A jazz concert will be held at 7:30

p.m. in the College of Business Administration's Belk Auditorium. Featured will be three "stellar sidemen" who have played with jazz greats and orchestras. Bass player Anthony Jackson of New York has performed with Buddy Rich, Michael Jackson and Chick Corea; Steve Houghton of Los Angeles has been drummer to Woody Herman and Freddie Hubbard; and Los Angeles flutist Steve Kujala, a Grammy nominee, has worked with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Corea.

The two-hour concert also includes performances by Carolina's Jazz and Media Music sextet of faculty

members, the Progressive Jazz and Fusion Ensemble of advanced music students and USC's Left Bank Big Band.

Tickets are \$7 for the public, \$3 for students. Sponsors include USC, Yamaha Instruments and Pecknell Music.

The jazz clinic offers the following sessions:

- 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. — open rehearsal in the band annex on South Main Street. Performing will be USC professors Roger Pemberton, Dick Goodwin, Doug Graham, Jim Hall, Jon Schwabe and Serry.
- 10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. — bass clinic with Jackson in the band annex.

- 11:20 a.m. to 12:10 p.m. — jazz piano clinic led by Serry in the band hall on South Main Street.

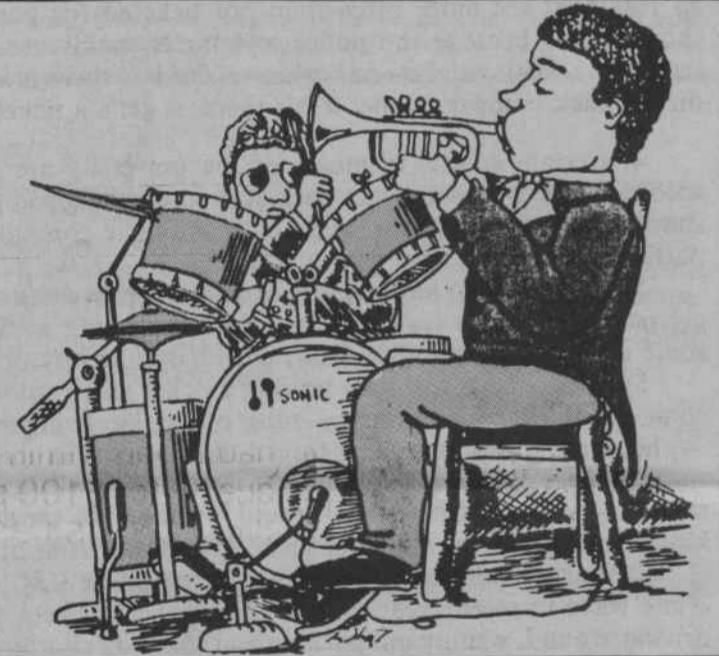
- 1:25 p.m. to 2:10 p.m. — flute master class with Kujala in Fraser Hall.

- 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. — drum percussion clinic led by Houghton in the band hall.


- 3:35 p.m. to 4:40 p.m. — Yamaha WX7 woodwind controller clinic with Kujala and sax sectional clinic with Pemberton in the band annex.

- 4:10 p.m. to 6:10 p.m. — open rehearsal and artist quartet with Kujala, Jackson, Houghton and Serry.

For more information call Serry at 777-6565 or 777-4280.



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The STUDENT GOVERNMENT will have a table in the Russell House Lobby

9 AM - 5 PM Wed. & Thurs. Oct. 19, 20  
9 AM - 3 PM Friday Oct. 21

All University fee-paying students may submit computer scan sheet to be processed. Students who register more than once will be disqualified.

A list will be posted of the students who will be receiving the opportunity to buy tickets by 3:00 PM Tuesday, Oct 25 in the Student Government window and various residence halls.

Tickets will be sold ONLY to those selected students on Thursday Oct. 27 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM in the lobby in the Russell House.

Students must present validated I.D. when submitting scan sheet and when picking up tickets.

There will be no advantage to registering early.  
**TICKETS WILL COST \$20.00 CASH ONLY**

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Don't forget to sign for the organizations listed below. Sign up is in the Placement Office, 6th Floor, H. William Close Building, deadline is Thursday, October 13.

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