



Muscatine/China Initiatives Committee



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ZHEJIANG SYMPHONY TO PERFORM IN MUSCATINE FEBRUARY 21

Free concert at Central Middle School highlights celebration of Chinese New Year

MUSCATINE, Iowa – The entire family will enjoy a splendid musical celebration of the Chinese New Year, the Year of the Dog in 2018, when the internationally acclaimed Zhejiang Symphony Orchestra arrives in Muscatine this February to perform a free concert at Central Middle School. The concert is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 21, and is free to the public.

This is the third straight year that an orchestra from China has made Muscatine a stop for a free concert following paid performances in Chicago and Detroit. The Shanxi Province Song and



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Dance Theater National Orchestra performed in Muscatine in 2017 at Calvary Church. The China Broadcasting Chinese Orchestra performed at Central Middle School in 2016.



“We are very fortunate that these internationally renowned orchestras have sought us out and wanted to perform free concerts for the citizens of Muscatine during their tours of the United States,” Dan Stein, chairman of the Muscatine China Initiatives Committee, said.

The group will arrive in Muscatine on February 20 with the 40-plus members spending the night with Muscatine residents. The orchestra will visit Friendship House, Musser Public Library, Muscatine City Hall, and have a chance to walk along the Mississippi River before lunching at the Muscatine History and Industry Center.

The Zhejiang Symphony Orchestra was founded in 2009, but before that the group was known as the Orchestra of Zhejiang Song and Dance Theater which was founded in 1957. Relying on the profound cultural background of Zhejiang Province, the Zhejiang Symphony Orchestra spotlights traditional Chinese instruments in colorful orchestral arrangements of Chinese folk melodies and favorites from China’s Zhejiang Province. Some of their works with strong regional cultural characteristics include “Shan Hai Jing”, “A Dream of Boudoir”, and “Partridges Flying”.

The home base for the orchestra is the Zhejiang Conservatory of Music, a publicly funded institution approved by the Ministry of Education of China. It is located in the southwest of Hangzhou, the capital city of Zhejiang Province in eastern China.