

the colorado symphony



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CROUCHING TIGER, FIREBIRD AND STEPPES OF CENTRAL ASIA:
EAST MEETS WEST AT THE COLORADO SYMPHONY**

***Tan Dun's Crouching Tiger Concerto, Borodin's Steppes of Central Asia and Stravinsky's Firebird
featured in evening of rare delights with Colorado Symphony***

- Artists:** Colorado Symphony
The Firebird & Crouching Tiger
Scott Yoo, *conductor*
Betti Xiang, *erhu*
- Program:** TAN DUN: *Crouching Tiger Concerto* for Erhu, Flute, Percussion and Strings
BORODIN: *In the Steppes of Central Asia*
STRAVINSKY: *Suite from The Firebird (L'Oiseau de feu)*, (1919 Version)
- Performance:** Saturday, May 14 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, May 15 at 2:30 p.m.
- Tickets:** Remaining tickets currently start at \$19.

DENVER – April 29, 2011 –The Colorado Symphony presents concerts filled with rare delights on May 14 and 15, 2011 when conductor Scott Yoo and erhu virtuoso Betti Xiang join the orchestra in performance of Tan Dun's *Crouching Tiger Concerto*. Based on Tan's poignant and bittersweet score for Ang Lee's critically-acclaimed film *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, the *Crouching Tiger Concerto* features the unique beauty of the erhu: the traditional Chinese fiddle. This concert – brimming with music infused by folk tales and legends – also features Stravinsky's *Suite from The Firebird* and Borodin's *In the Steppes of Central Asia*. Tickets are on sale now.

The Firebird, which Stravinsky regarded as his first mature composition, was a stunning success at its premiere in 1910. With this score, and the epochal *Petrushka* of the following year and *The Rite of Spring* of 1913, Stravinsky went in five short years from an obscure student composer in Russia to one of the most famous musicians in the world. With somewhat uncharacteristic understatement, he said, "*The Firebird* radically altered my life." The work has remained the most popular he ever wrote.

Tan's score for *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* won the Academy Award for Best Original Score. With its blending of Western and traditional Chinese styles and instruments with cello solos played by Yo-Yo Ma, it was a subtle but powerful evocation of the mystery and beauty of the story's exotic setting. Following the film's release in 2000, Tan re-worked several sequences from the score into a concerto for cello that

Ma premiered in London as the *Crouching Tiger Concerto*. Tan also created a version of the *Crouching Tiger Concerto* for erhu, which was first heard in 2001 in Irvine, California, with Karen Han as soloist. It is this version that the Colorado Symphony will perform.

The *Crouching Tiger Concerto* comprises five movements, threaded together with solo cadenzas, that are based on music from the score — *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon; Through the Bamboo Forest; Eternal Vow; To the South; and Farewell* — as well as one movement, titled *Silk Road: Encounters*, created for Ma's "Silk Road Project" of 1997 to 2000.

In addition to the score for *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, Tan is celebrated for his scores to 2002's *Hero* and 2006's *The Banquet*, as well as the operas *Marco Polo*, *Tea: A Mirror of Soul* and *The First Emperor*.

About Scott Yoo

After beginning his musical studies at age three, Scott Yoo performed Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto with the Boston Symphony at age 12. He received first prize in the 1988 Josef Gingold International Violin Competition, the 1989 Young Concert Artists International Auditions, and the 1994 Avery Fisher Career Grant. After graduating with honors from Harvard University, Yoo founded the Metamorphosen Chamber Orchestra, conducting the ensemble in its series at Jordan Hall in Boston, and more than ninety performances on tour.

Yoo has collaborated with eminent artists such as Sarah Chang, Edgar Meyer, Benita Valente and Dawn Upshaw. He is currently music director and principal conductor of the 39-year old Festival Mozaic, which presents more than 30 orchestral, choral and chamber music concerts and events each year on California's Central Coast. This year, Yoo makes his Carnegie Hall debut with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra and tours Europe with the Britten Symphonia and jazz pianist Brad Mehldau.

As a guest-conductor, Yoo has led the Dallas, Indianapolis, San Francisco and Utah Symphonies. He regularly conducts the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. He has also conducted the New World Symphony and the orchestras of Columbus, Hong Kong, Honolulu, Kansas City, Louisville, Winnipeg, Mexico City, Nashville and Phoenix. In Europe, he conducted the City of London Sinfonia, Orchestre de Bretagne, Odense Symphony and the Estonian National Symphony. He made his debut with the Seoul Philharmonic in 2007 and his debut with Yomiuri Nippon Orchestra in Tokyo in 2009.

A proponent of the music of our time, Yoo has premiered 59 works by 30 composers. With Metamorphosen, Yoo recorded Mark O'Connor's *American Seasons* for Sony Classical; John Harbison's chamber orchestra works with soprano Dawn Upshaw for Archetype, which was nominated for a 1999 National Public Radio Performance Today Award; and song cycles of Earl Kim with sopranos Benita Valente and Karol Bennett for New World, named a 2001 "Critics Choice" by *The New York Times*. His recent recording projects include complete orchestral works of Earl Kim with the RTE National Orchestra of Ireland for Naxos and works of Mozart and Elliott Carter for Bridge Records.

Yoo studied violin with Roman Totenberg, Albert Markov, Paul Kantor and Dorothy DeLay, and conducting with Michael Gilbert and Michael Tilson-Thomas.

About Betti Xiang

Acclaimed erhu virtuoso Betti Xiang has built a distinguished career performing with major orchestras around the world. In the United States, Xiang has performed with the Chicago Symphony under the baton of David Alan Miller, as well as the Albany Symphony and Florida Symphony Orchestra. Her extraordinary performances have graced well-known venues, including the Chicago Cultural Center, Fullerton Hall, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Hall, the Ravinia International Music Festival, Lincoln Center, the Kimmel Center, the Smithsonian Institute and the Rhode Island School of Design. Xiang's music has also been featured on National Public Radio and Chicago's WFMT.

Xiang performs with Yo-Yo Ma as a member of the Silk Road Ensemble and has collaborated with the Amelia Piano Trio, Lincoln String Quartet, Newberry Consort early music ensemble, and Cube Contemporary Chamber Ensemble. In 2005, she performed Tan Dun's *Crouching Tiger* for the inauguration of Chicago's Millennium Park with the Chicago Grant Park Orchestra.

In addition to her work with the Silk Road Ensemble, Xiang regularly performs with the Lincoln String Quartet, Amelia Piano Trio, Newberry Consort early music ensemble, Cube Contemporary Chamber Ensemble, Immigrant Orchestra, and at the Chicago Cultural Center. As Illinois World Ethnic Artist, Xiang has given erhu demonstrations at Chicago Northwestern University, Michigan University, DePaul University, Columbia College and Northeastern University.

Xiang was born in Shanghai, China, where her father, renowned erhu master Xiang Zuying, introduced her to the instrument. She debuted as an erhu soloist in 1981 with the Shanghai National Orchestra, with which she traveled worldwide and presented the premieres of numerous well-known Chinese composers, including Zhu Jianer, Jin Fuzai and Lu Pei. In 1986, she received the coveted Young Artists Award for outstanding solo artist in both Shanghai and Beijing. In 2006, she recorded an erhu solo CD of her late father's music, *Tunes of Countryside in Shanghai, China*.

Tickets: Remaining tickets currently start at \$19. Tickets are on sale now at www.coloradosymphony.org, the Colorado Symphony Box Office: (303) 623-7876 or (877) 292-7979 or in-person in the lobby of Boettcher Concert Hall in the Denver Performing Arts Complex. Hours are Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

About the Colorado Symphony

The state's only full-time professional orchestra, the Colorado Symphony embraces a tradition of musical excellence by presenting a diverse array of symphonic performances throughout the year. Originally established in 1989 as the successor to the Denver Symphony, the Colorado Symphony performs in Boettcher Concert Hall and throughout the Front Range, presenting outstanding education and outreach programs, as well as Masterworks, Pops, Holiday, Family, and the exciting new *Inside the Score* series that has attracted a historic level of first-time concertgoers. By presenting music that is both timeless and inspiring, while taking risks with new musical collaborations and interactive concerts, the Colorado Symphony is attracting more diverse and younger audiences than ever before. To date, 30 percent of the 2010/11 season concertgoers are new patrons. The increasing popularity of Colorado

Symphony concerts as well as a strong fund-raising base not only re-affirms the artistic excellence of the orchestra, but also reflects the deep-rooted enthusiasm for symphonic music felt by so many individuals across the region. For more information about the Colorado Symphony, visit

www.coloradosymphony.org.

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