



最精彩的华人演出 - 中国侨联“亲情中华”慰问艺术团在佛州傑城演出获巨大成功!

Extraordinary Performances in Jacksonville, Florida by Chinese Artists – A Remarkable Success of the “Embrace China” Goodwill Mission of the All-China Federation of Returned Overseas Chinese

“Her beauty, not meant to compete for spring’s favor, only serves as a messenger of the spring season. When brilliant wild blossoms burst, she’s smiling in the clumps.” (Ode to Plum Blossom)

The “Embrace China” Goodwill Mission of the All-China Federation of Returned Overseas Chinese, serving as a messenger of the spring just as plum blossoms would do, has brought season’s greetings and warmth of the early spring to the Chinese and other Asian communities and their American friends in the northern Florida region after their successful shows in the Northeast US region and Miami. According to the ancient customs in China, the New Year’s celebrations will not end until the 15th of the January of the lunar calendar passes. They traveled long and far during the holiday season to present performance shows to the friends in local communities and to mingle with them in order to happily celebrate the Lunar New Year together.

In the evening on February 25, 2010, Jacksonville Chinese Association (JCA) gave a welcome party at the riverfront Peninsula high-rise condo’s Apogee Club for the arrival of the “Embrace China” Goodwill Mission led by Mr. He, Jining. Overlooking the enchanting and picturesque night views of the “River City” of Jacksonville, the hosts and guests from the goodwill mission had an unforgettable time together. Beside exquisite dishes and wines, they had heart-to-heart conversations and several vocal artists from the visiting group sang their favorite songs. Some from the group gave impromptu speech to express their heart-felt feelings. They said that this opportunity to mingle with JCA and local friends is one of the best along their mission trip. Towards the end of the party, JCA presented the show and JCA T-shirts and video discs in memory of the 10th anniversary of the founding of JCA as gifts to all mission members.

While the Chinese community in Jacksonville is smaller in terms of population compared to those in other cosmopolitan cities in the US, their hospitality and sincerity for guests are in no way inferior. Even the way the Lunar New Year celebration is organized and presented is so unique because JCA as the host participated in the performance show as well. The star-spangled performance group of the goodwill mission brought on its own a visual and aural feast and it was enhanced by the performances by the dance troupe and the children’s dance group of JCA, plus the acrobatic shows by the Sino-Elite Group from Orlando. This cooperation has made our “Embrace China – 2010 North Florida Lunar New Year Gala Celebration” on February 26 all the more attractive with many more anticipated encores.

The gala celebration started with the arousing dance “Red-Hot Start of a New Year” by the JCA’s Dance Troupe. It was followed by the excellent singing and folk music and acrobatic shows by such award-winning performing artists including singers like Qiao Jun, Qin Ke-ren, Zhang Chen (who is dubbed “Little Song Zu-ying in China), Geng Wei-hua, Cao Fu-jia and instrument performance musician Li Xin and acrobats like Zhong Yan and those from Sino-Elite Group. The audience was tightly grasped by the performances and they gave loud applauds and children went up the stage to present flowers to the performers. Artists like Cheng Fang-yuan, Shi Zhan-ming and Chen Si-si were

apparently touched by the enthusiasm from the audience and gave several encores. The audience noticed that the goodwill mission was not only a first-class art group, but also a highly efficient team with all members, from the art director to performers and to the sound technician, working in unison for a common goal. Ms. Wu Jing, the "lark from military barracks," impressed the audience with her spectacular singing and her additional role as the emcee. Zhang Qi, the "Queen of the Art of Faces Changes," served as a stage technician together with Mr. Li Xin and others besides her stunning "face changing" magic. The gala celebration culminated in the splendid affectionate songs including "Paths of Beauty" by Chen Si-si, who is hailed as the "Number One Singer of the New-Style of Folk Songs" in China today and is well known at both sides of the Taiwan Strait. Her encore song "Tune of Dragon Boat", showing strong local styles in central China, formed a dialogue between the hundreds from the audience and the star.

At the end of the show, people streamed onto the stage to chat with and to congratulate the performers and took photos together. Mr. Yu Han-hua, Chairman of Board of Directors of Tampa Bay Chinese School, said that this celebration is certainly one of the best he ever experienced during his more than twenty years in the States. Mr. Yu Bo-ren, Deputy Consul General from the Chinese Consulate General in Huston, commented that this is by far the best performance show by Chinese artists and most touching interaction between the audience and the performers during his two and a half years' stint as a diplomat.

In her blog article she created during the goodwill mission's busy trip in the Washington D.C. area, Chen Si-si, the folk song star wrote, "Next, we will travel to more cities and to happily sing and to celebrate the Lunar New Year with more Chinese and American friends so as to convey our affections and love for our fellow Chinese and their friends as well." Affections and feelings for fellow Chinese and their friends, Lunar New Year celebration and homesickness, the indivisible unity among the Chinese the world over, have been the themes of the brilliant performances by the goodwill mission and their joint performers from the local areas. The message, resonating with the songs and applause, was reaching the farthest corners of the earth.

Surely, what they brought to us were not only superb performances, but also the spring breezes from the north frontiers of China and the spring drizzles that nurture the apricot-blossoms in the south; they brought to us the warmest greetings from our fatherland and the sincerest affections from our hometown fellows.

At this special occasion of the beginning of the New Year of Tiger, that arrived whistling in spring winds, let us sing together in honor of our native soils in the Devine Land and wish the best for our motherland that is peacefully rising in front of the world.

A big and heart-felt "Thank you" to the "Embrace China" Goodwill Mission of the All-China Federation of Returned Overseas Chinese!

Meanwhile, we express herein our deepest and sincerest gratitude for those JCA members, friends and sponsoring individuals and corporations for JCA whose selfless efforts and/or donations made this 2010 North Florida Lunar New Year Gala Celebration a tremendous success.

Finally, Happy Lanterns Festival of the Year of Tiger to you all!

Jacksonville Chinese Association

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(Reported by Mr. Jie Pan, Senior Staff Writer of JCA)