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Shared Journey for China-U.S. Friendship – Madame Peng Liyuan Attends China-U.S. Teenager Cultural and Sports Exchange Event

On the afternoon of September 24, 2024, Peng Liyuan, wife of President Xi Jinping, attended China-U.S. teenager cultural and sports exchange event entitled "Shared Journey for China-U.S. Friendship" at Beijing No.8 High School.

Madame Peng had a cordial interaction with the young delegation from Washington State. She welcomed the teachers and students to China, encouraging them to learn about and experience the country firsthand. She also expressed the hope for more mutual understanding and exchanges between teenagers from the two countries to inject positive energy into Sino-U.S. relations.

Peng Liyuan, along with the hosts and guests, watched a friendly basketball match between Chinese and U.S. teenagers. She presented commemorative medals to the players of both teams. The student cheerleading squads from both countries performed vibrant aerobics, earning rounds of applause from the audience.

Peng Liyuan watched a video of the delegation's visit to China. U.S. student representatives enthusiastically shared their unforgettable experiences and impressions of visits to multiple provinces and cities, learning about different ethnic customs and immersing themselves in China's rich cultural heritage. Logic Seven Allah-Amen, Assistant Principal of Lincoln High School, fondly recalled hosting President Xi Jinping and Madame Peng Liyuan on their visit to his school in 2015. He expressed sincere thanks to President Xi for his interest in and support of exchanges between the teenagers of both countries and indicated his readiness to actively contribute to closer bonds between the two peoples.

Noting that the packed visit had helped forge a

deep friendship between the teenagers of the two countries, Peng Liyuan expressed the belief that the visit would leave a beautiful memory in their hearts. As the future of China-U.S. relations lies in the youth, Peng Liyuan expressed her hope for members of the delegation to share the experiences and insights about China with their families, friends, and schoolmates upon returning to their homeland, pass on the friendly sentiments of the Chinese people, and keep the tree of friendship between Chinese and U.S. peoples blossoming and bearing fruit.

The event ended with the Chinese and American teenagers singing Chinese and English songs in unison and a group photo taken with Peng Liyuan in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

In November 2023, President Xi Jinping announced in San Francisco, the United States the initiative to "invite 50,000 young Americans to China on exchange and study programs in the next five years". Nearly 100 teachers and students from more than 10 high schools in Washington State participated in this visit at the invitation of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC).

Experience China 2024 • Yeah-CHN Global Talent Development Program Concludes

From September 12 to 23, 2024, the Experience China 2024 • Yeah-CHN Global Talent Development Program was successfully held in Chengdu, China. Invited to the event were nearly 70 students from prestigious universities in the U.S., the UK, Australia and New Zealand for cultural exchanges in China. The program featured five key components: Yeah-Sport (University Rowing), Yeah-Culture (Cultural Perception), Yeah-Academic (Academic Exchange), Yeah-Talk (Youth Dialogue), and Yeah-Envoys (Cultural

Ambassadors). It provided a platform for interaction between young people from China and Western countries, allowing young international talents to experience the charm of Chinese culture and experience China's vibrant modern development firsthand.

From September 12 to 17, the 11th International Universities Rowing Race was successfully held. Young athletes from 12 world-class universities including University of Oxford, University of Cambridge, Harvard University, Yale University, the University of Sydney and the University of Auckland competed alongside students from top Chinese universities such as Tsinghua and Peking University. The contest was held in a spirit of "friendship first, competition for exchanges", demonstrating the competitive and enterprising spirit of young people in sports. It effectively promoted international friendship among youth through sportsmanship.



September 18 was Cultural Perception Day. The youth visitors from overseas learned about Sichuan's history and culture by trying their hands at Sichuan cuisine and visiting Sanxingdui Museum. At the Youyun • Luhui 1911 Sichuan Cuisine Experience Hall, Mr. Zhang Fugui, a leading master in Sichuan cuisine and inheritor of intangible cultural heritage, introduced the unique flavor of Sichuan cuisine: "freshness, spiciness, a variety of tastes and strong adaptability". He emphasized its diversity and adaptability, encapsulated in the description that "one flavor blends and

a hundred flavors emerge." Following the introduction, the students practiced making Sichuan-style broad bean paste and cooking the iconic Kung Pao Chicken.

On the afternoon visit to Sanxingdui Museum, they were awe-struck by the cultural treasures on display, including the Sanxingdui culture relics of over 2,000 years ago, the bronze holy tree and the golden mask. In their interviews, many participants said that the visit to the museum, with its exhibits ranging from the golden mask to the bronze figurine sculptures, from archaeological sites to restored ancient sacrificial scenes, left them with a deep impression. They hoped that their personal experience could help more people understand and appreciate the unique charm of Chinese culture.



On September 19, Academic Exchange Day, the Chinese and international youth strolled along the central cultural axis of Southwest Jiaotong University. As they passed by the iconic campus landmarks, they gained deeper insights into the university's rich history and culture, while experiencing its distinctive academic spirit. They were shown the Transportation Equipment Model Lab, Integrated Railway Hub Lab, High Voltage Lab, and Robotics and Artificial Intelligence Lab and met by the respective research teams. The international students were full of praise for China's advancements in science and technology and were particularly impressed with the country's progress in transportation technology. Davids Abrahams, an Oxford student, said in his

speech, "What impresses me the most about Southwest Jiaotong University is its tremendous contributions to high-speed rail technology. China's high-speed trains are fast and steady."

Following the visits, the students engaged in in-depth discussions with their counterparts from the Leeds College of Southwest Jiaotong University, exchanging experiences about their studies and daily lives. Together, the Chinese and international youth recited the classic Chinese poem "Shui Diao Ge Tou" (Prelude to Water Melody). After experiencing Chinese culture firsthand, they parted ways with reluctance.

September 20 was Youth Exchange Day. On their visit to Chengdu Shengfei School and Chengdu Shude Middle School, the international students visited the campuses and classrooms of Chinese students, gaining insights into their learning environment and academic culture. The students of these two schools listened attentively to the undergraduate students from University of Oxford, Imperial College London, the University of Sydney, Harvard University and Yale University, who gave thematic presentations on "Pursing One's Dream," "My University Life", and "The Role of Sports in Learning." This gave the Chinese students more exposure to the life, study and learning approaches at foreign universities. Later, students from both Chinese schools engaged in deeper interactions and exchanges with the visiting students through a series of Chinese cultural activities.



On September 21, Community Culture Experience Day, the international students went to Luhuhu Community in Chengdu. They joined the residents in the Luhuhu • Fishing Harvest Festival, watched both water and land parades as well as a family comedy festival, and immersed in their diverse and ritualistic community culture. The visitors said that this was the first time for them to enter a Chinese community and witness the difference between Chinese and foreign community cultures. The words "warm" and "lively" were most frequently mentioned by the students in their reflections.



September 22-23 were Chinese Family Culture Experience Days. The young students were invited into Chinese homes to spend the weekend with the families of youth cultural ambassadors. Living the life of a "local" Chengdu resident gave the international students a taste of the relaxing and leisurely lifestyle known in the local dialect as "bashi" (comfy) and "haoshua" (great fun). Through the exchanges, the Chinese and international students forged deep ties of friendship. The international students enthusiastically invited their Chinese counterparts to visit their homes abroad.

The Experience China 2024 • Yeah-CHN Global Talent Development Program came to a successful close. The exchanges between youth from different parts of the world play a vital role in fostering people-to-people connections between China and other countries. Only by pooling their collective wisdom can young people around the world play an important role in building a community with a shared future for mankind.

Payment without Borders – U.S. Students Enjoy Mid-Autumn Festivities in China

After its arrival at a Miao Village at Qianhu, Xijiang, members of an 80-strong delegation from Washington State wandered among the charmingly staggered village houses with a simple, authentic nature. They dived into the local culture like crafting batik, enjoyed the primitive performance of "Mystical Miao Land", and joined the local Miaos in a spirited Tuan Jie Wu (Unity Dance). The unique charm of Miao culture left an indelible impression on the visitors.



The delegates couldn't resist the allure of local specialities at Miao Village. From handcrafted silver jewelry and authentic Miao delicacies to village photos and postcards, they eagerly swiped cards or paid in cash. "Buying postcards with my credit card was super-fast and easy," said Troy Collier, a Chinese culture enthusiast. He was planning to take home some silver accessories for his family.



Anthony Norbert Jefferson was wowed by the convenience of China's payment systems. "You can withdraw cash from ATMs using foreign

cards. It's so convenient!" he exclaimed. He used his freshly withdrawn yuan to snag some souvenirs for friends back home.



Zoe Brianna Birchfield remarked, "As an American who's visiting China for the first time, when I read the brochure, I knew I could use UnionPay, Visa, MasterCard, or mobile payment at the Miao village at Xijiang Qianhu Miao Village. Super convenient! Besides, there's a currency exchange right by the ticket counter. They even gave us small bills in different denominations, which made paying around the area so much easier. It's awesome!"

On September 17, the day of the Mid-Autumn Festival, the delegation headed to Taijiang County where they learned to play the lusheng (a traditional Miao instrument), joined in the exhilarating wooden drum dance, and cooked the local sour fish soup in addition to savoring mooncakes. They also joined a spirited U.S.-China friendship match organized by VBA - the Village Basketball Association and felt the electrifying charm of rural basketball in China. "I love Chinese villages and the culture here. There are surprises around every corner," said high schooler Calicano Manasseh Adams. "This China trip is so cool."

Jadin Sun Hook from Washington State, who participated in the "Aunties' Basketball Game", was thrilled by the experience, "The rules were entirely different from what we have back home, but it was great fun and an unforgettable experience. The crowd were full of enthusiasm. I really enjoyed the atmosphere."



Building Bridges & Shaping the Future: U.S.-China Youth Exchange at Shanghai University

Answering President Xi Jinping's vision for an exchange of 50,000 youth over five years, Shanghai University hosted a U.S.-China youth short-term exchange program from September 23 to 27. The event attracted 79 students from prestigious U.S. institutions of high learning such as Yale, Princeton and the University of Denver.



As the event host, Shanghai University's International Education College designed an array of dynamic activities. The students started by visiting the Oriental Pearl Tower - the city's iconic structure, followed by a cruise along the Huangpu River, basking in the unique metropolitan charm. At Shanghai Urban Planning Exhibition Hall, they gained insight into the city's forward-thinking development concept, layout and remarkable achievements.

In Sanlin community, Pudong District, the students explored China's daily urban life - the residential setup, culture and recreation, public amenities, etc. - direct impressions gained beyond textbooks and media narratives. This enabled a deeper dive into different segments of a Chinese city - its lifestyle, social structure, and cultural traditions.

The cultural exploration took them to Huang Daopo Memorial Hall on a journey of exploration for China's time-honored, glorious loong culture, ancient textile artistry, and plant-dyeing techniques.

Corporate visits to Giant Network and SAIC General Motors unveiled Shanghai's business environment and the international business operation model of enterprises. Engaging with Dr. Wang Jing, VP for Public Policy and Government Affairs at General, they deeply felt the vitality of the booming Chinese automotive industry.



Strolling along the old streets near Chenghuang Miao (City God Temple), the students marveled at the collision and fusion of Shanghai's tradition and modernity. A visit to Liuyuan Garden revealed the timeless charm unique to Jiangnan classical gardens. A highlight of the visit was the personal interactions with master artisans at Suzhou Embroidery Research Institute, where the visitors learned about silk's origin, evolution, production craftsmanship and historical significance. The masters' tales captivated the students, leaving them spellbound.



During his U.S. visit in November 2023, President Xi Jinping announced an important initiative of inviting 50,000 young Americans to China for exchange and study over the next five years. In a speech at a welcome dinner hosted by friendly organizations in the United States, the Chinese president pointed out: The hope for U.S.-China relations lies with the peoples; the foundation, in civil society; the future, in the youth, and the vitality, in local communities. The "Young Envoys Scholarship" (YES) programs are designed to offer more opportunities for mutual learning and understanding between students, allowing international students to get an image of China that is real, multidimensional and comprehensive, to build a bridge of friendship for cultural exchanges, and to build in concert a brighter future.

Harmonious Chorus on Shenzhen Campus Flies across the Pacific

*Oh, Jasmine Flower, so fair and pure....
Echo the soulful strains of Mo Li Hua
As U.S. and Chinese students gather,
Building a bridge of friendship with music.
Listen, their harmonic voice is so sincere
and beautiful!*



Recently, 45 students from the New York Youth Choir joined their Shenzhen counterparts in a series of activities, connected by music as a bridge. To mark the 45th anniversary of U.S.-China diplomatic ties, the visiting students started a trans-Pacific journey of cultural and artistic exchanges.

On the campus of Shenzhen Senior High School Group, the air was filled with melodies, applause, and cheers. The Lily Choir and Zicheng Boys Choir joined voices with their New York peers, singing the Chinese folk song Mo Li Hua, their hearts connected through every note.



Shenzhen Senior High School Choir welcomed the American guests with a performance that featured local musical traditions. The singers' natural, warm, and dynamic voices showed the energy and vitality of Shenzhen's youth.

The Lily Choir's renditions of Zijin based on lyric from ancient class The Book of Poetry and Yunnan's Bulang Blessing Song celebrated China's rich poetic and folk heritage. The Zicheng Boys Choir's soft and mellow voices in the sincere presentation of You Who Sat Next to Me struck an emotional chord with all present.



For its part, the New York Youth Choir delivered dynamic songs in Broadway style, lively and energetic. When they closed with the Italian classic Funiculì Funiculà, other members of the choirs chipped in, closely united with each other through the blending of their cultures.

"Our kids in the choir are all very excited and have enjoyed this trip. I believe the profound friendships they forge in their younger days will continue to blossom and bear fruit in the future," said Francisco J. Núñez, the choir's artistic director. He added: music is the most beautiful language – it connects different cultures through friendly exchanges and transmits our mutual blessings.



More importantly, the Chinese and American students became friends with the aid of music through this event. They left words of blessing on postcards. The joyful singing continued from the stage to the campus and beyond. During lunch in the school canteen, the students enjoyed local delicacies amid laughter and lively conversation about their studies and lives.

When the music broadcast started in the canteen, their enthusiasm was ignited and they spontaneously sang a medley of songs in unison. The contact and exchange between the young students of the two countries in a relaxing and cheerful atmosphere contributed to a deeper understanding of each other's culture and lifestyle, further strengthening their friendship.

Libby from the New York Youth Choir reflected, "Shenzhen is a beautiful city and the weather is great! This musical exchange we had and the experience of this wonderful city have all been amazing. I hope to make more Chinese friends and learn more about their culture."



Juilliard415 Embarks on Maiden Performance Tour in China

From October 11–15, 2024, Juilliard415, an ensemble of Juilliard's Historical Performance program, made its maiden visit to the Tianjin Juilliard School for performances and academic exchanges. The ensemble's inaugural concert in China was staged at the school's concert hall, followed by a tour of Beijing, Nanjing, Suzhou, and Shanghai. This marks the first China tour by Juilliard415 and the second student ensemble China tour from the Juilliard School in New York since its first in 2008. While in Tianjin, the ensemble members also participated in the "Exploring Tianjin" cultural exchange event, visited Italian Street, Zhongshuge bookstore which is hailed as "the most beautiful bookstore in China." They also tasted Tianjin's signature cuisine and took a scenic Haihe River cruise, seeing and feeling the city's blend of Eastern and Western influences.



► Reviving Baroque Music Through Closer Collaboration Between Two Juilliards

The China tour began with the sound of gut-string violins, clavichords, harpsichords, etc., filling Tianjin Juilliard Concert Hall with the timeless melodies of Baroque masters.

Founded in 2009, Juilliard415 is a large ensemble within Juilliard's Historical Performance Department. Robert Mealy, the department's director, shared, "We hope to recreate the original soundscapes of Baroque music by playing the instruments that composers of the era used. It's thrilling to bring the music of Bach, Handel and other Baroque music masters to the Chinese audiences in our Tianjin stop."

As part of Tianjin Juilliard's fifth anniversary celebrations, Juilliard415 would also offer master classes for pre-college students, orchestral workshops for graduate students, and joint rehearsals with the Tianjin Juilliard Orchestra.

Nathan Mondry, a graduate student of Juilliard Historical Performance majoring in harpsichord performance, shared his enthusiasm: "The harpsichord is a precursor to the modern piano. I'm happy to have brought it with me to perform in China. Tianjin Juilliard has state-of-the-art practice rooms. In both the master classes and exchanges with the students, I have been having a good time. This tour will be a memorable part of my musical career."

Wei He, CEO and Artistic Director of the Tianjin Juilliard School, emphasized that since its inception, the school has remained committed to promoting world-class music locally and serving as a vital cultural bridge between China and the United States. The visit and performance of Juilliard415 represented another important step by Tianjin Juilliard to advance classical music education and foster cultural exchanges.

"The tickets for Juilliard415's concert sold

out just now, which shows the interest and welcome of the local audience." He added, "In the ensemble's exchange with Tianjin Juilliard students, they would discuss many of the historical performance techniques. This would be inspirational to the latter's performance of modern music. This visit also exposed them to an authentic Juilliard music education experience." "Next," Wei He added, "the collaboration between Tianjin Juilliard and New York Juilliard will be stepped up further, with a plan for Tianjin Juilliard's resident faculty to travel to the New York campus for guest teaching and performances, culminating in a joint faculty concert planned for January 2025."



► Exploring Tianjin's Charm: Music as a Cultural Bridge

During Juilliard415's visit to Tianjin, in addition to their performing and academic engagements, the members also took part in the "Exploring Tianjin" program. The city's unique culinary delights and scenic beauty left a lasting impression on the ensemble members.

Ariel Walton, a bass graduate student at Juilliard's Historical Performance Department, developed a special fondness for Chinese cuisine: "Hotpot has always been my favorite, but little did I know that in Tianjin I got to try the famous Goubuli steamed buns and even learned to make them myself. It was most interesting and such a unique experience that I

also want to try it at home back in the States."

The Haihe River shimmered with colors against the evening lights, offering a captivating view. Members of the Juilliard415 Historical Performance Ensemble eagerly boarded a river cruise, capturing photos of the dazzling nightscape along the illuminated banks. Annemarie Schubert, a violin graduate major at Juilliard's Historical Performance Department, headed straight to the deck as soon as she boarded the boat, determined not to miss a single view. She told the reporter, "Tianjin's night views are breathtaking. The city has left a deep impression on me and I can't wait to share this experience with my friends back home."

What deserves special mention is the fact that at Zhongshuge bookstore, Joseph W. Polisi, Juilliard's President Emeritus and Chief China Officer, picked out some Chinese books for his grandson who is studying the language in high school. "Before coming to China, I promised my grandson a meaningful gift. I'm thrilled to have found these suitable gifts at Zhongshuge."

In Joseph W. Polisi's view, Juilliard415's maiden performing tour in China will be a historic artistic milestone: "As I have been saying all along, music is a bridge that transcends borders and connects hearts. Everything we do is collaboration and exchange in nature. We will continue to use music to foster connections between cultures."

Discovering China, Exploring Hebei: Shijiazhuang University Hosts San Francisco Youth Envoys

From October 16 to 22, a group of 24 students and teachers from universities and high schools in San Francisco visited China at the invitation of Shijiazhuang University and Shijiazhuang Brain Sports Association. In Xiong'an New Area and Shijiazhuang, they

participated in a series of events, including an educational exchange and an international brain sports competition respectively.



► Exploring Hebei and Entering Xiong'an

On the morning of the 17th, Xiong'an Ronghe Yuerong Elementary School hosted a brain sport event involving youth from China and the United States. Students from U.S. schools and colleges, including John C. Fremont High School, Pinole Valley High School, Franklin High School, De Anza High School, the University of San Francisco, California State University, San José State University, and East Los Angeles College, were gathering with local elementary school students to view demonstrations of three classic brain sports events, i.e., digital project training, fast poker, and modern Chinese dictionary.

Shijiazhuang University brought the song *Mother is China* and the bamboo flute piece *New Song of the Herdsmen*. Ronghe Yuerong Elementary School welcomed the guests with a traditional Chinese music ensemble called "Double-sided Yan Xun" and a play named "Tell the Chinese story in English". These activities created a joyful atmosphere for exchanges, fostering mutual learning, understanding, and friendship between Chinese and American youth. The event concluded with the groups planting a tree together as a symbol of Sino-U.S. friendship.



► Building Friendship Through Competition

From October 18 to 19, the First International Brain Sports Open Competition hosted by Shijiazhuang University brought together over 500 participants from more than 10 countries including China, the United States, Malaysia, and Thailand. The event featured three age-based divisions-children, teenagers, and adults-competing across seven categories: random vocabulary, random numbers, virtual history, rapid numbers, fast poker, auditory memory of numbers, and name-face association. Winners were crowned in seven individual categories and three group divisions with the top three overall titles. Bright minds from around the globe pit their wits against each other in a friendly competition and interaction.



► Cultural Exchange: Learning and Growing Together

During the event, Shijiazhuang University also hosted a soiree under the theme of "Knowing

and Doing in Hebei - Mutual Learning among Civilizations". The young enthusiastic interaction with the audience and push the evening to a crescendo.



On the 20th, the American youth delegation was invited to explore Shijiazhuang University's history museum and art gallery, where they admired classical Chinese landscape paintings and learned the delicate techniques of ink painting. Experimenting with varying ink tones and brushstrokes, they created pieces depicting plum blossoms, bamboo, distant mountains and lotus leaves which portrayed the spirit of Chinese aesthetics and the experienced firsthand the special meaning of form-essence joint representation in traditional Chinese art.

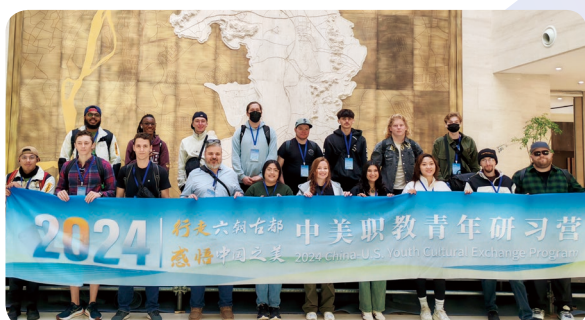


On the 21st, the school hosted a symposium to conclude this China-U.S. exchange program. Joseph Kong, head of the American delegation, expressed gratitude to Shijiazhuang University and praised the innovative and engaging approach of fostering friendship through

a brain sports competition. He expressed the hope for even greater collaboration through diverse exchange programs including competitions. After that, the delegation visited local landmarks such as Hebei Museum, Zhengding Ancient City, and Rongguo Mansion, all featuring the cultural heritage of Shijiazhuang. They also paid a courtesy visit to renowned calligrapher Xu Wanshun and tried the traditional Zhengding cuisine, Ba Da Wan (which can be literally translated as Eight Big Bowls). Then, they proceeded to Beijing where they explored the majestic Great Wall at Badaling and toured the iconic Tiananmen Square where they viewed the bustling Qianmen Street from afar, marveling at the blend of China's long history and modern civilization.

This event series spanned Beijing, Xiong'an New Area, and Shijiazhuang, providing American youth with an invaluable platform to discover China and explore Hebei. It served as a bridge of friendship, fostering mutual understanding and cultural exchanges between the Chinese and American youth. It was also a specific initiative for deepening educational cooperation between the two countries and broadening avenues for cross-cultural interaction.

Appreciating the Beauty of China in Its Ancient Capital – the 2024 China-U.S. Vocational Education Youth Study Camp in Nanjing



Nanjing Vocational University of Industry Technology hosted the 2024 China-U.S. Youth Cultural Exchange Program from October 19 to 26. A group of 22 faculty members and students from Bates Technical College in the U.S. and their counterparts from the host university participated in the camp activities.

Under the theme "Exploring the Ancient Capital of Six Dynasties, Experiencing the Beauty of China", the camp this year had as its primary goal strengthening student exchanges between Chinese and American vocational institutions and enhancing American students' understanding of and identification with Chinese society and culture. By exploring the in-depth the urban historical and cultural heritage of Nanjing - the ancient capital of six dynasties - and pulling quality resources from various parties, the host university designed a series of activities around two themes: "traditional Chinese history and culture" and "China's experience in vocational education".

The lectures on Chinese language and cultures helped acquaint the American students with the formation of Chinese characters, language, and culture. Through on-site visits to and the study of historical and cultural landmarks such as the Nanjing City Wall, Nanjing City Wall Museum, Lao Men Dong, the Imperial Examination Museum of China, and Nanjing Construction Planning Exhibition Hall, the campers gained a deep understanding of the historical and cultural evolution of Nanjing, experienced the unique characteristics of local architecture and residential life, and felt the city's cultural charm.

By visiting the studios of Nanjing's intangible cultural heritage masters in fields such as Nanjing Yunjin Brocade (cloud pattern brocade), Guqin (Chinese zither), and Jinling bamboo carving, and participating in vocational workshops focused on traditional Chinese

arts like lacquer fans, calligraphy, calligraphy and painting, paper cutting, and porcelain, the visitors experienced the rich diversity of Chinese art and culture while improving their vocational skills and hands-on abilities. By tasting Nanjing's local delicacies, trying hot pot dining, making dumplings, and having conversation with local residents, the teachers and students alike in the camp learned about traditional Chinese culture in a comprehensive, multi-dimensional, and in-depth manner. The diverse exchange activities for Chinese and American students that included an icebreaker session, talent show, lawn concert, and artistic practices provided ample opportunities for the participants to interact and exchange ideas, fostering personal growth together and increasing skills and competence through practice.



Promoting Chinese culture and sharing China's story. The study camp presented a China that is real and live to the American participants through language and culture lectures, visits to traditional architectural landmarks, vocational workshops, and cultural experiences. Malakai Vasquez, a camp student, expressed his fascination with China's rich history and cultural heritage, noting that his

visit to the Ming Dynasty City Wall left him with a profound impression. He shared his intention to recount his experiences to family and friends upon returning to the U.S., hoping that more American students would study and engage in exchanges in China. The camp helped plant a seed of love for China among the faculty and students, sparking a deeper interest in Chinese society and culture, paving the way for enriched cross-cultural dialogue and interaction.

Building bridges and enhancing cultural exchange. The camp served as a bridge for communication between Sino-U.S. vocational institutions and fostered bilateral cultural exchanges and mutual understanding. Through interactions, the students and faculty of both countries gained deeper insights into each other's culture, educational system, and societal development. They also developed a more objective and genuine understanding of one another, strengthened friendship, deepened mutual trust, and developed profound emotional connections. Justice Palomo Peredo said, "This was my first visit to China and it has been a valuable life experience. After arriving here, I got a deeper understanding of Chinese culture and was amazed by the rapid development of China's technological innovation. I hope this exchange will strengthen the friendship between Chinese and American students and lead to lasting connections."



In a thank-you letter sent after the conclusion of the camp program, Dr. Lin Zhou, President of Bates Technical College, praised the meticulous planning and seamless organization which had provided an unforgettable learning experience for all participants. She continued, "This exchange between American and Chinese vocational students will also leave a lasting and profound impact on the entire Bates Technical College community." The study camp has significantly expanded the platform for communication and cooperation between Chinese and American vocational institutions, fostering their collaboration in vocational education.

China-U.S. Youth Exchange Camp in Zhejiang



From October 20 to 26, eleven students from the University of Notre Dame participated in a week-long cultural exchange program at Zhejiang University of Finance and Economics (ZUFE). Together with their Chinese peers, they explored the countryside, entered enterprises, and visited museums, learning about the beauty of Zhejiang Province and appreciating China's traditional culture alongside its modern civilization.

At the China National Silk Museum, the students learned about the ancient stories of Leizu raising silkworms and the Goddess of Silkworm, watched a animated film about

traditional silk-making processes, and admired the exquisite silk garments. At the China National Tea Museum, they explored tea history, watched the tea ceremony, and savored fragrant brews. China's 2,000-year-old tea culture was at their fingertips. At Xixi Wetland, the Chinese and U.S. students learned Baduanjin (Eight Silken Brocades), a traditional form of Chinese Qigong, under the guidance of an instructor at the cultural exchange center. In this exercise, deep breaths followed slow and gentle body movement while the mind followed one's breathing, leaving beautiful snapshots of the moment.



At Qingshan Village in Yuhang, the exchange camp participants visited the Rong Design Library, a rammed-earth school, and Longwu Reservoir. The ecological civilization, green development, the integration of traditional culture with modern art, and the rural villages embracing dynamic markets all left a strong impression on them, sparking both emotional resonance and intellectual reflection. In the intangible cultural heritage bamboo-weaving workshop, the students together crafted exquisite bamboo art pieces. From raw bamboo and thin strips to bamboo products each varied in shape and function, these creations were not so much traditional handicrafts as artistic expressions blending modern creativity with heritage. The students cherished their handmade works and were taking them home as souvenirs.



The lectures on China's economy, interactive Chinese language classes, and cultural immersion activities, ranging from inspiration to the mind and exchanges through practice to linguistic and cultural experience, told China's stories and transmitted a Chinese voice to American students in a way that was subtle yet profound, silent but louder than voice.

American student Miranda said that the trip to ZUFE was different and unforgettable as it gave her opportunities to a real China with its beautiful countryside, unique culture, and friendly interaction that were all unforgettable. She said that, given the chance, she would love to return to China.

Philadelphia Orchestra Relaunches Epic Tour in China to Renew Half a Century of Sino-U.S. Friendship



Xinhua News Agency: Performance of Philadelphia Orchestra in Beijing on October 31
(Courtesy of the National Centre for the Performing Arts)

On October 31, the Philadelphia Orchestra, which first visited China in 1973 as "Orchestral

Ambassadors", presented a premiere at Beijing's National Centre for the Performing Arts in full force, marking the start of what the Orchestra described as its second epic tour of China.

Half a century earlier, Philadelphia Orchestra made its maiden China tour, which made it the first U.S. orchestra ever to visit China after the founding of the new republic, initiated an "ice-breaking journey" of cultural exchanges. Matias Tarnopolsky, the Orchestra's President and CEO who was leading this visit, remarked, "This tour is launching the second 50 years of our friendship with China. We deeply value the friendship that has been kept over generations."

Coinciding with the 45th anniversary of U.S.-China diplomatic relations, the Orchestra staged nine concerts between October 31 and November 10 in Beijing, Tianjin, Chengdu, and Haikou, with first-time visits to the latter two cities.

Described as an active "cultural envoy" by Chinese and U.S. leaders, the Orchestra shoulders an important responsibility in bridging the two countries.

Matias mentioned that the fact that over 100 of the Orchestra's members participated in this China tour was very important for people-to-people exchanges between the U.S. and China as it was conducive to reinforcing understanding and connections between the two cultures.



The inaugural concert on October 31 featured beloved pieces like The Overture to the Barber of Seville under the baton of Principal Guest Conductor Marin Alsop. The 2,000-capacity concert hall reverberated with musical tunes that alternated between low softness and exuberant, sprightly pace.

Matias added, the Orchestra would incorporate many Chinese elements into its subsequent performances by bringing Chinese audiences works inspired by ancient Chinese poems and composed by artists from all over the world. Renowned pipa player Wu Man was also slated to perform with the Orchestra later. In the concert scheduled for Beijing on November 2, the Orchestra would present the piece Spring Moonlight on the Flowers by the River, which is based on a Tang poem. Matias said: "This will be a world premiere of this piece and a gift from the Orchestra to the Chinese audiences."

This was the 14th visit by the Philadelphia Orchestra to China for performance and exchanges, writing a chapter of friendship that has spanned generations.



Violinist David Booth, who performed during the 1973 maiden tour, has not missed a single visit ever since. He made many Chinese friends through his performances and has remained in touch with them to date.

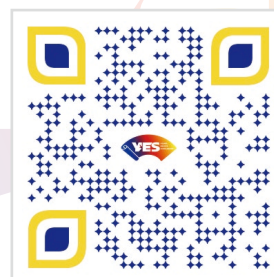
"While we have performed worldwide, no country has allowed us to develop such a

close and enduring relationship as China," he remarked.

Professor Wang Yiwei from the School of International Relations, Renmin University of China commented, "This tour echoes the historical memories of Sino-U.S. friendship, proving that the strength of this relationship lies in people-to-people connections, China-US cultural exchanges have great potential." He added, "Amity between people holds the key to sound state-to-state relations while affinity lies in mutual understanding between people. Music transcends time and space, fostering mutual understanding". Quoting a Chinese saying: "When kindred spirits meet, mountains and streams resonate," Wang ended his comment by saying, "The Chinese and American people should become close friends."

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