

THÉÂTRE LYRICHORÉGRA 20 IN CHINA

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HISTORY

It was in 1991 that Mr. Alain Nonat, the General and Artistic Manager of Theatre Lyrichoregra 20, first made contact with the Chinese delegate at the first Universal Arts Convention in Sofia, Bulgaria where he represented Canada as a member of the International Executive Committee.

A few years later, this newly forged relationship made it possible for Mr. Nonat to establish contact with the cultural councilor of the Chinese Embassy in Ottawa, who arranged a first visit to China in 2004 where Mr. Nonat gave French lyric repertory interpretation master classes in two musical institutions, one of which was the Beijing Central Music Conservatory.

During his first stay in Beijing, Mr. Nonat established contact with the directors of the Chinese Musician's Association and proposed to hold a Chinese national audition within a *JeunesAmbassadeurs Lyriques* (Young Lyric Ambassadors) program.

2005

The first national audition of the Chinese Young Lyric Ambassadors was held in April 2005. Theatre Lyrichoregra 20 formed an international selection committee composed of: Danuta Dubois, Chief Music Inspector from the Ministry of Culture (France), Christian Mihailescu, General Manager of the Brasov Opera (Romania) and Alain Nonat, General and Artistic Manager of Theatre Lyrichoregra 20 (Canada).

Auditions, preceded by master classes given by Mr. Mihailescu and Mr. Nonat, were held in Beijing. The result was that two laureates were invited for concerts in Montreal, two more were hired by the Brasov Opera in Romania to sing leading parts in two productions and others were sent to participate in European competitions.

In December 2005, Theatre Lyrichoregra 20 proposed the creation of the International Lyric Center of Chengdu to the Sichuan Music Conservatory. In order to promote the French lyric art, and in collaboration with Professor Zhu Qing Lacombe, we staged *Carmen*, an opera by Bizet with performances given by the students and teachers of the conservatory.

A Quebec tenor was invited for one of the leading roles, and other soloists were invited. Mr. Nonat acted as stage manager and the orchestra was directed by Jacques Blanc of the Bordeaux Opera of France. This project lasted for one month.



Beijing 2005

2006

In 2006, following the favourable results of these first auditions which made it possible to send laureates to successfully participate in international competitions in Europe, Theatre Lyrichoregra 20 organized a second series of auditions to take place in Beijing and Chengdu. The international selection committee named by Theatre Lyrichoregra 20 reunited Mr. Mihailescu and Mr. Nonat to which it added Mr. Norbert Klein of the Gelsenkirchen Opera (Germany).

Master classes were also held in Beijing, Chengdu and Shanghai by Mr. Mihailescu and Mr. Nonat. Once again, two laureates were invited to sing in concerts in Montreal and others were sent to Europe.

2007

The third audition of the Chinese Young Lyric Ambassadors program was held in Beijing in April 2007. The members of the international selection committee were Mr. Mihailescu, Mr. Nonat and Mr. James Wright, General Manager of Opera Vancouver (Canada).

Many laureates were sent to European international competitions and subsequently won prizes and training courses. Two laureates were invited to come to Montreal to perform.

2008

The fourth national audition of the Chinese Young Lyric Ambassadors program was organized in April 2008 in collaboration with the Mianyang Branch of the Sichuan Music Conservatory and our partner, the International Lyric Center of Chengdu.

The international selection committee was made up of Mr. Nonat, Mrs. Jean MacPhail of the Royal Music Conservatory of Toronto (Canada) and Mr. Hans Nieuwenhuis, General and Artistic Manager of the Amsterdam Nederland Opera Studio (Holland).

For this fourth audition, the Royal Music Conservatory of Toronto, a new partner to our China program, has donated three 2-year study bursaries evaluated at \$35,000.00 each.

2009

The fifth national audition of the Chinese Young Lyric Ambassadors program was organized in April 2009 in the Chengdu Music Conservatory with the collaboration of the China Schola Cantorum. The international selection committee was made up Mr. Nonat, Hans Nieuwenhuis, Zhu Qing Lacombe, and Henri Maier, Director of Opera events, Germany.

PARTNERS OF THE CHINESE YOUNG LYRIC AMBASSADORS PROGRAM

Since 2005, Theatre Lyrichoregra 20 has obtained the collaboration of many international partners for its Canadian program.

In China

Chinese Musicians Association- Main partner
Beijing Central Music Conservatory, Sichuan Music Conservatory in Chengdu,
International Lyric Centre of Chengdu and Professors of the Shanghai Music Conservatory.

In Canada

Royal Conservatory of Music of Toronto,
Opera de Quebec and Opera Vancouver.

In Europe

International Competition Hans Gabor of Belvedere, Vienna, Austria,
Concours international de chant de Marmande, France,
Spazio Musical International Singing Competition of Orvieto, Italy,
Julian Guyarre International Singing Competition, Spain,
Academie Maurice Ravel,
Brasov Opera, Romania,
Gelsenkirchen Opera, Germany,
Academie internationale la Roche d'Hys, France,
Association Francis Poulenc, France,
and Nederland Opera Studio, Holland.

MUSICAL INSTITUTIONS FROM WHICH COME THE CANDIDATES FOR THE CHINESE PROGRAM

Xinghai Conservatory of Music, Sichuan Music Conservatory, Southwest University for Nationalities, Sichuan Normal University, Shanghai Conservatory of Music, Herbin Opera House, Zhejiang Vocational Academy of Art, China National Opera & Dance Drama Company, Shanghai Huiluo Art School, Shanghai Xinku School, Shanxi University, Renmin University of China, Tianjin Conservatory of Music, Central Conservatory of Music of Beijing, PLA Political Dept. Song & Drama Ensemble, Guangzhou Opera Institute, Shenyang Conservatory of Music, Jilin Yanbian University China Conservatory of Music, Xi'an Conservatory of Music, Shenzhen Musician's Association, Guizhou Tongren Teachers' College, Air Force Art Troupe, Shanghai Opera House, Herbei Symphony Orchestra, College of Art Xiamen University, Wuxi Jiangnan University, High School of China People University, College of Art and Communication-Beijing Normal University, Xihua Conservatory of Music, Chongqing Singing & Dance Group School of Music, Zhejiang Normal University, and China National Opera House.

CHINESE LAUREATES INVITED TO THE *JEUNES AMBASSADEURS LYRIQUES* GALA IN MONTREAL

Since the first auditions were held, Theatre Lyrichoregra 20 has invited two laureates from the national auditions of the Chinese Young Lyric Ambassadors program to come to Montreal to perform. Each year these young Chinese artists attract the attention of the Montreal public. In 2006, soprano Liu Lian was hired by the director of *l'Opéra de Québec* for its annual gala after having been heard at the *Jeunes Ambassadeurs Lyriques* Gala in Montreal. In 2007, one of the two Chinese laureates invited to Montreal won a prize at the Ninth Czech and Slovak International Music Competition in Montreal.

CANADA-CHINA LYRIC FOUNDATION

The main objective of this foundation is to sustain Theatre Lyrichoregra 20 in its lyric exchanges between China and Canada by:

Guaranteeing the presence of two Chinese laureates at concerts in Montreal.
Maintain the giving of master classes in interpretation of the French lyric repertory in conjunction with the Sichuan International Lyric Centre of Chengdu.
Provide financial support to cover the expenses incurred by a Chinese laureate having obtained a study bursary at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto.
And for in the near future, goals are extended to include the organization of a tour of concerts for a Canadian laureate of the *Jeunes Ambassadeurs Lyriques* program to be given in musical institutions in China.
Visibility is given to sponsors of the Canada-China Foundation and income tax receipts are issued.

Le Théâtre Lyrichorégra 20

Member of Opera America, Opera.ca and Member of the *Conseil Québécois de la Musique*,

Member of the Montreal Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce,
Member of the Hong-Kong Canada Business Association HKCBA
Income tax receipt registration number : 11921 4286 RR 0001

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PRINCIPAL RESULTS OF THE AUDITIONS SINCE 2005

2005

DONG Fang, mezzo-soprano - *Shanghai Conservatory of Music*

Selected for the semi-finals of the CONCOURS INTERNATINAL DE CHANT DE MARMANDE-France. Third prize winner.

ZHENG Jie, soprano - *Shanghai Conservatory of Music*

Selected for semi-finals of LILI AND NADIA BOULANGER INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COMPETITION-France

XIE Nam, soprano - *Shanghai Conservatory of Music*

Selected for the semi-finals of the ORVIETO INTERNATIONAL SINGING COMPETITION -Italy

ZANG Zhua, tenor - *Sichuan Music Conservatory*

Selected for the semi-finals of the ORVIETO INTERNATIONAL SINGING COMPETITION -Italy

Selected for an engagement for a role at the BRASOV OPERA in Romania

XU Xiaoying, soprano- *Shanghai Opera House*

Selected for the semi-finals of the CZECH AND SLOVAK SINGING COMPETITION. Winner of the second prize with a bursary of \$ 2,000 and an invitation to sing in concerts in Czech Republic

Selected to sing in Montreal (Canada) at the 5th JEUNES AMBASSADEURS LYRIQUES GALA CONCERT in November 2005

WANG Xin, tenor- *Central Conservatory of Music of Beijing*

Selected for the semi-finals of the CZECH AND SLOVAK SINGING COMPETITION. Selected to sing in Montreal (Canada) at the 5th JEUNES AMBASSADEURS LYRIQUES GALA CONCERT in November 2005 -Won an engagement to sing in AVIGNON (France) and to study for one year at the CONSERVATOIRE DE MUSIQUE DE PARIS-France

YANG Yang , tenor – *Air Force Art Troupe*

Won an engagement to perform in a role at the BRASOV OPERA in Romania

ZHU Honghu, tenor- *Central Conservatory of Music of Beijing*

Won an engagement to perform in a role at the BRASOV OPERA in Romania



Shanghai 2005

2006

YU PINGLI, soprano – *Tianjin Conservatory of Music*

Selected for the semi-finals of the CONCOURS INTERNATIONAL DE CHANT DE MARMANDE-France. Won a 15- day training session with the Maurice Ravel International Academy in France with paid airfare to France.

CHEN Xiaoduo, soprano – *China National Opera & Damnce Drama Company of Beijing*

Selected to sing in Montreal (Canada) at the 6th JEUNES AMBASSADEURS LYRIQUES GALA CONCERT in November 2006 with paid airfare to Canada. Chosen to participate in the HANS GABOR INTERNATIONAL SINGING COMPETITION in Austria and was selected for the semi-finals.

CHEN Yong, tenor – *Xinghai Conservatory of Music in Guangzhou*

Invited to sing in Montreal with financial support but could not come because of previous engagements.

YANG BO, tenor – *Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing*

Won an engagement to sing in a role at the BRASOV OPERA in Romania and a tour of Europe.

Won an engagement to sing in a role in GELSENKIRCHEN OPERA in Germany.
Was selected to participate at the JULIAN GAYARRE INTERNATIONAL SINGING COMPETITION in Spain and won a special prize with a 2,000 Euro bursary.

TONG Tao, tenor – *Sichuan Music Conservatory in Chengdu*

Won an engagement to sing at the BRASOV OPERA in Romania.

Was selected to participate at the JULIAN GAYARRE INTERNATIONAL SINGING COMPETITION in Spain and was provided financial support.

LIAN Liu, soprano - *Shanghai Music Conservatory*

Was invited in Canada to sing at the 6th JEUNES AMBASSADEURS LYRIQUES GALA CONCERT in Montreal.

Won an engagement to sing at the QUEBEC OPERA GALA CONCERT in Quebec, Canada and a 3 week stay in Montreal.

ZHÙNG Wenwei, bass – *Xinghai Music Conservatory of Guangzhou*

Selected to participate at the JULIAN GAYARRE INTERNATIONAL SINGING COMPETITION in Spain and was provided financial support.

WANG Yang , soprano - *Sichuan Music Conservatory of Chengdu*

Selected to participate at the ORVIETO INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION in semifinals in Italy.

LI Sha , mezzo-soprano - *Conservatory Central of Music of Beijing*

Selected for the semi-finals of the CONCOURS INTERNATIONAL DE CHANT DE MARMANDE-France.

LIU Bin , tenor - *Sichuan Music Conservatory in Chengdu*

Selected for the semi-finals of the CONCOURS INTERNATIONAL DE CHANT DE MARMANDE-France.

2007

SONG GANG, bass-baritone - *Shanghai Conservatory of Music*

WANG CHUANYUE, tenor - *Central Conservatory of Music of Beijing*

ZHAO MING, bass - *Central Conservatory of Music of Beijing*

GAO PENG, baritone - *China National Opera & Dance Drama Company*

Selected to participate at the HANS GABOR INTERNATIONAL SINGING COMPETITION in Austria.

ZHAO MING, Bass - *Central Conservatory of Music of Beijing*

LI CHUNFENG, bass - *Xinghai Conservatory of Music*

ZHANG MING, mezzo-soprano - *China Conservatory of Music*

GAO CHUAN, tenor - *Shanghai Conservatory of Music*

Selected to participate at the ORVIETO INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION in semifinals in Italy.

ZHOU ZHENGZHONG, baritone - *Shanghai Conservatory of Music*

Selected for the semi-finals of the CONCOURS INTERNATIONAL DE CHANT DE MARMANDE-France. Won first Prize in French Melody section.

Qualified to take part at the semi-finals in Paris in France of the NADIA ET LILI BOULANGER COMPETITION.

GENG ZHE, baritone - *China National Opera House*

Selected for the semi-finals of the CONCOURS INTERNATIONAL DE CHANT DE MARMANDE-France.

GANG , Bass-baritone - *Shanghai Conservatory of Music*

ZHOU ZHENGZHONG, baritone - *Shanghai Conservatory of Music*

ZHANG MING, mezzo-soprano - *China Conservatory of Music of Beijing*

WANG HONGXING, tenor - *Yunnan Arts University*

Qualified to participate to the semi-finals of the CZECH AND SLOVAK INTERNATIONAL SINGING competition in Montreal.

SONG GANG, Bass-baritone - *Shanghai Conservatory of Music*

ZHOU ZHENGZHONG, baritone - *Shanghai Conservatory of Music*

ZHAO MING, Bass - *Central Conservatory of Music of Beijing*

WANG HONGXING, tenor - *Yunnan Arts University*

Was invited to sing at the JEUNES AMBASSADEURS LYRIQUES GALA concert and a second concert in Montreal.

WANG HONGXING, tenor - *Yunnan Arts University*

WANG CHUANYUE, tenor - *Central Conservatory of Music of Beijing*

Was invited for a one month training session at the BRASOV OPERA in Romania with a possibility of engagement at the end of the training

XU RUNTAO, bass - ZHAO MING, Bass - GAO PENG, baritone

Was invited for a 10 day training session at the INTERNATIONAL LAROCHE D'HYS Academy in France with a concert in France.

YANG GUANG, mezzo-soprano- *Central Conservatory of Music of Beijing*

Won the POULENC PRIZE for the best interpretation of a Francis Poulenc melody.

GENG ZHE, baritone - *China National Opera House*

NIU SHASHA, mezzo-soprano - *China National Opera House*

PRIZES For the best interpretation of a NADIA ET LILI BOULANGER WORK offered by the Nadia & Lili Boulanger Foundation.



2008

BING BING WANG, soprano- Shanghai Conservatory of Music

Selected to participate at the ORVIETO INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION in semifinals in Italy.

Selected to participate to the BIZET INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION of BRASOV OPERA and won a Bizet bursary to participate at a Carmen at the Brasov Opera in Romania in 2008.

Selected for the semi-finals of the CONCOURS INTERNATIONAL DE CHANT DE MARMANDE-France.

Invited to sing at the XV JEUNES AMBASSADEURS LYRIQUES GALA in Montreal and to sing in 4 other concerts.

HUA HU, tenor - Shanghai Conservatory of Music

Selected to participate at the ORVIETO INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION in semifinals in Italy.

Selected to participate to the BIZET INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION of BRASOV OPERA and win a Bizet bursary to participate at a Les Pecheurs de perles production at the Brasov Opera in Romania.

Selected for the semi-finals of the CONCOURS INTERNATIONAL DE CHANT DE MARMANDE-France.

Invited to sing at the XV JEUNES AMBASSADEURS LYRIQUES GALA in Montreal and to sing in 4 other concerts.

Won a Maurice Ravel Prize.

YUANZHENG ZHAO, baritone

Selected to participate to the BIZET INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION of BRASOV OPERA and won a Bizet bursary to participate in the BRASOV OPERA production of Carmen in Romania.

Selected for the semi-finals of the CONCOURS INTERNATIONAL DE CHANT DE MARMANDE-France.

Selected to participate at the JULIAN GAYARRE International Singing competition in Spain.

Won a two year bursary \$ 32,000.00 TO STUDY AT THE ROYAL MUSIC CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC IN TORONTO for 2009-2010 AND 2010-2011

WEI LIU, bass, ZHE GANG, baritone

Selected to participate to the BIZET INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION of BRASOV OPERA

TAO TONG, tenor *Sichuan Music Conservatory-Chengdu*

Selected to participate at the HANS GABOR INTERNATIONAL SINGING COMPETITION in Austria and was chosen for the semi-finals.

Selected to participate at the JULIAN GAYARRE INTERNATIONAL SINGING COMPETITION in Spain.

Invited to work at the Nederland Opera Studio in Amsterdam in the Netherlands in 2008 and 2009.

YI LI, tenor - *Sichuan Music Conservatory-Chengdu*

Selected to participate in the HANS GABOR INTERNATIONAL SINGING COMPETITION in Austria and was chosen for the semi-finals.

Invited to work at the Nederland Opera Studio in Amsterdam in the Netherlands in 2008 and 2009.

GEN GZHE, baritone, FEI LIU, soprano

Selected to participate at the ORVIETO INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION in semifinals in Italy.

Selected to participate to the BIZET INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION of BRASOV OPERA.

ZHANG LU

Selected to participate at the ORVIETO INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION in semi-finals in Italy.

An other laureates could be invited in Toronto in 2009.



Auditions Chine 2009

2009

QIUSHI, tenor

Selected for a one month training engagement and concert at the ATELIER LYRIQUE from the MONTREAL OPERA COMPANY. (Canada)

LI CHUNHFENG, bass,

Selected to sing for TWO CONCERTS AND ONE GALA IN MONTREAL in November 2009 and to participate at the **Brasov Opera** International Programme in Romania, receiving a 350 Euros bursary.

LI YI, ténor,

Selected to work at the NEDERLAND OPERA STUDIO for 2009-2010 season - Invited to sing for TWO CONCERTS AND ONE GALA IN MONTREAL in November 2009.

Selected to participate to the semi-finals of the MARMANDE INTERNATIONAL SINGING COMPETITION in France in August 2009.

ZHAOYUANZHEN, baritone

Selected to participate in the semi-finals of the MARMANDE INTERNATIONAL SINGING COMPETITION in France in August 2009 and provide a bursary to study at the ROYAL CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC OF TORONTO, Canada.

LIAN LIU , soprano from Shanghai

Invited to sing in Montreal in November in 4 concerts and in the JAL 2009 November gala.

ZHOU YUANYUAN, soprano from Shanghai

Invited to sing in Montreal in November in 2 concerts and in the JAL 2009 November gala.

TAO TONG, tenor from Chengdu

Invited to sing in Montreal in November in 4 concerts and in the JAL 2009 November gala and also working at the Nederland Opera Studio in Amsterdam in the Netherlands for the second year as a laureate of the JAL programme in China.

JIANGKE, LICHEN, LIZAIYAO, LIUYAN, WANGZIGAN

Selected to participate in a one week training session in Europe organized by the NEDERLAND OPERA STUDIO.



Auditions in Chengdu 2009

The International Selecting Committee of the Jeunes Ambassadeurs Lyriques Since 2004

Alain Nonat- General and Artistic Director of Theatre Lyrichoregra 20-President of the committee (Canada) - General director of the Jeunes Ambassadeurs Lyriques programme

Danuta Dubois -Chief Music Inspector at the Ministry of Culture – (France)

Christian Mihailescu , General Director Opera Brasov- (Romania)

James Wright- General Director Vancouver Opera (Canada)

Norbert Klein Assistant of the Intendant – Gelsenkirchen Opera (Germany)

Michel Denis- General Director and Director of Music-Schola Cantorum - (France)

Hans Nieuwenhuis.- Director General Nederland Opera Studio- (The Netherlands)

Jean Macphail- Voice teacher- Royal Conservatory of Toronto-(Canada)

Henri Maier-Intendant Leipzig Opera- General Director Operaevents (Germany)

Zuching LaCombe- Voice teacher- (China)