

Cultural Programme «China 2008–2010»

A Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia programme for exchange and cooperation with China.

Symphonic Concert of Chinese and Swiss Composers

The «China 2008 – 2010» programme opens up new routes to Asia for Pro Helvetia. In January 2008, a call for projects was launched within the framework of a two-year focal programme with China, and with a budget totalling 3 million Swiss Francs, looking for exchange projects with artists from all disciplines from Switzerland and China. In August, an independent jury selected nine of the best projects from a wide-ranging palette of 117 applications. They are all convincing because they are characterised by an exchange which is on a par from conception through to implementation that will take place within the period from October 2008 to May 2010 in China and in Switzerland. Pro Helvetia has distributed 610,000 Swiss Francs to the nine projects. A maximum of 65% of the total costs will be financed by Pro Helvetia; the remainder is to be covered by third parties and the participation of the Chinese partners.

Among the awarded projects is the **Symphonic Concert of Chinese and Swiss Composers**.

With the aim to promote a cultural cooperation between China and Switzerland for new musical compositions, Lingling Yu has conceived the «Chinese-Swiss Composers Orchestral Music Concert», which will be shown in the Shanghai Oriental Art Center the 13th May 2010 within the Festival of Music Shanghai Zhi Chun (Shanghai Spring). For this concert there will be a collaboration with the Shanghai Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Muhai Tang. There will be a second concert taking place the 16th May 2010 in Hangzhou together with the Zhejiang Symphonic Orchestra. In October 2010 there are two concerts taking place in Switzerland.

This project promotes an intercultural understanding for Chinese and Swiss contemporary music. In order to enrich the musical culture of both countries, artistic exchange of contemporary music will continue after this project.

There is a good mix of renowned composers (three Chinese, three Swiss). The internationally renowned soloists Lingling Yu, Thomas Demenga and Jacqueline Ott perform with a Chinese orchestra. Intensive cooperation takes place between soloists, orchestra and the composers. The cultural aspect with regard to master classes and symposia is also very impressive.

The project has been awarded a total of 65,000 Swiss Francs by Pro Helvetia. Pro Helvetia will also support the additional concert in Hangzhou, 16th May 2010 with the amount of 5'000 Swiss Francs.

Additional programme information can be found on www.prohelvetia.ch/china0810 or on our Chinese website www.prohelvetia.cn

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