

Office of Public Information
Columbia University
New York, N.Y. 10027
(212) 280-5573

Fred Knubel, Director

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Five Chinese violinists, all women, have arrived in New York to tour the city's musical institutions under the auspices of Columbia University's Center for United States-China Arts Exchange.

Three of the group are distinguished professors at prominent Chinese music schools and two are talented young students. The students, who have received scholarships to study in the United States, were selected on the basis of auditions held in China last year by renowned American violin teacher Dorothy DeLay. Ms. DeLay's visit to China was also sponsored by the Center.

Center Director Chou Wen-chung, professor of music at Columbia and vice dean of its School of the Arts, the Center's administrative base, said that "Although it is merely happenstance that all the violinists are women, the group's composition does point out that more and more women in China are taking up the study of Western music."

The teachers are Yu Lina and Ding Zhinuo, both of the Shanghai Conservatory of Music and members of the internationally acclaimed Shanghai Conservatory Women's Quartet, and Huang Xiaozhi of the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing.

The students, both 19 years old, are Guo Li of the Shanghai Conservatory of Music and Yu Yen of the Hubei Arts Academy. They

will leave for Ohio on September 13 to commence their year of study at the College Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati with Ms. DeLay.

Professors Yu, Ding and Huang will present a lecture-demonstration at Columbia on Wednesday, September 15, at 3 P.M. in Room 435 of Horace Mann at Broadway and 120th Street. Their presentation, which will be in English and open to the public, will show the elements of Chinese music present in representative Western-style works by Chinese composers.

While in New York the group will visit the major musical institutions and schools in the city and will also travel to the State University of New York at Purchase to observe classes and meet with music educators. Before their arrival in New York, they attended the Aspen Music Festival in Colorado, where they presented a concert and a lecture-demonstration.

On September 26 the teachers will begin an extensive tour of music schools and conservatories in New England, the Midwest, the Southwest and California. At the conclusion of their tour on October 30, Yu Lina and Huang Xiaozhi will leave for China, and Ding Zhinuo will return to New York for a year's stay as a visiting scholar. Under sponsorship by the Chinese government, Ms. Ding will observe musical activities and audit classes in the New York area.

The violinists' visit has been made possible in part by a grant from Mrs. George D. O'Neill.

The Center for United States-China Arts Exchange is a national organization established in 1978 to promote and facilitate exchanges of materials and specialists in the arts between the two countries. For additional information, contact the Center's program coordinator, May Wu, at the School of the Arts, Columbia University, New York, N.Y. 10027; telephone (212) 280-4648.