

Asian Arts & Culture Program Series



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: July 20, 2005

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**WHAT: Renowned Chinese violinist Suzanne Shu in
concert playing traditional Chinese instrument ER-
HU at UMass.**

WHEN: Saturday, September 17 at 7:30 pm

**WHERE: Bowker Auditorium at the University of
Massachusetts**

The Asian Arts & Culture Program at the Fine Arts Center launches what promises to be a thrilling fall season of performances, lectures, classes and films with an unprecedented event in Chinese Traditional music. Renowned violinist **Suzanne Shu in Concert on the ER-HU** performs in Bowker Auditorium at the University of Massachusetts on Saturday, September 17, at 7:30 pm. The internationally awarded musician weaves poetic reminiscence of her traditional Chinese background with a slightly more modern adaptation of gospel music and hymns and arrives at a rich and sophisticated blend of beautiful Chinese melody. Tickets for the event are free and may be reserved by calling Fine Arts Center box office at 413-545-2511 or 1-800-999-UMAS. For further information and online reservations, visit the secure program site at www.fineartscenter/asian.

Suzanne Shu is a graduate of the China Conservatory of Music and has a respected reputation of collaboration with musicians from all over the globe, from the United States to Australia, Japan and North Korea. She has been honored with coveted awards in music festivals and

competitions throughout Asia and the world. Her CDs *Praise from Two Strings* and *Love for Homeland* have been well received internationally.

Suzanne has been playing the traditional Chinese two-stringed ER-HU since childhood. The ER-HU is a kind of violin whose origins can be traced back to the Tang dynasty (618-907). It is said that the instrument was regularly played at Imperial banquets. Traditionally, the ER-HU has been played with many other instruments in accompaniment to Chinese operas. It is only since the beginning of the twentieth century that the ER-HU has been popularized as a solo instrument as well. After the establishment of the People's Republic of China there was a significant focus brought to both the manufacture of the instrument and musical education about ER-HU. Now it is commonly played as both an orchestral instrument and in solo performances.

Miss Shu adds to her love of Chinese tradition her newfound faith in Christianity, and has blended her beautiful rendering of the ER-HU with a wonderfully new twist of more traditionally Western gospel music. Her playing has been called "...reminiscent of a human voice, a female vocalist with a sophisticated level phrasing and perfect breath control".

The performance is presented by the Amherst Chinese Christian Fellowship Association. Please visit our secure website at www.fineartscenter/asian for information about the exciting full season of events.