

Philadelphia Chinese Opera Society, Inc (PCOS)

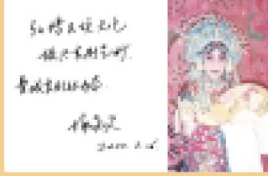
Mission: PCOS is a Pennsylvania non-profit organization dedicated to promoting cultural diversity and exchange, and enriching the cultural lives of the Asian-American community and the general public through the ancient treasure of Chinese Opera, by means of education, sponsorship, and participation in performances and public events.

Programs & Residency: Programs are designed to suit the audience both for education and entertainment. They range from short programs with a solo performer to two-hour long ensemble performances. Residency activities include individual and group workshops/demonstrations on all aspects of Beijing Opera. PCOS offers a full range of Chinese Opera performing arts classes, including singing, dance, traditional music, martial arts, costume making and face painting. Classes are for both children and adults (group and individual).

Professor Kenny K. Huang



Kenny K. Huang, Artistic Advisor, is a professor in the Dept. of Classical and Oriental Studies, Hunter College, City University of New York.



Mei Baojiu's remarks praising PCOS for promoting Chinese culture and the art of Beijing Opera. Mr. Mei Baojiu is a distinguished Beijing Opera performing artist, son of the late Mr. Mei Lanfang who established the Mei school, famous for its female performance style.



Tan Yuanshou's endorsement of PCOS for promoting Beijing Opera. Mr. Tan is the fourth generation of the acclaimed Tan School of old male style.

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PCOS is on the Pennsylvania Performing Arts on Tour Roster. Funding may be available to presenters to support engagements in DC, DE, MD, NJ, NY, OH, PA, VA, WV and the US Virgin Islands.
Visit www.pennpaat.org or Tel: 215-496-9424



Booking Contact:
Juan Xu Email: jxxu@yahoo.com
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For more information visit:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfO0g-1hJq_FuciljwcDdA

Philadelphia Chinese Opera Society

Music
Dance
Action
Comedy
Spectacular Costumes
Elaborate Face Paintings
All In Chinese Opera

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CHINESE OPERA, also known as Beijing or Peking Opera, is one of the greatest achievements of Chinese culture. Spectacular costumes, elaborate makeup, martial arts, dance, stylized singing and movements, traditional music are all used to retell famous stories from Chinese history, legend, and literature. Over the past 200 years, Chinese Opera evolved from earlier folk

traditions into its current form. Its repertoire consists mostly of classics that were first performed by the grandmasters who established many different performing styles that still dominate the stage today. Characters in the opera have designated roles. The old male roles (Sheng) are mostly for statesmen and scholarly figures. Female roles (Dan) depict ladies of the loyal

court, goddesses, and ordinary women. Both male and female roles have sub-categories, such as martial roles featuring elaborate weapon play and acrobatics. Painted faces (Jing) have special designs in various colors. The elaborate patterns made certain features more visible in the poorly lit theaters of the past, and inform the audience about the mind or soul of the character. Black

faceted characters are pure and noble, the most famous one being Justice Bao whose face is painted black with red and white patterns indicating loyalty and integrity. The clown role (Chou) is for comedy. Clownish figures with specialized makeup lighten the mood. The old male role sings in tenor, young male in falsetto, female in soprano, and bronze painted face in

a deep nasal voice. Different costumes help distinguish the characters' ages and ranks in society. Special traditional instruments accompany Chinese Opera performances. Jinghu and Erhu are two-stringed instruments that accompany the stylized singing that Chinese Opera is known for. The stringed and wind instruments engage in musical conversation with

percussion instruments, including drums, gongs, cymbals, and bells. The drummer directs the orchestra. Chinese horns sometimes add flavor to the orchestra. Martial scenes are often accompanied by percussion instruments alone.

OUR ARTISTS



◀ **Mr. Zhengon Liu** plays Jinghu

◀ **Ms. Shuyuan Li**, Artistic Director, comes from a distinguished Chinese Opera family. An accomplished performer, Ms. Li has won many awards in China and the United States. She has over 40 years of stage

experience, specializing in female warrior roles. Ms. Li has performed extensively on the East Coast, such as Washington D.C and New York City. In addition to organizing and directing performances, she is the principal performer and instructor for apprentices and student performers.

Mr. Zhengu Liu, Music Director, is a renowned Jinghu player. He is the equivalent of the First Violinist for the opera's orchestra. He provides instruction in traditional Chinese musical instruments as well as vocalization. He also teaches and performs in New York and New Jersey.

The Troupe: Performers from PCOS include both seasoned professionals and talented apprentices. Professionals include Xueli Zhang, an accomplished veteran artist noted for his vocal excellence in old male roles; Tao Liu, a distinguished martial artist with breathtaking skills; Shu Zhang, a multi-talented performer, and Liping Zhang, an acclaimed percussionist and a drummer who conducts the orchestra.

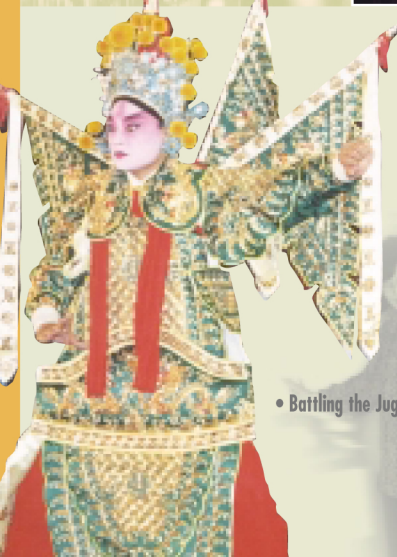
◀ **Ms. Shuyuan Li** in the title role of *The Legend of the White Snake*



• The Monkey King



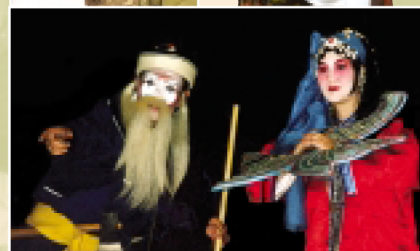
• Su San Sent for Trial



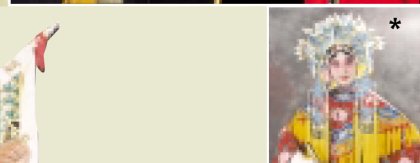
• Battling the Juggernauts



• The Town of Chi Sang



• Hongniang, the Match Maker



• The Drunken Beauty



• Princess Zhaojun's Journey



• At the Palace



The Legend of the White Snake - Experience the heart wrenching love between the snake/deity and a mortal man, featuring female and young male singing, and stunning action and martial arts scenes.

Classic Long Programs

Farewell, My Concubine - Witness scenes from this 2000-year-old story of self-sacrificing love, featuring female singing, dance and sword play.

The Monkey King - A children's favorite for centuries. Mischief-maker, clown, deity and warrior king, the role includes acrobatics, pantomime and exciting martial arts scenes.



Short Programs

Sword Dance from Farewell, My Concubine (female dance)

At the Palace (old male vocal)

Battling the Juggernauts (male martial arts action)

Su San Sent for Trial (courtesan is arrested for a murder she did not commit, a tragic comedy)

The Jade Bracelet (young female and male romantic comedy with a clown as go-between)

The Town of Chi Sang (old female and painted face)

The Use of an Empty City (old male vocal)

Hong Yang Cave (old male tragedy)

Drunken Beauty (female singing and dance)

Hongniang, the Match Maker (young female singing and dance)

The Flower Fairies (female banner dance)

Repertoire

* Courtesy: Great Wall Photo Studio