



WHY CHOOSE CHINA?

Music is not only an expression of notes and melodies crafted together to make wondrous sounds. It is a conveyor of emotion, dreams, attitudes, beliefs and history. Every culture has some significant musical history and sounds that are identifiable. In the Chinese culture, music dates back to the dawn of civilization. Documents and artifacts date back to the Zhou Dynasty, the longest dynasty from 1152 BC-256 BC. There are still many traditional Chinese instruments still being used in productions today. In the context of musical history, China has one of the richest, most long standing relationships with music.

These facts, you may already know. But what *don't* you know? Why choose China? In recent years, China's new open-door policy means there is a unique opportunity for North Americans and Chinese to learn each other's culture and to speak the international language of music. The Chinese culture is anxious to share their cultural and musical knowledge and learn new ones. It is without a doubt that cultural experiences enrich the lives of those that get a chance to participate in it. To also be able to share a common passion adds a dynamic that is inexplicable. To simply put it, it is getting to the heart of the culture.

Why are all these experiences so significant? Aside from the fact that China has a huge impact in the Western world, it is a chance to understand China on a *personal* level. It is visiting China, and being shown the best the country has to offer by locals who know it best. It is not only taking in what China has to offer, but also sharing the best that your country has to offer. It's about unity among two nations. It is about growing as individuals, and musicians. It's about making the best journey possible.