



Taiwanese United Fund
celebrate cultural diversity

Website: www.tufusa.org

E-mail: officemgr@tufusa.org

Tel: 626 • 569 • 0692

Fax: 626 • 569 • 0637

Contact Person: Felix Wang
Phone: (310) 420-2998
E-mail: pr-contact@tufusa.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***World Premiere of Gordon Chin's
Romance for cello and orchestra***

**A Collaboration between Santa Barbara Chamber Orchestra and
Taiwanese United Fund (TUF) - Great Performance Series**

Felix Fan, cello
Heiichiro Ohyama, music director and conductor
Santa Barbara Chamber Orchestra

Gordon Chin's *Romance for Cello and Orchestra*
Friedrich Gulda's *Cello Concerto*
Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5 in C minor*

Thursday, May 21, 2009
6:30pm
The Broad Stage
at Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center
1310 11th Street, Santa Monica, CA

LOS ANGELES (April 24, 2009) – The Santa Barbara Chamber Orchestra, in its 30th anniversary season, makes a special trip to the Eli and Edythe Broad Stage in Santa Monica to help celebrate the 2009 Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and Taiwanese American Heritage Week in a major collaboration with the Taiwanese United Fund (TUF), a Taiwanese American foundation for arts & culture.

In line with TUF's mission to celebrate cultural diversity and promote the understanding of Taiwanese culture and heritage through cultural exchange, the Santa Barbara Chamber Orchestra has prepared an eclectic program. The internationally acclaimed cellist Felix Fan plays the world premiere of Gordon Chin's *Romance for Cello and Orchestra*, dedicated to TUF, as well as Friedrich Gulda's jazz-influenced *Concerto for Cello and Wind Orchestra* composed in 1980. The Gulda concerto is uniquely orchestrated for two string basses, one of them a jazz bass, a guitarist and specially placed rows of winds and brass in addition to the cello soloist. A drum set is used instead of the usual orchestral percussionist.

After an adventure in twentieth and twenty-first century cello repertoire, the audience will return to the classic roots of Beethoven's heroic *Symphony No. 5 in C minor*, an appropriate masterpiece to celebrate conductor Heiichiro Ohyama's twenty-fifth season as the Chamber Orchestra's music director. Finally, as a nod to the Taiwanese American Heritage Week celebrations, soprano Hsun Hsun Hsu, a graduate of the University of Southern California with bachelor and master degrees in vocal performance, will conclude the program by performing Tyzen Hsiao's song *Taiwan the Formosa* envisioning a free, fully democratic Taiwan.

This is TUF's first collaboration with the Santa Barbara Chamber Orchestra. However, this will not be the first time Fan, Chin, and Ohyama have worked together. Together this trio premiered Chin's

Concerto for Cello and Orchestra with the National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra. In 2007, Chin and Fan worked with Michael Stern and the Kansas City Symphony to release an album featuring Chin's *Formosa Seasons* and *Double Concerto for Violin, Cello and Orchestra* (Naxos).

Major sponsorship for this special concert in Los Angeles' newest concert hall has been provided by SBCO's Platinum Circle Sponsor, Taiwanese United Fund (TUF) and Gold Circle Sponsor, Muzik³ Foundation.

The Broad Stage performance will be recorded by Los Angeles classical music station KUSC and will be re-broadcast nationally via Chicago's WFMT network.

At 6:30 pm, composer Gordon Chin will hold a pre-concert talk to discuss his work. The concert will commence promptly at 7:30 pm.

Immediately following the concert will be a "meet the artists" VIP after-party at the lobby of The Broad Stage.

###

Gordon Chin has established himself as one of the most prolific and sought after composers in his native country of Taiwan. Chin's repertoire includes four symphonies, a cantata, three violin concertos, double concerto, cello concerto, piano concerto, numerous choral works, chamber works, five percussion quartets, and various works for solo instruments. Chin earned his doctoral degree from Eastman School of Music under the tutelage of Samuel Adler and Christopher Rouse.

Chin has been honored by numerous commissions from major ensembles and institutions in North America, Asia and Europe. Timothy Mangan of *Los Angeles Times* describes Chin as "a confident master of the Western modernistic large orchestral idiom." Paul Horsley from *The Kansas City Star* described the *Double Concerto* as "Powerful, ambitious piece." Philip Scott, from *Fanfare*, declared "Chin's Double Concerto for violin and cello is, to my ears, the finest in that form after Brahms." David from *David's Review Corner* mentioned Chin's *Formosa Seasons* to be "an engaging piece of modern music, Chin's fresh and inventive use of string sounds bringing a real breath of fresh air."

Felix Fan's versatility has made him one of the most sought after cellists of his generation. As a chamber musician, he has performed with Yo-Yo Ma, Gil Shaham and János Starker, in venues such as Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center, Musikverein and Royal Festival Hall. Fan's recent solo engagements include the San Diego and Pacific Symphonies, Hong Kong Philharmonic, Macau Symphony Orchestra and the Munich Chamber Orchestra.

Fan studied cello with Eleonore Schoenfeld (University of Southern California), János Starker (Indiana University), Aldo Parisot (Yale University) and Boris Pergamenschikow (Hochschule für Musik, Cologne, Germany). In 1994, he was honored by Bill Clinton as a Presidential Scholar. Fan plays the famed 'Haussman' Stradivarius cello of 1724.

Soprano **Hsun Hsun Hsu** was the Prizewinner of the 2001 NATS's Young Artist of the Year competition in the career division, the finalist of the Long Beach Mozart Festival in 2000, and the second prizewinner of the 1999 NATS's Young Artist of the Year competition in the apprentice division. She appeared as Ngon Hung in Los Angeles Opera's production *On Gold Mountain*, as Dew Fairy in *Hansel and Gretel* with Guild Opera, and performed numerous leading roles with the USC Opera, including Susanna in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Ludmila in *The Bartered Bride*, and Despina in *Così fan tutte*. A student of Cynthia Munzer, she received her bachelor and master degrees in vocal performance from the University of Southern California.

Maestro **Heiichiro Ohyama** holds the position of the Music Director and Conductor of the Santa Barbara Chamber Orchestra (USA), Music Director of Nagasaki Music Festival (Japan), Artistic Director of CHANEL Pygmalion Chamber Music Series and is a member of The Chamber Players.

In 2005, he received the 'Fukuoka City Cultural Prize' and in 2008, 'Outstanding Performance Award' by the Japanese Government. He has been heard frequently on radio and television and has recorded on the CBS, Evica (Japan), Nonesuch, Philips, RCA, and Stereophiles labels.

Since 1990, Maestro Ohyama has conducted numerous orchestras, including Opera de Lyon, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony, Brandenburg Symphony Orchestra, the Hallé Symphony, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Milwaukee Chamber Orchestra, New Mexico Symphony, Ohio Chamber Orchestra, Royal Academy Sinfonietta, New York Chamber Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, San Diego Symphony, Kyoto Symphony, Yomiuri Nippon Symphony, New Nippon Symphony, Tokyo Metropolitan Orchestra, Sapporo Symphony.

For 30 years the **Santa Barbara Chamber Orchestra** has played an important role in the cultural and educational life of Santa Barbara. This Santa Barbara tradition began in 1978 under founder Jeffrey Evans. In 1983 current Music Director Heiichiro Ohyama took the helm, and for nearly three decades their mission has been to present the highest quality music played by the best musicians and soloists. They now play to sold-out audiences who have held subscriptions for years. The Chamber Orchestra continues to receive critical and community acclaim, proving our place as one of Santa Barbara's finest musical ensembles.

Founded in 1986, the **Taiwanese United Fund (TUF)** facilitates cultural exchange among Taiwanese, Taiwanese Americans and the American communities. Since its inception, TUF has persistently voiced the importance of cultural heritage, and assisted many organizations and individuals to establish ongoing programs and educational materials about Taiwanese Americans. The highlights of TUF's work include *Great Performance Series* performances, *Cultural Nights*, commissioning of new works, art exhibitions, and a grant program. Through collaboration with other organizations and effective use of its resources, TUF will continue to expand its role as a leading Taiwanese American organization.

###

Calendar Listing

Event: **Santa Barbara Chamber Orchestra at the Broad Stage**
Date/Time: **6:30 pm** pre-concert talk. **7:30 pm** Concert on Thursday, May 21, 2009.
Venue: The Broad Stage at Santa Monica College
Program: Gordon Chin - *Romance for Cello and Orchestra*. Friedrich Gulda - *Concerto for Cello and Wind Orchestra*. Beethoven - *Symphony No. 5 in C minor*.
Directions: Get on the 10 west to the Lincoln Blvd exit NORTH (right). Turn right on Santa Monica Blvd. The theatre is on Santa Monica Blvd between 10th and 11th. The entrance to the parking lot is on Santa Monica Blvd.
Admission: Complimentary VIP tickets are available with TUF sponsorship – see <http://www.tufusa.org/sponsorship/2009TUFSPonsorshipPackage.pdf>.

For more information: TUF – www.tufusa.org or call (626) 569-0692
SBCO – www.sbco.org or call (805) 966-2441

###