



**THE MARTIAL ARTISTS AND ACROBATS OF TIANJIN,
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA:
*CHINA SOUL***

Tuesday, October 24, 2017, at 7pm
Foellinger Great Hall

PROGRAM

**THE MARTIAL ARTISTS AND ACROBATS OF TIANJIN,
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA:**

CHINA SOUL

Mrs. Guo Qingli, director

OPENING

Festival Celebration

ACT I

Starry Nights of Peace and Harmony

ACT II

Soul of Chinese Martial Arts

20-minute intermission

ACT III

China Soul

ACT IV

Shaolin Kungfu

ACT V

Great Icarian Acrobats

FINALE

Splendid Future

*The Martial Artists and Acrobats of Tianjin, The People's Republic of China appears by arrangement with:
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PROGRAM NOTES

OPENING: FESTIVAL CELEBRATION

ACT I: STARRY NIGHTS OF PEACE AND HARMONY

Water Meteors

The acrobats tumble and roll while juggling a two-meter-long rope with spinning bowls on each end, creating the illusion of shining stars in the night sky.

Plates Spinning

The acrobats hold several plates spinning on sticks in each hand while contorting their bodies in various challenging positions.

Ballet Adagio

The artists infuse ballet, acrobatics, and gymnastics as they use each other's weight and momentum to create a harmonious continuity of movements.

ACT II: SOUL OF CHINESE MARTIAL ARTS

Juggling Jars on Heads

Head juggling, a traditional acrobatic routine in which jars are juggled on the heads of the acrobats, is normally performed during harvest festivals. Historically, the jars have been used to store wine. The act is performed by four acrobats who catch, juggle, and pass jars with their heads.

Diabolo Girls

Diabolo is a tradition based out of Northern China and is widely performed in Tianjin. Regularly performed by female acrobats, the performers must balance two bowls held together by an axle on a slack string while executing a wide array of impressive tricks.

Soul of Martial Arts

Martial Arts, a multi-generational evolution of disciplines, philosophies, and practices in the art of self defense, are a sacred Chinese tradition. The martial artists will perform an exhibition of different martial arts weapons and combat in the traditional Shaolin style.

ACT III: CHINA SOUL

Lasso

The acrobats jump and tumble through a rope lasso showcasing their acrobatic skills and flexibility.

Contortion with Carpet Spinning

A Chinese tradition inspired by folk arts, carpet spinning was conducted by performers who would simultaneously tell jokes and sing songs. The performers spin a small, round carpet on their hands and feet while contorting their bodies, performing hand stands, and assembling into pyramid formations.

Hand Juggling

The acrobat juggles up to nine balls at a time while performing a wide array of tricks.

Foot Juggling with Umbrellas

This performance exemplifies the balancing of objects with an unstable center of gravity. The acrobats can juggle up to five umbrellas with their feet and can balance the umbrellas by stacking them one on top of the other.

Magic

Straw Hats Juggling

The acrobats juggle straw hats in various formations while performing stunts and interacting with the audience, turning it into a fun, humorous game.

ACT IV: SHAOLIN KUNG FU

Chinese Kung Fu (popularly referred to as Gongfu or Wushu) is a traditional Chinese fighting style practiced more popularly for sport, standing as a prominent symbol of Chinese culture. One of the most common forms of Kung Fu is called Shaolin. Shaolin Kung Fu came from Shaolin Temples, which date back to the 6th-century Tang Dynasty when Buddhism became an important philosophy in Chinese culture. The Shaolin Temples' origin was founded and remains at the Songshan Mountain in the Henan Province of China. The Shaolin monks were responsible for protecting the temples and the teachings of Shaolin.

ACT V: GREAT ICARIAN ACROBATS

Wearing ancient martial artists costumes, the Tianjin acrobats portray ancient soldiers who fought against countless foes, defending the borders of China.

This act includes tumbling on top of each other, creating a human tower, and landing safely on the ground. The company's performance of this act won gold at the 12th Moscow International Youth Circus Festival, the 15th Italian Latina International Circus Festival, and the 2nd China International Circus Festival, as well as the Silver Clown award at Monte Carlo International Circus Festival in 2015.

FINALE: SPLENDID FUTURE

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

THE MARTIAL ARTISTS AND ACROBATS OF TIANJIN, THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TIANJIN ACROBATIC TROUPE) was established in 1957 as a combination of the former China Circus & Acrobats that was founded in 1948. It is one of the best acrobatic troupes in China with over 100 acrobatic, magical, and martial arts performers. With novelty and superior techniques, the acrobatic troupe is favored by audiences all over the world.

The troupe has more than 30 representative acts, many of which have won prizes in national and international festivals and competitions. *Leather Straps* won the Silver Clown Award and Circus Art Development Association Award at the 13th Monte Carlo International Circus Festival. *Double Poles* won the Silver Award at the 12th Cirque de Demain Festival held in Paris, France and the Silver Lion Award at the 4th China National Acrobatic Competition. *Air Acrobatics* won the Golden Prize of the 10th Spring of April Friendship Art Festival in North Korea. *One-Hand Handstand* seized the Golden Lion Award of the 4th China National Acrobatic Competition, the Golden Award—the first prize of the Republic President at the 19th Festival of Cirque de Demain in Paris, the Honorary Gold Lion Award, and the Artistic Innovation Award at the 5th Wujiao International Circus Festival. *Contortion with Cups* by Three Girls won the Golden Lion Award at the 4th China National Acrobatic Competition and the Silver Prize with Belgium Royal Circus Special Award at the 8th

Belgium Road of Prospect International Young Acrobats Festival. At the First China National Comic Acrobatic Competition, the *Comic Swan Lake* and *Comic Music* received the Gold and Silver Award respectively. *Juggling Jars on Heads* won Silver Awards at the 5th Hungarian Budapest International Circus Festival (2005) and the Russian International Circus Festival (2013). In 2015, the *Icarian Tumbling and Jumping* by 18 acrobats won the Silver Clown Award at the 39th Monte Carlo Circus Festival in Monaco and the First Golden Award at the 2nd China International Circus Festival in Zhuhai, China.

The company has toured extensively to France, Japan, Australia, Finland, Norway, Denmark, Germany, Sweden, Iceland, Italy, Israel, South Korea, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Belgium, Russia, Hong Kong, and the United States of America—where it has been highly praised and warmly welcomed. With World Circuses, the company had acts perform in Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, Cirque du Soleil, Big Apple Circus, Swiss Knie Bros., National Circus and UniverSoul Circus. From 2010 through 2015, the company frequently traveled to France for four months each tour.

In 2017, the company has begun a new tour to North America under the management of CAMI and presents to audiences an exciting combination of highlights of performing acts from recent years.