



krannert center

YOUTH SERIES

18-19

SCHOOL DAY PERFORMANCES
FOR PUBLIC, PRIVATE, AND HOME
SCHOOLS, GRADES PreK-12

HANZHI WANG ACCORDION

I ILLINOIS
College of Fine & Applied Arts





ABOUT THE ARTIST

Praised for her engaging stage presence and performances that are technically and musically brilliant, Hanzhi Wang is the first accordionist to join the roster of Young Concert Artists in its 57-year history of discovering extraordinary musicians. A First Prize winner of the 2017 Young Concert Artists International Auditions, she was awarded numerous special prizes, including the Krannert Center performance prize.

To inspire the next generation of young accordionists, Ms. Wang has lectured and given masterclasses at the Manhattan School of Music, the International Summer Campus of the Royal Danish Academy of Music, the Tianjin Music Conservatory, and Beijing's Capital Normal University. She has served on the jury for the Accordion Competition of Rome, the International Accordion Festival in Alcobaça, Portugal, and the International Castelfidardo Accordion Music Competition in Italy. Ms. Wang is the featured artist on Naxos' first solo accordion CD, *In the Path of H.C. Andersen*. Ms. Wang holds a bachelor's degree from China Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing and a master's degree from the Royal Danish Academy of Music in Copenhagen, where she was a student of Geir Draugsvoll. In July 2018, Hanzhi Wang was named New Artist of the Month by *Musical America*.

"HANZHI WANG IS A YOUNG ARTIST WITH HUGE TALENT, WITH A REMARKABLE STAGE PRESENCE. HER INTERPRETATION WAS PASSIONATE AND TECHNICALLY FLAWLESS."

—PIF CASTELFIDARDI NEWS (ITALY)

ABOUT THE ACCORDION

Accordions are a family of box-shaped instruments created in the early 1800s that are played by expanding and contracting the bellows (the folded layers of cloth and cardboard in the middle of the instrument) while pushing on the buttons. This combination of actions allows air to move inside the accordion across brass strips called reeds. When the reeds vibrate, sound is created! Instrumentalists play the music's melody with their right hands (using buttons or piano-like keys) and the accompaniment with their left hands. Accordions are part of musical traditions all over the world. In Brazil, Colombia, and Mexico, they are used in pop music; in other parts of North and South America, and in Europe, they show up in folk and dance traditions such as Cajun, zydeco, and polka styles. Other regional names for instruments in the accordion family include concertina, bandoneón, harmonium, and the more familiar nickname of "squeezebox." The larger accordions typically use two shoulder straps to balance the weight and help with the control of the instrument.

IMPACT OF THE ARTS FOR YOUTH

This season we invite school communities to explore the performing arts through a selection of topics that reveal the IMPACT of the Arts for Youth.

Introduction to the arts
Meaning and cultural context
Production
Art-making and creativity
Careers
Training

IMPACT I IS FOR INTRODUCTION TO THE ARTS

Hanzhi Wang remembers encountering street accordionists in her native Suzhou, near Shanghai. But the instrument truly captured her fancy when, at age five, her father was watching an Italian film on television. "There was a beautiful melody in the background and I remember thinking, 'Wow, this is such a different sound than any instrument that I had heard before,'" Wang recalled. Upon discovering its identity, she immediately asked for one. It was a "very small and cute" beginner model with eight buttons, sufficient at least for her to begin lessons with a local teacher. At age 13, she began studies at the Tianjin conservatory. As luck would have it, Beijing's Central Conservatory had just hired its first accordion professor, the German-trained Cao Xiao-Qing. The next year, she won a spot in the conservatory's middle school, and she and her father moved to the Chinese capital.

EDVARD GRIEG'S BUTTERFLY

Hanzhi Wang plays many different styles of music, including music written especially for her to play on her accordion. She also likes to play pieces that were originally written for other instruments such as the piano or the violin. On Hanzhi Wang's website (hanzhiwang.org), you can find a video of her playing *Butterfly* by Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg. This piece was originally written for piano.

Take some time to listen to Hanzhi Wang's performance of *Butterfly*. Butterflies are silent creatures, but how does the music make us think of a butterfly? Imagine a butterfly while you are listening. What would the butterfly be doing? What would be happening around it?

Now listen to a recording of *Butterfly* played on piano. What would be different for the butterfly you imagine?

LABEL THE ACCORDION

There are many types of accordions, but most have these parts in common.

See if you can label them correctly:

Bellows

Buttons

Keys

Reeds

Straps



ON THE MAP

HANZHI WANG COMES FROM . . .
BEIJING, CHINA AND
COPENHAGEN, DENMARK



Hanzhai Wang, accordion

**Monday, February 11, 2019, at 10am
and 12:30pm**

Foellinger Great Hall
Approximately 60 minutes
Recommended for grades 3-6

Public Marquee performance

Sunday, February 10, 2019, at 3pm

*Hanzhi Wang appears by arrangement with
Young Concert Artists.*

.....
Campaign for Young Audiences

Phyllis & Kyle Robeson, Lead Sponsors
Gertrude Brokaw McCloy Endowment,
Endowed Co-sponsor
Clarette & Zvi Ritz, Patron Sponsors
Susan & Michael Haney, Patron Co-sponsors
Dr. Donna Murray Tiedge & Robert Tiedge,
Patron Co-sponsors
Anke & Paul Tucker, Patron Co-sponsors
Stevie Jay Broadcasting (Q96, ESPN 93.5, US1059,
Christian FM 95.3), Lead Gold Sponsor

Youth Series Programming

The Spodek Family in memory of Bernard
Spodek, Endowed Sponsor
Ann H. Bender Youth Series Endowment,
Endowed Co-sponsor
The Susan Sargeant McDonald Endowed Fund
for Youth Programming (Suzi was the founder/
developer of the Krannert Center
Youth Series), Endowed Co-sponsor
Jane & Christian Scherer, Patron Sponsors
Diane Gottheil, Patron Co-sponsor
Brenda & Stephen Pacey, Patron Co-sponsors
Jill & James Quisenberry, Patron Co-sponsors
Anne & David Sharpe, Patron Co-sponsors

This project is supported in part by an award
from the National Endowment for the Arts.



ILLINOIS
ARTS
COUNCIL
AGENCY



National
Endowment
for the Arts
arts.gov

.....
KRANNERT CENTER | 50

500 S. Goodwin Ave.
Urbana, IL 61801
KrannertCenter.com
217.333.6700 (main number)
217.244.3009 (Youth Series office)
youth@krannertcenter.com

GREENING THE ARTS

LIBRARY PARTNERSHIPS

Krannert Center has also partnered with Champaign Public Library and The Urbana Free Library to help expand your students' Youth Series experience. Our local libraries have placed materials that relate to Hanzhi Wang on display, and librarians are prepared to help your students immerse themselves in the wide-ranging subject areas that are covered by the production. These resources will be available approximately two weeks before through two weeks following the performance.

We hope that you are able to take advantage of these exciting partnerships with our local libraries!

www.champaign.org | www.urbanafreelibrary.org

SPURLOCK MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2019

Drop in for a self-guided, interactive visit before or after the performance. Museum guides in each room will offer hands-on object studies and gallery-based challenges for students tied to the themes of Hanzhi Wang. The Spurlock Museum also has a variety of resources for classroom use. Contact Kim Sheahan at ksheahan@illinois.edu or 217.244.3355 for information on available artifacts and lesson plans.

