



SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF PERFORMING & VISUAL ARTS
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**SUU's SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND CONCERT CHOIR
PERFORM "GLORIA: A SPRING CONCERT"
APRIL 17, 2015**

Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah: The joyous sounds of **SUU's Symphony Orchestra** and **Concert Choir** join forces for a spectacular evening of music when the **Department of Music** presents ***Gloria: A Spring Concert***. Under the direction of **Dr. Xun Sun**, this **Music Masterworks Series** concert is scheduled to be performed on **Friday, April 17** at Cedar City's **Heritage Center Theater**. The performance begins at **7:30pm**. Tickets are **\$10** for adults, **\$8** for alumni with card and **\$5** for youth. **SUU faculty, staff and students are admitted free with a valid I.D. card.**

A highlight of the concert will be a performance of Antonio Vivaldi's "Gloria, from which the program takes its title, featuring the Symphony Orchestra and Concert Choir with choral direction by **Dr. Kevin L. Baker**. The evening also spotlights cellist **Fang Shen**, a visiting professor of music, as featured soloist in a performance of Joseph Hadyn's "Cello Concerto in C Major." The program also includes a selection from Antonin Dvořák's "New World Symphony."

Dr. Xun Sun serves as Director of Orchestral Activities at Southern Utah University, conducts SUU's Symphony Orchestra and String Ensemble and teaches Advanced Instrumental Conducting and Applied Instruction of Violin at the Music Department. Dr. Sun continues to teach the master classes in conducting in Hunan, China.

Mr. Sun has continually broadened his professional career as an orchestral conductor and has conducted the world premiere of the *Dream of Helen*, a collaboration between SUU and the Hubei Opera and Dance Drama Theatre of China. He conducted the world renowned China Philharmonic Orchestra in a recording called *America Journey* with music by American composers Marshall McDonald and Steve Nelson. In 2007, he was invited to conduct the Lviv Philharmonic in the 8th International Contemporary Music Festival in Ukraine. Mr. Sun has conducted opera performances including Carlisle Floyd's *Susanna*,

Engelbert Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *The Magic Flute* and *Don Giovanni*. Dr. Sun serves as the Music Director/Conductor of the Orchestra of Southern Utah (OSU). Under his leadership, the OSU world has premiered the symphonic suite "Spanish Trail Suite" by Marshall McDonald and Steve Nelson.

Born in the city of Taiyuan, China, Dr. Xun Sun began his formal music training and violin studies at Wuhan Conservatory of Music in China at age 11 through the government's scholarship program for exceptional music students. This substantial music training led him to successful graduate studies in the United States. Under the Evelyn Ryan Nelson Concertmaster Fellowship at the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) Conservatory of Music, he earned master's degrees in Instrumental Conducting and Violin Performance. He holds a Doctor's Degree in Education from Teacher's College, Columbia University, New York.

Ms. Sara (Fang) Shen earned her master's in Cello from the Wuhan Conservatory of Music, Division of China Orchestral Instruments in 2012, and her bachelor's in Percussion and Cello from the same university in 2002. Ms. Shen has over 12 years of experience in concert performance and education, and has participated internationally in hundreds of orchestral performances and cello recitals. Participating in major competitions, she is the winner of several gold medals. After completing her bachelor's, Ms. Shen worked for the Wuhan Philharmonic Orchestra for over 11 years as an associate principal cello as well as associate professor. As an educator at SUU, she has given a master class in cello, done research in music education and performs with SUU's String Ensemble and Symphony Orchestra.

Join Dr. Xun Sun, Fang Shen and SUU's Symphony Orchestra and Concert Choir for **Gloria**. For more information on the SUU College of Performing and Visual Arts events, please visit www.suu.edu/pva/arts.

ABOUT THE COLLEGE

The Southern Utah University College of Performing and Visual Arts is comprised of nationally accredited departments of Art and Design, Music, Theatre Arts and Dance, as well as the new Center for Shakespeare Studies and a graduate program in Arts Administration. The College offers 16 different degree areas, including liberal arts Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees; professional Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Fine Arts in art and theatre degrees; and a Master of Fine Arts in Arts Administration degree. The Center for Shakespeare Studies offers a minor in Shakespeare Studies. More than 60 full- and part-time faculty and staff are engaged in teaching and mentoring over 550 majors in the College. Over 1100 students enroll each year in over 195 arts classes on the SUU campus. The College presents 100 performances, lectures, presentations, and exhibitions each year. The College's affiliate organizations include the Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery, Utah Shakespeare Festival, and the SUU Ballroom Dance Company. For more information about the College of Performing and Visual Arts, contact the Office of the Dean (435) 865-8561, or by e-mail at cpvamktg@suu.edu.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS: *GLORIA, A SPRING CONCERT*

- WHAT:** The joyous sounds of SUU's Symphony Orchestra and Concert Choir join forces for a spectacular evening of music when the Department of Music presents *Gloria: A Spring Concert*. Under the direction of Dr. Xun Sun, this Music Masterworks Series concert features cellist Fang Shen as soloist.
- WHO:** Southern Utah University, College of Performing and Visual Arts, Department of Music
- WHEN:** Friday, April 17, 2015
- TIME:** 7:30pm
- WHERE:** Heritage Center Theater, Cedar City, UT
- TICKETS:** Adults: \$10, Alumni with card: \$8, Youth: \$5
SUU faculty, staff & students free with a valid I.D. card
- PURCHASE:** Centrum Ticket Office, 435-586-7872 (Mon-Fri, 8am-4:30pm)
Online: www.suu.edu/pva/arts
- INFO:** www.suu.edu/pva/arts