

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 20, 2012
Yale-China Association
Norfolk Chamber Music Festival—Yale School of Music

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*The Yale-China Association presents
the internationally acclaimed*
ST. PAUL'S CO-EDUCATIONAL COLLEGE CHOIRS
*from Hong Kong
at the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival*

Tuesday, July 17, 2012 @ 7:30 PM
In the Music Shed, Rtes 44 & 272, Norfolk, CT

(Norfolk, CT) – The Yale-China Association in collaboration with the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival presents a special event this 2012 season. The St. Paul's Co-educational College Mixed-Voice Choir and Primary School Concert Choir from Hong Kong are performing in this benefit concert for the Yale-China Association with a unique choral repertoire celebrating milestones in Yale-China's history of 111 years.

Tuesday night's concert will feature sacred choral music to commemorate Yale-China's missionary roots, followed by pieces by Yale composers (including Ives and Hindemith), works by American and Chinese composers, and finally, choral pieces that infuse traditional folk songs from both cultures to create a cross-cultural medley, inspired by the bidirectional work of Yale-China's programs today.

Since 1901, Yale-China individuals have made an impact on underserved communities throughout China. While Yale-China's historical roots lie in health and education programs, Yale-China has provided countless opportunities for its communities in China to learn about Western arts as well as opportunities for communities in the United States to explore Chinese traditional paintings, fine art, and music.

YALE-CHINA'S CURRENT NEED

For 111 years, Yale-China has been proactive in identifying emerging issues and developing focused responses to those issues. In keeping true to its mission, Yale-China is currently researching opportunities in U.S.-China arts exchange. With the support of arts patrons and new donors, Yale-China will be able to implement a variety of cross-cultural arts programs through music, theater, art, film, dance, and architecture.

AT YALE-CHINA WE BELIEVE that individuals—and individual organizations—can be a force for making the world more peaceful and humane. Our work is based on the conviction that sustained, one-on-one contacts between Chinese and American people not only enrich the lives of the individuals involved but contribute, ultimately, to improved relations between our two nations.

All are welcome!
Suggested donation: \$25

For more information about Norfolk:

Call 860-542-3000

Email norfolk@yale.edu

Website www.norfolkmusic.org

For more information about Yale-China:

Call (203) 432-0884

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ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Choirs of St. Paul's Co-educational College

Warren Lee, Music Director

With a vision to nurture students to become global leaders, St. Paul's Co-educational College has long been reputed as one of the finest schools in Hong Kong since its establishment in 1915.

Music has always been at the forefront of the school experience at the College. Since the founding of the School Choir in 1949, the College has built a fine choral tradition over the span of six decades, and now has two choirs in the College and four in the Primary School.

As active participants in the Hong Kong Schools Music Festival since 1950, the various College choirs have long enjoyed continued success in the competition and have won over 200 trophies and awards. Internationally, the College Choirs won the highest Gold Award in the International Music Festival in Sydney in 1992. More recently, the College's Treble Choir was a silver medalist at the 6th World Choir Games in Shaoxing, China, where the Concert Mixed Voice Choir was crowned the Winner of the Mixed Youth Choirs (Open Competition) in 2010.

Of equal importance to the choirs' participation in competitions are the performance experiences the choristers receive. Over the years, the College choirs have made guest appearances at historical occasions such as the Olympic Torch Ceremony at the City Hall Concert Hall in 1964, the public farewell ceremonies for former governors of Hong Kong, Sir Robert Black in 1964 and Sir David Trench in 1971, and performed at the opening of the inaugural Hong Kong Arts Festival in 1973. By invitation from the Alumni of Chingmai University, the College Mixed Voice Choir performed at the National Theatre in Bangkok, Thailand, in the presence of the Royal Family in December 1979.

The College choirs have also collaborated with prominent artists and performing groups such as Mark Hayes, Bobby McFerrin, the Harvard Glee Club, Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra, Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, Hong Kong Sinfonietta and Hong Kong Oratorio Society. In 2010, the College choirs released the Sacred Choral Album, "Faith Hope Love" on Naxos to critical acclaim.

PROGRAM FOR CONCERT

Theme: Christianity & Yale composers

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| WARREN LEE | The Lord's Prayer |
| WARREN LEE | As Small as a Mustard Seed |
| ROBERT BLOCKER
arr. Warren Lee | Psalms 23 |

Theme: Yale composers

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| CHARLES IVES | Circus Band |
| PAUL HINDEMITH | Six Chuasons |
| WARREN LEE | The Dream of a Plastic Bag |

Theme: American Composers

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| LEE HOIBY | Last Letter Home |
| DAN DAVISON | Ritmo |

Theme: Chinese composer/ folksongs

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| VICTOR CHAN | 詠梅 (Ode to Plum Floret) |
| Chinese Traditional | 茉莉花 (Jasmine Flower) |
| | 踏雪尋梅 (Wintersweet Flower in the Snow) |
| | 花非花 (Tis' a Flower, Not a Flower) |
| | 讀書郎 (School Boy) |

Theme: Cross Culture

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| Arr. Steve Ho | Moonlight Lullaby |
| JOHANN STRAUSS Arr. Yang | 閒聊波爾卡 (Chit-chat Polka) |
| Arr. Warren Lee | XII |
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A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE NORFOLK CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

After they married in 1895, Carl and Ellen Stoeckel decided to honor Ellen's father by founding a local musical society that would bring a cascade of musical excellence to their town of Norfolk, CT. Choral and musical societies already blossomed around the region; every town had a club and a quorum of musicians. Mrs. Stoeckel had long hosted informal evenings in her home, first in the Whitehouse, and later in the church next door. A great musical festival in Norfolk would provide a natural center to a region steeped in music. When the Litchfield County Choral Union came into being in 1899, it soon became the first internationally known music festival of its kind in America, and inspired the array of music centers that have since settled across the Berkshires.

After five years of concerts at makeshift halls on their estate, the Stoeckels decided to build a hall worthy of truly great music. A New York architect, E.K. Rossiter, designed the building, and the Music Shed opened for use on June 6, 1906. The Shed is built of cedar and lined with California redwood, which likely accounts for its brilliant acoustics and certainly for its rustic beauty. The original hall seated 700 audience members, but after several expansions it was enlarged to hold 2,100. (Fire regulations have since reduced its capacity back to under 1,000.)

Audiences began to clamor for invitations from all over New England and as far away as Texas, Chicago and California, and within five years they could easily have filled a building many times as large. The Music Shed had begun its reign among the premiere concert halls in New England.

Mr. and Mrs. Stoeckel spared no expense in making the festival concerts extravagant musical events. They recruited a 70-piece orchestra of players from the Philharmonic and Metropolitan Opera orchestras in New York, and paid for a special train to transport the instrumentalists through the Litchfield hills. The appointments were eagerly sought; apart from the honor, the musicians had the pleasure of spending a week in the mountains, and the lawn parties that spread across the estate after rehearsals were soon famous.

Carl Stoeckel died in 1925 and the concerts continued for several years but activities came to a close during the 1930's. When Ellen Battell Stoeckel passed away in 1939 she left her estate in trust for the use of the Yale School of Music, to continue "studies in music, art and literature," and the Yale Summer School of Music/ Norfolk Chamber Music Festival began in 1941. Since that time countless gifted musicians have made for themselves a summer home in Norfolk, whether as students, faculty or performers at the Festival.

Since the beginning of the School and Festival, artists such as the Guarneri, Cleveland, Juilliard, Tokyo and Emerson quartets have taught and performed in Norfolk. Fellows at Norfolk have included the oboist Allen Vogel, violinists Syoko Aki and Pamela Frank, clarinetist Richard Stoltzman, and soprano Frederica Von Stade. Recent ensembles have established themselves as students at Norfolk, including new music ensemble eighth blackbird, the Claremont Trio, and the Miro, Calder, and Avalon Quartets. In addition, Norfolk alumni are found in virtually every music conservatory and many major orchestras around the world, including the Chicago, Boston, and the Metropolitan Opera Orchestras.

The tradition of excellence begun in the first decade of the Twentieth Century continues -----

QUOTES ON YALE-CHINA OVER THE YEARS

“Other than the 24 months following my birth, during which I learned how to speak and go to the bathroom on my own, my stay in China was the most important two years of my life. ... It was no picnic, but it was a hell of a worthwhile adventure.”

— **Mark Salzman** (Hunan Medical University, 1982-1984),
bestselling author

“For many Chinese students, having a Yale-China teacher is their one 'study abroad' experience.”

— **Seiji Shirane** (Sun Yat-sen University, 2004-2006),
former Blakemore Fellow, Tsinghua University, Beijing

“If I hadn't done Yale-China, I wouldn't be in Hong Kong today, doing what I do. The exposure I had to China and the language skills I developed there have been invaluable in my career.”

— **Peter Stein** (Wuhan University, 1986-1988),
Head of Group, Governmental Affairs, Asia-Pacific, UBS, Hong Kong

My entire career, through many diverse jobs, has been China/Asia related.

Unquestionably the single most important impact on my personal and professional life.

Fair to say that everything since Hong Kong has been a trajectory from the Yale-China experience.

— **Doug Murray** (New Asia College, 1958-1960),
President Emeritus, Lingnan Foundation

PRESS ON NORFOLK OVER THE YEARS

“Well worth seeking out” — *Boston Globe*

“Unique jewel of the summer season” — *New York Times*

“Magnificent” — *Litchfield County Times*

“An impressive array of performers and programs” — *Hartford Courant*

“Norfolk, long a host to legends” — *New York Times*

“There is no other concert site in Connecticut more beautiful... and no hall is more historic” — *New York Times*

“Brilliant performances”—*Hartford Courant*

“Their wonderful estate lay among wooded hills, intersected by rivers and shimmering streams... The natural surroundings had not been disturbed, but were reverently protected from the advance of civilization; it was as romantic and mysterious as it had been two hundred years earlier.

There was an atmosphere of poetry over the large, sleeping woods that was unique.”

— Composer **Jean Sibelius**, recalling his stay in Norfolk, 1914