



Lowertown Redevelopment Corporation: Corporate records

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For Fred Le Sam Lazaro @ Channel 2 OCT 22 1998

For the past two and a half years Weiming Lu of Lowertown Redevelopment Corp., Young-Nam Kim of the Chamber Music Society of Minnesota, and Pearl Bergad of the Chinese Senior Citizens Society, have been working on a music program to commemorate and to reconcile the Nanjing Massacre that occurred during WWII in China.

We are dedicated to the emotional healing of a great tragedy and the reconciliation of our peoples in genuine friendship. We wish to present future generations with a vital historical perspective little known outside of Asia. In an age when history is rapidly being rewritten, or repeated elsewhere, there is a great need to remember and to eulogize.

Ensuing discussions with cellist Yo Yo Ma and composer Tan Dun about our project led to the incorporation of Tan's song 'Don't Cry, Nanjing' in the third movement of the *Symphony 97* that he was writing in celebration of the return of Hong Kong to China. This symphony was performed, with Yo-Yo as soloist, on July 1, 1997, at the ceremony of Hong Kong's return to China, and also three days later at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall. This work was recorded by Sony Classics and earned fifth place on the classical charts last fall. It received wide press coverage, including the *Denver Post* and *Time Magazine*.

To make further impact we have continued working on an entire chamber music concert devoted to our goals. Chamber works, in which each musician is a soloist, are entirely in keeping with the oriental chamber symphonic tradition. Yo-Yo continues to be very supportive and has been working closely with us to create a concert consisting of all newly commissioned works. For this we are assembling five distinguished Asian composers from around the world: Hee-Kyung Kim from the University of California at Santa Cruz, Jose Maceda from the University of the Philippines, Philippines, Chinary Ung from University of California at San Diego, Chou Wen Chung from Center for China-US Arts Exchange at New York City, and Michio Mamiya from the Toho School of Music, Tokyo, Japan.

The board of the Chamber Music Society of Minnesota is very enthusiastic about this project. This is the first time the Asian community of Minnesota has embarked on an artistic undertaking of this magnitude and meaning. This is also the first major gathering of the world's musical community in honor of this forgotten Asian Holocaust. The involvement of a Japanese composer emphasizes our desire for reconciliation. Our world premiere concert, scheduled for the 2000-2001 season, will have lasting international and historical significance. We are also thinking of touring to other cities and abroad.

In the coming months we will be developing unifying themes for the concert and will be meeting with Yo-Yo again to decide on aspects of the Nanjing Massacre that we would like the composers to respond to. We will be meeting with author Iris Chang when she comes to speak at the Westminster Town Hall Forum next week.

Within our community here we have been gathering growing support. We will be starting fund-raising efforts later on this year. This project already has been announced in the Chamber Music Society of Minnesota's brochure for their upcoming season.

Oct. 21'98

OCT 22 1998

Dear Mary,

Mary, many thanks for your valiant efforts in trying to book us a room at the Mpls. Club!

I'm attaching the page of information I put together for Fred @ Channel 2. Hope Weiming approves.

I left Young Nam a message about getting together Sunday afternoon with Weiming. Will let you know when I hear from him.

Talk to you soon.

Pearl

* ~~Star~~ ~~Star~~ Chuck Huga
wants photo
w/ yo yo

Pearl asked if
me to put
ours

Room 208

Mon 10/26
10 am - noon
@ U of M Cl
Ferguson Hall

(See
attached)





































































































