

## From E.B. White's *Here is New York, 1949*

Another hot night I stop off at the band concert in the Mall in Central Park. The people seated on the benches fanned out in front of the band shell are attentive, appreciative. In the trees the night wind sings, bringing leaves to life, endowing them with speech; the electric lights illuminate the green branches from the under side, translating them into a new language. On a bench directly in front of me, a boy sits with his arm around his girl; they are proud of each other and are swathed in music. The cornetist steps forward for a solo, begins, "Drink to me only with thine eyes. . ." In the wide, warm night the horn is startlingly pure and magical. Then from the North River another horn solo begins—the

Since 1905, the Naumburg Orchestral Concerts has continuously presented free, outdoor classical music concerts to New Yorkers of all walks of life. Named after founder and philanthropist Elkan Naumburg, who donated the Naumburg Bandshell to New York City in 1923, and inspired by his own love of music, the series seeks to stimulate and encourage new and expanded audiences for classical music in the informal and beautiful setting of Central Park.

In late nineteenth century New York, Mr. Naumburg felt a need to encourage and stimulate the public's interest in symphonic and semi-classical music. In 1873, Naumburg founded the Oratorio Society of New York in the family parlor, where Leopold Damrosch, Theodore Thomas and Marcella Sembrich, among others, played weekly in the 1870s, 80s & 90s. Mr. Naumburg's wife, Bertha, gave that group its name. Elkan's son, Walter, further reinforced the family tradition of supporting classical music, when he established the Walter W. Naumburg Prize in 1926, as did his grand-niece, Eleanor Naumburg Sanger, who co-founded WQXR, New York's classical music radio station.

In 1912, the Concert Ground's earlier Central Park Bandstand was deemed inadequate. Elkan's replacement greatly improved the conditions for musical performance over the earlier facility. A nephew, William G. Tschau, designed the building in 1916. In 1992 a lawsuit was filed against the Central Park Conservancy and the Parks Department to save the Bandshell from imminent demolition. A decision on July 6th, 1993 by New York's highest court ended both the litigation and the planned demolition.

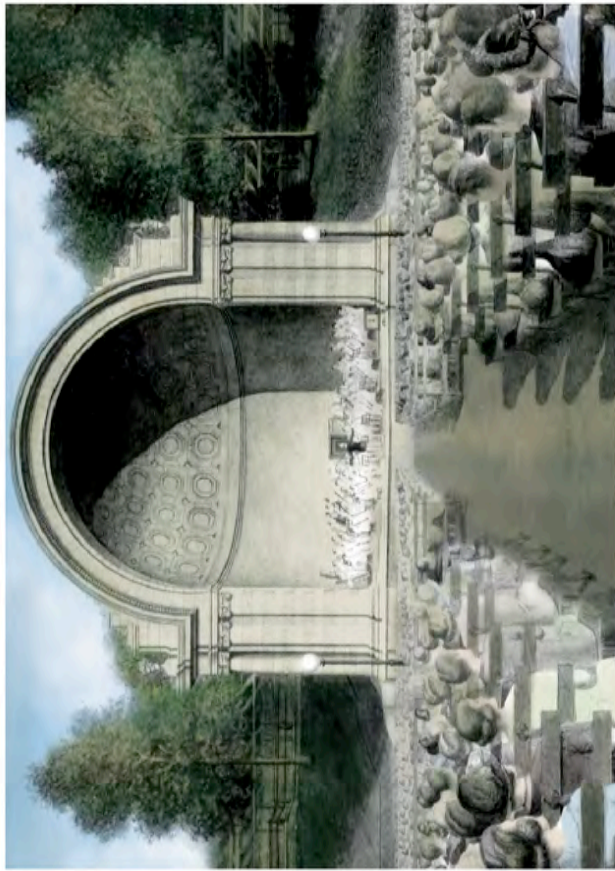
After Elkan Naumburg's death in 1924, his sons, Walter W. Naumburg and George W. Naumburg continued the park concerts. When Walter W. Naumburg died in 1959, his will provided for the perpetuation of these concerts.

Today, the concerts feature promising new talent and promote the professional development of young composers and conductors. It is the oldest such concert series in the United States. The Naumburg Orchestral Concerts is a non-profit organization managed by a volunteer board of trustees; contributions towards its programs are fully tax-deductible.

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# NAUMBURG ORCHESTRAL CONCERTS

102ND ANNIVERSARY SEASON OF FREE CONCERTS FOR THE PEOPLE OF NEW YORK

PRESENTS

## MELODY OF DRAGON

CHEN TAO  
DIRECTOR

7:30 PM TUESDAY JUNE 26, 2007

The Naumburg Bandshell on the Concert Ground of Central Park

Please visit [WWW.NAUMBURGCNERTS.ORG](http://WWW.NAUMBURGCNERTS.ORG) for more information on our series.

Our next concerts this season are Tuesday, July 3, Wed., July 25, & Wed. August 15, 2007.

# In celebration of 102 years of Free Concerts for the people of New York City.

THE OLDEST CONTINUOUS FREE OUTDOOR CONCERT SERIES IN THE UNITED STATES

## MELODY OF DRAGON

**CHEN TAO**  
DIRECTOR

Silk & Bamboo Music, **SONG OF JOY**

Cantonese Music, **STEP BY STEP**

Anonymous, **SPRING ARRIVES ON THE QIN RIVER**  
Yangqin solo

Folk Music, **SECOND SPRING MIRRORING THE MOON**  
Erhu solo

Huang Hai Huai, **MONGOLIAN HORSE RACE**

Yang Tie-Ming, **FISHERMAN'S SONG**  
Bawu solo

Cantonese Music, **AUTUMN MOON OVER THE PLACID LAKE**  
Cantonese Music, **THUNDER IN DROUGHT**

### INTERMISSION

Silk & Bamboo Music, **SANLIU**, (Three Six)

Hebe-Hua Bangzi, *Opera Music*,  
Banhu solo

Tan Dun (1957- ), **TRACE OF BAMBOO**  
Dizi solo

Classical Music, **AMBUSH FROM TEN SIDES**  
Fipa solo

Jiang Xian-Wei, **TRIP TO GUSU**  
Dizi solo

Jiang Guang-Yi, **NEW SONG OF THE HERDSMAN**

Liu Guan-Yue, **BIRDS AMID TREE SHADOWS**

## From the Naumburg Orchestral Concerts

DEAR FRIENDS:

We hope you enjoy tonight's musical performance presented by the Naumburg Orchestral Concerts.

The Naumburg Orchestral Concerts has a 102-year tradition of providing free outdoor classical music concerts to New Yorkers. This was the vision of my great-grandfather, who founded the series in 1905, and of my great-uncle, who endowed it in 1959.

Rising costs and a stagnant endowment, however, had forced us to reduce the number of concerts from its original four to two or three each year. We hope that, with the help of our friends and devoted followers, we can remain with our four concert season.

We invite you to become a patron of the Naumburg Orchestral Concerts, a non-profit 501(c)(3) located in Manhattan and managed by a board of trustees. All contributions are fully tax-deductible and will be used towards the direct costs of presenting the concerts—musicians' honoraria, park fees, chair rentals, printing and promotion.

Your gift will help to ensure that we can continue what has become a delightful musical tradition in the beautiful setting of Central Park. Please contribute what you can—all gifts, great or small, will be enormously appreciated and help us raise money from other funders.

Thank you for your interest and support.

Sincerely Yours,



Christopher W. London  
President

You may use credit or debit card online at [nycharities.org](http://nycharities.org) and search for Naumburg

NAUMBURG ORCHESTRAL CONCERTS  
c/o C.W. LONDON 300 CENTRAL PARK WEST, 18 H<sup>NEW</sup> YORK, N.Y. 10024-1513

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## Melody of Dragon Ensemble

### Chen Tao

**DIZI**  
Chinese Bamboo Flute

### BAWU

Silver & Copper Reed Flute

### Chen Sisi

**YANGQIN**  
Hammered Dulcimer

### Zhang Baoli

**ERHU**  
Two-String Fiddle (pythion resonator)

### BANHU

Erhu Variant (wood resonator)

### GAO HU

High Pitched 2 String Fiddle

### Liu Li

**Ruan Lute**  
Round Body, Long Neck Lute

### Huang Li-Jian

### Zhou Yi

### PIPA

Chinese Lute

**Chen Tao - Director and Dizi Player** - is a well-known Chinese flutist, music educator, composer and conductor of Chinese orchestras. Melody of Dragon & the Youth ensemble of Melody of Dragon's founder, he is also artistic director and conductor of the Chinese Music Ensemble of New York and conductor of New Jersey's Buddha Light Youth Chinese Orchestra. In China, Chen Tao was an Associate Professor at the Central Conservatory of Music, a member of the Chinese Musicians Association and a member of the Chinese Folk Wind and String Instrument Association. His performing style combines the refined elegance of the southern school and the robust liveliness of the northern school. The sound of his flute is full, round, rich, and marked by a unique timbre that can truly be described as enchanting.

**Chen Sisi - Yangqin Player** - was born in Guangdong, China. She began her studies, age ten, with master Yuan Yoh. She then studied at the Sichuan Conservatory with master Pan Guangde. She has performed concerts all over China and received the High Achievement Award in the Summer of the Flower Stream music competition (1982), and the International Folk Festival in Montreal & Quebec (1989). Sisi has appeared at Carnegie & Merkin Halls, Lincoln Center, and in concerts throughout the eastern US. Her repertoire includes traditional music and newer pieces that blend the Chinese aesthetic sensibility with harmony and rhythms from other parts of the world.

**Huang Li-jian - Pipa Player** - graduated from the Central University of Nationalities in Beijing. She joined Guang Xi Song & Dance Troupe and later became its principal pipa player. In 1989, she won the distinguished ART Cup International competition of Chinese Instrument players. As

a soloist, she performed in 2002 at a Summer Music Festival in France. In the US, she has performed at Lincoln Center, Merkin Concert Hall and the National Theater in Washington D.C.

**Zhang Baoli - Erhu Soloist** - was born in Beijing and graduated from its China Music Community College. He studied with Prof. Zhang Shao of the Central Conservatory of Music, age nine, and at ten gave his first public performance. In 1978, he became the principal erhu soloist of the Oriental Song and Dance Ensemble, Beijing, and he has toured extensively throughout all of Asia. His performances have been recorded in China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and the US. He is presently a member of Melody of Dragon and the Chinese Music Ensemble of NY.

**Liu Li - Guqin and Ruan Player** - is a renowned artist and soloist for both Melody of Dragon and the Chinese Music Ensemble of New York. Earlier, she was Associate Professor at the Chinese Conservatory of Music, as well as a soloist in their Experimental Orchestra. She was also a member of the Chinese Folk Music Orchestra, the Beijing Guqin Research Association and the Shanghai Jinyu Guqin Society.

**Zhou Yi - Pipa Soloist** - graduated from the Shanghai Conservatory of Music in China. Awarded many prizes, she won the First Prize of the Shanghai Spring Music Festival (1983), the Outstanding Performance Award of the Art Cup International Chinese Traditional Instruments Contest (1989), the White Magnolia Award for the Extraordinary Expertise in the Fine Arts (NY), (1998). As a soloist she has toured to Japan, Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Italy with the group Chinese National Music.

**Melody of Dragon** is a New York based Chinese music ensemble. It was founded in 1998, by four virtuoso musicians from leading Chinese conservatories, in order to introduce and promote Chinese musical repertory in the United States. Melody of Dragon seeks to build a bridge of musical and cultural exchange between China and the US. It features traditional, classical and folk music, as well as contemporary music. For more info, [www.melodyofdragon.org](http://www.melodyofdragon.org)

## Music Pavillion



From a Tiffany & Co. card © 1995

In 1859 Jacob Wrey Mould, an amateur musician and the architect who designed many of the original structures in Central Park, persuaded his wealthy friends to pay for free band concerts at a temporary bandstand in the Ramble, and he arranged their musical programs. The first concert, on July 13, included the Festival March from *Tannhäuser*, Mendelssohn's song, "I would that my Love," selections from *La Traviata* and Strauss's *Sorgenbrecher Waltz*. In the summer of 1860 concerts were transferred to the Mall, and *The New York Herald* reported that the September 22 concert attracted "at least five thousand persons gathered around the performers, while outside of these were stationed an immense number of carriages... filled with the beauty and fashion of New York." The overwhelming popularity of the concerts prompted Central Park's board to finance them and to build a permanent Music Pavillion on the west side of the Mall near the Terrace. Mould designed the elaborately painted and brightly gilded Moorish-style wooden and cast-iron structure, completed in 1862. The Parks Department razed the Music Pavillion in 1923.

The Naumburg Bandshell, a gift of Elkan Naumburg to the City of New York and its Music Lovers', replaced in purpose the former structure. Though the Naumburg Bandshell opened on September 29th 1923, the Art Commission of New York had approved of the change in 1912 and the design of the Bandshell in 1916. 'On the Mall', composed by Edwin F. Goldman in 1923, to honor Elkan Naumburg, was premiered that September afternoon, conducted by Franz Kaltenborn. Astonishingly, during that summer, 959 concerts were presented on the Concert Ground, over 400 of which were underwritten by the Parks Department. It was a popular place, providing a well-liked activity.

The Naumburg Bandshell design has historic precedents for its shape in the Pantheon of Rome, or even more closely, in the Imperial Russian pleasure park's pavilion at Gatchina Palace by Vincenzo Brenna—his 'Eagle Pavillion' of the 1790's, and also in the later work of the architect F.G.P. Poccianti, particularly his 'Cisternone' at Livorno of 1829-42. It has historic precedents for its function in the outdoor theatres and pavilions of Versailles, for example, or the temples and 'eye-catchers' found in the park-like gardens of British country houses such as Stourhead and Stowe. The use of European park architecture as a model for what to insert in Central Park was in keeping with Olmsted's design sources and methods of nearly 60 years earlier. The Naumburg Bandshell was set into the Manhattan schist hillside, which nestles it, to prevent views being blocked across the Mall and Concert Ground which caused an earlier proposal of Carrère & Hastings to be found wanting by city and park officials. The design also admirably reflects the architect William G. Tachau's own Ecole des Beaux-Arts classicist and historicist training. The result was Central Park's only Neo-Classical building.

## The Mall, Central Park

SATURDAY, MAY 23 1874

The double rows of American Elms, planted fourteen years earlier, create a green tunnel. Sunlight filters through the canopy of new leaves and throws dappled patterns of light and shade on the gravel walk. It is a beautiful day, the Mall is crowded: ladies in voluminous skirts and colorful hats; Irish nurses in bonnets and white aprons, pushing baby carriages; gentlemen in frock coats and top hats; a few young clerks in stylish broadcloth suits; the children in a variety of dress, miniature versions of their parents. It is a decorous crowd; tomorrow—Sunday—is when working people have a holiday and attendance will be even larger.

At the north end of the Mall, on the west side, is the bandstand. Mould has pulled out all the stops for this design. The raised platform is covered by a Moorish-style cupola, dark blue and covered with gilt stars. It is topped by a sculpture of a lyre. The roof is supported by crimson cast-iron columns. The bandstand is unoccupied—the Saturday—afternoon concerts start next month. The annual summer series is so popular—**up to forty-five thousand people attend**—that the park board has provided extra seating and has taken the unprecedented step of allowing listeners to sit on the grass. Not everyone admires these free concerts. "The barriers and hedges of society for the time being are let down," sniffs the *Times*, "unfortunately also a few of its delectables are forgotten."

The barriers of society are not altogether absent. Across the Mall from the bandstand is a broad concourse where the wealthy park their carriages and, separated from the lower orders by a long wisteria arbor, listen to the music in comfortable isolation. Beside the concourse stands a large one-story building with a swooping tiled roof and deep overhanging eaves. Originally the Ladies Refreshment Stand, it has recently been converted into a restaurant called the Casino.

An excerpt from Witold Rybczynski—*A Clearing in the Distance*, pp. 17-18 in which a letter of Frederick Law Olmsted—a principal designer of Central Park is quoted.

## The Future of the Bandshell and its Concerts

The 1993 court decision guaranteed that the bandshell would remain. What it did not do was insure the maintenance and improvement of the facility. The Parks Department completed repairing the roof of the Naumburg Bandshell in 2005. No other restoration of the building is planned at present.

The structure lacks two graceful pairs of decorative urns at either side of the half-domed structure and a suspended cast bronze light within its ceiling. It also needs the paint removed from the coffered ceiling, its stonework repaired, the losses replaced, the doors restored, the gilded donor inscription returned and the backstage renovated and fitted with working bathrooms once again. Naumburg Orchestral Concerts hopes the Central Park Conservancy and the Parks Department will restore the Naumburg Bandshell and with it the Concert Ground's role, dating to the 19th century, as a place of great beauty and tranquility in which to enjoy musical concerts in Central Park.

But given the many demands on funds in NYC, it may be too much to hope for. And there is little doubt that it could benefit from lighting, sound, and electrical improvements. To that end we are considering a large capital campaign to repair the Bandshell and enlarge the endowment of Naumburg Orchestral Concerts so we can improve and expand our concert schedule. We would like your opinions, help, contributions, and suggestions. Please see one of us at a concert or write NAUMBURG ORCHESTRAL CONCERTS c/o C.W. LONDON 300 CENTRAL PARK WEST, 18 H NEW YORK, N.Y. 10024-1513