



THE SHANGHAI QUARTET

Fact Sheet

- ❖ **Formed:** At the Shanghai Conservatory in 1983.
- ❖ **Members:** The Quartet includes Weigang Li, violin; Yi-Wen Jiang, violin; Honggang Li, viola; and Nicholas Tzavaras, cello.
- ❖ **Focus:** To present an elegant meld of Eastern music with Western repertoire, performed at the highest artistic standard. The Quartet strives to thrill and satisfy its audiences with passionate and engaging performances, while being true to the composer's intentions.
- ❖ **Carnegie Hall:** The Quartet has been showcased on numerous occasions at Carnegie Hall, and has appeared three times in partnership with other ensembles.
- ❖ **Recordings:** The Quartet has recorded 24 albums covering a wide range of Classical, Eastern and contemporary repertoire.
- ❖ **Music Education:** The Quartet serves as the quartet-in-residence at Montclair State University in New Jersey, performing and coaching chamber music and individual lessons. They are guest professors at the Shanghai Conservatory in China, and recently completed 13 years in residence at the University of Richmond. The Quartet was Graduate Ensemble-in-Residence at the Juilliard School, the Ravinia Music Festival and Tanglewood Music Center. They also coach the students of the New York Youth Symphony.
- ❖ **Film Credits:** The Quartet appeared in a Woody Allen film, "Melinda and Melinda" released in Spring 2005. Weigang Li appeared in the Academy Award-winning documentary "From Mao to Mozart: Isaac Stern in China," and Nicholas Tzavaras and his family were portrayed in the movie "Music from the Heart" starring Meryl Streep.
- ❖ **Debuts:** The Quartet made its European debut in 1985 and their New York debut in 1987.
- ❖ **Awards:** The Quartet won the prestigious Chicago Discovery Competition in 1987, and took second place in 1985 at the London International Competition (formerly the Portsmouth International Competition). They were also nominated for the Asahi Broadcasting Company's International Music Award after their first Far East tour in 1996.
- ❖ **20th Anniversary World Tour:** (2003) The Quartet performed the "Beethoven Project: East Meets West" as part of a 20th Anniversary tour. This marked the first time the Beethoven's quartet cycle was performed live in China. The Quartet performed the cycle seven times from Beijing to Tokyo, Osaka to New York, with stops in Shanghai, Seoul, Warsaw and Portugal.
- ❖ **25th Anniversary Celebration:** (2008) The Quartet commissions three composers from three continents in celebration of their excellent 25 years of blending sounds from multiple cultures.