



Photo by Jeff Fasano

Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer with Chao Tian From China to Appalachia

"Audiences were transfixed and transformed by these creative and talented women; it truly felt like being in the presence of magic."

- Lauren Ellis, Piedmont Arts

GRAMMY Award winning American Roots artists Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer join with Chinese classical hammered dulcimer player Chao Tian in a show that combines music from China to Appalachia and beyond. Instrumentation includes yangqin (Chinese hammered dulcimer), gourd banjo, five-string banjo, ukulele, guitars, dumbek, cello-banjo and mandolin.

The group's repertoire includes traditional Chinese and Appalachian music as well as contemporary and traditional music from around the world. Unusual combinations explore new arrangements to old music, such as "Dark Eyes." Ukulele, yangqin and guitar create a new pallet for this Russian folk song turned jazz manouche tune. Cathy & Marcy join Chao in singing a Chinese lullaby, "Nani Wan" and Chao easily adds her love of American Old-Time music to fiddle tunes and songs.

From China to Appalachia was borne of a friendship and mutual love of musical exploration experienced in jam sessions that inspired a show speaking to the power of music to connect cultures. The trio's inaugural performances include the Music Center at Strathmore (N. Bethesda, MD) and the Ashe Civic Center (Ashe Co., NC). On their own, they have performed at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Arts, Smithsonian Institution, Metropolitan Museum of Art, on PBS, and National Public Radio.

Cathy & Marcy are master musicians with a career spanning 40 years. Their superb harmonies are backed by instrumental virtuosity on the guitar, five-string banjo, ukulele, mandolin, cello-banjo, and more. They have performed at hundreds of bluegrass and folk festivals and taught at close to 100 music camps worldwide.

Classically trained since the age of five, Chao Tian spent years working as an instructor and the director of the Arts Education Center at Beijing Language and Culture University (BLCU). She is a founding member of BLCU Arts College's music department and was appointed as an officer of the International Culture Exchange Program in 2019. Chao has performed in over 30 different countries and regions across the globe and collaborated with numerous talented musicians in many unprecedented projects. In 2015, she was accepted into the prestigious Artist in Residence program at the Music Center at Strathmore, where she met Cathy Fink. Cathy has served as a mentor-in-residence in that program for nineteen years.

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[Video Samples on YouTube](#)

[Viral Video on TikTok](#)



Photo by Library of Congress

Selected Appearances:

- Library of Congress (Washington, DC)
- Wintergrass Music Festival (Bellevue, WA)
- Hamilton College (Clinton, NY)
- Fredonia Opera House (NY)
- Institute of Musical Traditions (Rockville, MD)
- Piedmont Arts (Martinsville, VA)
- Floyd Country Store (VA)
- Folk Alliance International Conference (Kansas City, MO)
- Pro-Art (Wise, VA)
- Friends Of Old Time Music And Dance (Charleston, WV)
- Morgan Arts Council (Berkeley Springs, WV)
- Chinese Cultural Center (Columbia, MD)
- Mid-Atlantic Tours Artists, 2023-2024

"They are incredibly talented musicians that are just fun to watch."
-Michelle Reiser-Memmer, Hamilton College Performing Arts

"The music is simply sublime, captivating, and above all, vastly entertaining...an enthralling performance, music that perfectly distills the adage that music knows no boundaries."

- Diana B. Ingraham, Hill Center at the Old Naval Hospital