

TNUA Wind Ensemble takes concert tour in Canada



The TNUA Wind Ensemble undertook a two-week concert tour in Canada, taking them to Vancouver, Calgary and Banff this summer.

The 57-member ensemble gave a total of five concerts during the tour that began on July 15. Two of the concerts were joined by the 12-member wind ensemble from the University of British Columbia (UBC). The trip is the third time that musicians from TNUA's Department of Music have been invited to take part in major musical events in Canada, following their participation as artists in residence at the Powell River International Choral Kathaumixw in both 2006 and 2008.

This year's tour was taken mainly at the invitation of UBC, a sister school of TNUA's. Prof. Hwei-Jin Liu, dean of the TNUA School of Music, said the TNUA Wind Ensemble gave two major concerts, as well as three chamber music concerts.

The conductors of these concerts were TNUA's Prof. Wang Chan and UBC Prof. Martin Berinbaum, who has twice guest-lectured at TNUA for the Maestro Lectures.

The TNUA ensemble wasted no time for preparation for their concert tour, starting intensive rehearsals with

their UBC counterparts soon after arriving in Canada. They also exchanged their experiences in learning and performing. Their joint concerts on July 23 and 25 saw them perform masterpieces by famous composers, such as Holst's "The Planets," Richard Strauss' "Serenade in E-flat, Op. 7," John Williams' "Star Wars Trilogy," and Joe Lee's "The Temple Square."

TNUA has been actively encouraging its teachers and students to take part in international performances. Musicians from the Department of Music, apart from their three trips to Canada, have traveled to as far as Argentina to participate in concerts in the South American country. Their recent concerts during their international exchange trips to Japan with the Tokyo University of the Arts (Geida) and to Beijing with the Central Conservatory of Music.

The concerts they held during their trips won wide acclaim. They successfully demonstrated not just their own excellent art but also in general TNUA's excellence in teaching. All the achievements they have accomplished have allowed TNUA to continue to shine on the international stage. ◆

Top: The TNUA Wind Ensemble plays to full houses during its concert tour in Canada in July 2010.

TAIPEIDEA 2010 offers 3-week dance workshops



The TNUA Department of Dance held its three-week TAIPEIDEA 2010 series of Maestro Lectures and workshops in August, with diverse activities and courses designed by internationally renowned dancers in various areas.

The program saw over 150 participants, including students, teachers and dancers, sharing the feast of dance in the summer at TNUA between August 2 and 20.

TAIPEIDEA, which marked its seventh edition this year, invited 10 scholarship winners from the World Dance Alliance Asia Pacific (WDA-AP). Therefore, apart from local students, the program also saw participants from Australia, Japan, Malaysia, Hong Kong, India, the Philippines, Cambodia and the United States.

Prof. Heng Ping, dean of the School of Dance, noted that TAIPEIDEA, since its first edition, has invited many internationally renowned maestros to TNUA, offering Taiwan's dance lovers chances to learn, and allowing the development of Taiwan's professional dance to get in close touch with the rest of the world.

Department of Dance Prof. Yunyu Wang, the director of the program, said this year's activities combined creativi-

ty and the profession of dance in order to train talents in the fields of dance education, performing, creative work, research and multimedia dance music. The program also aimed at broadening the perspective of the dance art, honing dance skills, and promoting dance to the community, and elevate Taiwan's status on the international stage of dance, Prof. Wang said.

TAIPEIDEA 2010 offered 13 courses in modern dance, contemporary dance, ballet, contact improvisation, choreography, Capoeira, Franklin Method, dance music and others. Lecturers were from such countries as Switzerland, Germany, the United States and Taiwan, including Philipp Egli, Damian Gmuer, Claudia Howard Queen, Jan Dunn, Cheng Li Chou, H.T. Chen, and Hui-chen Tsai.

After three weeks of intensive training, students concluded the summer program by staging a performance on August 20 to demonstrated what they had learnt.

TAIPEIDEA is meant to be an international activity designed to give local and foreign dancers chances to hone their skills. It is hoped that it can become an international dance festival in the future. ◆

Top: Daniel Gmuer demonstrates Capoeira blending street dance and contemporary dance.