

# Nonprofit lays foundation for Chinese artists

By Geoff Moore

Correspondent

The lazy days of summer are anything but that for Cathy Chan, founder and president of the Lincoln-based nonprofit Foundation for Chinese Performing Arts.

"The Foundation is a volunteer-based organization formed to aid outstanding Asian musicians who need to be heard," said Chan.

Describing the Foundation as "not a big organization," Chan said that she was moved to start it in 1989 when she recognized a musician, well known in China, playing in front of a small audience in a school hall.

"Most organizations were arranging performances for fun. I wanted the community to experience concerts from these great musicians in a more professional setting," she said.

Today, the Foundation achieves that goal by organizing a full program of music and dance in such locations as The New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall and the Issac Stern Auditorium in Carnegie Hall.

Chan said that her

## UPCOMING MUSIC FESTIVAL EVENTS

- Aug. 12: Faculty Recital
- Aug. 18: Longwood Symphony Concert
- Aug. 22: Longwood Orchestra at the Hatch Shell
- Aug. 23: Student Showcase Gala

For a complete schedule, visit [www.chineseperformingarts.net](http://www.chineseperformingarts.net).

Foundation also seeks to bridge the gap between musicians without professional agents, who often have difficulty getting engagements, and the more famous musicians whose agents will not schedule them for the smaller venues.

But it is a commitment to provide master classes and concert experiences for talented young musicians from around the world that keeps even late summers hectic for Chan and her team of

## Foundation promotes Chinese artists

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volunteer's. The ever-shorter days of August will bring the Foundation's 16th annual Summer Music Festival. Held at Walnut Hill in Natick, the three-week festival (Aug. 1-24) features 45 outstanding music students, some as young as 14, from as far away as China, Korea and Taiwan. Joining them are students of Chinese parents from the United States and Canada.

These young musicians, chosen through local auditions, come to participate in an intensive musical training program on a one-on-one basis with world-class masters. In addition to the private lessons, they play in chamber ensembles, attend concerts at Tanglewood, and visit museums and historical sites in the greater Boston area.

Every year, the Foundation awards \$30,000 in scholarships to young musicians who require financial assistance in order to

attend the festival.

During the course of the festival students are evaluated and those of the highest level are chosen to play with the Longwood Symphony Orchestra at concerts both on campus and at the orchestra's annual Boston Esplanade Hatch Memorial Shell performance, which takes place this year on Aug. 22 at 7 p.m.

"After an internal competition the winner will have the opportunity to play as a soloist," Chan said. "One of our first soloists was pianist Lang Lang, now a bright star," she added proudly.

Lang Lang, 25, an internationally renowned pianist, came to the Foundation's summer music festival from China as a 13-year-old student.

But the Foundation's activities are not limited simply to providing a platform for Chinese performers.

Each year since the inception of the festival, the

Foundation has commissioned an original music score to be performed during the concert series, many of which have been broadcast on radio and television.

In past years, the Foundation has also given grants to educators, youth orchestras, individuals and ensembles.

In 1991, the Foundation organized the first All-American Youth Chinese Brush Painting and Calligraphy Competition, which now takes place annually in April. This year artists submitted some 500 entries from more than 40 different Chinese Schools in 16 states for the competition. Winners received cash awards, certificates, and had their artworks exhibited in the metropolitan Boston area.

For a full list of winning entries and details of the 2007-2008 music program, visit [www.ChinesePerformingArts.net](http://www.ChinesePerformingArts.net).

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