



MEDIA RELEASE

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SMCS Presents Chinese Concert and Reception

St. Mary Catholic Schools is pleased to present a concert of traditional Chinese music on **Thursday, October 15 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Jane Bergstrom Fine Arts Education Center, 1050 Zephyr Drive, Neenah. As part of a three-day artist in residence program, Emay Ulannie F., a native of Chongqing, China, will perform in traditional garb on the 21-string guzheng instrument. Also performing will be Tian Ping "Victoria" Zhang, a student from the international program at St. Mary Catholic High School, who will play the hulusi. The show will be followed by a reception featuring traditional Chinese treats and an opportunity to see the instruments up close and chat with the performers. Members of the Chinese Club will also be on hand to sell Chinese souvenirs to help raise money for their trip to China in the summer of 2016.

Emay Ulannie is the daughter of a music teacher in China, and began learning piano at the age of three and guzheng when she was seven-years old. In China, she was in demand as a professional performer of the guzheng at concerts, ceremonies, events and cruises on the Yangtze River. She came to the United States in 2010, and now teaches guzheng and piano lessons in Madison, Wisconsin and enjoys sharing her love of music with others. Recently, she has performed at the Imperial Garden in Madison, as well as Chinese festivals at the UW-Madison and UW-Platteville.

In addition to the Thursday evening concert, Emay Ulannie will perform at each of the SMCS elementary schools and will do a concert for the middle and high school students. She will also spend time with the middle and high school Mandarin language students, ESL students and the high school band classes, sharing her musical talents and knowledge and experience of Chinese culture.

This artist-in-residence engagement is presented courtesy of the Confucius Classroom at St. Mary Catholic High School. Through a partnership with Hanban, the high school promotes the teaching of the Mandarin Chinese language and understanding of Chinese culture.

St. Mary Catholic Schools (SMCS) includes St. Mary Catholic High School and the new St. Mary Catholic Middle School in the Town of Menasha and St. Mary Elementary Schools (St. Margaret Mary and St. Gabriel in Neenah, and St. Mary in Menasha). SMCS is dedicated to the individual development of each student in grades Pre3-12, by providing the highest quality education focused on faith, academics and service in a rapidly changing world.

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