

# 13th ANNUAL CHINESE ORPHANS BENEFIT CONCERT

**FREE ADMISSION**



## *Flutes in Flight*

**March 31, 2019, 2:30 PM**

**First Baptist Church**

**518 N. Franklin Ave., Madison, WI**

## **FLUTE CONCERT PROVIDES EDUCATIONAL FUNDS FOR CHINESE ORPHANS**

**Come join us for *Flutes in Flight*, an afternoon of lovely  
flute music, and help us send more than  
100 impoverished Chinese orphans to school.**

Thirteen years ago, flutist Linda Mintener first learned of the difficult life of a group of orphans in China's Henan Province and decided to organize a flute concert to raise funds for just two of those orphans to go to school and to give them the opportunity to break out of poverty. Twelve years later, 109 orphans ranging from kindergarten to college are currently in school with the help of funds raised in our annual concerts, and many more have finished school.

The original orphans were orphaned when their subsistence farmer parents died of HIV/AIDS contracted from giving blood in exchange for small sums of much needed cash. The HIV-infected equipment resulted in the AIDS death of 10,000 adults who left behind more than 2,000 orphans. As the children orphaned by AIDS finished school, we have supported children who were orphaned by other causes. Elderly and frail grandparents—often in poor health and without the ability to support even themselves—are raising the children. They have little or no cash income to pay for school or even the necessities of life. Our funds provide the children with money for school tuition, dorm fees, school books and supplies, adequate clothing, and a healthy diet. Most of the orphans graduate from high school. Seven have graduated from college and have professional jobs, and nine are currently in college. Most would not have had any educational opportunities without our annual concerts to fund our Chinese Orphans Project.

Concert admission is free with a free-will offering collected. You give whatever you wish, or you can even choose an orphan to sponsor. Our annual concerts of light and enjoyable classical tunes are well-known nationally by flutists. Many of the nation's best flute players have come at their own expense to help raise the funds for these orphans. This year, our guest flutist is Marianne Gedigian, a fantastic flute performer and Flute Professor at the University of Texas. She will perform with Madison Flute Club and with her former students—Tim Hagen, UW faculty; Dawn Lawler, Madison Symphony; and Gabriela Ruiz, formerly a Powell flute maker and now owner of a Madison flute repair shop. Marianne's solo performances have taken her around the world. She has performed with the Boston and Pittsburgh Symphonies and soloed numerous times with the Boston Pops.

If you are interested in contributing to our Chinese Orphan Project or in sponsoring a child, you can write a check to First Baptist Church and mail it to Linda Mintener, Chinese Orphans Project Coordinator, 3976 Plymouth Circle, Madison, WI 53705. Or, better yet, come to the concert and put it in the offering. You may give any amount that will go into the general funds to support the children. If you choose to sponsor a particular child, the amount to support a K-9<sup>th</sup> grade child is \$250/year; for high school is \$500/year. For further information, contact Linda Mintener at [LMintener@AOL.com](mailto:LMintener@AOL.com) or 608/231-1680.

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