

Brief introduction about Chinese New Year and “Happy Chinese New Year” Program

From New Year scrolls to fireworks, from *jiaozi* to the family reunion dinner, many traditions and customs constitute the 4,000-year-old festival Chinese New Year, or Spring Festival. As the most important traditional festival in the country, the Chinese New Year gives the best description of the psyche, heritage, aesthetics and culture of the Chinese people.

In 2001, the Ministry of Culture of the PRC launched efforts to build the brand for the Chinese New Year with the purpose of sharing Chinese culture globally. The overseas activity was officially named Happy Chinese New Year in 2009, propelling the growing global impact of the Chinese festival. Focused on "Happiness", "Harmony", "Dialogue" and "Sharing", the Happy Chinese New Year program hosts the core values of "Festival of Nature", "Festival of Family", "Festival of Soul", and "Festival of the World", all of which are dedicated to sharing the achievements of Chinese culture.

In 2016, more than 2,100 events were staged in 400 cities in 140 countries and regions, reaching out to 250 million audiences across the globe. These events varied in forms, such as temple fairs, global Chinese New Year galas, lantern shows, street parades, performances, variety shows, cultural and trade exhibitions, intangible cultural heritage shows, TV programs and film presentations, book fairs, fireworks shows, as well as seminars.

**Embassy of People's Republic of China and Indira Gandhi National Centre For the Arts
present 50 minutes Dance Programme by Xinjiang Art Theater Song and Dance Troupe**

Established in 1949, Xinjiang Art Theater Song and Dance Troupe has been dedicating its full efforts to creating top quality theater art works by absorbing rich culture and art resources in China and taking in innovative modern art elements. Their efforts in pursuing artistic excellence have been rewarded with so many awards in major domestic and international events including National Five A Award, the Lotus Award of National Dance Competition, and others.

Highly regarded by audiences in the world, Xinjiang Art Theater Song and Dance Troupe toured more than 90 countries and regions in the world. On January 20th, 2017, the troupe, consisted of 29 members, will be performing at IGNCA to bring the joy and happiness of Chinese New Year, which is now widely celebrated in many parts of the world. Their performances including acrobatics, songs and dances etc will present a slice of diversified culture of China.

Brief introduction on the programs

(IGNCA, 50 minutes)

1. Group Dance “Celebration”

Artists: RENA ABUDUKELIMU, XIERAILI MAIMAITI

The graceful dance “Celebration”, which is full of liveliness and enthusiasm, reflects the bold and generous characteristics of the people living in Xinjiang and their dream and aspiration for better life.

2. Acrobatics “Play Diabolo”

Artists: GUZALIAYI AINIWAER, REMILA AIERKEN, QIADELIYA QIADEER

Diabolo is a juggling prop consisting of a spool, which will whistle while whirled and tossed on a string tied to two sticks held one in each hand. Playing diabolo requires lots of practice to learn the technique and balance.

3. Group Dance “Stomping Dance”

Artists : RENA ABUDUKELIMU etc

Stomping Dance is a time honored folk dance with more than two thousand years history. It depicts a joyful scene when the couples in ancient China have an outing and go sight-seeing in spring.

4. Acrobatics “Hand Technique”

Artist: AIKEBAIER ABUDUREYIMU

The performer adeptly uses his hand to play with and toss Sapayi.

5. Double Dance “Melody of Love”

Artists: RENA ABUDUKELIMU, XIERAILI MAIMAITI

The dance shows the romantic story of two happy lovers by delicate facial expression and graceful gestures.

6. Solo Song “Song of Accordion”

Artist: XIADIYA XIAMILI

7. Group Dance “Flower Pattern Waistband”

Artists: XIERAILI MAIMAITI, WUQIKUNAYI FULATI

Waistband is the love token of Xinjiang girls. This dance displays how the young men in Xinjiang are trying to woo the lovely girl and win her heart.

8. Solo Song “Ode to mother” & “Tom Hi Ho”

Artist: ABUDUSAIMI AIERKEN

9. Solo Dance “Black Horse”

Artist: GAOHAERBAHATI

This performance depicts the graceful moves of the black horse and shows the harmonious relationship between local people and their friends -the horses.

10. Solo Song “Good Days”

Artists: HUANG JUNPING

11. Group Dance “Bowl Dance”

Artists: WUQIKUNAYI FULATI etc

Bowl Dance is a highly regarded traditional dance with plates and bowls as props, which requires varieties of skills and manifests the charming and graceful features.

12. Group Dance: Dolan Maxrap

Artists : NUERAIZEZI ANAYETI etc

People living in Xinjiang created “Dao Lang dance”, a folk dance with regional characteristics and flavor. Always exhibiting its passion, high spirit, boldness and enthusiasm, the dance reflects the local people’s love about life and their struggle for well-being despite of adverse natural circumstances. This dance won the Grand Prize of China Central Television’s Spring Festival Gala in 2011.