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As invited to the 2nd International Aimusic Festival, Shanghai Academy of Theatre Delegation arrived in San Jose. Presented by NoonArts and Lecture, they will perform the traditional operas and music in downtown San Jose, among other cultural exchange activities.

Tom Ingalz, the person in charge of NoonArts and Lectures, said that they present arts programs in different venues in the downtown area every Thursday or Friday. They hope to provide the students and working class arts from different cultural backgrounds and formats. He pointed out that he has collaborated with Aimusic School many times in the past by inviting music and traditional opera groups to demonstrate Chinese culture. He emphasized that culture does not have a “mainstream.” “Everything performed onstage is the mainstream, sharing its own culture through arts without any gaps.”

Shanghai Academy of Theatre Delegation performed Peking Opera “Xu Ce Rushes through the City,” Kunqu “A Walk in the Garden,” Yueju “The Eighteen-Mile Farewell,” an Erhu solo, a Yangqin solo, and an instrument ensemble. Nearby workers and students attended the show and some came in groups from senior centers. Upon hearing the familiar melodies from their hometown, some of the elderly Chinese audience quietly sang along, while others took clips with their cell phones.

Aimusic School principal Xie Tan said that Shanghai Academy of Theatre is performing by natural acoustics this time, without using any microphones. The performers rehearsed for half a year for this reason, hoping to bring the Bay Area audience the most enjoyable performances.

The troupe director, the vice secretary of the Academy, HU Min noted that it is hoped that her troupe members can demonstrate to the overseas communities the beauty of Chinese culture through the traditional operas such as Kunqu, Yueju, and Peking Opera.