

World Journal

Aimusic-Firebird Youth Chinese Orchestra Performed in the Mainstream in Full House

Journalist Emily Lin reported in Sunnyvale

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To celebrate the Lunar New Year, Aimusic School — Firebird Youth Chinese Orchestra (FYCO) performed in Sunnyvale Library, and attracted many listeners. The community hall is full of audience. Many even have to stand. Some patrons asked young musician questions afterword, willing to learn more about Chinese instruments and music.

In addition to ensembles, there are some solo performances. A student parent Emily Banh said that the Aimusic has been committed in promoting traditional Chinese culture, and served more and more performances in the community. During this Lunar New Year, only the students have 10 performances in libraries and senior home in the South Bay Area. (Because of a heavy demand,) we must separate to 2 subgroups to serve different hosts simultaneously.

With two children in the orchestra, Emily said that she was very lonely when learning the Piano. She wish her children could learn in a group. “With playmates, youngsters can stimulate their motivation. Not only do they practice spontaneously, but also make many friends, helping each other all moving up together.”

Pipa player Megan Banh expressed that there was very little knowledge about Chinese music in the mainstream society. Therefore, our orchestra is very unique to them. “Many are the first time in their life listening to our music. They’d like to ask us about the instruments’ characteristics, the principle of vocalization, and other questions after our performance.” She laughed and said that although the Chinese music was unpopular among her school classmates, she never thought about giving up. “This is my most important after-school activity and I have made many good friends in the orchestra.”

Tiffany Wang, playing the Erhu for 5 years, pointed out that she had been learning the Piano since a child, yet was attracted by Chinese music. “I’m very interested in Chinese culture and wanted to learn the instrument myself.”

Because she started relatively late, her classmates were much younger than her when she began. “At that time, I felt very frustrated. But after joining the orchestra, I knew many friends in similar ages of mine, so that I could continue my learning.” When talking about community performances, she is very happy in bringing a festive atmosphere. “Growing up in America, we now can use our own capability to make people understand Chinese culture very well.”

(Photo description: FYCO is performing in Sunnyvale Public Library. The community hall is full house. Many are in standing. Photographer: Emily Lin)