

THE SPIRITUAL PATH OF THE SILK ROAD

Though the memories of many dynasties are emblazoned in the hearts of the Chinese people, passed down from generation to generation, the time of the opening of the Silk Road remains a significant signpost regarding the spiritual path of the population.



Shen Yun's amazing artists gracefully perform the wonderful Golden Lotus Dance

SHEN YUN 2013 WORLD TOUR SCHEDULE



Rapt audiences enjoy last year's Shen Yun show at sold-out Radio City Music Hall in New York

This was the time that young China first truly opened itself to the world, embracing external influences rather than trying to keep them out. The profound influence of this epoch can be found celebrated in nearly every performance of the Shen Yun dance troupe, which not only combines the influences of the many disparate minority cultures and traditions of the land into their show but also sincerely honors the path chosen by the people themselves on their significant spiritual journeys.

As the Shen Yun program clearly states, the group's productions "draw their inspiration from China's 5,000 years of civilization." This allows the group to choose from among the many legends, tales, historical figures, times and places that remain important to the Chinese people, both culturally and as part of their common fabric. The heyday of the Silk Road continues to provide inspiration to both Chinese civilization as well as Shen Yun Performing Arts.

The well-known concept of the contemplative monk who spends a lifetime of meditation, often in the seclusion of the natural beauty found high in the mountains, can be directly traced back to the introduction of Buddhist philosophy into China. This philosophy arrived by way of the Silk Road, reaching the middle regions of Central Asia before winding its way into the heart of China where it combined with the previous philosophies of Confucius and Lao Tzu to provide the bedrock of spiritual culture which remains at the heart of the people to this day.

Many Shen Yun pieces attempt to capture the spiritual harmony of these contemplative monks

through the magic of performance. In "Joyful Little Monks" the male dancers exhibit a playful spirit as they wake up to the chores of a beautiful morning. The incredible backdrop sets the performance amidst the delightful beauty of the high mountains, aloft in heavenly clouds. The effect on an audience is one of peace and spiritual harmony.

In another romp a legendary 12th Century Buddhist monk known as "Crazy Ji" dedicates his life to helping others by using his brain to outsmart the bad guys, showing that quality of character means more than all the money in the world.

Many dances such as the one seen here – called "Lotus Leaves" but also known as "The Golden Lotus Dance" – also attempt to convey the sense of serenity brought about when the soul finds peace through thoughtful contemplation.

This inner search has long been part of the Chinese people's way of life. Each individual can be seen to be traveling along a path, hopefully toward enlightenment or understanding, from youth to death or perhaps a lengthier voyage of the soul.

This philosophy lies at the heart of the culture, traditions and beliefs of the people of China. It can be seen and felt as a presence in the greatest works of their art and culture. Often the most difficult paths, the most arduous journeys, result in the greatest progress for the people.

Much like the intrepid travelers of yesteryear, the dedicated performers of Shen Yun continue to blaze the difficult trail in an attempt to resuscitate the lost art and culture of a people. *

United States

DATE	CITY
Oct 27	New Brunswick
Dec 22 - Dec 23	Cleveland
Dec 26 - Jan 1	Houston
Dec 26 - Dec 27	San Diego
Dec 28 - Dec 31	Escondido
Jan 2 - Jan 3	Sacramento
Jan 2 - Jan 3	Dallas
Jan 4 - Jan 6	San Jose
Jan 5 - Jan 6	Atlanta Cobb Energy
Jan 8 - Jan 9	Atlanta Fox Theatre
Jan 11 - Jan 13	Fort Lauderdale
Jan 15 - Jan 17	Orlando
Jan 18 - Jan 20	Costa Mesa
Jan 19 - Jan 20	Raleigh
Jan 22 - Jan 23	Thousand Oaks
Jan 22 - Jan 23	Kansas City
Jan 24 - Jan 27	Detroit
Jan 25 - Jan 27	Los Angeles
Jan 26 - Jan 27	Charlotte
Jan 29 - Jan 30	Jacksonville
Jan 29 - Feb 3	Washington, DC
Feb 1 - Feb 3	Pittsburgh
Feb 5 - Feb 6	Indianapolis
Feb 6 - Feb 7	Worcester
Feb 7 - Feb 8	Cincinnati
Feb 8 - Feb 10	Boston
Feb 9 - Feb 10	Columbus
Feb 13 - Feb 14	Waterbury
Feb 15 - Feb 17	Nashville
Feb 16 - Feb 17	Rochester
Feb 19 - Feb 20	Milwaukee
Feb 20	Fort Worth
Feb 22 - Feb 23	Minneapolis
Feb 22 - Feb 24	Denver
Feb 28 - Mar 3	Mesa
Mar 10	Phoenix
Mar 12 - Mar 13	Ogden
Mar 20 - Mar 24	San Francisco
Mar 28 - Mar 30	Seattle
Apr 3 - Apr 4	Portland
Apr 19 - Apr 21	St. Louis
Apr 20 - Apr 28	New York
Apr 23 - Apr 24	Fort Myers
Apr 26 - Apr 28	St. Petersburg

DATE	CITY
Apr 29 - Apr 30	West Palm Beach
MAY 3 - MAY 5	Philadelphia
MAY 9	Schenectady

Canada

DATE	CITY
Dec 20 - Dec 23	Mississauga
Dec 27 - Dec 30	Ottawa
Jan 3 - Jan 6	Montreal
Jan 8	Quebec
Jan 10 - Jan 13	Vancouver
Jan 10 - Jan 11	Kitchener-Waterloo
Jan 12 - Jan 13	Hamilton
Jan 17 - Jan 20	Toronto

Europe

DATE	CITY
Mar 1 - Mar 2	Vienna
Mar 28 - Mar 31	Frankfurt
Apr 8 - Apr 9	Stockholm
Apr 12 - Apr 13	Paris

Asia

To be announced...

Australia & New Zealand

DATE	CITY
Feb 5 - Feb 6	Wellington
Feb 8 - Feb 9	Auckland

South America

DATE	CITY
Dec 13 - Dec 21	Buenos Aires