

Concert Hall
of the
21st Century



Muziekgebouw
aan 't IJ

CHINA OPERA WEEKEND

Sublime one-man operas by leading Chinese soloists

Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 February in Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ

On Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 February, Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ will be devoting its programme to Chinese Opera. Three star singers/actors from China and Taiwan will each perform a sublime one-man opera, accompanied by ensembles from Shanghai and Chengdu. Since 2007, the operas have been travelling around the world and conquering the hearts of audiences from Berlin to New York. And now there will be just one performance in the Netherlands.

Besides the three opera performances, the weekend will also feature introductions by musicologist and China expert Frank Kouwenhoven, a Chinese Opera workshop with actor/singer Ke Jun, a concert with erhu (Chinese violin) and 31-tone organ, and discussions with the director and actors.

Three operas and three genres

These solo operas will introduce you to a new form of Chinese Opera. The strict rules of form and melody of the ancient art of 'classical' Chinese opera are abandoned. The operas are examples of top-class contemporary music theatre, while at the same time being a wonderful ode to tradition.

The first in the series (Sat 13 Feb, 20:15) is the exciting Peking Opera version of *King Lear*. The masterly singer/actor Wu Hsingkuo takes on no fewer than ten different roles in the performance. *Hiding, fleeing* (Sun 14 Feb, 15:00) is a Kun Opera; the refined southern counterpart to the Peking Opera. Actor/singer Ke Jun uses calligraphy and the melodious bamboo flute in addressing a basic human dilemma.

Sigh (Sun 14 Feb, 20:15) is based on Sichuan Opera; a style characterised by its expressive visual idiom and music. Actress/singer Tian Mansha, who has won many awards, interweaves the stories of three women's lives and blends them into a poetic and dramatic whole.