

長堤聖寺國慶音樂欣賞會紀實

謝惠英 文
陳果維 英譯

上人說：「若心能平和，時常洋溢著一股祥和之氣，那就是真音樂。」

長堤夏日迎佳節，
弦歌詩頌齊唱和；
法音宣流除熱惱，
樂韻飄香淨娑婆。

七月四日是美國國慶日，也是個吉祥的日子。長堤聖寺藉此美好的因緣，舉辦國慶音樂會，以樂會友。內容豐富多元化，是一場中西藝術文化的交流，也是美好的音樂饗宴，值此炎炎夏日，予人輕快的禪悅及清涼的法喜。

長堤位於洛杉磯南端，濱臨太平洋，藍天碧海，景色宜人，是絕佳的避暑勝地。長堤聖寺原為一天主教修道院，上人於90年間購得，其環境清幽，涼爽宜人。碧草如茵的前院，有座聖母瑪利亞的雕像，聖潔莊嚴，供人瞻仰。每天早晚皆有虔誠的天主教徒來此敬獻鮮花，默默的跪禱，無人打擾。佛教徒、天主教徒，同在此地各自修行，和平相處，令人稱奇。上人對各宗教的尊重及包容值得我們學習。

為了籌辦此次音樂會，長堤聖寺的當家立法師及近賢師，帶領居士們佈置會場。香花如雲的大殿，更為莊嚴明亮，紅藍顏色相間的舞台，絢爛奪目，洋溢著國慶的喜氣和象徵著美國的自由、平等。

音樂會是在當天下午二點開始舉行，來自



聖地牙哥的上人弟子羅致遵擔任司儀。他台風穩健，是位稱職的節目主持人。實法師向大眾致歡迎詞，並介紹佛曲，談「以樂弘法」，讚揚中國孔子的禮樂教化，以音樂來陶情、化性，建立完美的人格，若能如此則身心泰然，無掛無礙，以達到上人所謂的「自性的音樂」。並在現場介紹幾首英文佛曲，大眾唱和，氣氛溫馨感人。誠如法師所言，在佛教道場舉辦音樂會，是殊勝而難得的。

接著是金輪寺合唱團的佛曲演唱，總共唱了九首。合唱團成立至今十五年，團員近三十人。回顧1993年，於長堤聖寺為上人及其老友楊校尊祝壽慶生，在素筵中，金輪寺十多位居士臨時組了一合唱團，為大眾獻唱「盡虛空」，當時上人聽了非常開懷，便說道：「我們也需要有個合唱團了。」由於上人的支持和鼓勵，金輪寺合唱團於焉成立，其宗旨在於「端正樂風，淨化人心。」如今，事隔十五年，合唱團再次回到長堤聖寺演唱，以歌聲來轉法輪，教化眾生，意義既深且遠。

此次音樂會也是一場中西藝術文化的交流，胡琴、鋼琴的二重奏，別開生面，精彩十足。接著便是黑管、鋼琴的二重奏；另值得一提的是三位年輕朋友的鋼琴獨奏，頗有大將之風，大眾皆給予熱烈的掌聲，希望來日能更上層樓。

二個半小時的音樂會，在莊嚴悠揚的迴向偈中，緩緩結束。現場大眾莫不法喜充滿，意猶未盡。人稱音樂無國界，是全世界共同的語言，也是感人最深的一種藝術。值此國慶佳節，藉音樂來弘揚佛理，迴向大眾。但願美國更自由、平等，世界更和平。



July 4th Music Concert at Long Beach Monastery

WRITTEN BY HSIEH HUI YING

ENGLISH TRANSLATED BY GWO WEI CHENG

Venerable Master Hua said, “If your mind can be calm and at peace, and you can frequently emanate an air of harmony, that is genuine music.”

Welcoming an auspicious event on a summer day in

Long Beach,

With melodies and songs, lyrical tunes and chorale.

*Dharma sounds drifted across, dissipating afflictions
along the way.*

Soothing music wafts throughout, purifying the Saha World.

The 4th of July is a commemoration of the American Independence, and is also an auspicious day. Long Beach Monastery hosted an Independence Day Music Concert and this was a wonderful opportunity to gather in everybody through music. The agenda was enriched with a diverse presentation of arts and culture of the East and the West. It provided a light touch of *dhyana* bliss and refreshing joy in the Dharma.

Long Beach is located south of Los Angeles, bordering the Pacific Ocean. It is an ideal shelter from the summer heat. Its backdrop of an azure sky and deep blue ocean is captivating. Long Beach Monastery was a Catholic convent before it was purchased by Venerable Master Hua in the 90's. It has a peaceful environment. Blanketed with a carpet of verdant grass, the front yard has an adorned statue of the Blessed Mother Mary. In the morning and evening, devout Catholics would come to offer her fresh flowers and kneel in silent supplication, undisturbed. Buddhists and Catholics can live in the same area and practice their respective cultivation without conflict. This is truly noteworthy. Known for his noble spirit, Venerable Master Hua gave us the lesson of respecting other religions.

In preparation for this event, Dharma Master Li and Chin Syan Shr of Long Beach Sagely Monastery led the laity in setting the stage for this day. The Buddha Hall was adorned with beautiful flowers. The platform was bedecked with a backdrop of red, white and blue, symbolizing the American independence and what it embodies.

The Music Concert started at 2 pm on July 4th. The Master of Ceremonies, Zhi-zun Lo, a disciple of Venerable Master Hua, facilitated the program with a professional manner. Dharma Master Sure, Chairman of Dharma Realm Buddhist Association, gave a welcoming speech. He talked

about the propagation of the Buddhadharma through music, and praised the Confucian system of teaching and transforming people by means of rites and music. He elucidated the influence of music in moderating one's nature and refining one's character. If we can perfect our body and mind this way, and attain self-mastery and liberation, then we have arrived at what Venerable Master Hua called 'the music of our inherent nature'. He also introduced some English Buddhist songs to the audience, who responded warmly by joining in unison. Indeed, having a music concert in a Buddhist monastery is a remarkably wonderful and rare occurrence.

Following the welcoming speech, Gold Wheel Monastery Choir performed nine songs. The choir, which was established fifteen years ago, now has about thirty members. It was at the birthday celebration in 1993 for Venerable Master Hua and his longtime friend, Professor Yang, that a dozen or so laypersons from Gold Wheel Monastery formed an ad hoc choir and sang “Throughout Empty Space.” The Venerable Master was very pleased with the rendition and said, “It's about time we have a choir.” With his blessings and encouragement, Gold Wheel Monastery Choir was formed. Its motto – Refinement of Music, Purification of Mind – is carried out. Now, fifteen years after its initiation, the choir returned to Long Beach Sagely Monastery to turn the Dharma wheel and help transform living beings via music. The essence herewith is deep and far-reaching.

This music concert also served as a fusion of art and culture of the East and the West. There was an eye-opening er-hu and piano duet, followed by a piano and clarinet duet. Afterward, the audience heard piano solos by three promising young performers; it was a great joy to watch their talent develop. The audience applauded enthusiastically and looked forward to their progression to new heights.

The two and a half hour music concert culminated with a touching rendition of the Dedication of Merit. All present were filled with the joy of Dharma. Music is a universal language and also a deeply-touching form of art. On this propitious day of the nation's independence, we employed music as a vehicle to propagate the Buddhadharma and dedicated this merit to all. We wish the United States of America to remain the epitome of liberty and equality. We hope the world will be a peaceful place for all.