

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 1, 2011



Midori & Friends Celebrates Chinese New Year with Melody of Dragon

Midori & Friends—a nonprofit organization that provides music education programs in underserved public schools throughout New York City—announces a special concert in celebration of the Chinese New Year, performed by the acclaimed ensemble *Melody of Dragon*.

This performance, held at P.S. 42 in Chinatown, is part of a series of *Adventure Concerts* that Midori & Friends presents at each of its 40 partner schools across the boroughs, in service of its mission to inspire children through music. Melody of Dragon's show is intended as a special concert for not only P.S. 42 but for the neighboring community; the concert will be attended by students from the school accompanied by their parents and other family members.

Like all Midori & Friends *Adventure Concerts*, this performance will seek to inspire students through their ears, their minds, and their hearts. In addition to engaging them with traditional Chinese music played at the very highest level of technique and sensitivity, the musicians of Melody of Dragon will introduce their traditional Chinese instruments, and will explain how different Chinese language dialects and different regions of China have influenced the music.

In honor of the New Year, the ensemble will perform "Mongolian Horse Racing," a piece that is traditionally played on this holiday in Northern China and Mongolia.

The concert will take place:

Tuesday, February 8th at 6:00 pm

P.S. 42

**171 Hester Street (between Grand and Canal)
New York City**

About Melody of Dragon

Melody of Dragon, Inc., a Chinese music ensemble based in New York City, was founded in 1998 by four virtuoso musicians from the leading conservatories in China in order to introduce and promote Chinese musical repertory in the United States. The ultimate purpose of Melody of Dragon is to build a bridge of musical and cultural exchange between China and the United States.

Melody of Dragon maintains a full itinerary of concert performances and educational programs for schools and the general public. The members of Melody of Dragon are Chen Tao, ensemble director and master of the *dizi* (Chinese bamboo flute), Sisi Chen, world-class soloist of the *yangqin* (hammered dulcimer), Bao-li Zhang, master of the *erhu* (two-string fiddle), and Liu li, renowned performer of the *guqin* (ancient seven-string zither).

The performances of Melody of Dragon feature traditional, classical, folk, as well as contemporary music. The ensemble's extensive repertory can be easily tailored to meet the needs of a great variety of occasions, including special events, ceremonies, parties, and other national or international festivities.

The instruments presented in concerts or workshops include the *dizi* (Chinese bamboo flute) and its derivatives, the *xiao* (Chinese vertical flute), the *xun* (Chinese ocarina) and the *bawu* (silver and copper reed flute), the *yangqin* (Chinese hammered dulcimer), the *erhu* (Chinese two-string fiddle) and its derivatives, the *guqin* (ancient seven-string zither) and the *ruan* (Chinese lute).

Since February 1998, Melody of Dragon has performed and lectured at New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Lincoln Center, The Juilliard School, China Institute in America, Japan Society in NY, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Nicholas Music Center at Rutgers University, Charleston University in South Carolina, Winona University in Minnesota, Columbia University, Wesleyan University, Downtown Music at Glance - music festival in Westchester NY, The University of Cambridge in England, The Smithsonian Museum in Washington, DC., and the Boston Area.

About Midori & Friends

The mission of Midori & Friends is to inspire children through music. Founded in 1992 by the concert violinist Midori and a small, committed Board of Directors, Midori & Friends has enhanced the lives almost 200,000 underserved New York City children and their families through providing high-quality music education programs and initiatives.

The organization offers long-term, school-based programs that provide children with opportunities to play instruments, sing, encounter world-class artistry, discover multicultural music traditions, and express themselves creatively.

All Midori & Friends programs are offered at no cost to participating students.

Contact: Caroline Horn, Director of Marketing & Development
Midori & Friends
212-767-1300
chorn@midoriandfriends.org