

## FLUTE CONCERT PROVIDES EDUCATION FOR CHINESE ORPHANS

Come join us for an afternoon of lovely flute music and support a worthwhile cause. The concert begins with a short piccolo solo from the balcony, followed by a newly-composed antiphonal piece performed by the Chamber Ensemble of the Madison Flute Choir with sounds echoing around the sanctuary. Then, the entire Madison Flute Club of more than 20 flutists and its array of C-flutes, low flutes and its rare contrabass flute, plays a piece entitled "Umoja," which appropriately means "Unity" in Swahili.

Our guest flutist, Dr. Teresa Beaman will play several pieces, including catchy and interesting versions of American folk songs; a beautiful piece by Doppler accompanied by 6 Madison flutists; and some virtuoso themes from the opera *Mignon* with piano accompaniment. Dr. Beaman is the flute professor at California State University, Fresno. She is known internationally for her performances in the U.S. and throughout the world.

Concert admission is free with an offering collected for the Chinese Orphans Project of First Baptist Church. The Project is currently sending 108 orphans in China's rural Henan Province to school. Many were orphaned when their subsistence farmer parents died of HIV/AIDS contracted from giving blood in exchange for small sums of cash. The equipment was infected with the HIV virus resulting in the death by AIDS of 10,000 adults who left behind more than 2,000 orphans. Elderly and frail grandparents—often in poor health and without the ability to support even themselves—have become the sole supporters and caretakers of their orphaned grandchildren. They live in crushing poverty.

Twelve years ago, when flutist Linda Mintener first became aware of the orphans' tragic situation, she organized a flute concert to raise funds for the orphans to go to school and to give them the opportunity to raise themselves out of poverty. Linda's long-time friend Judy Sutterlin, who has been a missionary in China for 30 years, works with the orphans and was the one who told Linda about the orphans' dire circumstances.

The annual flute concerts have continued and provided educational funds for more than 200 of the orphans. Currently 108 orphaned children, ranging from kindergarten to college, are attending school with funds raised in last year's concert and from individual sponsorships. Six orphans have graduated college and have professional jobs. Nine are now in college, and many more have graduated from high school. Most would not have had any educational opportunities without the Chinese Orphans Project's support.

For further information, see the link to First Baptist Church's information about the Chinese Orphans Project -- <http://firstbaptistmadison.org/chinese-aids-orphans> -- or contact Linda Mintener at LMintener@AOL.com or 608/231-1680.