

Important Facts

- Current year (2009):
 - The 60th Anniversary of the People's Republic of China
 - The 130th Anniversary of Shanghai Symphony Orchestra (SSO)
 - The first SSO North American tour since 2003, the single most important tour in SSO's history

- Last year (2008):
 - The 30th Anniversary of Sino-US relations
 - The 35th Anniversary of Philadelphia Orchestra visit China (It's the first western orchestra to visit China, the tour in 1973 stands for the beginning of Sino-US cultural exchange)
 - The 29th Olympic Games in Beijing

- Next year (2010):
 - World Expo takes place in Shanghai in on May 1 – October 31, 2010. This is the first time a World Expo is hosted in China

- Long YU:
 - One of the most distinguished Chinese conductors with an established international reputation
 - Co-founded the China Philharmonic Orchestra and was appointed Artistic Director and Principal Conductor.
 - Music Director of the Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra since 2003
 - Co-founder and Artistic Director of the Beijing Music Festival; President of the Beijing Music Festival Arts Foundation since 2005
 - President of the Artistic Committee of the Shanghai Oriental Center
 - Has appeared with the world's major orchestras and opera companies including the Chicago Symphony, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the national Symphony Orchestra, the Hamburg State Opera, among others
 - Upcoming engagements include Orchestre de Paris, Bamberg Symphony Orchestra, among others
 - In 1992 was involved in organizing the inaugural Beijing New Year's Concert, now an annual event, and served as its conductor for 3 years.

- Shanghai Symphony Orchestra:
 - In the Fall of 2009 Long Yu began his inaugural season as the Music Director of SSO
 - The oldest and most prominent symphony orchestra in Asia, crucial part of the classical music scene in China
 - Promoted Western music and supported young Chinese musicians since its earliest days

- Introduced the first Chinese orchestral work to the audience; epicenter of new music in China
 - Reputed to be “ the best orchestra in the Far East”
 - The history of Shanghai Symphony Orchestra represents the history of China’s symphonic music development
 - Has given over ten thousand concerts, including premieres of several thousand new works
 - Made its Carnegie Hall debut in 1990
 - The first Chinese orchestra to play at the Berlin Philharmonic Hall; this concert marked SSO’s 125th anniversary.
- Qigang Chen
 - The first Chinese composer to be awarded a state grant to study abroad (France)
 - Studied with Olivier Messian, has been his only pupil since he left the Conservatory
 - Music Director for the Opening Ceremony of 2008 Beijing Olympic Games
 - Composer of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Theme Song: *You and Me*
 - Will be present on Nov. 10, 2009 at Carnegie Hall
 - Member of the Committee of Honor, China Festival at Carnegie Hall
- *Iris dévoilée*
 - Composed by 2001
 - Concerted suite for grand orchestra, three sopranos including one in Peking Opera’s style, and three traditional Chinese instruments: Pipa, Erhu, Guzheng.