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GRAMMY-WINNING PIPA VIRTUOSO WU MAN TO PERFORM IN BLOOMINGTON

**Indiana University and Lotus Education & Arts Foundation
partner to offer a free concert with the international superstar.**

Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University's Arts & Humanities Council (IUAHC) partners with Lotus Education & Arts Foundation to bring internationally-recognized pipa virtuoso Wu Man to Bloomington for educational outreach programming and performances beginning March 27 and culminating in a free public concert at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater on March 31.

Recognized as the world's premier pipa player and leading ambassador of Chinese music, Grammy award-winner Wu Man has carved out a career as a soloist, educator and composer to give her 2000-year old lute-like instrument a new role in both traditional and contemporary music. Wu Man's week-long Bloomington residency represents a collective effort the IUAHC's "China Remixed" festival, Lotus Blossoms (Lotus' educational outreach program), and the IU Jacobs School of Music. The collaboration gifts the community with widespread opportunities to engage with Wu Man and learn more about Chinese culture and music through performances at regional K-12 schools, outreach programming with IU students and faculty, and a free public concert in which Wu Man performs alongside the Jacobs' Vera Quartet and New Music Ensemble. (Concert details at <https://bctboxoffice.org/event/wu-man-pipa-feat-new-music-ensemble-vera-quartet/>)

"China Remixed" is headed by the IUAHC under the IU Office of the Provost, with a goal to highlight the most diverse and dynamic aspects of the contemporary Chinese

culture from China's mainland to Taiwan, Hong Kong, and America. "China Remixed" reflects all the ways that arts and humanities of China impact IU and vice versa. The ten-week themed program runs from January to April and features music, dance, scholars, journalists, classic plays, art and video exhibits, films, a weekly speaker series, and more.

Lotus Blossoms, now in its 22nd year, is the cornerstone of Lotus Education & Arts Foundation's educational outreach and a key contributor in helping the organization to help it accomplish its mission to create opportunities to experience, celebrate, and explore the diversity of the world's cultures through music and the arts. The 2017 Lotus Blossoms program will bring artists representing China, Iraq, Uganda, Mexico, and the U.S. directly to K-12 schools across six southern Indiana counties as well as presenting events throughout March and April that are free and open to the general public.

About Wu Man

Wu Man has premiered hundreds of new works for the pipa, while spearheading multimedia projects to both preserve and create awareness of China's ancient musical traditions. Her adventurous spirit and virtuosity have led to collaborations across artistic disciplines allowing Wu Man to reach wider audiences as she works to break through cultural and musical borders. Wu Man's efforts were recognized when she was named Musical America's 2013 Instrumentalist of the Year, marking the first time this prestigious award has been bestowed on a player of a non-Western instrument.

As a principal musician in Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Project, Wu Man has performed throughout the U.S., Europe and Asia with the Silk Road Ensemble and recently shared a 2017 Grammy Award for Best World Music Album for *Sing Me Home*, the companion CD to the Silk Road Ensemble's Grammy-nominated documentary *Music of Strangers*. Adamant that the pipa does not become marginalized as only appropriate for Chinese music, Wu Man strives to develop a place for the pipa in all art forms. Projects she has initiated have resulted in the pipa finding a place in new solo and quartet works, concertos, opera, chamber, electronic, and jazz music as well as in theater productions, film, dance and collaborations with visual artists including calligraphers and painters. Wu Man boasts a discography of over 40 albums including *Traditions and Transformations: Sounds of Silk Road Chicago*, which features her Grammy Award-nominated performance of Lou Harrison's *Pipa Concerto* with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

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About Indiana University Arts & Humanities Council

The IU Bloomington Arts & Humanities Council is dedicated to promoting creative pursuits and humanistic inquiry across the Bloomington campus and beyond. In cooperation with campus and community partners, the council coordinates a number of performances, exhibits, public lectures, and other events to inspire creative people and art lovers of all ages and backgrounds.

For more information about the IU Arts & Humanities Council's "China Remixed" program, please visit <https://artsandhumanities.indiana.edu/council-initiatives/china-remixed/> .

About Lotus Education & Arts Foundation

Established in 1994, the Lotus Education & Arts Foundation is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization based in Bloomington, Indiana, with a mission to create opportunities to experience, celebrate, and explore the diversity of the world's cultures, through music and the arts. Lotus offers the annual flagship Lotus World Music & Arts Festival, Lotus Blossoms Educational Outreach, a vibrant Visual Arts program, and special programming and events with community partners throughout the year.

For more information about Lotus, please visit www.lotusfest.org or contact Marketing Director Sara Sheikh, sara@lotusfest.org, 812-336-6599. A full list of Lotus Blossoms public events can be found at <http://www.lotusfest.org/events/> .