

MALTA CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY

马耳他·中国友好协会

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Malta China Friendship Society promotes cultural ties and friendship between Malta and China

The Malta China Friendship Society is 34 Years Old

By Reno Calleja, President Malta China Friendship Society.

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When in January 1972 Malta recognized Red China and established diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, the news sent shockwaves throughout Europe. In Malta the move was staunchly opposed by certain forces. A misinformation campaign was orchestrated to depict China as a dangerous Country whose only interest was to 'swallow' Malta to use it as a platform to influence the Middle East and Europe. Off course some of these fears were genuine. Most of the campaign was however politically motivated. It was under this scenario that in 1973 I decided to set up the Malta China Friendship Society.

For 34 years the Malta China Friendship Society has probably done more than the Governments of the two countries to bring the two people together. In the seventies and eighties we brought to Malta acrobatic troupes from China. Artists, organized exhibitions of Chinese paintings and arts and shown a large number of films about China. Throughout these 34 years the Maltese people have learned to respect the Chinese people for their hardworking attitude, their respect for the law and above all for their correct way in which they behaved in Malta.

We have sent to China Maltese artists that exhibited their work there and exchanged visits between members of the M.C.F.S. and a large number of delegations from Friendship Associations from at least 20 different provinces from China.

Last it was an exceptional year for the M.C.F.S. We managed to organize a group of children dancers from the Msida Dance Centre to take part in the Tianjin Festival. We took part in the 50th anniversary celebrations in Guangdong and even organized a Chinese Food Festival and a stamp exhibition in this large province of China. We also took part in the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Shanghai Friendship Associates.

When China opened up the Chinese Cultural Centre some years ago, a centre which is funded and very well organized, many thought that the M.C.F.S. would now die a natural death. However we are still marching on. We have found new areas where we manage to bring the people of China and Malta together.

This is our mission. Hopefully in the years to come the M.C.F.S. will still strive to fulfill it.

Chinese New Year Dinner



The Malta China Friendship Society commemorated the new Chinese year by organizing a Chinese Dinner at the Il-Fanal Chinese Restaurant Marsaskala. The dinner was organized in collaboration with the Marsaskala Local Council. The dinner was also organized to bid farewell to the Chinese Ambassador to Malta who will relinquish his post this month.

Chinese student, Ms Luo Qianqian, who is in her second year of a Nursing Course at the University of Malta, played a Chinese instrument called **hulusi** and danced for the audi-

ence during the event.

In the photo H.E. the Chinese Ambassador Mr. Liu Zhengxiu is seen here exchanging a gift with the Mayor of Marsaskala, Mr. Mario Calleja

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Farewell to Mr. Liu Zhengxiu



In the photo H.E. the Chinese Ambassador Mr. Liu Zhengxiu and Mr. Reno Calleja , President of the Malta China Friendship Society are seen exchanging gifts on the occasion of the farewell party organised by MCFS.

On behalf of the executive committee and members of MCFS, the editorial team of this newsletter would like to thank Mr. Liu Zhengxiu for his support during his tenure.

A Chinese Concert With a Difference

The various activities that have been organized to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between China and Malta will come to an end on Sunday 25th of March at the Radisson SAS Bay Point Resort.

A group of 8 Maltese young musicians will present a concert of Chinese old and modern melodies under the direction the well known Maltese musical director Manoel Pirotta. It is the first time that in Malta, a number of Chinese melodies will be played with western instruments.

The President of the Malta China Freindship Society, Mr. Reno Calleja, said that this concert has only been made possible through the support of the Pembroke Local Council and the Management of the Radisson SAS Bay Point Resort

The musicians taking part in this concert are Rebecca Apap Sammut (Flute) Darren Colombo, Massimo Borg (Clarinet) David Ellul (Violin 1) , Daniel Zammit (Violin II) Daniel Borg (Viola) Kevin Psaila, Michael Barbara (Violoncello), Christopher Xuereb (Contrabass) and Luke Baldacchino (Percussion)



Twenty different musical pieces will be played during the concert ranging from the very ancient to the popular Chinese songs. The compere during the concert will be the well known radio presenter and cultural expert Mrs. Joyce Guillaumier who is also a member of the Executive Committee of the M.C.F.S.

The entrance fee has been kept to only Lm1-50c to enable all sectors of Maltese people and tourists to attend. Further details can be obtained from the Administrative Secretary of the Malta China Freindship Society, Mrs. Doreen Sammut (mob 99487218 or from Mr. Calleja (79449975)

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invite you to join
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