



Once Upon an Island

May 15, 2011, 2 pm

Conrad Prebys Concert Hall

UC San Diego Department of Music

UC San Diego Taiwan Studies Lecture Series

Taiwanese American Foundation of San Diego

Matthew Lien

with

Yi-chien Chou

Yin-chung Huang

Siki Sufen



Matthew Lien is a multi-platinum recording artist and performer with success rooted in southeast Asia. His music is widely known in Taiwan and mainland China where he has won numerous music industry awards. He has created several albums and television projects which focus on Taiwan's traditional and aboriginal music, and was appointed Special Envoy to Taiwan by the Yukon government and Cultural Ambassador by Taiwan's government. He is currently nominated for a "Best Producer" 2011 Golden Melody Award (Taiwan's Grammy-equivalent) for his latest album "Orchid Island".

Yi-chien Chou is an established erhu player with numerous recording and performance credits in pop, cross-over and traditional music. While contributing performances to popular artists such as Jay Chou, and the cross-over works of Matthew Lien, he is also passionate about Taiwan's cultural music such as Taiwanese Opera and Bei Guan music, lending his abilities to local performance troupes in an effort to support this rare and fading art form.



Yin-chung Huang is a master of the bamboo flute with numerous award-winning recordings to his name. He recently completed his Masters degree in Musicology focusing on the Asian bamboo flute, and performs regularly in Taiwan, China, Europe and North America. He is known for his outstanding skill on his instrument and for his ability to play in styles beyond the traditional, making him a pioneer of new bamboo flute music.

Siki Sufen is a respected Amis aboriginal singer and wood carver from Dulan village in Taitung County of Taiwan. He is deeply connected to his culture and a leader among the young people in his village. His ability as a singer of his aboriginal music has brought him to stages across Taiwan and in Europe, while back home in Dulan he acts as a coordinator for Dulan's Arts and Cultural Center, helping to educate locals and visitors about indigenous art and culture.



ONCE UPON AN ISLAND

May 15, 2011

2 PM

ISLAND

is·land [ahy-luhnd]

~noun

1. A tract of land or land mass, isolated or surrounded; self-dependant and sustaining.

This multi-media performance-speech by musician Matthew Lien, and featuring performances by Taiwan's erhu master Yi-chien Chou, bamboo flute master Yin-chung Huang, and Amis aboriginal vocalist Siki Sufen, explores the nature and cultures of Taiwan beginning with a close-up view of Orchid Island and its Tao aboriginal culture and rich coral reef ecosystems, and then expanding to Taiwan.

Orchid Island lies to the southeast of Taiwan and has evolved a unique habitat over millions of years. Like the fish that thrive among Orchid Island's corals, the Tao aboriginal people followed ocean currents ages ago and have since made this home to their unique culture.

Relying on a tiny island requires a great respect for limited resources and for future generations, and the Tao have many traditions which reflect this.

But there is a growing sense of "trouble in paradise" as overfishing by foreign fleets, pollution, climate change, and nuclear waste are bringing change to Orchid, just as outside influences and government policies endanger the survival of the Tao aboriginal culture.

Similar challenges are facing the the neighboring island of Taiwan, where numerous species are hanging on by a thread.

The lessons learned for preserving culture and nature on the islands of Orchid and Taiwan are of value to any island community, including our island called Earth where similar challenges loom large.

