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The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center
Spring Gala Celebrating 50th Anniversary
To Honor Shirley Young, A Distinguished Chinese-
American Entrepreneur and Cultural Bridge Builder

Thursday, April 2, 2020
Alice Tully Hall, Broadway at 65th Street

The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center (CMS) is one of the eleven constituents of Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, the largest performing arts complex in the world. Since its founding in 1969, CMS has presented over 3,900 concerts in its home at Alice Tully Hall, at its residencies, and on tour around the world. The art of chamber music performance at the highest level has been passed through succeeding generations of extraordinary musicians. To celebrate the 50th anniversary, CMS will hold its annual Spring Gala on April 2 and honor individuals for their tremendous contribution to the arts. The evening will start with a cocktail reception, followed by performances, the award ceremony, and dinner. This year the gala will honor Elinor L. Hoover, CMS Board Chair and Managing Director in Citi Global Markets, and Shirley Young, Chair of US-China Cultural Institute. Shirley Young is a well-known Chinese-American entrepreneur and cultural bridge builder. This makes her the first Chinese American to receive this honor.

Shirley Young settled in the United States with her mother and her two sisters after the end of World War II. She is a graduate of Wellesley College and had a career in the advertising industry for 25 years at Grey Advertising. From 1988 to 2000, she served as corporate Vice President of General Motors and co-led GM's successful 1.2 billion joint venture building Buick for China market. She was the only Asian-American GM VP and one of the only three female corporate VPs of GM worldwide.

Ms. Young founded the Committee of 100 with I.M. Pei, Yo-Yo Ma, and some other distinguished Chinese Americans in 1990. She is the Governor and founding-Chairman of the

Committee of 100. Shirley Young has long focused on advancing education, and building bridges through the arts. She is a Trustee Emeritus of Interlochen Center for the Arts, a senior advisor and former trustee of Wellesley College, and served on the Board of Directors of the Associates of the Harvard Business School, Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts, as well as the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and the Detroit Institute of Arts. She is currently serving on boards of the Lang Lang International Music Foundation, National Dance Institute, and The Nature Conservancy's Asia-Pacific Council.

In 2000, Ms. Young founded the US-China Cultural Institute. Its mission is to create bridges of understanding between the United States and China by strengthening cultural and educational exchanges; to serve as a catalyst for new relationships between major arts and education institutions in the two nations; to introduce new cultural concepts with long-term potential; and to support rising young artists of Chinese heritage for international careers. Since then, she has formed a close relationship with the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. She has devoted tremendous effort to mentoring Chinese singers of Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program and in supporting New York Philharmonic's Lunar New Year concert and celebration for nine consecutive years. Since 2013, she has served on the Board of the New York Philharmonic and is a member of the Juilliard Tianjin Advisory Council as well as an International Advisor to CMS.

In 2015, CMS had its inaugural tour in China. Wu Han and David Finckel, the Co-Artistic Directors of CMS, commented on this historic occasion, "Our coming tour is very much inspired by China's potential to become one of the world's leading classical music nations. With millions of young people learning music, China is fertile ground for planting the seeds of chamber music – something that CMS does with a proven track record of stellar results. We look forward to sharing with Chinese audiences some of the most exciting and highest-quality chamber music of today, and to build a lasting bridge which we hope will be crossed, in both directions, many times in the future." This idea is in line with Ms. Young's philosophy - she believes that those tours and educational events will introduce chamber music, a classical music form that has not yet been popularized in China, to the public, and at the same time will bring new opportunities for local musicians to perform internationally in the near future. She said, "After 50 years, CMS of Lincoln Center is now recognized as an acclaimed leader in chamber music in the world. They have used chamber music to build bridges across the globe and are now embarked on a significant effort to help developing chamber music in China. This will offer new opportunities for the many Chinese musicians, particularly young musicians, to develop in a new art form to reach world audiences."

Entering a new market is not as easy as it was thought. At the initial stage when CMS came into contact with the China market, serving as an international advisor to CMS, Ms. Young generously provided strategic advice and guidance with her experience in developing new markets and understanding of cultural consumers in China.

Today, Shirley Young's name and her US-China Cultural Institute are well known by the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. The honor awarded by CMS underlines Lincoln Center's

recognition of Shirley Young's outstanding contribution to the world's top cultural and arts institutions.

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The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center 2020 Spring Gala

Celebrating 50 Years

Honoring Elinor Hoover & Shirley Young

Thursday, April 2, 2020

Reception at 6 pm, Concert and commendation at 7 pm, Dinner at 8 pm.

Alice Tully Hall, Broadway at 65th Street

For more information, please call 212-875-5216.

chambermusicsociety.org/gala