Chinese Council Presents Yeh Yu Opera Saturday

On Saturday, March 18, at 8:30 p.m. the Chinese Inter-collegiate Council will present the Yeh Yu Chinese Opera Association in a program of two classic Peking operas in Kresge Auditorium. This performance will mark the first time Chinese opera appears in the Boston area.

The two operas being presented in the traditional Peking style are “Picking Up The Jade Bracelet” and “Volunteer’s Farewell.” Staging will include rich costumes, elaborate makeup, very little scenery, and musical accompaniment on authentic old instruments.

Members of the Yeh Yu Chinese Opera Association are Chinese who live in the U.S. The regular occupations of the actors range from professor at Yale University to housewife. As a non-profit organization, the proceeds of the group’s performances go toward paying expenses, largest of which are the heavy embroidered costumes worn in the performances.

Make-up and costuming are very important in Chinese opera. The character of an actor is shown by the use of certain colors. For example, red makeup symbolizes loyalty and uprightness; yellow indicates craftiness, and white denotes wickedness. Besides identification by the use of coloring, each character type has its own particular type of costume.

Chinese classical opera provides instruction in the culture which has led the Chinese for centuries. For a really different evening of entertainment, this presentation will undoubtedly turn the ticket.

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