

INSTILLING GOODNESS AND  
DEVELOPING VIRTUE SCHOOLS

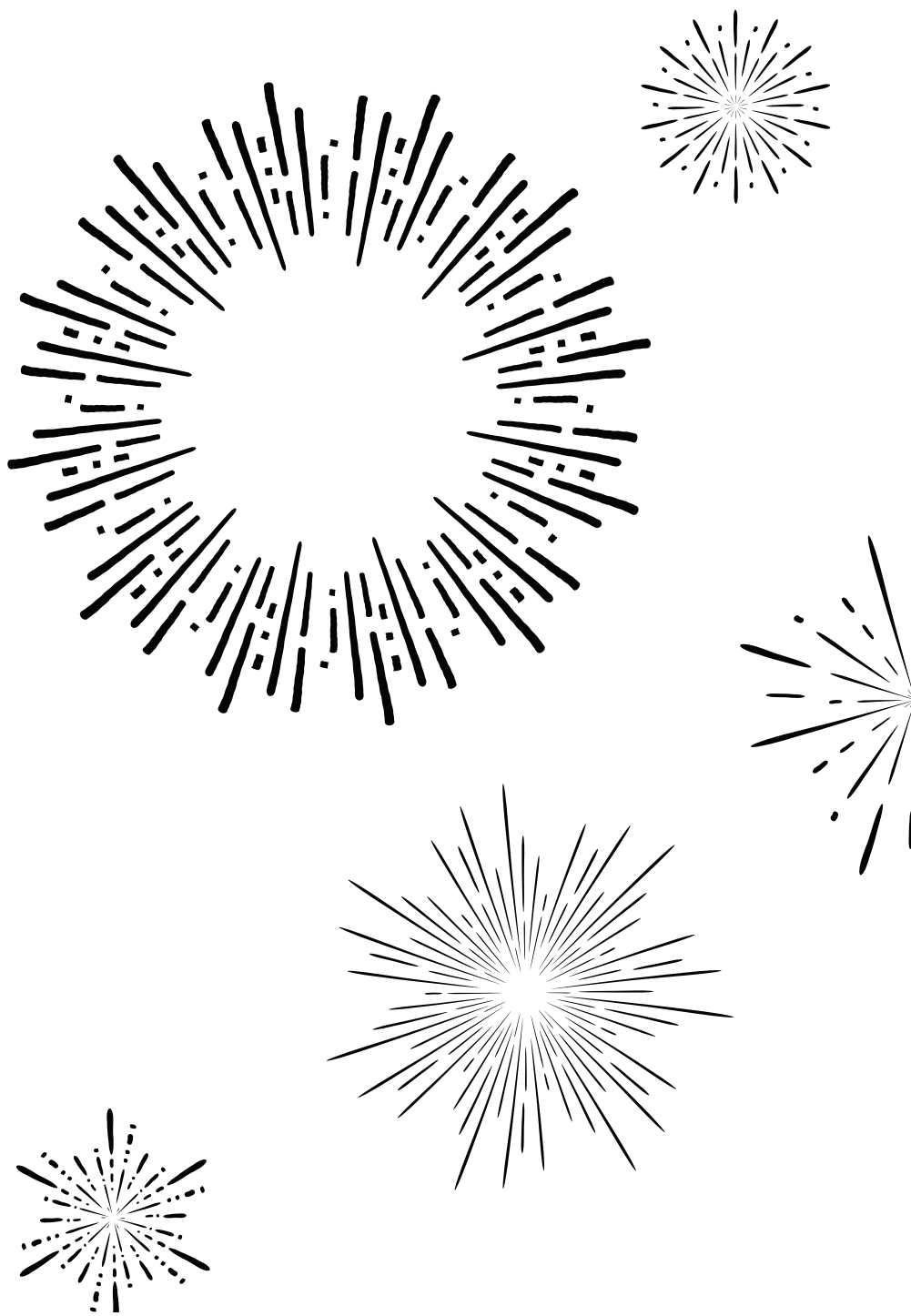
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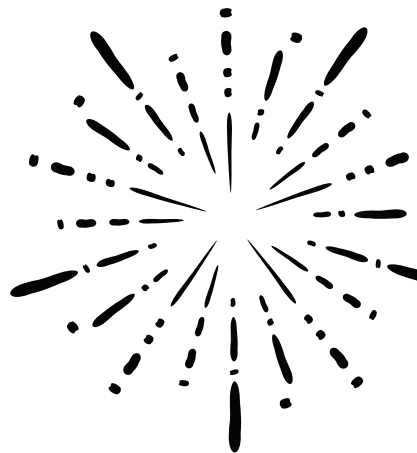
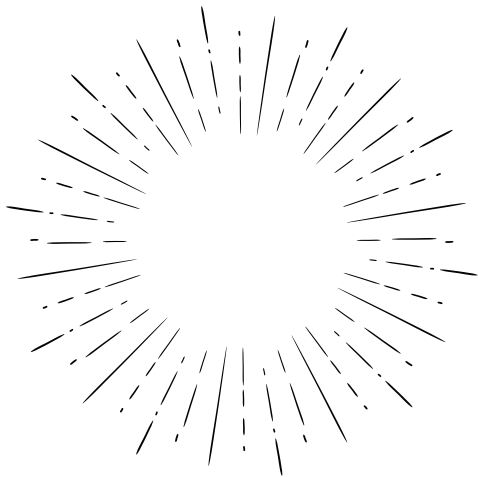
DHARMA REALM  
BUDDHIST UNIVERSITY

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 7:30 PM  
MENDOCINO COLLEGE CENTER THEATRE

INFINITE LIGHT  
WINTER RECITAL





# INFINITE LIGHT

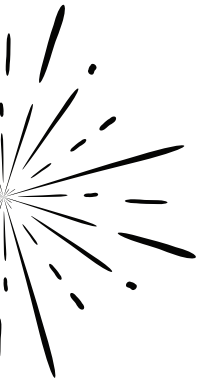
The Instilling Goodness and Developing Virtue Schools and Dharma Realm Buddhist University present the Infinite Light Winter Recital, featuring our international young musicians' renditions of worldwide masterpieces. The coming together of diverse genres of music that originated from various cultures and in different periods of time ignites the interconnected light that dispels darkness and erases boundaries and limitations.

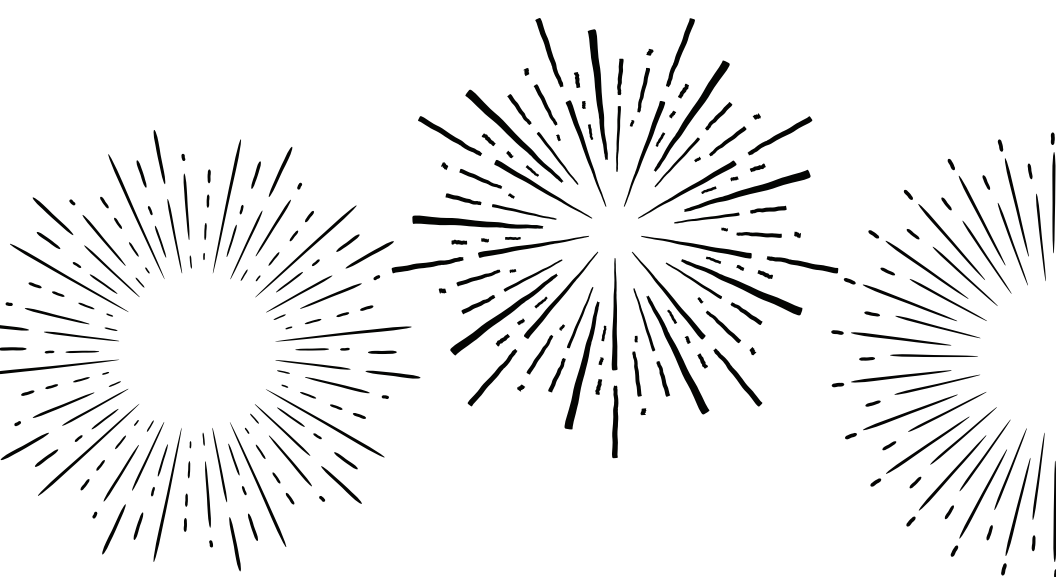
This inexhaustible lamp is like a single lamp  
that lights a hundred thousand lamps;  
it lights up the darkness,  
yet its light is never exhausted.

— *The Vimalakīrti Sūtra*

Thank you for coming and being a source of infinite light!

IGDVS Music Department  
DRBU Arts Initiative





# THE PROGRAM

Guanyin Praise  
(Trans. David Rounds)

The Wondrous Sound Choir

James Roberts  
Wenbo Yin  
Sophie Wu

踏歌  
Ta Ge

DVGS Chinese Dance

Julie An

Lend Me Your Voice

Phoenix Vo '23

Taisei Iwasaki (b. 1979)

Violin Concerto No. 5  
in A major, K. 219

Katherine Wang '24 \*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
(1756-1791)

Andante et Allegro

Cherry Ngo '24\*

André Chailleux (1904-1984)

Parasols in Paris

Spencer Brewer

Spencer Brewer (b. 1954)

Knocked Out

Spencer Brewer

Spencer Brewer (b. 1954)

Le Api

Wenbo Yin MA '24 \*

Antonio Pasculli (1842-1924)

Jazz Police

Cherry Ngo '24  
Wenbo Yin MA '24

Gordon Goodwin (b. 1954)

Happy Time Jazz

Leo Wang '26

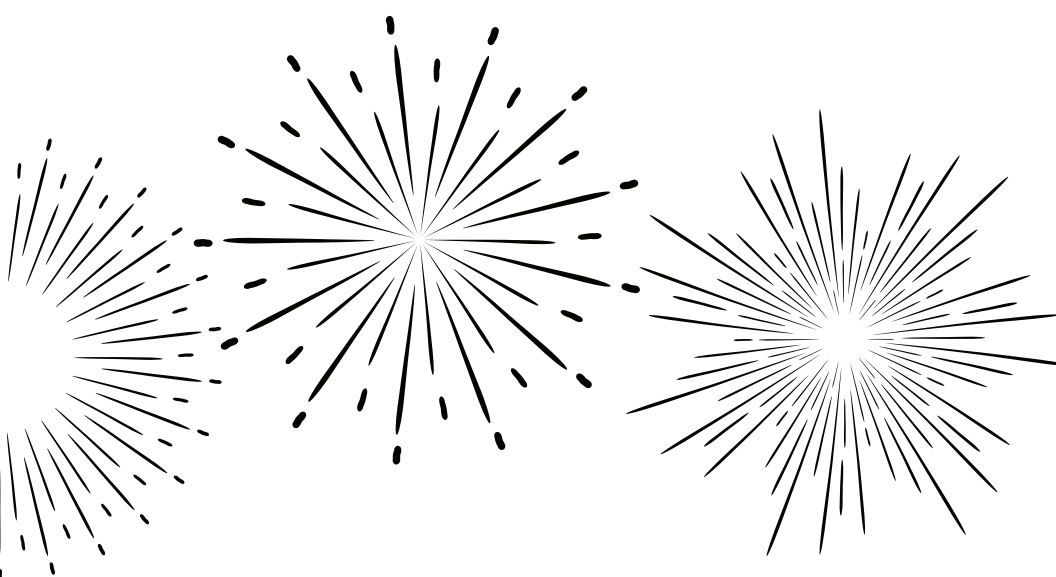
Martha Mier (b. 1936)

綠野仙踪  
The Green Wonderland

Katrina Hu '25

Yue Chen (b. 1978)

\* Collaborative pianist Elizabeth MacDougall



送我一支玫瑰花  
Give Me a Rose

Hillary Tran '23

Jinguang Li (1907-1993)

雪虐風濤  
Relentless

Amy Liu '23  
Hillary Tran '23

Amy Liu (b. 2005)  
Hillary Tran (b. 2004)

我和我的祖國  
My Motherland

Hannah Cheng '28 \*

Yongcheng Qin (1933-2015)

神女劈觀  
Sheng Nv Pi Guan

Ashley Dong '25

Zhiyi Chen (b.1984)

霍元甲  
Fearless

Hailey Tran '24  
Shine Yuan '24

Jay Zhou (b. 1979)

Raga Yaman

Bishnu Bhatta BA '26

Unknown

Almost There

Josette Hanneken '28 \*

Randy Newman (b.1943)

Praise to Amitabha

The Wondrous Sound Choir

David Rounds  
Sophie Wu  
Wenbo Yin

盡虛空  
Empty Space

The Wondrous Sound Choir

Venerable Master Hsuan Hua  
(IGDVS and DRBU Alma Mater)

\* Collaborative pianist Elizabeth MacDougall  
Harp artist Alice Sandel

# PROGRAM NOTES

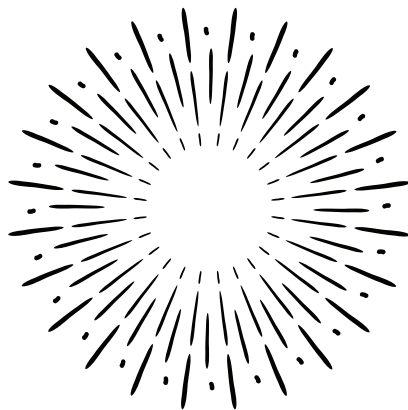
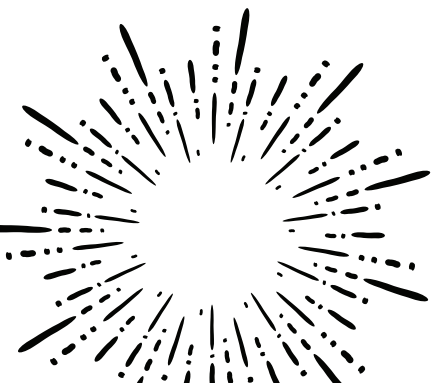
**Guanyin Praise** is a traditional praise dating back thousands of years that is dedicated to Guanyin Bodhisattva, an awakened being who embodies great compassion. Translated into English from classical Chinese by David Rounds, this new rendition consists of work by generations of musicians from the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas community.

**Lend Me Your Voice** originally debuted in the movie *Belle*, a modernized *Beauty and the Beast* storyline that takes place in both the real and video game worlds. It embodies the yearning for connection and search for a person's voice. The instrumental, composed by Taisei Iwasaki, blends delicate chords and powerful *arpeggio* to elicit a sense of hope, longing, and newfound resilience.

**Violin Concerto No. 5 in A Major** ("Turkish") was written in 1775 by Wolfgang Mozart, first premiering during the Christmas season. The *allegro aperto* portion features a bright, majestic section, truly one of Mozart's best and most exciting compositions.

**Andante and Allegro** was composed by Andre Chailleux in 1958. It is a standard saxophone piece ideal for intermediate players. Beginning with a lyrical lent passage, the piece slowly moves toward a 6/8 *allegro*, which includes many semiquaver flourishes for the saxophone.

**Etude Caractéristique for oboe and piano "Le Api"** (The Bees) is originally a composition for oboe and piano by Italian virtuoso oboist and composer Antonio Pasculli (1842- 1924). Born around the time the saxophone was invented, Pasculli directed symphonic and wind orchestra concerts, and performed oboe concerts in Sicily. During his lifetime, he traveled throughout Italy, Austria, and Germany. Imagining every note of the piece as a ray of light, one witnesses a bright, rising sun in the middle of the night.



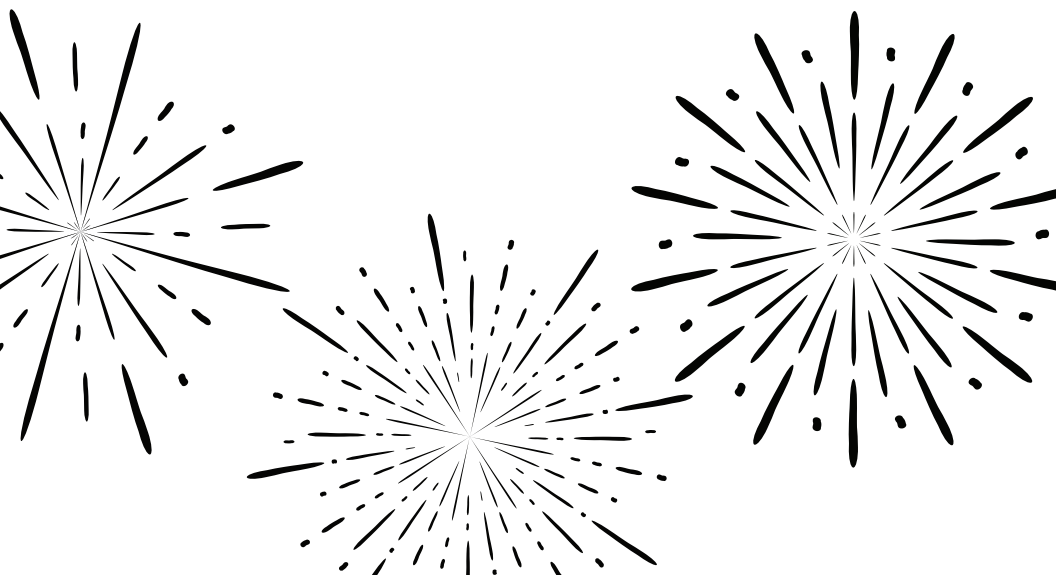
**Jazz Police** is a jazz-rock arrangement by the Gordon Goodwin Big Phat Band featuring a driving bass line and solo sections for alto sax, tenor sax, and drums. This piece is a high-energy song that requires a lot of movement, dynamics, and articulation, and gets the audience's heads bobbing.

**Happy Time Jazz** is a piece by well-known contemporary composer and jazz piano teacher Martha Mier. Her two most famous series are the Jazz, Rags, and Blues series and the Romantic Impressions series. Featuring a bouncy melody and swing eighths, the song ends on an upbeat *glissando*, evoking the title.

**绿野仙踪, The Green Wonderland**, debuted in 2005 and is composed by renowned Chinese bamboo flute player Chen Yue, a close disciple of Zhao Songting, master of the Southern School *dizi* (Chinese flute). This piece features a unique combination of bamboo flute and piano.

**送我一支玫瑰花, Give me a Rose**, was written in 1961 by Wang Fandi and adapted from a Xinjiang folk song of the same name. There are five sections in the song, each conjuring different feelings and dance characteristics. The song is inspired by traditional Uyghur dance rhythms, incorporating the fiery passion of dance and romance.

**雪虐风凜, Relentless**, is an original composition for the *pipa*, *sheng*, and *dizi* that tells the story of a battle fought in snow. The airy, haunting sound of the bamboo flute evokes the tranquil and barren natural landscape, while an increasingly driven *pipa* melody set over powerful *sheng* chords depicts the relentless march of cavalrymen. After an initial skirmish, the ultimate clash between the warriors takes place amidst a raging blizzard. From a grim aftermath, the revitalizing breath of nature rises again, symbolizing resilience and renewal. Written over a period of two months, this piece is being publicly performed for the first time tonight.



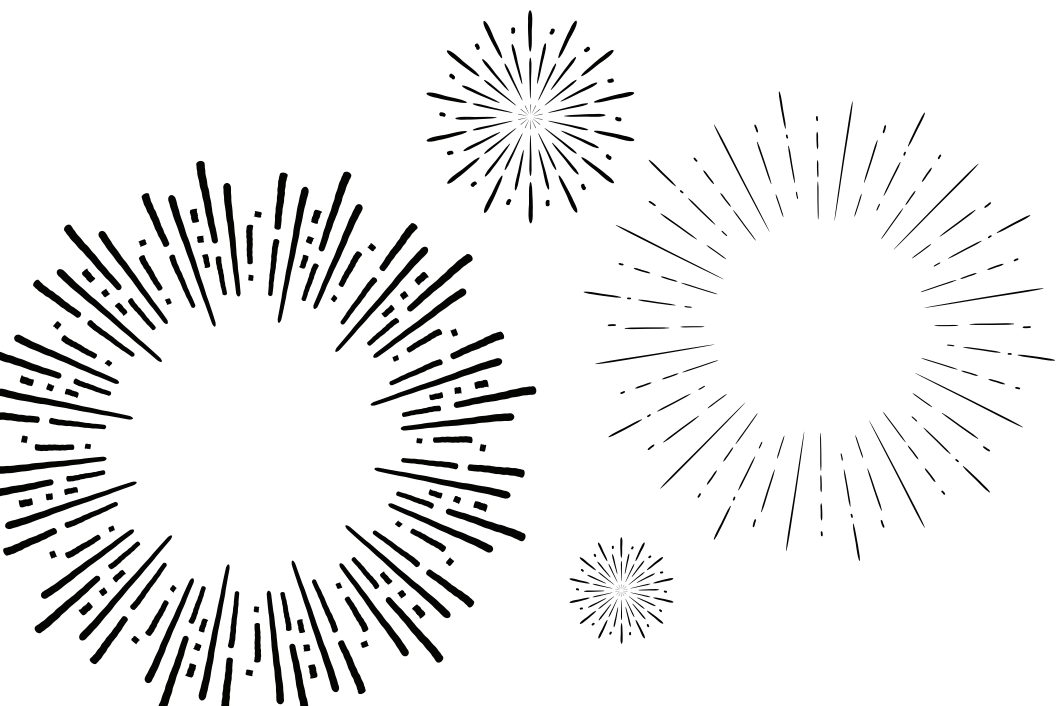
我和我的祖国, **My Motherland**, a legendary song composed by Qin Yongcheng in 1983, continues to evolve into different musical styles and spread among the new and old generations in China today. The powerful musical expression and poetic lyrics express one's love for the motherland.

神女劈观, **Sheng Nv Pi Guan**, featured in the video game Genshin Impact, was written by Chen Zhiyi and Wan Dimeng. It was sung by Yang Yang, a renowned Chinese opera singer, and has gained international attention. The piece tells the story of a girl who battles with her fate.

霍元甲, **Fearless**, covered by Tianyi Yu and Ye Qian, uses Chinese style elements within a rap song. This song expresses the greatness of the martial arts while providing an overwhelming, yet pleasant feeling for the audience.

**Almost There**, from the 2009 movie *The Princess and the Frog*, was originally performed by Anika Noni Rose as the character Tiana. The song has an upbeat jazz rhythm and describes the young Tiana's dream of opening a restaurant. Through the poignant lyrics, one feels the heartwarming sense of a young woman's determination.

**Praise to Amitabha** has been sung for thousands of years in China. Amitabha Buddha is known as the awakened being of infinite light. This ancient praise was translated into English by the late David Rounds in the 1970s and has recently been expanded and arranged by a younger generation of inspired Buddhist musicians to render a warm and healing life force.



# ARTIST PROFILES

**Bishnu Raj Bhatta** is a BA student at Dharma Realm Buddhist University. He came across the flute accidentally in 2015 and started learning with his *guru* (teacher) in Nepal while pursuing an electrical engineering degree. He sees music as a language that helps him express the feelings he wouldn't be able to express otherwise to himself and others.

**Hannah Cheng** is an eighth grader at DVGS. Growing up, her grandmother always sang songs to her. She started singing in first grade during elementary school music class. In 2021, she came to America for middle school. With memories from elementary school and love for her motherland, she prepared for tonight's song wholeheartedly.

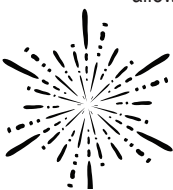
**Ashley Dong** is a sophomore at DVGS. Among the many genres of music, Beijing Opera remains her favorite. She was introduced to Beijing Opera when she was in junior high and has been practicing it ever since. She is passionate about sharing her love for Chinese opera with myriad audiences.

**Josette Hanneken** is an eighth grader at DVGS. Josette has always enjoyed singing, and she started taking piano lessons at eight years old. Seeing her talent, her mom signed her up for vocal lessons, which helped her learn new vocal techniques and find her own musical style.

**Amy Liu** is a senior at DVGS and president of the Chinese Orchestra. She took piano lessons as a child and discovered Chinese instruments upon joining the orchestra in eighth grade. Specializing in *sheng*, the mouth organ, and *dizi*, the bamboo flute, she has expanded to musical arrangement and composition, telling stories through music.

**Cherry Ngo** is a junior at DVGS. She started saxophone two years ago, having been inspired by a street performance of "Careless Whisper". Cherry's love of jazz facilitated her quick connection with the saxophone. She hopes to continue developing her skills with the guidance of her teachers and by experimenting with different genres.

**Hailey Tran** is a junior at DVGS. She has learned a range of dance styles, all of which influence and shape her unique approach to dance. She incorporates diverse elements in her self-choreographed performances. The stage is her favorite place to be, as it allows her to illustrate profound emotions through body language.



**Hillary Tran** is a senior at DVGS. Her supportive parents exposed her to many instruments and genres of music at a young age. She chose the *pipa*, a four-stringed lute that perfectly complements her intensity. Stravinsky and his unconventional music—borderless in shape and form—have inspired her performance.

**Phoenix Vo** is a senior at DVGS. She has played piano from a young age and began music lessons at age five. To this day, her love for melodies, tempos, and keys has stayed intact. She enjoys contemporary pieces and experimenting with different genres of music, using her songs as an outlet to express and explore her emotions.

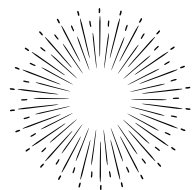
**Katherine Wang** is a junior at DVGS. She has been classically trained in piano for twelve years and violin for nine years, performing in local symphony orchestra concerts throughout the year. With a passion for music and violin, her life has been greatly enriched by opportunities to perform with other musicians and develop her talents.

**Leo Wang** is a freshman at DVBS. He has played the piano since age five and began learning cello a year ago. His musical life includes playing the cello, piano, and *yangqin* on a daily basis, as well as leading the school's Chinese Orchestra. He is excited to explore musical opportunities such as playing in duets and ensembles.

**Shine Yuan** is a junior at DVGS. She has studied traditional Chinese dance and played the ancient Chinese instrument, *guzheng*, for nine years. She is a member of the school's Chinese Orchestra and Chinese Dance and has participated in regional competitions in China.

**DVGS Chinese Dance:** Anya Francis, Abigail Gong, Isabella Ikin, Selene Luong, Estelle Ooh, Wren Samana, Veronica Tee, Hailey Tran, Katherine Wang, Victoria Yu, Shine Yuan

**The Wondrous Sound Choir** (IGDVS and DRBU): Ceclia Akin, Stella Andrews, Sanju Baral, Bishnu Bhatta, Shriya Bhula, Bayelle Blanc, Luminata Canevari, Sydney Charpentier, Hannah Cheng, Aarya Desai, Gavin Ding, Anna Dunicliff, Ziqian Feng, Cameron Foo, Anya Francis, Yasoda Govinda, Josette Hanneken, Iris Heimberg, Sophia Heimberg, Lan Huang, Sophie Huang, Selene Luong, Elle Ng, Sage Nguyen, Zachary Obenyah, Estelle Ooh, Blake Plante, Wren Samana, Alysha Seng, Cynthia So, Utpala Stanton, Alex Valdes, Shayue Wang, Sherry Wu, Victoria Yu, Xinwen Zhang, Celeste Zhou  
Piano accompanist: Dr. Susan Rounds, DRBU President

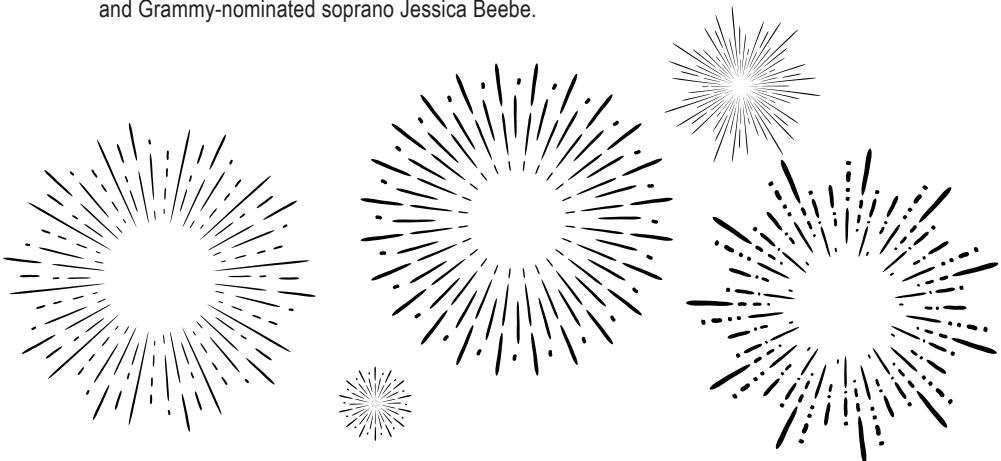


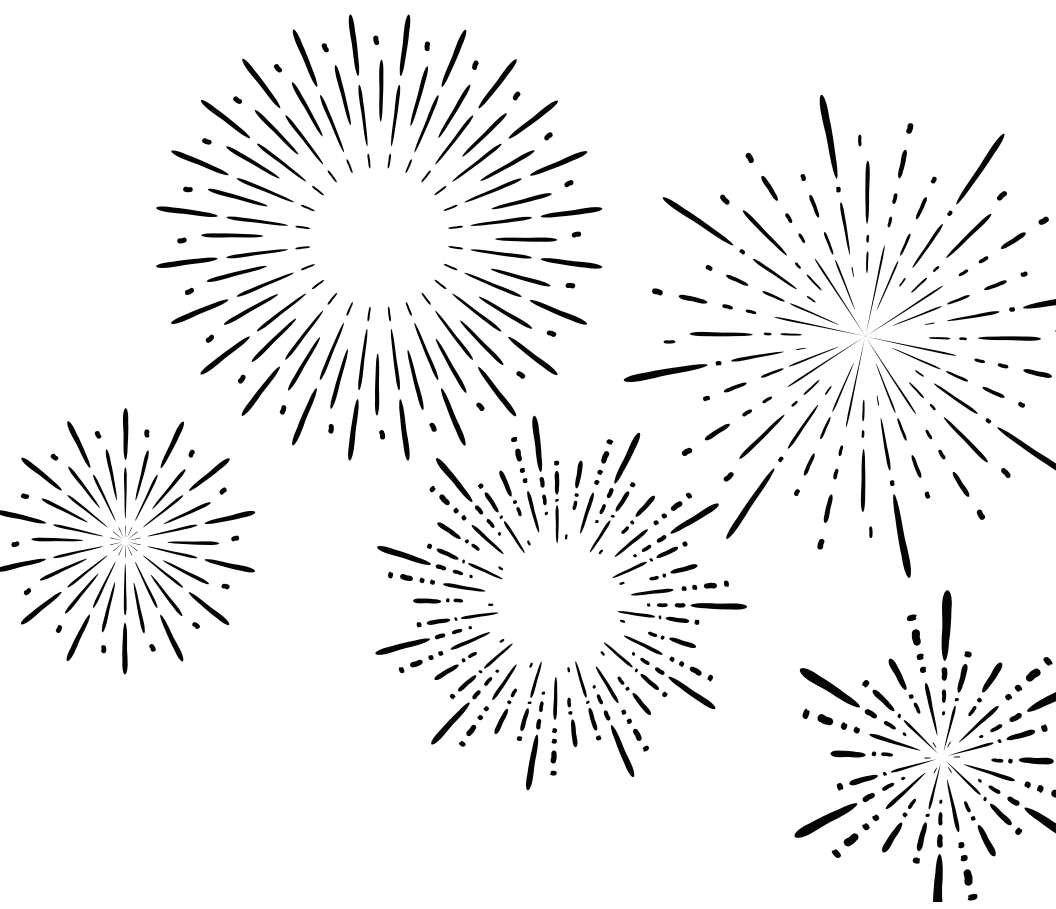
**Spencer Brewer** is a world-recognized composer, pianist, entrepreneur, and producer, who inspires audiences worldwide with his piano skills and creative business acumen. Brewer has 15 solo and duet albums. His music has been featured in hundreds of movies and TV shows across the globe, including *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, the Olympic Games, and virtually every airline in the skies. Brewer firmly believes in contributing to his local community of Mendocino County. He was nominated for the Ukiah Citizen of the Year award in 2001 and won the Mendocino County Arts Champion Award in 2008.

**Elizabeth MacDougall** is one of the region's best and most prolific pianists. A Ukiah local, she returned to the area in 1985 after completing her degrees in Piano Performance from the University of the Pacific and Piano Pedagogy and Performance from Northwestern University. An active performer, MacDougall has played both as a soloist and an orchestra member with the Ukiah Symphony and Lake County Symphony. An experienced music educator, MacDougall serves as a piano instructor at Mendocino College and teaches students of all ages and levels at her private studio.

**Dr. Wenbo Yin** completed his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Saxophone Performance, Wind Conducting, and Jazz at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM), where he played first alto sax in the CCM Jazz Lab Band and the Wind Orchestra. He also served as a saxophone faculty member at the CCM Preparatory and assistant director of the University Jazz Band. Yin made his solo debut at Carnegie Hall in July 2022. He is currently attending Dharma Realm Buddhist University and volunteers at the Developing Virtue Secondary Schools. His first album, *Reflection*, will be released this winter season.

**Sophie Wu** is the director of the Infinite Light Winter Recital and a music teacher at the IGDVS. She is also a member of the Office of Development and Strategic Planning at DRBU, where she co-leads the University choir. She received jazz voice training at a leading jazz school in Shanghai and studied classical vocal performance at the Franklin & Marshall College, where she studied under American operatic soprano Gwynne Geyer, and Grammy-nominated soprano Jessica Beebe.





# PEACE AND LIGHT

INSTILLING GOODNESS AND DEVELOPING VIRTUE SCHOOLS  
DHARMA REALM BUDDHIST UNIVERSITY