The Shanghai Suite explores the migration of approximately 20,000 Jews to Shanghai during World War II, blending European Jewish musical traditions with Chinese music of the period and other sounds that reference the wartime migration. Music, storytelling, and multimedia illuminate a lesser-known chapter of Jewish history and it's counterpart in Chinese history (100,000 Chinese were forced to flee to Shanghai during the war with Japan). The Shanghai Suite offers audiences a powerful and memorable way to experience the resilience of communities in times of displacement and a remarkable chapter of Jewish, Chinese and global history.

The program is presented by the group FROM CHINA TO APPALACHIA, a trio with GRAMMY winners Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer (guitar, mandolin, banjo, cello-banjo, vocals, songwriting) and Chinese yangqin virtuoso Chao Tian. Extensive research has included an in person interview with Jerry Lindenstraus, Shanghailander who spent his formative years in Shanghai and now at 97, is in New York. The group has explored archives of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Leo Baeck Institute and YIVO as well as a library of amazing history and memoir books. The trio traveled to Shanghai in July to research at the Shanghai Refugees Memorial Museum and to perform a concert there.

The Shanghai Suite had its premiere performances at the DCJCC on October 15 & 17, 2026. Both shows sold out over a month in advance!

Special guests include:

Alicia Svigals, violinist/composer and a founder of the Grammy-winning Klezmatics, is the world's foremost klezmer fiddler. Alicia almost singlehandedly revived the tradition of klezmer fiddling**,** which had been on the brink of extinction until she recorded her debut album *Fidl* in the 1990's.

Seth Kibel – clarinet, saxophone Charlie Pilzer- bass, accordion

Comments from the audience of the premiere performances:

"Two sold out shows is just the part of the iceberg above the water of this story. l can say unequivocally, it was a brilliant, moving and inspiring show. Its impact and importance stem from its echoes of what we're seeing experiencing now. A must see, if you care about our future."

"Wow, "The Shanghai Suite" was beyond brilliant - it was moving, magnificently performed, educational and a delight to see and hear. Opening and closing with " Will You Harbor me" was so perfect in connecting history to our present dismal world situation."

"I especially loved hearing about how the three of you came to the story and traveled to Shanghai to visit the memorials and learn about the history together."

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