



LETTER OF RECOGNITION

Suzhou Kunqu Opera Theatre of Jiangsu's "The Peony Pavilion" October 6, 7, & 8, 2006

WHEREAS, the story "The Peony Pavilion," a timeless romance that shares with "Romeo and Juliet" the magic and power of youthful love, was written by Tang Xianzu, a contemporary of William Shakespeare; and

WHEREAS, kunqu opera, which originated in the Ming Dynasty in Kunshan of Jiangsu Province, is the oldest extant form of Chinese opera and has been dubbed by the United Nations as a "Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity;" and

WHEREAS, UCSB Professor Emeritus and Taiwanese literary scholar Kenneth Pai has adapted the classic text and produced "The Peony Pavilion," to be performed by the Jiangsu Province Suzhou Kunqu Opera Theatre of China in a traditional production spanning three days in Santa Barbara; and

WHEREAS, the UCSB Department of East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies and the UCSB Arts & Lectures, in association with the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Opera Santa Barbara, and the Music Academy of the West, have created a partnership to entertain and educate audiences with a series of informative events in anticipation of the performances,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARTY BLUM, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Santa Barbara, California, do hereby recognize the cultural and historical significance of "THE PEONY PAVILION," recall the common characteristics we share with our Chinese Sister City, Weihei, and proudly welcome the opera theatre group to our city today, October 3, 2006.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Santa Barbara, California, to be affixed this 1st day of September, 2006.



Marty Blum
MARTY BLUM, MAYOR

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