

# TCPAH Faculty and students Visit Schools of Music in China

May 2019 - China

As a new international UNT doctoral student in Voice, Xiaoyue Liu was exposed to Performing Arts Health for the first time in her career when she enrolled in Dr. Chesky's Introduction to Performing Arts Health course (MUPH 5000).



Her response was immediate and passionate as she proclaimed that TCPAH must bring this agenda to China.

According to Xiaoyue, such an initiative would expose Chinese schools to this new topic while creating exciting opportunities for collaboration. These conversations led to the development of a successful submission to the China Venture Fund.

Relying on her connections to several Chinese music professors, Xiaoyue successfully communicated with faculty and staff at four Chinese music schools. After working out logistics and receiving formal invitations and itineraries, Xiaoyue, Nabeel Zuhdi, and Dr. Chesky flew to China on May 13<sup>th</sup>. Nabeel Zuhdi is a classical guitarist and one of the first UNT students to enroll in the new PhD in Music program with a Concentration in Performing Arts Health.

The TCPAH team's first stop was Xinghai conservatory in Guangzhou. Xinghai is considered one of the best music schools in Southern China and enrolls more than 4000 music students. The vice chair of Voice department, Prof. Xiao Chen at Xinghai organized



and hosted engagement activities that included several formal and informal interactions with Chinese music students and faculty. Following formal lectures to student groups, the team participated in a **Performing Arts Health Academic Seminar** hosted by the Dean of Graduate school, Mr. Zhuo Zhang, the chair of Musicology department, Dr. Binbin Qi, and Xinghai Conservatory's research team including Prof. Min Zheng. Discussions

focused on the potential to conduct collaborative large scale epi studies in China.

The TCPAH team then visited Zhaoqing University and met the Dean of music school, Prof. Wenguang Liang and the Chair of instrumental department, Prof. Hu Zheng. Clarinet professor Dr. Xiao Luo organized several engagement activities that included large lectures for students and social events with students and faculty. Meetings with faculty



focused on the logistics of developing educational, outreach, and clinical resources for student musicians.

Dr. Chesky and TCPAH students then visited Shanghai Conservatory - one of the most prestigious music programs in China. Zhe Tang, the Chair of Music Education department, organized activities and hosted lectures with students and several meetings with administrators and faculty. These conversations centered around the idea of developing a



performing arts health program and new curriculum in partnership with their new music therapy program. One highlight of this entire trip was being invited as special guests to a concert of traditional Chinese classical music at Shanghai Conservatory.

Lastly, the TCPAH met with Professor Ke Li in Shanghai as a representative of East China Normal University. Discussions with Prof. Ke Li were academically rigorous and focused on the potential for collaborative funding proposals to the Chinese Education ministry. Professor Li explained that ECNU seeks internationalization through cooperative partnerships with many world-renowned universities including École Normale Supérieure in France, the University of Pennsylvania and Cornell University in USA, Tokyo University and Kobe University in Japan, the University of Melbourne in Australia, and the University of Warwick in the UK. ECNU also offers academic exchanges with over 150 universities and institutions of Great Britain, France, Germany, Japan, the United States, Canada, Australia, Korea, and Russia. Regardless of the smaller sized music program at ECNU, Professor Li suggested that a performing arts health collaborative initiative with UNT would be of interest to government funding agencies in China.

This trip was extremely rewarding for the TCPAH team and revealed future opportunities for collaboration. Many thanks to the China Venture Fund and the college of music for supporting this effort.

