Symphony Trip to China

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The Symphony at WKU recently returned from it’s first International Concert Tour.

As Amy Bingham reports in this week’s View from the Hill, the trip to China marked a pivotal moment for WKU’s Confucius Institute.

WKU’s recent concert tour of China included three different elements. Showcasing our talented Symphony, strengthening existing partnerships with Chinese Universities and touring historic sites with a group of WKU Alumni and friends. It’s being called a rousing success.

Nothing like an impromptu concert by the Symphony’s brass quintet on the Great Wall of China.

But things got a lot more formal when the entire Symphony took the stage for four different performances.

 “We were really happy to play for them. As happy as they were to have us there. It was so much fun. Just the energy coming from the audience while we were there and the ones we were playing for was amazing.”

 “Dr. Scott, I think very shrewdly, started every performance with the Chinese National Anthem and audiences were always surprised by that and very appreciative and responded to it.”

The venues were all at Chinese universities where WKU’s Confucius Institute has existing partnerships.

It worked out well because there was a business component to the trip that proved very productive.

 “We had some wonderful conversations with three universities while there and struck up useful partnerships that will be helpful down the road that will benefit our students and create some nice opportunities for our faculty.”

Steven Stewart was one of 55 Symphony students and faculty who travelled to China. He even took part in a cultural exchange, playing his beloved bluegrass music for Chinese students.

 “They were giving me part of their culture and I was giving them, not only part of our culture but part of myself.”

Also along for the trip, more than twenty alumni and friends of WKU.

 “it was a win/win for everybody.”

A successful concert tour that’s taking WKU’s three year old CI to the next level.

 “It was a very pivotal moment for our Confucius Institute that took us from a new Confucius Institute to one of the forerunners.”

In addition to English and business programs expanding with Chinese partner universities, the trip solidified plans to add two faculty positions at WKU which will be funded by Hanban and the Confucius Institute.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

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