

Ladies and Gentlemen

This evening Professor Li Jiwu is to be honoured as a recipient of a Wells Cathedral School Foundation Fellowship.

We would be very surprised if, when you first played the cello as a 10 year old boy in Xing Jiang Province, your music teacher did not immediately recognise the great talent with which he was working. What your music teacher will not have known, of course, is the world figure in music and music education that his young ten year old protégé has become.

After joining the army in China in 1975 as a musician, in 1985 the Chinese Government saw fit to award you a music scholarship to the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. You then returned to the army in 1989 and you were appointed Principal Cellist of the Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra in 1995 – one of the Far East's leading orchestras. Always driven by your passion for teaching and your love of music you taught cello at the Xinghai Conservatory of Music University and then extended your involvement in the musical

education of young people as Vice Principal of the Xinghai Music School Attached to Xinghai Conservatory of Music in 1999. Very soon you become Principal and Professor of Music and adopted the position that we at Wells Cathedral School have come to understand and know well.

But in 1988, we should not forget, that as an international performer you yourself won the First National Cello China Competition in Beijing – China’s leading cello competition – and since, many other awards. We always remember, working with you as a teacher, the gifted cello player that you are. It must have given you great pleasure – and us this evening in hearing of your achievement – when some years later one of your own cello students won the same major Chinese cello prize, playing the same piece – the Schuman Cello Concerto in A major.

And to now. We at Wells Cathedral School recognise your continuing energy and enthusiasm in your work with students. We know of your deep belief that music is an important part of young people’s education and that it is a natural

part of life. We have come to learn that you have the ability to teach children to work hard at their talent and to help them love their music. Your energy and determination to make our school partnership work is much admired and appreciated and we are grateful for it. Our students have benefited, our teachers have benefited, and the school has benefited. You are indeed inspiring success in all of us.

XieXie.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my privilege and pleasure, on behalf of the School and the Foundation, to ask you to stand, applaud and welcome Professor Li Jiwu as a Wells Cathedral School Foundation Fellow.

Written and addressed by Nigel Walkey

12th March 2009

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