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Scripps College Faculty to Commemorate Los Angeles Chinatown Massacre with Multimedia Performances in Downtown Los Angeles and Claremont

CLAREMONT, CA (15 October 2019)—Scripps College Professor of Music and Bessie and Cecil Frankel Chair in Music Hao Huang will curate two multimedia performances commemorating the Los Angeles Chinatown Massacre of 1871. The first performance will take place on Thursday, October 24, at 6 p.m. at the Pico House in Downtown Los Angeles, in partnership with the Chinese American Museum and El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument. The second performance will take place on Friday, October 25, at 3:30 p.m. at the College's Boone Recital Hall. These performances will be the first in a three-year series leading up to the 150th anniversary of the massacre.

The performances will include an oral narrative, structured instrumental improvisation on Chinese and American folk music from that time period, and a visual media presentation, followed by a dialogue with the audience. To emphasize the collaborative, cross-cultural nature of the project, Huang invited performers from different backgrounds to participate, including Charlotte D'Evelyn, a visiting assistant professor of music at Pomona College, and visual artist Daniel McCarty.

Huang hopes that the performances will not only commemorate the victims of the massacre but also highlight those who tried to stop it. "Even when you have something awful like this massacre, you have people who step up and act the way you'd hope people would act—as empathetic human beings," Huang said. "We need more people like that now."

This year's performances have received funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's Truth, Racial Healing, & Transformation program in Los Angeles as well as support from 15 funds, programs, and organizations across The Claremont Colleges. As the series develops over the next two years, Huang envisions future commemorations becoming more interdisciplinary.

"I see this as a reconciliation process," he said. "People need to acknowledge that this happened—not just as Asian American history but as American history. These performances are a way of saying, 'Let's care; let's not turn our backs again.""

Both performances are free and open to the public. Tickets for the October 24 performance at Pico House are available here; additional information about the Scripps College performance is available on the College's website.



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Scripps College was founded in 1926 by Ellen Browning Scripps, a pioneering philanthropist and influential figure in the worlds of education, publishing, and women's rights. Today, Scripps is a nationally top-ranked liberal arts college and women's college with approximately 980 students and is a member of The Claremont Colleges in Southern California. The mission of Scripps College is to educate women to develop their intellects and talents through active participation in a community of scholars, so that as graduates they may contribute to society through public and private lives of leadership, service, integrity, and creativity.