

NEWS RELEASE



MUSIC DEPARTMENT MOODY BIBLE INSTITUTE

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The Women's Concert Choir & Bell Ensemble, conducted by Xiangtang Hong of the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, will be performing on Sunday, March 7, 2010 at 6:00 PM at Abbe Road Baptist Church, Elyria, OH.

Founded in 1955, the Women's Concert Choir & Bell Ensemble has sung and played to enthusiastic audiences all over the United States, as well as Canada, Europe, South America, the Caribbean, New Zealand, Australia, and East Asia (some of which have been joint ministry tours with the Men's Collegiate Choir). Their most recent overseas tour was in Singapore and Malaysia in May 2008. The group, composed of 30-45 women representing a variety of academic majors, seeks first and foremost to worship God with their music while emphasizing musical excellence.

The Bell Ensemble is selected from the musicians within the choir and plays a diverse repertoire of arrangements and original music for bells on an almost six octave set of English handbells.

Xiangtang Hong, conductor, is in the process of completing her doctoral studies in Choral Conducting and Literature at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Recipient of a fellowship and the William H. Schuetz Memorial Scholarship from the U of I School of Music for choral excellence, she holds the distinction of being the youngest applicant accepted into the doctoral program. Prior to her residency at the University of Illinois, Ms. Hong earned a Masters in Choral Conducting from Westminster Choir College (Princeton, NJ) on a full academic scholarship, in addition to support from the Singapore National Arts Council. Her undergraduate degree is in Sacred Music from East Carolina University. Ms. Hong was appointed to the faculty of Moody Bible Institute in 2006 as an instructor in music appreciation in addition to her responsibilities with the Women's Concert Choir and Bell Ensemble.

The Moody Bible Institute, founded in 1886 by evangelist D.L. Moody, is a non-denominational college that educates and trains men and women for Christian service. It is an accredited member of the Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges (AABC), the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM), and North Central Association (NCA). The Music Department has been an integral part of the Institute's curriculum since its founding. In addition to the Women's Concert Choir, Moody has three other touring groups: the Men's Collegiate Choir, the Chorale and the Symphonic Band.