“There is a legend, they say, that many years ago it was a woman who began performing [throat singing]. It may be true. But the years are passing by, the time is changing. There was a time, when women performers were rejected and from that time on women stopped performing throat singing. But there are women ministers, women presidents. Why could there not be women singers performing throat singing?”

Oorzhak even suggested that an ensemble should be formed entirely of female singers, proposing that the group be called Tyva Kyzy, the Daughters of Tuva. For Oorzhak, the education of female throat singing was an important part of a larger movement of gender equality. Now that Tyva Kyzy has come into being, it is clear that the group’s significance goes beyond the correction of old social taboos. As highly trained musicians actively engaged in the musical culture of their people, the members of Tyva Kyzy bring a distinct voice to the growing body of Tuvan music available around the world. Many of the songs on this album have never before been heard outside of Tuva. Some are songs collected by the members of the group from their own family and local histories; others have been written specifically for the group. Several songs in the group’s repertoire highlight the work of women in Tuvan society.

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Upcoming world music events:

Friday, Mar. 6 • 8 p.m., Beall Hall
CHULRUA: Irish Traditional Music
Opening event of the Eugene Irish Cultural Festival.
World Music Series. $13, $9.

Friday, Mar. 13 • 8 p.m., Agate Hall Auditorium
UO EAST EUROPEAN FOLK MUSIC ENSEMBLE
Participatory Balkan folk dancing with live music. Free

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If you are in the company of a small child or someone who may inadvertently cause distractions, kindly sit near a rear exit and be prepared to leave in a timely fashion. Please respect our artists and your fellow concert goers. House management reserves the right to request exiting the Hall when appropriate.

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109th Season, 46th program
Homuzum (My homus, mouth harp).
A composition about the life of female hunters in Tuva.

Setkilimden sergek yr-dyr (A cheerful song from my soul.)
Shyngyr-la shyngyr:
So beautiful my ear rings
Made by my uncle the smith
My gold and silver rings
Given as a present by my mother

Ozhaavaiyn baraalyngar.
Kozhang. Chizhiri.

Avamny men sagyndym.
Ehey! My mountains!
The blizzard fusses like a bucking horse;
I haven’t seen my cliff-faced mountains for so long,
I am missing my mother who winters there.

Ehey! My steppes!
The zephyr dances like a young bride;
I haven’t seen my tumbleweed steppes for so long,
I am missing my mother who spends spring there.

Ehey! My ridges!
The fog scampers like a goat kid;
I haven’t seen my steep ridges for so long,
I am missing my mother who summers there.

Ehey! My lakes!
The fog scampers like a goat kid;
I haven’t seen my cirque lakes for so long,
I am missing my mother who spends autumn there.

Buura.
Doshpuluurum.
Aldyn-Dashka. Yoreel yry.
Kozhanngnar.

INTERMISSION
ABOUT TONIGHT’S ARTISTS

Choduraa Tumat is the artistic leader of Tyva Kyzy. Choduraa was born in 1974 in Iyme village, in the Chöön-Khemchik region. She was fond of listening to the khoomei and sygyt throat singing performed by her brothers. She is now an accomplished performer of Tuvan throat-singing styles: khoomei, sygyt, kargyraa, ezenggileer and chylandyk. Choduraa has been performing since 1998. As well as throat-singing, she sings traditional folk songs, and plays doshpuluur, igil, byzaanchy, khomus and chadagan. She graduated from the Department of National Instruments at the Kyzyl College of Arts in 1995, and from the East-Siberian State Academy, Faculty of Arts in 2002. Choduraa performs in the Tuva National Orchestra and teaches at the Kyzyl Teachers’ Training College.

Nadezda Kuular was born in 1947 in Khondergey village, Choon-Khemchik region. She was involved in the Tuva National Ensemble “Sayany” and in the throat singing ensemble “Tyva.” Nadezda participated in the International Festival “Washoi” in Japan with Tyva Kyzy. She has received the distinction of Honored Artist of the Republic of Tuva.

Aylanmaa Damyran has been a member of Tuvan Kyzy since the creation of the group. She was born in 1975 in Bai-Tal village of the Bai-Taiga region. Aylanmaa performs the following styles of Tuva throat singing: khoomei, sygyt, borbangnadyr and damyrak borbangy. She also plays the Tuva folk instruments igil, khomus and doshpuluur. She plays in the Tuva National Orchestra, and teaches khoomei at the children’s club in Kaa-Khem village, Kyzyl region.

Aylan Ondar was born in 1995 in Ishkin village, Sut-Khol region, and has been in the group since 1998. She graduated from the Department of National Instruments at the Kyzyl College of Arts in 1995, and from the East-Siberian State Academy, Faculty of Arts, in 2001. Aylan plays chadagan, khomus and a range of percussion instruments. She performs in the Tuva National Orchestra and also teaches chadagan at the Children’s Club in Kaa-Khem village, Kyzyl region.

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PROGRAM NOTES

Tyva Kyzy (pronounced t∙vah k∙zih, “Daughters of Tuva”) is the first and foremost all-female ensemble that performs the five main styles of Tuva throat singing, known in Tuva as khoomei. The group has toured extensively in Japan, Europe, Russia and the United States. This multiple-tone harmonic singing is the most well-known form of Tuva performative folklore and has attracted many enthusiasts for its almost unearthly beauty. Beneath this aesthetic presentation lies a deep connection between Tuva folk art and

Tozhama (A medley of 2 traditional songs from the Tozhu region of Tuva)
- Cherimeyning, Tozhamanyng My beautiful “flower” with seven colours from my homeland Tozhamada
- Chedi-le öngnug charash chechee He is sitting and feeling well
- Chetchi bergen olur-la boor
- Oranynnyng Tozhamanyng My beautiful “flower” with ten colours from my homeland Tozhamada
- Onna ongnug charash chechee He is extraordinary, sitting and waiting for me
- Oranynda, tozhamada in his homeland, in Tozhamada
- Onza charash olur-la boor
- Tozhu-la churtu-la toora-la hemge I very much want to live there
- Churtaksaarym arga-daa chok in this country tozhu in toora
- Hem tozhu-la oglu-la kulugurga I very much want to meet and live with him who is Kulugur, a son of Tozhu
- Tozhu-la churtu-la Toora-la hemge I very much want to live there
- Churtaksaarym arga-daa chok

Al-la saysh ynda-la baar (My thoughts are there)
- Opei yrylary (Medley of lullaby songs)
- Ayak shaiym (My bowl of tea)
- Men-daa kaiyyn azhyrar men
- Kystyng yry (The song girl)
- Sygyt-Khoomei (A style of Tuvan throat singing)
- Bai-la-Taigam (My Bai-taiga, a mountainous region of Tuva, homeland of group member Ailannmaa)

Mezhegey (A traditional song about a beautiful place in Tuva)
- Ungen khunnung herelinde You will look for me from the Ush-Dyt
- Ush-le-Dyttan haraar boor sen hen rays of sunrise come
- Ustuu-Mezhegey, Saryg-Bulung Ustuu-Mezheghey and Saryg-Bulung zük nogaan chydar boor ong will remain with green colour
- Atkan Dangnyng herelinde You will look for me from the Adyr-Tey
- Adyr-tyden haraar boor sen When rays come in the early morning
- Aldyy-Mezhegey, Saryg-Bulung Aldyy-Mezheghey and Saryg-Bulung Aldyn-saryg chydar boor ong will remain there as golden-yellow

Hoizhular
Orai kezhee taan-daa serii (Medley of Tuvan traditional songs about the stillness of the night.)
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Cherineyde, tozhamada — In his homeland, in Tozhamada
Chetchi bergen olur-la boor — He is sitting and feeling well
Oranymnyng Tozhamanyng — My beautiful “flower” with ten colours from my homeland Tozhama
Onza charash olur-la boor — He is extraordinary, sitting and waiting for me
tuzhu-la churtu-la toora-la hemge — I very much want to live there
tozhu-la oglu-la kulugurga — I very much want to meet and live with him who is Kulugur, a son of Tozhu

Al-la sarysh yndala baar — (My thoughts are there)
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Adyr-tenyden haraar boor sen — When rays come in the early morning
Aldyy-Mezhegy, Saryg-Bulung Aldyn-saryg chydar boor ong — will remain there as golden-yellow

Hoizhular
Orai kezhee taan-daa seriin — (Medley of Tuvan traditional songs about the stillness of the night.)

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