

“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



SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND DANCE

Beall Concert Hall
8:00 p.m.

Saturday evening
January 24, 2008

THE WORLD MUSIC SERIES

presents

**TYVA KYZY,
Female Throat-Singers and
Folk Musicians from the Tuva Republic**

Co-sponsors:

*Oregon Humanities Center
Office of International Affairs
Center for the Study of Women in Society
Women’s and Gender Studies Program
Center for Asian & Pacific Studies*



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

PROGRAM
(subject to change)

Homuzum (My *homus*, mouth harp).

A composition about the life of female hunters in Tuva.

Setkilinden 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

the sonic landscape of traditional Tuvan culture. The whisper of the wind, the babble of a brook, the cry of a camel – all find their place in the sounds and lyrics of Tuvan throat singing.

Tyva Kyzy performs this traditional art of singing in their own unique feminine style. Group members have also mastered a wide range of traditional folk instruments such as *igil* (horse head fiddle), *cha-khomus* (large mouth harp) and *chadagan* (hammered dulcimer). They have refined their abilities through training with master musicians, and several of them perform in the Tuvan National Orchestra. Their repertoire was developed through long hours of practice and innovation, and by searching out the music of their elders. The group fosters the growth, talent, and confidence of women and girls by teaching in schools and leading workshops. This strengthens the vitality of female *khöömei* which is still considered rare and sometimes controversial in Tuva.

The music of Tyva Kyzy is the music of Tuva, a land of high mountains and broad valleys separating the Siberian forest from the desert of Mongolia. In this land, the Tuvan people have created a musical culture inspired by the stark beauty of the landscape and the daily routines of traditional Tuvan life. Even today, life for many Tuvans means nomadism: the seasonal migration of family camps between pastures to provide grass for their herds of sheep, goats, camels, cows, horses, and yaks. All aspects of traditional Tuvan life are shaped by the conditions of this nomadic existence. Houses are portable felt tents, or yurts, which stay warm in the winter and cool in the summer. The Tuvan diet consists mostly of foods – milk, meat, and blood – produced by the herd animals. Of all the animals, horses are especially revered, as they make possible the long journeys across otherwise inhospitable steppes. This is the physical and cultural background for Tuvan music, and the source of its inspiration. In their songs, the Tuvan people sing about hunting and herding, preparing food, visiting family, and falling in love. Most of all, they sing about Tuva: the rivers, lakes, mountains, and meadows that surround them.

The land of Tuva is reflected in more than just the words of Tuvan songs. Many songs actually recreate the sounds of the landscape: its birds and horses, winds and rivers. The most well known methods for this imitation are the unearthly harmonic vocal techniques we call throat singing. We may never know how or when Tuvans began throat singing, but the art has become an integral and cherished element of their culture

Social taboos have kept many women from learning how to throat sing. According to these taboos, a woman's throat singing can cause anything from unhappiness to infertility or even the death of her relatives. For this reason, all throat singing ensembles until now have been dominated by male voices. In the early 1990s, the great singer and teacher Hunashtaarool Oorzhak promoted the education of girls and young women as throat singers. Oorzhak wrote:

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 Tuvan National Orchestra and teaches at the Kyzyl Teachers' Training College.

Nadezda Kuular was born in 1947 in Khondergey village, Choon-Khemchik region. She was worked in the Tuvan 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 Tyva 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 Tuvan throat singing: *khoomei*, *sygyt*, *borbangnadyr* and *damyrak borbangy*. She also plays the Tuvan folk instruments *igil*, *khomus* and *doshpuluur*. She plays in the Tuvan 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 Tuvan 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 Tuvan throat singing, known in Tuva as *khöömei*. 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 Tuvan performative folklore and has attracted many enthusiasts for its almost unearthly beauty. Beneath this aesthetic presentation lies a deep connection between Tuvan folk art and

Tozhama (A medley of 2 traditional songs from the Tozhu region of Tuva)

Cherimeyning, Tozhamanyng	My beautiful "flower" with seven colours
Chedi-le öngnug charash chechee	from my homeland Tozhama
Cherineyde, Tozhamada	In his homeland, in Tozhama
Chetchi bergen olur-la boor	He is sitting and feeling well

Oranymnyng Tozhamanyng	My beautiful "flower" with ten colours
On-na ongnug charash chechee	from my homeland Tozhama
Oranynda, Tozhamada	In his homeland, in Tozhama
Onza charash olur-la boor	He is extraordinary, sitting and waiting for me

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
tuzhuksaarym-na arga-daa chok	with him who is Kulugur, a son of Tozhu

Al-la sagysh 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-Mezhegey 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-teyden haraar boor sen	When rays come in the early morning
Aldyy-Mezhegey, Saryg-Bulung	Aldyy-Mezhegey and 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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