



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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## **THE CON JOINS BATTLE OF THE BASSOONS**

The world's top eight bassoon players, including The Con's Kim Walker, will rule the musical waves at the inaugural International Bassoon Festival in Beijing next month.

The five day festival, hosted by China's nine Conservatorium's, seven Arts Academies and the Symphony Development Foundation, will feature a program of ensemble and solo performances in the National Centre for the Performing Arts.

Kim Walker, the Dean and Principal of The Con, will join Valery Popov (Russia), Albrecht Holder, Mor Biron and Frank Forst (Germany), Zhang Jinmin (Singapore), Matthias Racz (Switzerland) and Philipp Tutzer (Austria) as the star musicians.

According to the organisers, the Beijing Central Conservatorium, almost every bassoonist in China, including amateurs and professionals, teachers and students, will participate in the festival.

The program will include music by Beethoven, Liszt, Verdi, Milde and Kreisler.

Walker and Popov will be the program's featured solo performers throughout the week. They will also be part of a Quintet playing virtuosic arrangements with their colleagues.

All the visiting international bassoonists will conduct masterclasses.

"It is shaping as an amazing festival and something of a unique occasion given that it is an unprecedented gathering of bassoonists in Asia," commented Professor Walker.

"The music will be magical, of course, and getting so many like-minded players in the one venue will surely make for its share of fun.

"Playing in the final concert will be especially exciting as the venue is the Forbidden City."

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