II. The Science of Strategy

BOSTON SCHILLER INSTITUTE MEETING

Friedrich Schiller, Confucius, and The Spirit of the New Silk Road

On Nov. 18, a gathering, which took as its theme "The Spirit of the New Silk Road," was held in Boston, Massachusetts to celebrate the 258th birthday of Friedrich Schiller, the "Poet of Freedom." The program for the event, and the many cultural offerings which were presented, were all designed to reflect on the universal genius of Confucius and Schiller, and to demonstrate the principles upon which Helga Zepp-LaRouche founded the Schiller Institute.

After the participants from many ethnic and national backgrounds heard the international greetings sent to the event, it began with a musical "Happy Birthday," a performance of maestro John Sigerson's choral arrangement of Schiller's *An die Freude*, from Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*.

Numerous recitations from Schiller's poetry, including *Kolumbus* and the *Dignity of Women*, were presented, along with performances and readings from several of Schiller's plays, including the prologue of *The Virgin of Orleans* (which describes Johanna leaving her flock, to take the helm, to adopt the divine mission to lead her countrymen in battle to drive the foreign invader from her beloved homeland); "*Nein, eine Grenze hat Tyrannenmacht...* " (No, There's a limit to the tyrant's power); and "*Der Rütlischwur*" (the Rütli Oath) from *Wilhelm Tell*. This latter scene was followed by a reading of the U.S. Declaration of Independence.

Two representatives from the Confucius Institute at University of Massachusetts Boston, Dr. Z. Lu and Mr. M. Zhong, chose a perfect contribution for this occasion. After Schiller's poem *Sprüche des Konfuzius* was presented by Bill Ferguson, the visiting scholars from Renmin University read alternating translations in Mandarin and in English. Their participation had been

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Christina DeVaughn singing Ernani involami, *by Verdi.*

arranged by the director of the Confucius Institute Boston, who expressed joy at President Trump's Beijing "state visit plus-plus," saying "this is the result of the hard work of the Schiller Institute."

The musical offerings were prefaced with an excerpt from a treatise on music by Confucius, on the vital necessity of music in statecraft and personal development. It could have been written by Schiller. It concludes: "Therefore, the superior man tries to create harmony in the human heart, by a rediscovery of human nature, and tries to promote music as a means to the perfection of human culture. When such music prevails, and the people's minds are led towards the right ideals and aspirations, we may see the appearance of a great nation. Character is the backbone of our human nature, and music is the flowering of character."

Soprano Christina DeVaughn, who performed at the Schiller Institute Boston's Sylvia Olden Lee Tribute in October, sang *Ernani, involami*, from Verdi's *Ernani*, accompanied by pianist Almira Izumchensky. Soprano Annicia Smith performed an original "Schumannian" setting of the Goethe poem *Gefunden*, composed by Mrs. Izumchensky.

Helga Zepp-LaRouche's message, "Why the Schiller Institute? On the Aesthetical Education of Confucius and Schiller," was read. A recorded international greeting from Ramasimong Phillip Tsokolibane of LaRouche South Africa, delivered in his native language, Sesotho, concluded with a description of the development of a "beautiful soul," from the *Analects* of Confucius, Book II, verse 4: "The Master said, At fifteen I set my heart upon learning. At thirty, I had planted my feet firm upon the ground. At forty, I no longer suffered from perplexities. At fifty, I knew what were the biddings of Heaven. At sixty, I heard them with docile ear. At seventy, I could follow the dictates of my own heart; for what I desired no longer overstepped the boundaries of right."

Following several other performances and presentations, the event was brought to a close with a summation and review given by William Ferguson, a transcription of which is presented in full below.