

# Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA)

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Member of the International Music Council  
*an NGO Partner of the UNESCO*

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April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Honored President, delegates of the Chinese Accordion Association,  
accordion teachers, ladies and gentlemen,

As the Secretary General, I have a great pleasure to bring you greetings of the International Accordion Confederation CIA, a member of the International Music Council, which is an official partner of the UNESCO. I would like to congratulate you for the wonderful idea of the "Youth Accordion Year", which will promote important educational activities and events for children. We all know, that the future of the world is carried by the children. Logically, if we want to make a good future, we must work for the children's health and education and a good life.

The CIA was founded 80 years ago in Paris, and China is our member since 2007. Professor Li Cong is a CIA Vice-President, and China is a strong and appreciated member of the confederation.

Personally, I'm coming from Finland, which is a small country in North-Europe. In Finland, there is only 5 million people, so looking from China, it's nearly nothing. However, the accordion is a very important and popular instrument in Finland. Especially children and young players are important, and we have strongly developed educational programs and many related activities for children.

Music is a wonderful language everywhere in the world. There are no communication problems between musicians. For instance, Harley Jones from New Zealand, Professor Li from China and myself from Finland, each come from completely opposite parts of the globe, but music brings us together, and very soon in this concert we will play together, reading from exactly the same musical score. This is wonderful and amazing! The music is the best social "tool" in the world, bringing people and nations together.

Teaching music for children is the best that we can do for them. However, it must not concentrate on looking the finest talent, as a good musical education should be possible and available to everyone. For this reason, to play in the orchestra is very important, because it strongly increases the motivation and enthusiasm for the music.

The music – and especially playing an instrument – should be a part of children's everyday living, because it develops many important skills that we can use for all our life. To play an instrument develops cleverness, abstract thinking, comprehension skills, concentration, motor skills, social skills and many others valuable educational benefits. And, by playing music, children get a

special instrumental skill, which is highly appreciated and valuable in future life and valuable for any profession.

In addition, in general, musical people are mostly very friendly and positive, which is an important characteristic, helping to make a good life.

An old phrase says: *“In the houses, where they are playing and singing, live good people!”*

I wish you great success for all the activities of the ”China Youth Accordion Year 2015”.

Thank you – Kiitos – Xièxiè!

Kimmo Mattila – Secretary General  
Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA)

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