Dance Place Moves Out!
Join us in theaters across the city while we undergo major renovations from August 2013-March 2014.

SEPTEMBER 2013
21. Brookland Arts & Family Day (at Monroe Street Market, 8th St NE)
28-29 Latin Sizzle Festival (at the Atlas Performing Arts Center, H St NE)

OCTOBER
5 Dance Place’s Annual Gala (at The Edgewood Arts Building, 8th St NE)
23 Evenings with Extraordinary Artists (at The Arts Club of Washington, I St NW)
26 Art on 8th NW: Dancing the Dream (at the National Portrait Gallery, F St NW)

NOVEMBER
23-24 City Rhythms Festival (at the Atlas Performing Arts Center, H St NE)

DECEMBER
14 Kwanzaa Celebration (at the Betts Theatre at The George Washington University, 21st St NW)

JANUARY 2014
4-5 Modern Moves Festival (at the Atlas Performing Arts Center, H St NE)

SAVE THE DATE: GRAND OPENING AT DANCE PLACE MARCH 15-16, 2014!

Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center presents
ANDA UNION
THE WIND HORSE

Friday, September 20, 2013 . 8PM
Ina & Jack Kay Theatre

3225 8th Street NE • Washington, DC 20017 • 202-269-1600 • danceplace.org
ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Altargana
“Altargana” is based on a famous Buriat folksong. The Buriats live in the northeast of Inner Mongolia in Hulun Buir close to the Russian border. Altargana is a type of special small grass that grows in Hulun Buir in Inner Mongolia. It has very deep roots and is very difficult to pull up. This song tells how the parents are like Altargana grasses, strongly rooted and looking after their children.

Black Horse
The horse is the most important of animals to the Mongolians, and it was their horsemanship that was the driving force behind the Mongolian Empire. Many traditional songs celebrate the horse. This is a love song; the lyrics are simple but Biligbaatar takes us out to the Mongolian steppes with his soaring vocals.

Lyrics (extract)
The rider reins in the Black horse and rides in a tight circle
And the sun tanned girl runs around the horse and rider

Boomborai
“Boomborai” is based on a folksong from the Horchin Grasslands. It comes from ancient Mongolian Shaman traditions and tells how one of the Shaman dance rituals, Andai, was born. If women were depressed because of problems in love and marriage, their families would invite the local shaman to dance the Andai to keep away disease and misfortune. It is said that once upon a time, there lived a father and his daughter on the Horqin Grassland. One day, the daughter, suddenly stricken by an unknown disease, lost her mind and began to behave strangely. She remained ill for a long time without any sign of recovery. One day, the father, burning with anxiety, carried his daughter on a herdsman’s wooden cart to a faraway place to see a doctor. However, when they arrived at the town of Kulun, the axle of the cart broke. At the same time, the girl’s condition worsened and her life was in danger. The anxious father had no idea what to do except to wander around the cart, singing a song to express his sorrow. The wailing song drew some people from nearby villages. They couldn’t help but shed tears at this sight and joined the old man in swinging their arms and wailing around the cart. To everyone’s surprise, the daughter quietly rose, got off the cart and followed the people, swinging her arms and stamping her feet with them. When people saw her, she was sweating all over, and her disease had been miraculously cured. The good news spread and from then on, people began to follow suit and treat young women who suffered from similar diseases by dancing around them in the same manner. The dance became known as “Andai.”

Buriat Song
More than 200 years ago the Mongolian Buriat tribe migrated from close to Lake Baikal to Hulun Buir in northwestern Inner Mongolia. As nomads they have a regular area where they move as the seasons change. Their history is full of these mass migrations where tens of thousands migrate over thousands of kilometers to new pastures. In this song, Tsetsegmaa, who is a Buriat Mongol, celebrates her people’s culture.
Derlcha

Derlcha is an ancient Mongolian singing competition. Originally it was kings and princes of banners (regions) that took part, but today it has become a popular art. It is often part of a festival or Nadaam. Two people battle against each other, each singing a verse to which the other has to reply. The battle can go on for days until one of the singers cannot think of anything to sing and is made speechless. The winner then ridicules the loser in front of the crowd before a new challenger takes on the winner, and so the competition goes until one singer remains and is declared the winner. The winners of these competitions became very skilled in remembering verses and developing their wits to overcome their opponents. Mongolian children have practiced Derlcha battles with their friends as a game for centuries. Our performer Nars, himself, used to do Derlcha battles with his friends when he was growing up in the Horchin Grasslands. Anda Union's version is based on verses used in the ancient Derlcha battles.

Galloping Horses

“Galloping Horses” is undoubtedly the most famous piece of music composed for the morin huur. It was written by the master Chi Bulag who created the piece after watching a fierce horserace, in which the winning horse staggered over the finishing line, collapsed and died of exhaustion. Chi Bulag has been central to the evolution of the morin huur, taking the ancient chuur huur and developing it into what we know as the morin huur today.

Genghis Khan

This a song that is sung at auspicious Mongolian ceremonies such as weddings and is often used as a piece of music to start the proceedings. It brings good luck, and Genghis Khan is revered by the Mongolians as the founder of Mongolian culture. Credited with uniting the Mongolian tribes, he is the Mongolian father figure. Although he didn’t unify China, it was his grandson, the Kublai Khan, who did by founding the Yuan Dynasty.

Heemor – The Wind Horse

The wind horse is an allegory for the human soul in the shamanistic tradition of Central Asia that has been integrated into Mongolian and Tibetan Buddhism. Heemor is a symbol of the idea of well-being or good fortune. As the wind horse rises, things go well, and as it falls the opposite happens. Heemor takes our prayers to Tengar the sky god. This beautiful piece of music inspired by Heemor was composed by Yalalt, who lives and works in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia.

The Herdsman

Many Mongolian songs celebrate their nomadic life in the grasslands and this song tells of the joy of a herdsman in an idyllic state.

Holy Mountain

The moadin chur playing is always inspired by the sounds of the mountains and waters. This song is dedicated to Holy Mountain. Before Genghis Khan became mighty he hid in the holy mountain several times to escape from dangers and find strength. Traditionally, the elders always went there for prayer and to find solace. The moadin chur is an ancient Mongolian reed flute, now mostly found in the Altai Mountains in Xinjiang, and it is there that most moadin chur music is played today.

Hometown

This song is inspired by the steady destruction of the grasslands as farming and mining encroach ever further combined with the effects of global climate change. The lyrics were written by Anda Union’s Urgen, who left his home in the grasslands when he was 13 years old to train at music school in the city. He has never returned but his heart remains there, as do all the hearts of Anda Union’s performers. But the grasslands are no longer the grasslands of their childhood. This song appeals for the grasslands to be saved and preserved.

Jangar

Jangar was a great Mongolian hero and there are many myths and legends written about this great man.

"In the age when man’s life was as long as 80,000 years and his height was 8 zhang (1 zhang = 3.33 meters), there was a great hero called Jangar. He was the son of Khan Buhair. When Buhair was dying, he told his son to do three things. To succeed to the throne; to give his three sisters away in marriage, and to marry according to the directions in Buddha’s scripture.

"Jangar then ascended the throne. Not long afterwards an eagle-like big bird, a young boy with a ruddy nose and a spotted grey bird the size of a lark came to Jangar and asked for his sisters to be their wives. Though Jangar was not pleased with their proposals, he was forced to give them his sisters because of his father’s will.

"According to the directions in Buddha’s scripture, Jangar should go to a place an eighty-year ride away to get Chagi who was the only daughter of Orno Morno Khan as his wife."

Uni has arranged this song, which comes from the Xinjiang Mongols and celebrates this great hero.
Lake Dance
Nars was inspired by a Mongolian dance of the Hoshut Mongols in Bayingol. There is a large community of Mongols in the Xinjiang province where there is a rich culture of Mongolian, Uigar and Kazak music and dance. The Hoshut and Torgut Mongols migrated to this distant western province hundreds of years ago as they escaped from a hostile Russian king. In this song, Nars has concentrated on Anda Union’s throat singing.

Mother (Chagan Tokhoy Natuk)
This is a song about mothers from Chagan Tokhoy, which is a mythical place in the Ujim Chin Grasslands. It consists of two long songs combined into one song. Bilgibaatar sings about how much they miss their mother when they are far away.

Bilgibaatar: “Grey haired old mother, every moment every second we miss you our lovely mother.”

Tsetsegmaa sings a Buriat song that a mother sings to her daughter when she is getting married. The Mongolian nomadic way of life is based on moving pastures four times a year so as to ensure that the grass is not overgrazed. It also means that each herder will live far away from the next, also to stop overgrazing. It is very common for a Buriat mother to sing this song to her daughter, as often the daughter will move far away to live with her husband’s family.

Tsetsegmaa: “After you get married if you find a clean spring you can drink the water, if the daughter marries far from home that happens often.”

Ode to Mongolia
The mighty Mongolian Empire and Genghis Khan are of central importance to Mongolian culture and a source of immense pride for Mongolians today. There are, of course, many songs that celebrate the founder of the Mongol people. This song was arranged by Anda Union Member Urgen.

Lyrics (extract)
To be the world’s master
O Genghis Khan’s Mongolia
The ancient history of Mongolia
Ural is the mother of Genghis Khan and Mongolia
The Mongolians have 800 years of history
The Mongolians have great horses and dogs
The Mongolians have the sun and the moon.

Lyrics (extract)
When the milk wine is in the bottle
Just like small sheep in the pen
When you drink the milk wine
It is just like a tiger out of the pen
We wish that everything goes well for me and you

Suhe’s White Horse
This is a new composition by our newest member, Chinggeltu. A powerful instrumental, it is based on the famous myth of Suhe and how the horse-head fiddle was first created. The legend goes that Suhe had a most beautiful white foal that grew into the most incredible stallion. Suhe slept every night with the horse, and the two were inseparable. One day Suhe entered them into a horserace that Suhe and his horse won easily and everyone admired them, including a wicked King who commanded Suhe to give him his beloved horse. Suhe refused and fled, so the King ordered that they be found and the horse killed as punishment. The soldiers carried out the King’s orders, and Suhe was distraught and wept inconsolably for days on end. Finally he fell asleep and dreamt his horse came to him. His horse told him not to be sad and that he should use the dead horse’s skin and bones to make the body of a horse-head fiddle, and that the tail be used to make the strings and bow. He should then play the fiddle, and every time he does so he would be reminded of his beloved horse.

Sumaro
A young girl, Sumaro is in love with a boy called Sanjay Mam. But this is no ordinary love and they are desperate to be together every day. When Sanjay Mam is not there, Sumaro climbs to the top of the shrine so that she can see far over the Mongolian plains and waits all day for her lover to return. Sanjay Mam, desperate to see his love, rides his horse so fast that the dust billows behind him like the spray that rises from the lake as a goose lands on the water.

Lyrics (extract)
Thinking of and missing him,
The imagination of O Sumaru
Climbing on top of the shrine, she stares into the distance shading her eyes
Anda means a blood brother or sister. For Mongolians an “Anda” is more important than a birth brother as you choose a person to become an Anda, a lifelong blood brother. ANDA UNION is a brotherhood of Andas.

Anda Union's thoroughly addictive combination of Mongolian musical styles is a reflection of their roots. Hailing from differing ethnic nomadic cultures, the ten-strong band unites tribal and music traditions from all over Inner Mongolia in China. Anda Union brings a wide range of musical instruments and vocal styles together in a fusion that Genghis Khan himself would have been proud of. Keenly aware of the threat to the Grasslands and their age-old Mongolian culture, Anda Union are driven by their fight for the survival of this endangered way of life, by keeping the essence of the music alive.

Formed 13 years ago in 2000, they have influenced a generation of young Mongolians in Inner Mongolia as traditional music flourishes in the capital. Nas says, “Most of the band members have been playing together since childhood. As adults, we studied professional vocals and instruments together. We are like a family. Thirteen years ago, Anda Union was forged and we haven’t looked back.”

Anda Union’s members were all trained in traditional Mongolian music from a young age, many coming from musical families. They are part of a musical movement that is finding inspiration in old and forgotten songs, drawing on a repertoire of magical music that had all but disappeared during China’s recent tumultuous past. As a group they hold on to the essence of Mongolian music whilst creating a form of music that is new. A soloist would traditionally perform on many of the instruments Anda Union play, and Mongolian musicians have tended to concentrate on a particular musical technique. Anda Union combines different traditions and styles of music from all over Inner and Outer Mongolia, developing an innovation previously unheard of. The very existence of a music group like Anda Union is new to Inner Mongolia.

Mongols have a strong musical tradition that is passed from generation to generation. The morin huur, or horse-head fiddle, pays homage to the most important animal in the Mongol culture; almost all houses have one hanging in the hallway.

The group describe themselves as music gatherers, digging deep into Mongol traditions and unearthing forgotten music. They are on a mission to stimulate their culture and re-engage young Mongols, many of whom no longer speak their own language. Saikhanakhai is fighting to reverse this trend by opening a bar in the capital Hohhot, where she will promote music. “I found an old golden wheel with half its spokes broken in an old dusty shop. It looks like a wheel that once turned the warrior carts of the great Mongol armies. I will hang this wheel in my bar as a warning to Mongolian people that our culture is broken and needs to be mended.”

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**The Girl Who Stole Horses**
This is based on a famous Horchin folksong. A girl dresses as a boy in order to steal 33 horses from the rich and then gives them to the poor. This makes her famous and a great popular heroine.

**Lyrics (extract)**
Grey small bird singing in the early morning
The horse from the grassland rides towards the northwest

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**The Legend of The Swan Brothers**
Based on a Mongolian folksong this tells the story of a very poor Mongolian man similar to Robin Hood. He steals from the rich and gives to the poor.

**Lyrics (extract)**
Five heroes they steal flocks and flocks of sheep from the rich
They only left the Rams for them
Boydas, Togno, Balgyor, Hasak
They rob all the sheep
They are 5 heroes

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**Wan Li**
Based on a very famous Horchin folksong, this tells the tale of a very beautiful girl in the Horchin Grasslands. Everyone who sees the girl falls in love with her. And because of this, they wrote a song about the beautiful girl whose name is Wan Li.

**Lyrics (extract)**
A man who walks under the big lanterns
After seeing the beautiful girl Wan Li
Starts to walk like a drunken man.
When the man on the horse rides quickly past the girl
He feels the girl is the most beautiful.
The feet of the horse clip clop on the rocks
When the horse is beside the girl Wan Li
He feels the girl is the most beautiful.
Very beautiful Hoy
ABOUT THE INSTRUMENTS

Morin Huur
Commonly known as the horse-head fiddle, this is a two-stringed instrument played with a bow, similar to a cello, and has a unique method of fingering. Its distinctive beautiful sound with a hint of melancholy is synonymous with Mongolian culture. One legend about the origin of the morin huur is that a shepherd named Namjil the Cuckoo received the gift of a flying horse; he would mount it at night and fly to meet his beloved. A jealous woman had the horse’s wings cut off, so that the horse fell from the air and died. The grieving shepherd made a horse-head fiddle from the now-wingless horse’s skin and tail hair, and used it to play poignant songs about his horse.

Tob Shur
This is a Mongolian lute, which also has only two strings, traditionally used to accompany a singer. Anda Union employ the tob shur as a vital melodic instrument used to drive the rhythm of their music.

Moadin Chor
This is a Mongolian flute made from a reed, which is played vertically, positioned under the top lip. The player plays the flute whilst at the time singing Hoomei (throat singing). Very few people are able to play this instrument, and Chinggel is one of four musicians in Inner Mongolia who know how to do so.

Hoomei
The English name for this style of singing is overtone or throat singing. It is a type of singing in which the singer manipulates the resonances created as air travels from the lungs, past the vocal folds and out the lips to produce a melody. This unique type of singing involves the production of two distinctively audible pitches at the same time. There are many styles of Hoomei from the different parts of Mongolia and Tuva, and Anda Union have been trained in a range of these methods. In the concert you will notice the very distinctive styles that they use from very low singing to high pitched. The sound is very reminiscent of the wind blowing through the grasses on the Mongolian Grasslands.

Urgyn Duu
Urgyn duu, or long-song, is derived not from the length of the songs but rather the long notes that are held. Often a song has very few words; one three minutes long might only have 10 words. This style of singing evolved in the grasslands as the Mongolians tended their sheep and was used to sing to the animals to call and to calm them. Mongolian music records and maps the landscape of their land, not merely in words, but in the rising and falling of notes corresponding to the flow of the land itself. The long-song singer can call up the landscape of distant places with the special skill of his or her voice.

Mongolian Drum
This is a double-sided sheep-skin drum based on ancient designs that have been developed by Anda Union, influenced by Tuvan drums. The skins used are from sheep in the grasslands and were also tanned locally.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

BILIGBAATAR is a long-song singer and tours regularly with Anda Union. He grew up in Horgin. His mother, younger brother, brother’s wife and daughter all live in the grasslands and herd the family livestock. Biligbaatar is an expert horseman. He learned long-song from his mother when he was a child, his talent was honed in the beauty of the grasslands and he is a long-song gold medalist. He is based in Hohhot with his wife who is also a singer.

CHINGGEL grew up in a traditional herding family in the Ongniud Grasslands and has three sisters. He went to Music College in Chifeng where he studied morin huur, but now plays mainly flute. He is one of only four musicians in Inner Mongolia who can play the moadin chor. Today, his passion for the moadin chor has led him to start making these reed flutes as well as Mongolian metal flutes. He loves to drive his large Yamaha motorbike through the streets of Hohhot.

CHINGGELTU is the youngest in the band and studied the bass morin huur in Ulanbaatar and Hohhot at university. His family is from At Horchin.

NARS grew up in the Horgin Grasslands with his grandparents who were traditional herders. His grandfather, also a musician, played many instruments including the accordion, morin huur and other stringed fiddles, and became his teacher and mentor from an early age. At age 12 he went to live in Chifeng to study music and met other students, four of whom would become members of Anda Union. After graduating, Nars moved to Hohhot and joined the Inner Mongolia Music and Dance Troupe where he met the rest of the band. In 2000 Anda Union was born. Today, Nars also runs a music school teaching morin huur, tob shur and Hoomei to young people. His parents have now moved to Hohhot to help him run the school, and they all live together in a house filled with students, beds and instruments. Nars also collaborates and performs with orchestras across China and Korea.

SAIKHANNAKHAAG spent holidays on the grasslands with her grandparents, close to Tongliao in eastern Inner Mongolia. She learned music from a young age from her paternal grandparents. She won a prize as the most talented female morin huur player and was invited to join the Inner Mongolia Music and Dance Troupe, where she became the first professional female musician. Today she runs a very successful Mongolian bar in Hohhot with her mother, father and uncle. She has recently married a dancer from the Inner Mongolia Music and Dance Troupe and they have one son.

TSETSEGMAA is a long-song singer and tours with Anda Union. A Buriat, she grew up near Hulun Buir in the northwest of Inner Mongolia near the border of Russia and Outer Mongolia. Hulun Buir is one of the remotest areas of the region and home to both Evenke and Buriat people. She works within the Inner Mongolia Music and Dance Troupe as a solo long-song singer. She has won many prizes and awards for her astounding voice and is widely seen as the finest female long-song singer in the world today. She has written a number of very beautiful Buriat songs that she performs with Anda Union. She is based in Hohhot and has one sister.
UNI grew up around Ar Horchin and met Nars and Urgen at comprehensive school. He learned music from a young age. He studied music at Chifeng Music College with Nars, Urgen and Chinggel. He went to Hohhot to work with Inner Mongolia Music and Dance Troupe and was a founder of Anda Union. He lives in Hohhot with his wife, who is a dancer, and they have just opened their own Buriat-style restaurant in the capital, the most delicious food in Inner Mongolia!

URGEN grew up in a village two hours from Ar Horchin, close to Nars. They are childhood friends. He lived a traditional herder’s lifestyle with his parents and two brothers. As a little boy, his job was to take the sheep into the fields to graze. His older brother Bagana had won a scholarship to study music in the city and tragically was killed by a drunk driver. Ten-year-old Urgen was already a budding musician, but this tragic loss spurred Urgen on to become a top performer, striving to fulfill his brother’s dream. He went to school in Ar Horchin with Nars where he met Uni, then went on to Chifeng Music College and on to Hohhot to join the Inner Mongolia Music and Dance Troupe. He is married to Sitchentoya, who is a children’s TV presenter for Mongol TV. They have a little girl and are expecting their second child in September.

URGEN, the drummer of the band, grew up in Ar Horchin and his parents are teachers. His father teaches Mongolian music at the Mongolian University in Hohhot and is responsible for Urgen’s growing up with music all around him. He is not only an excellent drummer but also plays morin huur, guitar and piano.

Film producer TIM PEARCE’s background is music and theatre, so it was only natural that as a film producer, both music and live performance would play a central role. His last project was A Throw of Dice, a stunning Indian silent movie, which was restored to all its glory and released with a new soundtrack by Nitin Sawhney and performed by the London Symphony Orchestra. The film was not only a great success in cinemas but also has been performed live with orchestras all over the world. Pearce met Anda Union five years ago in Shanghai. Bowled over by their music, he introduced them to Arts Midwest, which organized two U.S. tours. He then co-produced and co-directed the Anda Union feature film that was released in 2012. He lives in London with his family.

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SUPPORTING THE EXTRAORDINARY

In collaboration with the UMD School of Music, the UMD School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies, and the presented artist series, the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center offers a vibrant arena of performances that has made it the standard-bearer for a performing arts center on a major research university campus. We are a home of fearless ideas and innovative programs that create extraordinary experiences for all audiences.

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