

UCSD to present the "Throat singers of Tuva"

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UCSD TO PRESENT THE "THROAT SINGERS OF TUVA"

Three Siberian musicians from Kyzyl, a remote town in the Russian/Mongolian herding region of Tuva, will perform throat--or overtone--singing made famous by the nomadic people of the region, at 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 9, in the Mandeville Auditorium at the University of California, San Diego.

Tickets are \$15 for general admission, \$13 for seniors, and \$11 for students, and may be purchased at the UCSD Price Center Box Office or from TicketMaster outlets.

Technically demanding, throat singing, called khoomei, has several styles, and each member of the trio has his own specialty. The performers of throat singing can make several tones at the same time (overtone singing), including a melody line and up to two harmonic lines.

Known for their storytelling, the Tuvan singers speak of the loneliness of caravan drivers, express sorrow at the death of a friend, tell of a cowboy's lament for his distant homeland, and on the humorous side, compare a lovely woman to a racehorse.

Kaigal-Ool Khovalyg, who was a Siberian cowboy herding sheep, reindeer and goats before becoming a musician, can sing three notes simultaneously, has a vocal range of three octaves, and plays the two-stringed violin-like igil. Khovalyg uses the growling kargiraa style of throat singing.

Kangar-Ool Ondar, the showman of the group, became a professional musician after graduating from secondary school. He now teaches music in a Kyzyl school that emphasizes Tuvan culture. Ondar's is the rolling borbangnadyr style of singing.

He plays the toshbulur, a three-stringed, fretted instrument. He wears the traditional hair style of Tuvan men: head shaved in front with the hair in back worn in a long braid.

Anatoly Kuular combines the high, whistle-like sygyt style of throat singing with the borbangnadyr style, to create vocal arpeggios in the harmonic overtones. He plays the demir khomus (iron jaw harp) and the four-stringed, bowed byzaanchy. Kuular was a member of the Tuva state song and dance ensemble before breaking away to perform in smaller throat singing ensembles.

The Throat Singers of Tuva appear on the soundtrack of the film, "Geronimo." Performances include the 1994 Rose Parade, singing with the Kronos Quartet in San Francisco, and appearances in concerts at Caltech, UC Santa Barbara, and other universities nationwide.

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