

Mark Levine

Stories from My Chinese Journey



东游拾趣

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NEW WORLD PRESS

First Edition 2014

By Mark Levine

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ISBN 978-7-5104-4938-3

Published by

NEW WORLD PRESS

24 Baiwanzhuang Street, Beijing 100037, China

Distributed by

NEW WORLD PRESS

24 Baiwanzhuang Street, Beijing 100037, China

Tel: 86-10-68995968

Fax: 86-10-68998705

Website: www.newworld-press.com

E-mail: frank@nwp.com.cn

Printed in the People's Republic of China

图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

我的中国故事 : 英文 / (美) 力文 (Levine, M.) 著. -- 北京 : 新世界出版社, 2014.4
ISBN 978-7-5104-4938-3

I. ①我… II. ①力… III. ①社会生活—中国—通俗
读物—英文 IV. ①D669-49

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字(2014)第058247号

Stories from My Chinese Journey 我的中国故事

作 者: Mark Levine (马克·力文)

责任编辑: Stephanie Tansey 李淑娟

英文审定: Jennifer Jett 李玉珠

装帧设计: 上尚

版式设计: 北京维诺传媒文化有限公司

责任印制: 李一鸣 黄厚清

出版发行: 新世界出版社有限责任公司

社M 址: 北京市西城区百万庄大街24号 (100037)

总编室电话: + 86-10-68995424 68326679 (传真)

发行部电话: + 86-10-68995968 68998705 (传真)

本社中文网址: <http://www.nwp.cn>

本社英文网址: <http://www.newworld-press.com>

版权部电子信箱: frank@nwp.com.cn

版权部电话: + 86-10-68996306

印 刷: 北京京华虎彩印刷有限公司

经 销: 新华书店

开 本: 787×1092 1/16

字 数: 150千字 印 张: 15.25

版 次: 2014年4月第1版 2014年4月北京第1次印刷

书 号: ISBN 978-7-5104-4938-3

定 价: 56.00 元

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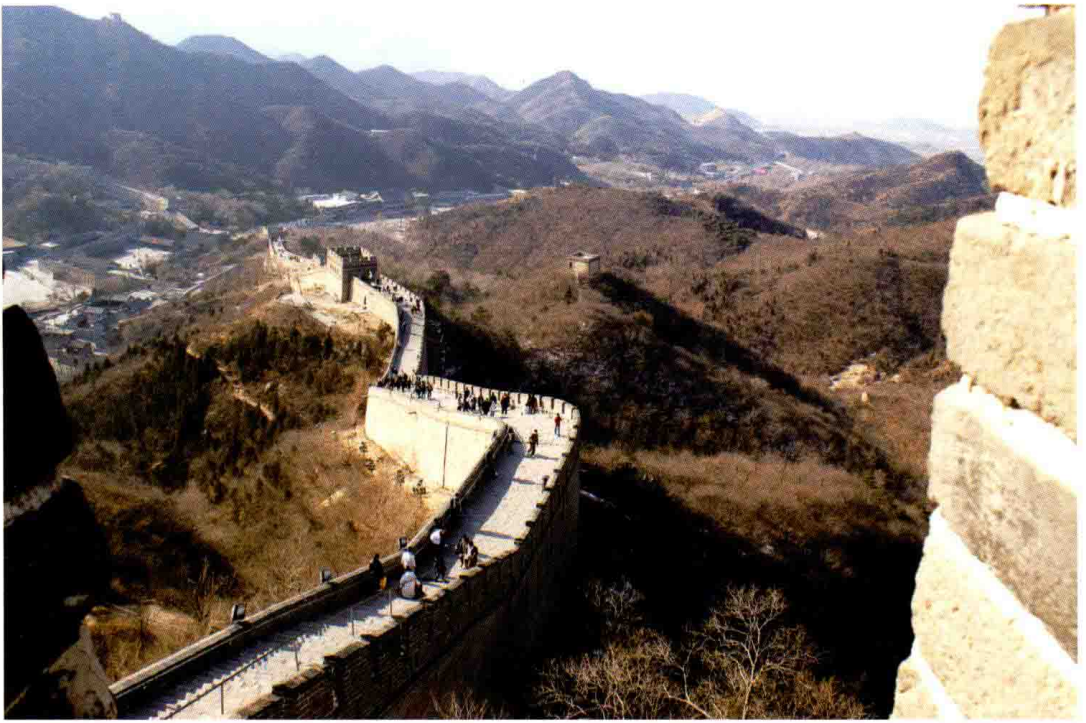
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- Mark performing “Huai’an — Promise of the Future” at the 115th birthday celebration of Zhou Enlai in the Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts. The red Chinese characters at the top of the photo mean “Chinese Dream.”



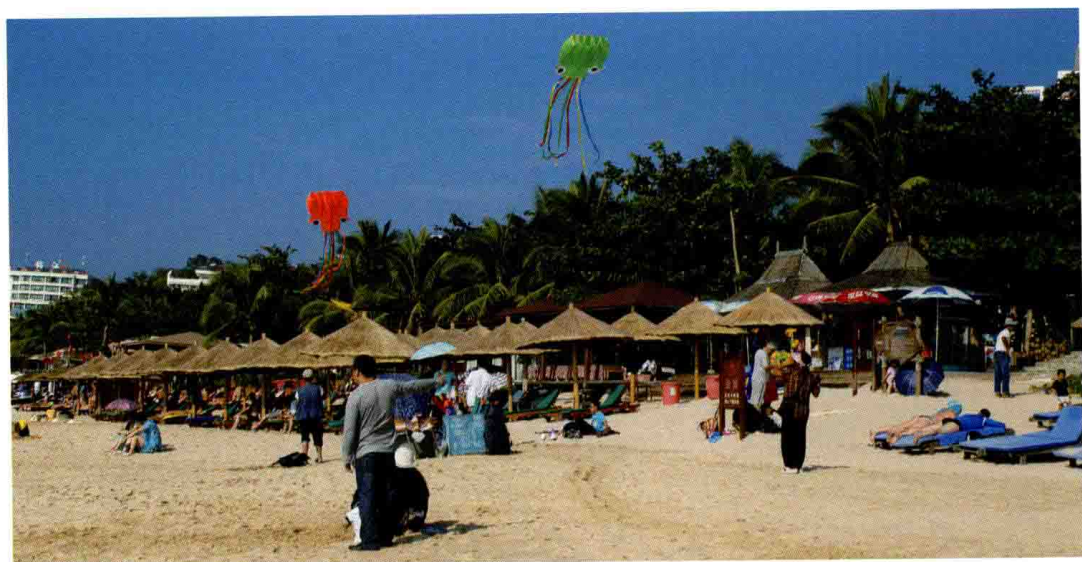
• Mark with Fu Han playing erhu for an *In Side Out* performance



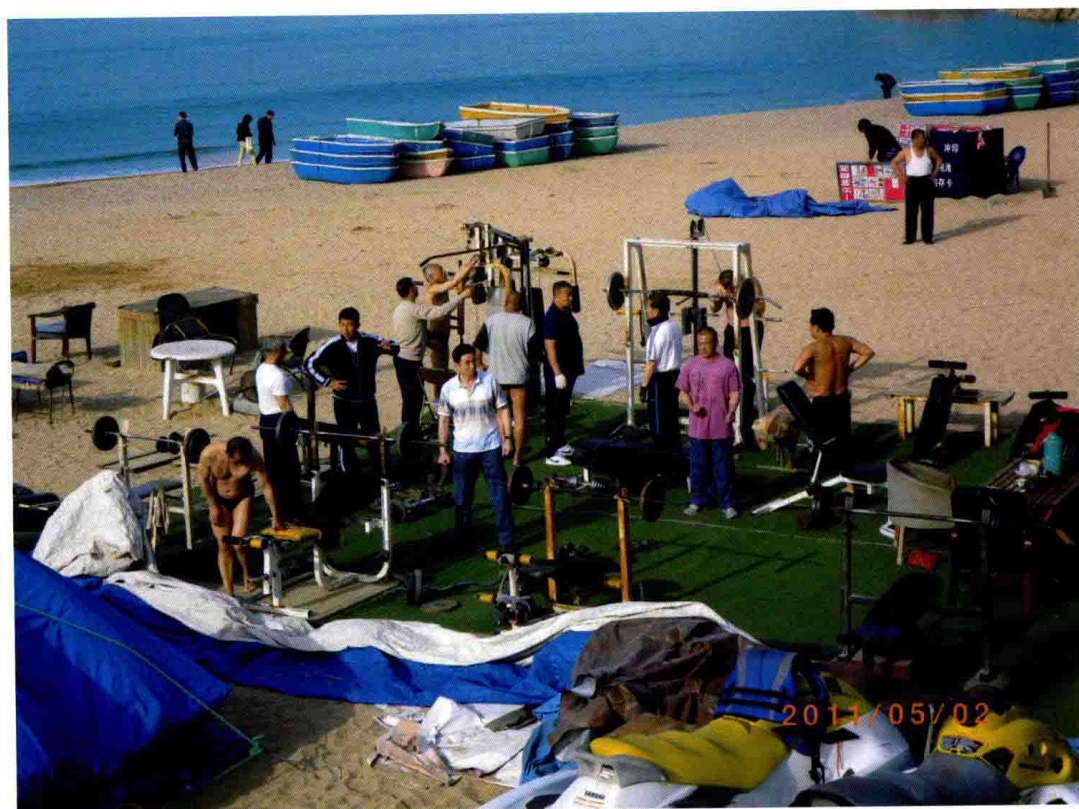
- Mark's view of the Great Wall at Badaling from one of the turrets in August 2011



- A visit to see the Terracotta Warriors in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province in 2009. Terracotta Warriors in Xi'an is a collection of larger-than-life sculptures of the armies, including soldiers of various ranks, horses and weaponry, of China's first emperor, Qin Shi Huang.



- Sitting on Dadonghai Beach watching kites in Hainan Island's coastal city of Sanya inspired Mark to write the song "It's Kites that Own the Sky" in February 2009.



- This weight-lifting section of the beach during a trip to the coastal city of Dalian, Liaoning Province, in northeast China in August 2008 reminded Mark of southern California's "Muscle Beach."



- This is the opening show of the annual Crayfish Festival in Xuyi County, Huai'an, Jiangsu Province, June 2010. Mark is standing before an audience of 50,000 people in a stadium.



- The Beijing International Chinese Zither Festival with nearly a week of performances by both professional and student musicians in July 2009. Here hundreds of performers perform at the same time. Mark was invited to perform with his guitar on a different day and at a different venue.



• Mark is singing on stage before this standing crowd of hundreds at the first Zhangjiajie International Country Music Week in May 2009.



• Dancers performing at the annual Plum Blossom Festival of Nanjing, capital city of Jiangsu Province, February 2011



Earthquake, Earthquake!

Dedicated to the victims and survivors of the Wenchuan Earthquake

Earthquake, earthquake, why did you come?

Earthquake, earthquake, look what you've done.

You will not drive us to defeat.

The people's spirit you will not beat.

Of our hopes and dreams, you will not cheat.

In the year 2008

Words and Music by Mark Levine

- A poster designed by one of Fu Han's classmates for the song Mark wrote to commemorate the 2008 Wenchuan Earthquake in Sichuan Province. The lyrics on the poster are taken from the song's chorus.



- An entrance to a traditional courtyard residence, taken in an alley, in the Gulou neighborhood, March 2011



- Mark asks employees to join him in some songs at a factory that manufactures sterilizing equipment for hospitals on his second visit to Jiangsu Province's coastal city of Lianyungang in July 2012.



- Migrant workers are putting up a wall that will surround a rural development site in August 2011. The site will soon contain several apartment buildings for low-income farmers in rural Anhui Province.



- A baseball team of Minzu University of China known as the “Miracle 56” in honor of the 56 Chinese ethnic group in China, April 2010



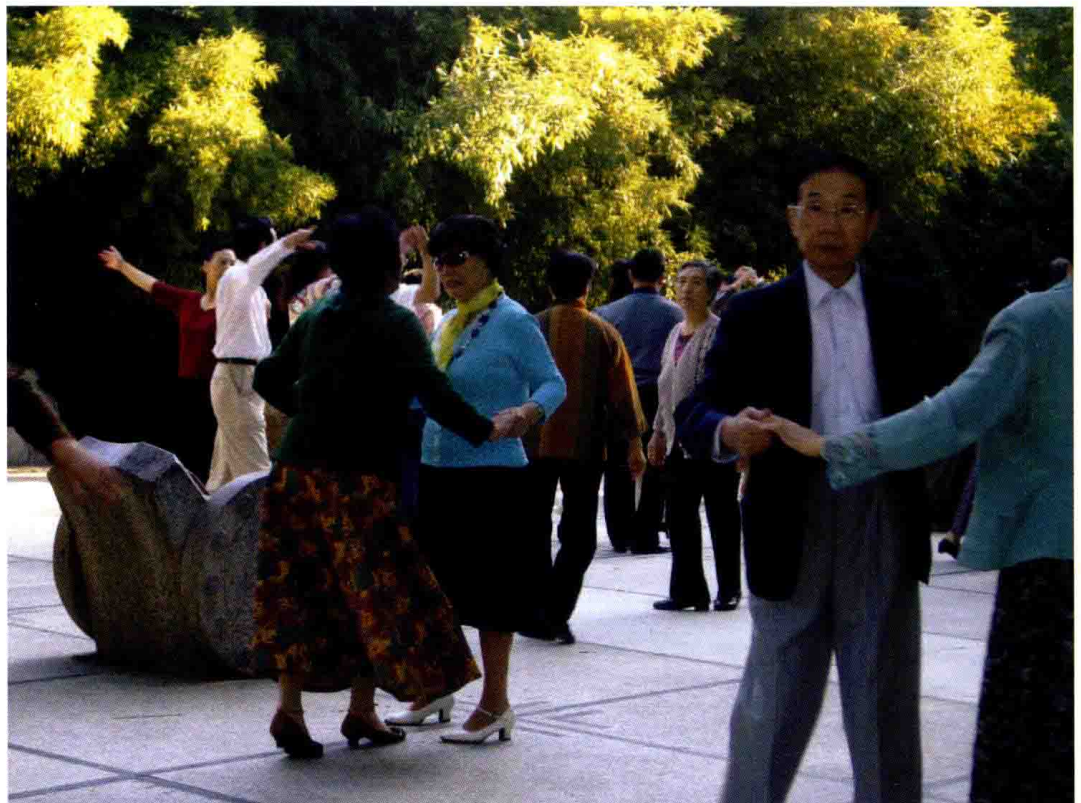
- Many of Mark's students from MUC were volunteers at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Here are some of them taking a lunch break in August 2008.



- For most people the celebration of Christmas in China bears no relationship to the origins of the holiday as a religious observance. It is just a time to celebrate and enjoy time with friends. This is a photo from outside a nail salon near the MUC campus in Beijing, December 2011.



- A vegetable seller walking down a street in Guizhou Province, southern China, May 2012



- Ballroom dancing in the morning is popular with retired people at Beijing's Purple Bamboo Park, where Mark often plays *kongzhu*, March 2011.



- A visit to a very large Miao ethnic village outside of the capital city of Guiyang, Guizhou Province in May 2012. Actually, rather than a single village, this is a collection of villages, each of which has its own distinctive building style.



- While visiting Zhangjiajie in northwest Hunan Province in August 2011, Mark stops to buy some chestnuts from a Miao woman. The Miao minority is known for colorful clothing and adornments like silver bracelets, necklaces and headdresses.