Opening Ceremony Speech at 2026 Tacheng International Accordion Festival by President Mirco Patarini
16 August 2026

Respected Leaders, Distinguished International Artists, Dear Friends of All Ethnic Groups in Tacheng,

It is a great pleasure to be back in Tacheng, the "City of the Accordion". This year, we gather under the theme of "Six Winds in Harmony, Brilliant Tacheng" to open the Sixth International Accordion Culture Festival.

On behalf of the Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA), I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Tacheng Prefectural Party Committee and Administrative Office, the Municipal Party Committee and Government, and all the organisers and warm-hearted people of Tacheng. It is your vision and dedication over the past six years that have turned this festival into a world-class event for the accordion community.

Last year, 5,282 performers played My Motherland together by the Qianquan River, breaking the Guinness World Record once again. That was a miracle for the Chinese accordion, and a proud moment for accordionists around the world.

This year, Tacheng opens its arms even wider to the world. The CIA has assisted in inviting accordionists from many countries. Different nations, different ethnicities, different styles—once again, they converge in this city of accordion.

Every year I return, I see new themes, new developments, and I see how accordion culture has taken root in this city: from sculptures on the streets to music in the alleyways, from the museum's collection to the instruments in children's hands.

The accordion has become part of Tacheng's very identity. But what moves me most is the warmth and openness of the people of Tacheng. You welcome the world with your music, and you build bridges with your sincerity.

As President of the CIA, I am deeply proud. I will continue to promote dialogue between Tacheng and the world, bringing more international artists here and carrying Tacheng's voice to every corner of the globe.

The accordion is not only Tacheng's cultural emblem, but also a bond that connects the world. I believe that Tacheng's accordion music will continue to reach out to the world, and the world will come to know and love this beautiful city through this remarkable instrument.

In the early twentieth century, the accordion arrived in Tacheng from Russia through the Baketu Port. For over a century, it has grown from a foreign instrument into a part of daily life for the people here, becoming a unique cultural symbol of this border city. Today, it serves as a bridge for mutual learning among civilisations and a calling card for cultural tourism.

May the streets of Tacheng always resound with accordion music. May the melody that first came through Baketu continue to connect the world and warm people's hearts. I wish the Sixth Tacheng International Accordion Festival—"Six Winds in Harmony, Brilliant Tacheng"—complete and resounding success!