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Hans Christian Andersen Classic Comes to Life through Japanese-style Puppets

Northeast Cultural Coop proudly presents Figures of Speech Theatre for two performances of **Nightingale** at the Milford Town Hall on Saturday, May 7, 2005 at 2:00 and 7:00 p.m.

Figures of Speech Theatre uses original vocal music, live actors in flowing silk costumes, and 4' tall intricately carved puppets to bring to life Hans Christian Andersen's classic story, **Nightingale**. This lush, dazzling full-stage presentation is well suited to audiences ages 6 to 96.

The theme of **Nightingale** is the importance of maintaining a connection with Nature. The Emperor of China learns of the existence of a plain gray bird whose song is the sweetest in all the world. He summons her to court, where she moves him to tears. Later he is given a jeweled mechanical bird which makes him lose interest in the nightingale, and banish her from his empire. But when he is alone and gravely ill, his tiny compassionate friend returns to bargain with Death and save the Emperor.

The story is framed by narrators—adventurous medieval “traders in essences” played by Andrea Goodman, formerly a principal vocalist with the Meredith Monk Ensemble, and Carol Farrell, co-director of Figures of Speech. A quest to collect the essence of the sweetest song in the world leads them to China, where they meet the Emperor, the Emperor's daughter, the courtiers, and the nightingale.

If you are looking for world-class innovative entertainment to move and amuse the entire family, make sure you don't miss **Nightingale** on Saturday, May 7th at 2:00 or 7:00 p.m. in the Milford Town Hall. Admission is \$7.00 Adults / \$5.00 Children. For tickets and information call NCC's event line at 603-464-0271.

Northeast Cultural Coop, a non-profit organization based in Amherst, NH, is dedicated to offering the citizens of the northeast opportunities to understand and experience cultures near and far. For information on this and other programs visit www.NortheastCulturalCoop.org.

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