Journey to China brings out Chinese culture in Calexico

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CALEXICO — A graceful, incandescent-colored fairy floated down from the sky and sang of the beauty of heaven and earth.

Through movement and song, Sichuan Opera Theater of Chengdu Chinese heritage transcender Chen Xiao Ru kept the crowd enraptured as she flittered back and forth across the stage, curling and twisting her headdress’ long pheasant feathers.

Xiao Ru’s performance was just one of the elements of the San Diego State University-Imperial Valley campus’ “Journey to China” scholarship gala here Friday evening.

“It’s an annual fundraiser for scholarships for our students,” Miriam Castañon, international programs coordinator for SDSU-IV, said in her red Chinese outfit.

The event included traditional Chinese singing, dancing, playing of musical instruments and a multi-segment fashion show along with the award-winning Sichuan Opera & Theater Company performances.

“I think this is the best event we’ve had,” Castañon said after having a plate of Chinese food. “I think it’s setting the standard for next year,” she said.

Others were equally impressed.

“It’s wonderful,” said Poway resident and SDSU-IV alum Stephen Seabolt. “The musicians were the best part,” he said.

“The dancing outside was beautiful,” El Centro resident Patt Rodney Martinez said. “All the decorations, everything,” she said. “It couldn’t be nicer.”

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