

# The Song Sounded in The Outpatient Hall

## Foreign couple sings "Jasmine" in appreciation of doctors' efforts

By Lu qiwen

"Flower of jasmine, so fair! Budding and blooming here and there, Pure and fragrant all do declare..." On the afternoon of January 25th, a haunting and emotive melody echoed in the outpatient hall of Ningbo Medical Center Lihuili Eastern Hospital. The performers were a foreign couple: Diane and Vladimir. While Diane was singing, her husband accompanied her on the piano.

In two years, this couple have given birth to two babies at this hospital, including one born at 28 weeks' gestation and weighing only 1.2 kg at birth. Both the mother and the premature baby were safely discharged from the hospital under the lovingly care of the entire medical workers from two departments, the neonatology and the obstetrics. At this special moment, the couple expressed their gratitude and respect with a Chinese folk song, "Jasmine".

### 1.

Diane and Vladimir are music teachers from Colombia, have been living in Ningbo for a decade.

On January 25th, they invited medical staff to the outpatient hall on the ground floor where situates a public piano, and then began their well-prepared performance. Upon the completion of their performance, the audience broke into a big round of applause. Diane enthused, "We really appreciate it. Thank you very much for your service!"

The couple also showed recent photos of their baby to the health workers.

"Strong," Dr. Yang Ting, associate director of the neonatology department said upon seeing the baby's recent photos, and couldn't help tracing his memory to the very beginning when the baby was under his care. He also produced a photo of the baby during treatment from his mobile phone for comparison: "Really grow up! Totally different!"

On the morning of September 11th last year, Diane, who was 28 weeks pregnant, went to the hospital due to abdominal pain. Her condition was somewhat severe, so the doctor decided to arrange a C-section for her immediately. Unexpectedly, Diane delivered a boy in natural birth as soon as she was sent on the operating table,

When Dr. Yang Ting first saw the baby, his heart sank: the baby weighed only 1.2 kg due to a mere 150-day stay in his mother's womb.



Dr. Yang Ting holds the premature baby when the mother and the son are in hospital.

With arms as thin as an adult's thumb, he was weaker than a kitten and also showed signs of respiratory distress.

During those days, medical workers tended the baby around the

clock. It was heartening that the ventilator for the baby was removed after two days and the 4mm gap in his cardiac artery catheter disappeared after six days of treatment.

### 2.

But everyone was not relieved.

The baby was more susceptible to lung and bloodstream infections due to poor immunity. Therefore Dr. Yang Ting kept checking the baby's condition every day during his 49 days in hospital.

Gradually, the baby had a better appetite and was able to eat on his own. However, the seemingly simple task of nursing the baby still took a lot of efforts. Even for just 5 ml of milk, the baby would drink for half an hour, and his oxygen saturation would drop when he was eating. Thus nurses carefully slowed down the feeds in a patient manner.

On October 30th, 2020, the baby's vital signs were eventually stabilized. He could drink 28ml of milk every 2 hours on his own, and his weight also mounted to 2.17kg, which met the condition for discharge. Diane and her baby was finally reunited with their family.

It's worth noting that Diane's first child was born in the same hospital in September 2018, and was cared by the same group of health workers due to neonatal pneumonia.

When the couple thanked them with "Jasmine" on January 25th, they felt surprised and heartwarming.

"We have treated so many babies and received numerous thanks, but was never appreciated in such a moving manner. It's also an acknowledgement of our work. I'm really touched," said Dr. Yang Ting.

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