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Chinese ban 'rude' songs at William's gala dinner

THE Duke of Cambridge has done his best to paper over the cracks with the Chinese, who have never forgiven his father Prince Charles for dismissing their leaders as 'appalling old waxworks'.

But despite all the diplomatic niceties on Prince William's current visit to Shanghai, there's clearly still a cultural chasm to be overcome between Beijing and Buckingham Palace.

Rebecca Ferguson (pictured), the 2010 X Factor runner-up, entertained William at last night's gala dinner attended by luminaries from the UK's arts industries as part of the Great Festival of Creativity.

What the guests didn't know was that Ferguson's songs were censored by the Chinese authorities to ensure her renditions didn't include any lyrics which could be deemed offensive to local sensitivities.

All the words were translated in advance and submitted to a



scrutinising committee, which banned any songs containing even the mildest sexual or religious connotations.

A spokesman for Ferguson — who is among the UK delegation in Shanghai to help push Britain's creative industries into the Chinese markets — tells me: 'After our hosts had been through all Rebecca's song lyrics, we were asked to make sure she did not perform I've Got My Love To Keep Me Warm, Lover Man, or God Bless The Child.'

'They told us they loved Blue Moon and Get Happy, and so she was happy to include those songs.'

It is thought William was unaware of the bartering going on behind closed doors. Guests among the delegation include Culture Secretary Sajid Javid, advertising boss Sir Martin Sorrell, food writer Tom Parker Bowles, perfumier Jo Malone and Bafta boss Amanda Berry.

The raunchiest lines in the banned songs are from I've Got My Love To Keep Me Warm: 'Off with my overcoat / Off with my glove / I need no overcoat / I'm burning with love!'

