

The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music Department of Ethnomusicology

Chinese Music Ensemble at UCLA

Funded by Campus Programs Committee of the Program Activities Board

# Music of China 2024 Winter Concert

## Chi Li, Director

5:00 pm, Saturday, March 9, 2024

Schoenberg Hall

1100 Schoenberg Music Building, UCLA

[Livestream Link](#)

### Program

#### 1. *Qin* unison

a. Phoenix's Courtship (*Feng Qiu Huang*) ----- Manuscript of Zi Yuan Tang (1802)

"Phoenix's Courtship" is an ancient qin piece. It uses the phoenix as an analogy to depict the young lover's extraordinary ideals, noble purport, and sincerity. This music is from the Manuscript of Zi Yuan Tang (1802).

Grace Xu, Selina Zhao

b. Autumn Breeze (*Qiu Feng Ci*) ----- Manuscript of Mei An (1931)

This Qin music beautifully captures the essence of sadness and nostalgia for autumn. Through vivid descriptions of autumnal elements such as the autumn wind, autumn moon, fallen leaves, and jackdaws, it evokes a melancholic atmosphere. Through the singing, one can sense the profound pain and helplessness of lovesickness, while its melody resonates with an enduring longing for love.

Yizhuo Dong, Muzhi Ma, Jason Rasheed Orr

#### 2. *Zheng* unison

a. Thirty-Three Beats (*San Shi San Ban*) ----- Traditional Zheng Music (Zhejiang school)

"Thirty-Three Beats", also known as "Cloud Beats", is a Zheng music consisting of thirty-three measures. Derived from traditional Hangzhou narrative music, it embodies the lively, vibrant, and refined characteristics typical of the Zhejiang zheng school music.

Rise Barkan, Irene Emily Chang, Naomi Hillani Kobayashi, Tyler Christopher Kuan, Ian Patrick Mautner,  
Cory Man-Tik Poon, Janice Edelyn Subroto, Sophia Yu-Han Yeow, Larry Le Zhi, Kelly Zou

b. Moonlight over the Lotus Pond (*He Tang Yue Se*) ----- Chao Zhang

The moon silently casts its liquid light upon the leaves and flowers, enveloping them in a floating, bluish haze from the pond. They appear as though bathed in milk or wrapped in a gauzy hood, evoking the image of a dream.

Hazelle Elizabeth Gunawan, Janice Seung Min Nam, Lillyan Pan, Jodie Jaeshin Ryu, Kelly Zou

c. Traveler (*Xing Zhe*) ----- Wei Jun

Follow the ancient Silk Road for thousands of years, and pursue the ancient oasis country - Qiuci, which has disappeared in the desert for thousands of years. "Longing for your magically beautiful existence, which once spread sacred morality and civilization. Along the way, the brilliance and splendor you once had in my heart reappeared.

Wennan Liu, Eleanor Mei-Shia Vo, Yumeng Yang

### 3. Zither Trio: Koto, Gayageum, and Zheng

*Sakura, Arirang, and Molihua* ----- Japanese, Korean, and Chinese folk songs

This zither trio performed three renowned traditional Japanese, Korean, and Chinese folk songs. The lyrics of "Sakura" eloquently depict the exquisite charm of Japan's iconic cherry blossom trees. "Arirang", with its timeless narrative of a young woman's journey across the Arirang Pass in longing for reunion with her lover, serves as a poignant metaphor for the shared aspirations and dreams of Koreans, embodying the essence of their culture and collective sentiments; "Molihua" is one of the most popular Chinese folk songs. "Molihua" means Jasmine flower and is one of the Chinese people's favorite flowers for its elegance and light fragrance. Its fresh and pleasant character also represents the gentle and amiable demeanor of Chinese women.

Koto: Ian Patrick Mautner, Eleanor Mei-Shia Vo  
Gayageum: Janice Seung Min Nam, Jodie Jaeshin Ryu  
Zheng: Yizhuo Dong, Wennan Liu

### 4. Liuqin and Zheng Duet

*The Drunkard (Jiu Kuang)* ----- Ancient music  
Arranged by Sumin and Suhui Chen

"The Drunkard" is a duet piece arranged from a Qin music. This Qin music was composed by Ruan Ji, a renowned poet and musician who lived from 210 to 263. Ruan cleverly utilized the theme of drunkenness as a veil to express his criticisms of oppressive rulers, thus avoiding persecution. This composition consists of seven distinct parts, each with its own evocative title: "Wine Makes Worries Vanish," "Dancing in Intoxication Like an Immortal," "Singing Grandly, Startling the Universe," and "Lost in the Bliss of Inebriation."

Yi Liu and Wanning He

### 5. Qin and Tabla Duet

*Spring Breeze (Chun Feng)* ----- Xu Guohua, Gong Yi

With its bright and lyrical melody, this Qin music beautifully conveys the joyous spirit of spring and the fervor of enthusiasm. During the exhilarating passages, the music echoes the majesty of steep mountains and rushing water, exuding a sense of vast power reminiscent of "a silver bottle breaking, water rushing forth, and the resounding clash of swords." Conversely, in its more tranquil moments, it flows like a clear and graceful stream, offering a soothing respite akin to the tranquility found at a peaceful brook.

Yiwei Wang, Arjun Manoj

### 6. Kun Opera Aria

*The Palace of Eternal Life - Shocking Mutiny (Chang Sheng Dian - Jing Bian)* ----- Hong Sheng (1688)

*Jing Bian* (Shocking Mutiny) This is an aria from the *Kun* opera *Chang Sheng Dian* (The Palace of Eternal Life). The scene concerns Emperor Tang Xuanzong (713-756 A.D.) and his favorite concubine, Yang Yuhuan, who are enjoying the garden of beautiful flowers in front of the Palace of Eternal Life. *Kun* opera is often described as China's "classical" opera; the main melodic accompanying instrument is the *dizi* (transverse bamboo flute).

Ximeng Guo, Ryan Jung Lee,  
Xuanxia Melissa Yan – Dizi

### 7. Silk and Bamboo Music

a. *Little Snowflake (Xiao Xue Hua)* ----- Chi Li

"Little Snowflake" is an exquisite original composition that pays homage to the serene charms of winter. It gracefully encapsulates the tranquil descent of snowflakes through a delicate melody, transporting the listener on a journey through a magical winter wonderland.

b. *A Beautiful Myth (Mei Li de Shen Hua)* ----- Cui Junrong  
Arranged by Chi Li

This ensemble music is arranged from the theme song of the movie 'The Myth' (2005). It expresses, through music, the vows of love, stating, "Though thousands of years will bring about great change, love remains an eternal legend."

Haley Margaret Benedict, Amber Chen, Lily Crook, Anna Deng, Elizabeth Espana, Isabel Cameron Folkers,  
Catherine Huiwen Hu, Angie Lee, Sonia Li, Joseph Young Liao, Hung Lin, Aland Liu, James Tyler Liu, Grace Lo,  
King Yi Kenny Luk, Peony Mong, Joan Pak, Alicia Jennifer Sanoyca, Chutian Shi, Emma Sieh, Deborah Mika Vukovitz,  
Ray Wang, Jasmine Yang Yang, Josie You, Joann Zhang, Madeline Mandi Zhang

c. Beautiful Flowers and the Full Moon (Hua Hao Yue Yuan) -----Huang Yijun  
Arranged by Peng Xiuwen

Hua Hao Yue Yuan (Beautiful Flowers and the Full Moon) is a renowned Chinese ensemble composition that captures the jubilant atmosphere of the Chinese populace during a significant historical era marked by peace and stability. It symbolizes the optimism and joy experienced as the nation embarked upon a new chapter in its history.

Drum solo: Wanning He

d. Yao People's Dance Music (Yao Zu Wu Qu) ----- Liu Tieshan, Mao Yuan  
Arranged by Peng Xiuwen

This Chinese ensemble piece is inspired by the Yao people's 'Long Drum Dance,' portraying a joyful celebration of singing and dancing within the Yao village. It commences with the soothing rhythm of the *Ruan*, conjuring images of gathering around a campfire on a moonlit night. Following this, the graceful main theme played by the leading *Gaohu* emerges, reminiscent of a beautiful girl beginning to dance. As the music progresses, more people join the festivities and the composition evolves to depict scenes of lively interaction, including chatting, whispering, cheering, and jubilating. The music conveys a variety of happy emotions throughout.

Irene Emily Chang, Meicheng Chen, Yixiang Gao, Ai De Handwerker, Catherine Huiwen Hu, Shitong Li, Boyu Liu, Haojie Liu, Mukun Liu, Yi Liu, Qiren Lu, Zibai Lyu, King Yi Kenny Luk, Cory Man-Tik Poon, Madison Starr, Zechuan Rao, Edward Zixiao Tang, Ivy Xiao, Xuanxia Yan, Kacey Chang Yang, Alicia Kiuchor Ying

**Guest advisor:** Professor Abhiman Kaushal on Tabla, Professor Gamin Kang on Gayageum

**Guest performer:** Arjun Manoj

#### **About the Director:**

**Professor Chi Li** is a highly accomplished performing artist on the erhu and a prolific educator of Chinese music. After graduating from the **Conservatory of Chinese Music** (Beijing), she served as the erhu soloist at the **National Traditional Orchestra of China** (the most renowned orchestra of Chinese musical instruments) and frequently performed in presidential concerts in Beijing during the 80s. In the U.S., she has been featured in concerts held at prestigious venues such as **Madison Square Garden** (New York), **Ronald Reagan Building** (Washington D.C.), and **Avery Fisher Hall/Lincoln Center** (New York). She was a recording soloist for the 2019 **Oscar winner** short film "**Bao**".

#### **Performers:**

BENEDICT, HALEY MARGARET	LIU, ALAND	STARR, MADISON
CHANG, IRENE EMILY	LIU, BOYU	SUBROTO, JANICE EDELYN
CHEN, AMBER	LIU, JAMES TYLER	TANG, EDWARD ZIXIAO
CHEN, MEICHENG	LIU, MUKUN	VO, ELEANOR MEI-SHIA
CROOK, LILY	LIU, WENNAN	VUKOVITZ, DEBORAH MIKA
DENG, ANNA	LIU, YI	WANG, RAY
DONG, YIZHUO	LO, GRACE	WANG, YIWEI
ESPANA, ELIZABETH	LU, QIREN	WONG, GIANNA
FOLKERS, ISABEL CAMERON	LUK, KING YI KENNY	XIAO, IVY
GAO, ROGER	LYU, ZIBAI	XU, GRACE
GODOY, JANET GISELA	MA, MUZHI	YAN, XUANXIA
GUNAWAN, HAZELLE ELIZABETH	MAUTNER, IAN PATRICK	YANG, JASMINE YANG
GUO, XIMENG	MONG, PEONY	YANG, KACEY CHANG
HANDWERKER, AI DE	NAM, JANICE SEUNG MIN	YANG, YUMENG
HE, WANNING	ORR, JASON RASHEED	YAO, JIAYU
HU, CATHERINE HUIWEN	PAN, LILLYAN	YEOW, SOPHIA YU-HAN
KOBAYASHI, NAOMI HIILANI	PAK, JOAN	YING, ALICIA KIUCHOR
KUAN, TYLER CHRISTOPHER	POON, CORY MAN-TIK	YOU, JOSIE
LEE, ANGIE	RAO, ZECHUAN	ZHANG, JOANN
LEE, RYAN JUNG	RUTKOWSKI, SYLVIA KATHLEEN	ZHANG, MADELINE MANDI
LI, SHITONG	RYU, JODIE JAESHIN	ZHAO, SELINA
LI, SONIA	SANOYCA, ALICIA JENNIFER	ZHI, LARRY LE
LIAO, JOSEPH YOUNG	SHI, CHUTIAN	ZOU, KELLY
LIN, HUNG	SIEH, EMMA	

#### **Credits:**

Alice Deng – Producer                      Shitong Li – Associate Producer                      Cory Poon - Associate Producer/Graphic Designer  
Yuzhuo Dong – Associate Producer                      Catherine Hu – Stage Manager                      Ian Mautner – Stage Manager