

Music of China 2025 Fall Concert

Chi Li, Director

5:00 pm, Saturday, November 22, 2025

Schoenberg Hall

1100 Schoenberg Music Building, UCLA

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).

Kuan Yun Huang, Irene Liang Hwang, Tsz Chung Yeung; Yuqi Liu - Xiao

b. The Song of Hua Xu (*Hua Xu Yin*) ----- Manuscript of *Shenqi* (1425)
This piece comes from a qin music collection known as the Manuscript of *Shenqi*, completed in 1425. It recounts an ancient fable about Emperor Huang, who searched far and wide for ways to bring peace and prosperity to his troubled kingdom. After many unsuccessful attempts, he finally came upon a place called Hua Xu, where he dreamed of an orderly kingdom surrounded by peach blossoms. Its people neither feared disgrace nor judged one another harshly. When the emperor awoke, he was deeply inspired by this utopian vision and composed this qin piece in three parts: the first depicting the search, the second the dream, and the third the realization of peace.

Krystal Gan, Joshua Dan Huang, Vivian Shan Lau, Yuting Shen, Chutian Shi, Eleanor Mei-Shia Vo, Cylin Wang

c. Flowing Stream (*Liu Shui*) ----- Manuscript of *Tian Wen Ge* (1876)
"Flowing Stream" is one of the most celebrated masterpieces of traditional Chinese *qin* music. The piece vividly portrays a mountain spring that begins as a quiet trickle among high cliffs, gradually gathering strength to form a rushing stream, pausing momentarily in a still pool, and then continuing its vigorous journey forward. This music is closely tied to a well-known story dating back over two thousand years. It tells of the profound friendship between the scholar and qin master Boya and the humble woodcutter Ziqi. Despite their different social standings, Ziqi deeply understood Boya's music, especially his playing of *Flowing Stream* and *High Mountains*, symbolizing an ideal bond of mutual understanding and true companionship. Their story has since become a timeless emblem of friendship in Chinese culture, and *Flowing Stream* remains a moving tribute to the beauty of nature and the spirit of human connection.

Yizhuo Dong, Muzhi Ma, Jason Rasheed Orr

2. Zheng Unison

a. Cutting Indigo Flowers (*Jian Dian Hua*) ----- Folk music from Henan Province
"Cutting Indigo Flowers" is a traditional Zheng piece originating from Henan Province. It was originally a short title tune used in Henan folk opera. The melody is gentle and lyrical, yet it embodies the distinctive regional character of Henan—bold, rustic, vigorous, and expressive. In performance, it features left-hand sliding techniques and strong right-hand plucking strokes, showcasing the piece's bright tone and strong vocal quality.

Dillon Cade Adalin, Jessie Chan, Connie Chen, Nasir Hussain, Katherine Wenching Liu,
Victoria Minghui Lu, Fei Peng, Lizzie Su, Jennifer Vuong, Nina Zipnick

b. The Fishermen's Song at Dusk (*Yu Zhou Chang Wan*) ----- Lou Shu Hua
Henan school

This piece is a very popular Zheng composition from the 1920s. Its lyrical melody depicts fishing boats in the afterglow during the evening with fishermen singing cheerful songs as they make their way home.

Isaac Tin-Long Chan, Kayson Chen, Kyle Hui, Tyler Christopher Kuan,
Justine Li-Wu, April W Mao, Lillyan Pan, Megan Tsou, Eleanor Mei-Shia Vo, Sirui Zhang, Yun Zhang

c. New Song of Dongting Lake (*Dong Ting Xin Ge*) ----- Wang Changyuan
Pu Qizhang

This Zheng composition was written in 1973, adapted from the Hunan folk song “Dongting, Land of Fish and Rice.” The piece depicts the scenic beauty of Dongting Lake, with its rippling blue waves and seamless blend of water and sky, while celebrating the peaceful and joyful life of the local people.

Emma Bai, Carol Chen, Jessie Li, Lillyan Pan, Gloria Qu, Amber Hualin Shang, Eleanor Mei-Shia Vo, Zhixu Zhang

3. Erhu Unison

Southern Jiangsu Melody (*Su Nan Xiao Qu*) ----- Folk Song from Jiangsu Province
Arranged by Zhu Changyao

This piece is adapted from the Xiju opera tune “*Lao Huang Diao*.” The piece is short and spirited, with a bright, lively melody that vividly reflects the musical character of the Southern Jiangsu region. Its flowing lines and expressive phrasing capture a strong sense of lyricism and song-like quality, embodying the delicate charm and elegance typical of southern Chinese culture. Through its clever combination of shifting registers and key changes, the piece maintains a nimble, playful, and refined atmosphere from beginning to end, showcasing both technical finesse and expressive charm.

Julia Bojanowski, Nico Yu Fields, Ethan Kha Lien, Madeline Maria Liu, Hanchen Shu, Izzy Tang
Yangqin - Yifan Zhuo

4. Percussion

The Tiger Grinding Its Teeth – *Lao Hu Mo Ya* ----- Xi'an Ancient Percussion Music
Arranged by Zhishun An

“The Tiger Grinding Its Teeth” is one of the representative works of Chinese percussion music in the 20th century. The piece is based on the traditional gong-and-drum music of western Weixi in northern Shaanxi. Through dynamic variations in rhythm, intensity, and timbre, it vividly portrays the powerful and rugged image of a tiger. The composition makes creative use of different parts of the large drum—the drumhead, rim, and nails—and employs a special “grabbing strike” technique to imitate the tiger’s movements and roaring sounds. Combined with other traditional Chinese percussion instruments such as *yunluo* (cloud gongs), *muyu* (woodblock), large cymbals, *geta* cymbals, large gongs, and clappers, the work showcases the vitality and artistry of Chinese percussion music. It has made a significant contribution to the inheritance and development of the Chinese national percussion tradition.

Lead Drum - Julie Xiang
Brian Cao, Aidan Tyler Cheng, Cruz Anthony Herrera, Gracie Elizabeth Lu, Kye Shi

5. Fan Dance

The Moonlit Night on the Spring River (*Chunjiang Hua Yue Ye*) ----- Traditional Music and Dance
Adapted from a traditional pipa melody, the music unfolds like a painting - soft moonlight shimmering upon the rippling river, blossoms swaying gently along its banks. Within its graceful rhythms, one can almost hear the quiet murmur of flowing water and the tender dip of oars beneath the silver glow of spring. The traditional feather fan dance completes this enchanting scene, adding the delicate, fluttering movement of a graceful butterfly, bringing the music and imagery vividly to life.

Dancer - Cathy Jialu Gu Zheng - Emma Bai

6. Kun Opera Aria

The Palace of Eternal Life

— Shocking Mutiny - The Royal Banquet (*Chang Sheng Dian – Jing Bian - Xian Yan*) ----- Hong Sheng, 1688
Xian Yan (The Royal Banquet) is an aria from the Kun opera *Chang Sheng Dian* (The Palace of Eternal Life). This scene depicts Emperor Tang Xuanzong (713–756 A.D.) and his beloved concubine, Yang Yuhuan, enjoying the blooming gardens before the Palace of Eternal Life. Kun opera, often hailed as China’s “classical” opera, features intricate melodies primarily accompanied by the dizi (transverse bamboo flute), which brings the story’s elegance and emotion vividly to life.

Yinzhi Deng, Milo Dillon, Annie Sun, Fiana Yuhui Tang
Dizi – Zhengxian Qu; Chenlin Jenny Ma; Yangqin - Yifan Zhuo; Erhu – Hanchen Shu

7. Ensemble One

a. Lady Meng Jiang (*Meng Jiang Nv*) ----- Folk Song
Arranged by Chi Li

Lady Meng Jiang is adapted from a traditional Chinese folk song. The story, set during the Qin Dynasty, is one of China’s Four Great Folktales. It tells of the newlywed couple Lady Meng Jiang and Fan Xiliang. Shortly after their wedding, Fan Xiliang is conscripted by Emperor Shi Huang to help build the Great Wall of China, setting the stage for a tale of love, loyalty, and sorrow.

b. Rustic Charm (*Xiang Qu*) ----- Chi Li

Rural Delights is an instrumental piece that depicts the playful scenes of children in the Chinese countryside, frolicking among fields and village paths. Through its lively and cheerful melodies, the music captures the innocence, joy, and carefree spirit of rural childhood, painting a vivid auditory picture of sunlit fields, rustic villages, and the laughter of children at play.

Dizi - Harrison Dvorchak Brandt, Simon Chak Leung Lee, Jin Liu, Anthony Tran, Angel Wang, Norah Yang
Erhu - Omar Alexis Abdelhadi, Emmylin Aree Adler, Andrew Jaewon Choi, Cynthia Huang, Jessica Soo-Jung Ju,
Matt Ketkaroonkul, Audrey Erin Lee, Katherine Lim, Jacky Luo, Khoi Nguyen
Liuqin - Lan Anh Nguyen
Sheng - Ethan Augustine Chang
Xiao Ruan - Kevin Tianyu Zhao
Xiao - Sunny Cai, Renxing Dang
Yangqin - Chon Nhu Thuy Nguyen
Zhong Ruan - Emily Bin Chen, Jing Jiang, Emma Sieh
Zheng - Jacqueline Seung Joo Nam

8. Ensemble Two

a. Jade Hibiscus (*Yu Fu Rong*) ----- Jiangnan Silk-and-Bamboo Music
Arranged by Zhou Chenglong

This is an ensemble adaptation of the classic Jiangnan silk-and-bamboo music of the same title. Graceful and refined in style, the piece unfolds with lyrical clarity and understated elegance. The sheng and yangqin solos lend a luminous, transparent tone, like a gentle breeze rippling across a shimmering lake. Through its serene musical imagery, the work evokes the tranquil beauty of the southern waterways and celebrates the lotus flower as a timeless emblem of purity and grace.

b. Celebrating the Lantern Festival (*Nao Yuan Xiao*) ----- Folk Song from Shanxi Province
Arranged by Yang Dacheng

The fifteenth day of the first month of the Chinese lunar calendar marks the end of the Chinese New Year celebrations. As night falls, streets are illuminated with lanterns, dancing, fireworks, and joyful entertainment, while families enjoy sweet glutinous rice dumplings. Nao Yuan Xiao is a modern composition inspired by the traditional music of Shanxi Province, and its lively rhythms and festive melodies evoke the vibrancy, warmth, and communal joy of this beloved holiday.

Cello - Kayson Chen, Katie Elissa Mccarthy,
Da Ruan - Troy Hanfei Tian
Dizi - Chelsea Megan Chan, Xingrui Li, Hung Lin, Jenny Chen Lin Ma, Armando Matinez, Pete Sparks, Nathan Yeung
Erhu - Julia Bojanowski, Nico Yu Fields, Madeline Maria Liu, Brian Nguyen, Pierre-Louis Nguyen, Hanchen Shu,
Megan Young, Chelsea Zhou
Liuqin - Liu, Yi
Percussion - Brian Cao, Aidan Tyler Cheng, Cruz Anthony Herrera, Gracie Elizabeth Lu, Kye Shi, Julie Xiang
Pipa – Shitong Li, Aria Fan, Casenas Lin, Katherine Wenching Liu, Mukun Liu
Sheng - Keith Chen, Richfield Chen, Eason Tung
Suona - Kyle Lai, Chutian Shi
Yangqin - Joann Zhang, Yifan Zhuo
Zheng – Wanning He
Zhong Ruan - Jiacheng Bai, Lan Anh Nguyen
Zhong Hu - Ethan Kha Lien

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There will be a *Pipa* master class on December 3 conducted by pipa master, professor Yifan Hao.

Guest performer: Shitong Li, Zhengxian Qu

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:

ABDELHADI, OMAR ALEXIS	JIANG, JING	PAN, LILLYAN
ADALIN, DILLON CADE	JU, JESSICA SOO-JUNG	PENG, FEI
ADLER, EMMYLIN AREE	KETKAROONKUL, MATT	QU, GLORIA
ANTONIS, ELENI KATHARINE	KUAN, TYLER CHRISTOPHER	QU, SINE ZHENGXIAN
BAI, EMMA	KYLE LAI	SHANG, AMBER HUALIN
BAI, JIACHENG	LAU, VIVIAN SHAN	SHEN, YUTING
BOJANOWSKI, JULIA	LEE, AUDREY ERIN	SHI, CHUTIAN
BRANDT, HARRISON DVORCHAK	LEE, SIMON CHAK LEUNG	SHI, KYE
CAI, SUNNY	LI, JESSIE	SHU, HANCHEN
CAO, BRIAN	LI, SHITONG	SIEH, EMMA
CHAN, CHELSEA MEGAN	LI, XINGRUI	SPARKS, PETE
CHAN, ISAAC TIN-LONG	LIEN, ETHAN KHA	SU, LIZZIE
CHAN, JESSIE	LIM, KATHERINE	SUN, ANNIE
CHANG, ETHAN AUGUSTINE	LIN, CASENAS	TANG, FIANA YUHUI
CHEN, CAROL	LIN, HUNG	TANT, IZZY
CHEN, CONNIE	LIU, JIN	TIAN, TROY HANFEI
CHEN, EMILY BIN	LIU, KATHERINE WENCHING	TRAN, ANTHONY
CHEN, KAYSON	LIU, MADELINE MARIA	TSOU, MEGAN
CHEN, KEITH	LIU, MUKUN	TUNG, EASON
CHEN, RICHFIELD	LIU, YI	VO, ELEANOR MEI-SHIA
CHENG, AIDAN TYLER	LIU, YUQI	VUONG, JENNIFER
CHOI, ANDREW JAEWON	LI-WU, JUSTINE	WANG, ANGEL
DANG, RENXING	LU, GRACIE ELIZABETH	WANG, CYLIN
DENG, YINZHI	LU, VICTORIA MINGHUI	XIANG, JULIE
DILLON, MILO	LUO, JACKY	YANG, NORAH
DONG, ALEXANDRA YIZHUO	MA, JENNY CHEN LIN	YEUNG, NATHAN
FAN, ARIA	MA, MUZHI	YEUNG, TSZ CHUNG
FIELDS, NICO YU	MAO, APRIL W	YOUNG, MEGAN
GAN, KRYSTAL	MATINEZ, ARMANDO	ZHANG, JOANN
GU, CATHY JIALU	MCCARTHY, KATIE ELISSA	ZHANG, SIRUI
HE, WANNING	NAM, JACQUELINE SEUNG JOO	ZHANG, YUN
HERRERA, CRUZ ANTHONY	NGUYEN, BRIAN	ZHANG, ZHIXU
HUANG, CYNTHIA	NGUYEN, CHON NHU THUY	ZHAO, KEVIN TIANYU
HUANG, JOSHUA DAN	NGUYEN, JORDAN	ZIPNICK, NINA
HUANG, KUAN YUN	NGUYEN, KHOI	ZHOU, CHELSEA
HUI, KYLE	NGUYEN, LAN ANH	ZHUO, YIFAN
HUSSAIN, NASIR	NGUYEN, PIERRE-LOUIS	
HWANG, IRENE LIANG	ORR, JASON RASHEED	

Credits:

Kayson Chen – Producer	Chutian Shi – Associate Producer	Gloria Qu – Associate Producer / Social Media
Yizhuo Dong – Associate Producer	Isaac Chan – Financial Officer	Carol Chen – Financial Officer
Nicole Guan – Financial Officer	Yinzhi Deng – Financial Officer	Krystal Gan - Social Media
Vivian Lau - Social Media	Gracie Lu – Graphic Designer	Eleni Antonis - Graphic Designer
Julie Xiang – Stage Manager	Katherine Liu – Stage Manager	Audrey Lee – Stage Manager
Chelsea Chen – Stage Manager		

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