

THE UCLA HERB ALPERT SCHOOL OF MUSIC  
DEPARTMENT OF ETHNOMUSICOLOGY PRESENTS

# *MUSIC of CHINA*

FALL 2025



SATURDAY,  
NOVEMBER  
22

5:00 PM

SCHOENBERG  
HALL  
1100  
SCHOENBERG  
MUSIC BUILDING  
UCLA

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# PROGRAM

## 1. QIN UNISON

### a. Phoenix's Courtship-凤求凰-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-华胥引-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-流水-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 linked to a famous story from over two millennia ago: 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. Their story has since become a timeless emblem of friendship in Chinese culture, and Flowing Stream—featured on the Voyager Golden Record sent into space in 1977—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-剪靛花-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-渔舟唱晚-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-洞庭新歌-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-苏南小曲-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  
Yanqin- Yifan Zhuo

#### 4. PERCUSSION

### The Tiger Grinding Its Teeth-老虎磨牙 -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 Herrera, Gracie Lu, Kye Shi

#### 5. FAN DANCE

### The Moonlit Night on the Spring River-春江花月夜 -Traditional Music and Dance Tang

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-长生殿, Shocking Mutiny-惊变, The Royal Banquet-泣颜回 -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 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-孟姜女-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-乡趣-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-玉芙蓉-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-闹元宵-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 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 Herrera, Gracie 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

There will be a Pipa master class on December 3rd  
conducted by pipa master Professor Yifan Hao.  
Guest performer: Shitong Li, Zhengxian Qu

Ensemble 1



Ensemble 2



Fan Dance



Kun Opera Aria



Zheng 1



Zheng 2



Zheng 3



Qin 1



Qin 2



Qin 3



# PERFORMERS

ABDELHADI, OMAR ALEXIS  
ADALIN, DILLON CADE  
ADLER, EMMYLIN AREE  
ANTONIS, ELENI KATHARINE  
BAI, EMMA  
BAI, JIACHENG  
BOJANOWSKI, JULIA  
BRANDT, HARRISON DVORCHAK  
CAI, SUNNY  
CAO, BRIAN  
CHAN, CHELSEA MEGAN  
CHAN, ISAAC TIN-LONG  
CHAN, JESSIE  
CHANG, ETHAN AUGUSTINE  
CHEN, CAROL  
CHEN, CONNIE  
CHEN, EMILY BIN  
CHEN, KAYSON  
CHEN, KEITH  
CHEN, RICHFIELD  
CHENG, AIDAN TYLER  
CHOI, ANDREW JAEWON  
DANG, RENXING  
DENG, YINZHI  
DILLON, MILO  
DONG, ALEXANDRA YIZHUO  
FAN, ARIA  
FIELDS, NICO YU  
GAN, KRYSTAL  
GU, CATHY JIALU  
HE, WANNING  
HERRERA, CRUZ ANTHONY  
HUANG, CYNTHIA  
HUANG, JOSHUA DAN  
HUANG, KUAN YUN  
HUI, KYLE  
HUSSAIN, NASIR  
HWANG, IRENE LIANG  
JIANG, JING  
JU, JESSICA SOO-JUNG  
KETKAROONKUL, MATT  
KUAN, TYLER CHRISTOPHER  
KYLE LAI  
LAU, VIVIAN SHAN  
LEE, AUDREY ERIN  
LEE, SIMON CHAK LEUNG  
LI, JESSIE  
LI, SHITONG  
LI, XINGRUI  
LIEN, ETHAN KHA  
LIM, KATHERINE  
LIN, CASENAS  
LIN, HUNG  
LIU, JIN  
LIU, KATHERINE WENCHING  
LIU, MADELINE MARIA

LIU, MUKUN  
LIU, YI  
LIU, YUQI  
LI-WU, JUSTINE  
LU, GRACIE  
LU, VICTORIA MINGHUI  
LUO, JACKY  
MA, JENNY CHEN LIN  
MA, MUZHI  
MAO, APRIL W  
MATINEZ, ARMANDO  
MCCARTHY, KATIE ELISSA  
NAM, JACQUELINE SEUNG JOO  
NGUYEN, BRIAN  
NGUYEN, CHON NHU THUY  
NGUYEN, JORDAN  
NGUYEN, KHOI  
NGUYEN, LAN ANH  
NGUYEN, PIERRE-LOUIS  
ORR, JASON RASHEED  
PAN, LILLYAN  
PENG, FEI  
QU, GLORIA  
QU, SINE ZHENGXIAN  
SHANG, AMBER HUALIN  
SHEN, YUTING  
SHI, CHUTIAN  
SHI, KYE  
SHU, HANCHEN  
SIEH, EMMA  
SPARKS, PETE  
SU, LIZZIE  
SUN, ANNIE  
TANG, FIANA YUHUI  
TANG, IZZY  
TIAN, TROY HANFEI  
TRAN, ANTHONY  
TSOU, MEGAN  
TUNG, EASON  
VO, ELEANOR MEI-SHIA  
VUONG, JENNIFER  
WANG, ANGEL  
WANG, CYLIN  
XIANG, JULIE  
YANG, NORAH  
YEUNG, NATHAN  
YEUNG, TSZ CHUNG  
YOUNG, MEGAN  
ZHANG, JOANN  
ZHANG, SIRUI  
ZHANG, YUN  
ZHANG, ZHIXU  
ZHAO, KEVIN TIANYU  
ZIPNICK, NINA  
ZHOU, CHELSEA  
ZHUO, YIFAN

# *Director Chi Li*

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."



# *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



Layan Deng  
Financial Officer



Nicole Guan  
Financial Officer

Funded by Campus Programs Committee of the Program Activities Board



Krystal Gan  
Social Media



Vivian Lau  
Social Media



Gracie Lu  
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Eleni Antonis  
Illustrator



Julie Xiang  
Stage Manager



Katherine Liu  
Stage Manager



Audrey Lee  
Stage Manager



Chelsea Chan  
Stage Manager

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SPRING 2025

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