

Music of China 2026 Winter Concert

Chi Li, Director

5:00 pm, Friday, March 6, 2026

Schoenberg Hall

1100 Schoenberg Music Building, UCLA

Program

1. Qin Unison

a. Spring Arrives at the Jade Villa (玉楼春晓) ----- Manuscript of *Mei'an Qin Pu* (1931)

"Spring Arrives at the Jade Villa" is also known as "Spring Boudoir Resentment", which is the unique Zhucheng School Qin music. This piece can only be seen in "Mei'an Music Score" (1931) by Wang Yanqing. The tunes flow easily, expressing the feelings of the girl in the boudoir in the spring and the breeze. When the woman woke up from spring sleep, she was suddenly drunk in the bright spring outside the building, with infinite feelings in her heart. The epilogue ends with an unusually clear overtone, which is particularly magical.

Krystal Gan, Joshua Huang, Kuan Yun Huang, Kyle Hui, Irene Hwang, Vivian Lau,
Chutian Shi, Eleanor Vo, Cylin Wang, Tsz Chung Yeung, Iris Zhang

b. Guangling San (广陵散) ----- Manuscript of *Shenqi* (1425)
Reconstructed by Guan Pinghu

"Guangling San" is one of the most celebrated masterpieces of the ancient Chinese *guqin* repertoire. It is a narrative work based on the story of Nie Zheng, a *xia* (chivalrous hero) of the Warring States period who avenged his father's death. The piece is renowned for its intense, battle-like atmosphere and its heroic yet tragic character. It is closely associated with the famed Wei-Jin scholar Ji Kang, who is said to have performed the work shortly before his execution. The music survived into modern times through the reconstruction and notation by *guqin* master Guan Pinghu. In contrast to the *guqin*'s more customary tranquil and introspective style, "**Guangling San**" is forceful and impassioned, embodying a spirit of defiance and unyielding resistance. It stands as a work of profound philosophical depth and exceptional artistic significance.

Yizhuo Dong, Muzhi Ma, Jason Rasheed Orr

2. Zheng Unison

a. The Song of Phoenix Gliding (凤翔歌) ----- Folk music from Shandong Province
Feng Xiang Ge (The Song of Phoenix Gliding) is arranged from a title music from Shandong narrative music. The music depicts the peaceful atmosphere while the phoenix gliding through the sky.

Sharlene Chen, Melody Chien, Kayla Chin, Stanley Chow, Emilee Gip, Phoenix He, Nasir Hussain,
Ashley Liang, Melissa Lu, Rachel Yen, Jessica Yep, Michelle Yeung, Kevin Zhao

b. Flower Petal Falling in the Greens (飞花点翠) ----- Shandong Folk Music
Handed-down by Wang, Dianyu

This piece is also known as "Falling Flowers." Its melody is derived from a Shandong qinshu tune and functions as a prelude within the Shandong qinshu tradition. The work is concise and finely crafted, featuring a single-section form with ornamented repetitions. Its calm, flowing melody evokes the inner state and scene of ancient women entering a temple to offer incense, pray for blessings, and make vows.

Jessie Chan, Ning Chou, Audrey Lee, Katherine Liu, Angelina Nguyen,
Fei Peng, Megan Tsou, Jennifer Vuong, Naomi Zhang, Sirui Zhang, Yun Zhang

c. Crimson Blossoms across the Mountain (山丹丹开花红艳艳) ----- Shaanbei Folk Music
Arranged by Jiao Jinhai (1972)

This piece is adapted from two Shaanbei folk songs. The introduction, in the style of *Xintianyou*, brings the listener to the vast and boundless Loess Plateau of northwestern China, beneath a high sky and drifting clouds. The lyrical melody paints a vivid picture of hillsides covered in blooming crimsons. The following section features compact, energetic, and leaping rhythms reminiscent of Shaanbei *yangge* gongs and drums—lively, exuberant, and full of joyous vitality. The piece concludes by returning to a broad, flowing melody, expressing a hopeful longing for a bright and beautiful future.

Emma Bai, Carol Chen, Yueying Li, Wennan Liu, Nathan Ng,
Lillyan Pan, Gloria Qu, Jodie Ryu, Amber Shang, Angel The, Zhixu Zhang

3. Percussion

Bull and Tiger Fight (牛斗虎) ----- Folk percussion music from Shanxi Province
Arranged by Chi Li

This is a traditional percussion piece from Shanxi Province in northern China. It depicts the intense confrontation between bull and tiger.

Jiacheng Bai, Kayson Chen, Yuchen Chang, Wanning He, Anna Hepfer, Langrun Enya Lin,
Madeline Liu, Gracie Elizabeth Lu, Pierre-Louis Nguyen, Chutian Shi, Kye Shi, Roland Yang

4. Folk Song

Wild Goose (鸿雁) ----- Inner Mongolia folk song
Lyrics by Lü Yanwei

“Wild Goose” draws its melody from Honggaru, a traditional Urat toasting song long sung across the grasslands of Inner Mongolia. Song writer Lü Yanwei later set new lyrics to this melody. Through a fresh reinterpretation and adaptation by the Erguna Band, the song gained wide popularity and has since become a beloved, household folk song.

Ziqing Sam Song

Erhu - Hanchen Shu; Zhonghu - Kayson Chen, Pierre Nguyen; Yangqin - Yifan Zhuo; Di - Pete Sparks; Daruan - Troy Tian

5. Ribbon Dance

Ribbon dance - May All Things Go as You Wish ----- Folk dance from Shaanxi Province

Yangge Red Ribbon Dance is a lively and festive Chinese folk dance, often performed during major celebrations such as the Lunar New Year. Incorporating the swift movements and bright rhythmic characteristics of Northern Shaanxi and Northeastern Yangge, the dance features flowing red ribbons paired with buoyant, jumping steps, creating an atmosphere that is exuberant, energetic, and full of joyful momentum.

Cathy Jialu Gu, Renxing Dang, Eleanor Mei-Shia Vo, Zhiyuan Zhang

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.

Yinzi Deng, Milo Dillon, Pete Sparks, Annie Sun, Fiana Yuhui Tang
Dizi – Chenlin Jenny Ma; Yangqin - Yifan Zhuo; Erhu – Hanchen Shu; Pipa – Jinghan Liu

7. Ensemble One

a. A Man of Complete Virtue, **from** Analects of Confucius (学而时习之) ----- Chi Li

Confucius said: "To learn with a constant practice is a pleasure, is it not? To have friends come from afar is delightful, is it not? To be unperturbed when not appreciated by others is a man of complete virtue, is it not?"

b. The Blue and White Porcelain (青花瓷) ----- Zhou Jielun
Arranged by Chi Li

Blue and White Porcelain unfolds a wistful love story set in the water towns of Jiangnan in ancient China. A chance encounter binds two hearts in quiet affection, yet fate soon drives them far apart, leaving only longing and the sorrow of an unfulfilled reunion.

The music draws its imagery from the luminous glaze of blue-and-white porcelain. The line “the sky-blue hue awaits the misty rain, as I await you” becomes a metaphor for both the rare harmony of nature required to create such porcelain and the fragile timing of human destiny. Through a melody that is tender, restrained, and imbued with an antique elegance, the piece evokes a solitary figure waiting endlessly beneath the drifting rains of Jiangnan—an image of beauty, yearning, and quiet heartbreak suspended in time.

Da Ruan – Isaac Tin-Long Chan

Dizi - Jiacheng Bai, Shawna Chu, Charlene Huang, Julian Johnson, Simon Lee, Katherine Lim, Anthony Tran

Erhu - Bernice Hung, Matt Ketkaroonkul, Noah Lor, Gloria Qu, Daphnie Tseng, Joshua Wong, Heidi Yu

Liuqin - Shenran Chen, Tsam Wa Athena Wu

Pipa - Tian Liang

Sheng - Spencer Mar

Xiao Ruan - Caitlin Grace Chwang, Jolina Wei Hor

Xiao - Renxing Dang

Yangqin - Jodie Jaeshin Ryu, Roland Daniel Yang

Zhong Ruan - Emily Bin Chen, Kimberly Cui, Jing Jiang, Kexin Li, Fiona Peng, Helen Yuan

Zheng - Sujin Cho, Mark Tu

8. Genshin Ensemble

a. Moonlit Lanterns (燈如明月在中天) ----- Yuxi Wang
Arranged by Cory Poon

Description: "Moonlit Lanterns," featured in the award-winning video game Genshin Impact, beautifully captures the spirit of the Lantern Rite festival, a celebration inspired by Chinese New Year traditions and set in the bustling port of Liyue Harbor.

Composed by Yuxi Wang, the piece intertwines the expressive tones of traditional Chinese instruments with lush orchestral harmonies. Beginning with a tranquil melody reminiscent of lanterns floating in the moonlit sky over Liyue Harbor, the composition gradually builds in complexity, evoking a sense of wonder and unity that defines this luminous festivity.

Performers:

b. Where Tender Night Embraceth Three (銀花玉鑑逐人來) ----- Yang Li
Arranged by Cory Poon

“Where Tender Night Embraceth Three,” the 2026 Lantern Rite theme from the award winning video game, Genshin Impact, begins with a sense of quiet nostalgia before unfolding into sweeping grandeur. Written for this year’s Lantern Rite festival, the music reflects the story of Zibai—a former god who longed to remain with her people even as the world around her fell apart. The opening feels intimate and reflective, like a memory carried beneath lantern light. As the piece builds, the texture expands into something brighter and more resolute, echoing themes of reunion and renewal.

Conductor: Cory Poon

Alto Sheng - Eason Tung

Cello - Kayson Chen

Daruan - Haoyan Ding

Dizi - Armando Martinez, Chelsea Chan, Dillon Adalin, Melissa Yan, Nathan Yeung

Double Bass - Dawson Lam

Erhu - Hanchen Shu, Jia’ao Liu, Madeleine Liu, Megan Young, Xinyun Wan, Yu-Chen Cheng, Teong Seng Tan

Liuqin - Yi Liu

Percussion - Wanning He, Gracie Elizabeth Lu, Kye Shi, Chutian Shi, Roland Daniel Yang

Pipa - Ling Wang Casenas, Angelina Chang, Jinghan Liu, Katherine Wenching Liu, Mukun Liu

Soprano Sheng - Richfield Chen

Suona - Chutian Shi

Xiao - Sunny Cai

Yangqin - Joann Zhang, Yifan Zhuo

Zheng - Wanning He, Nathan Ng, Zhixu Zhang

Zhongruan - Jojo Wang

Zhonghu - Jordan Lechen Nguyen, Pierre-Louis Quoc-Bao-Phong Nguyen, Isaac Chan

9. Ensemble Two

a. Liuqin Concerto

Lute upon the Moonlit River (江月琴声) ----- Wang, Huiran

The Liuqin Concerto Jiang Yue Qin Sheng (Lute upon the Moonlit River) is a classic work composed in 1989 by the renowned Chinese traditional musician Wang Huiran. Inspired by Bai Juyi's famous poem Pipa Xing (The Song of the Pipa), the concerto recreates the evocative scene described in the line "At parting, the vast river is bathed in moonlight," while portraying the fallen fate and superb artistry of the pipa player.

The work not only highlights the liuqin's bright, crystalline tone in its upper register, but also skillfully incorporates a range of modern performance techniques. Through this synthesis, it conveys the poem's profound sentiment of "kindred souls meeting in shared misfortune," making it a cornerstone of the liuqin repertoire.

Liu Qin solo: Yi Liu

b. Horse race (赛马) ----- Huang Haihuai Arranged by Chi Li

Naadam is the annual Mongolian festival that showcases wrestling, archery, and horse racing. Composed in 1959, "Sai ma" is a popular erhu piece that depicts the excitement of a Naadam horse race. The lively melody, quick rhythm, and various special playing techniques capture the thrill of the race, including the shrill neighing of the horses.

Da Ruan - Jiacheng Bai, Troy Hanfei Tian

Dizi - Dillon Cade Adalin, Chelsea Megan Chan, Xingrui Li, Hung Lin, Armando Martinez, Pete Sparks, Xuanxia Yan

Erhu - Julia Bojanowski, Yuchen Chang, Nico Yu Fields, Jiaao Liu, Madeline Maria Liu, Hanchen Shu, Teong Seng Tan, Xinyun Wan, Megan Young, Ivy Zhang, Izzy Zhang

Liuqin - Liu, Yi

Percussion - Anna Hepfer, Gracie Elizabeth Lu, Kye Shi, Roland Daniel Yang

Pipa - Ling Wang Casenas, Angelina Chang, Jinghan Liu, Katherine Wenching Liu, Mukun Liu, Silu Liu

Sheng - Ethan Augustine Chang, Richfield Chen, Cory Poon, Keith Chen, Eason Tung

Suona - Chutian Shi

Xiao - Sunny Cai, Judy Liu

Yangqin - Joann Zhang, Yifan Zhuo

Zheng - Wanning He, Zhixu Zhang

Zhong Ruan - Lan Anh Nguyen, Jojo Wang

Zhong Hu - Kayson Chen, Jordan Lechen Nguyen, Pierre-Louis Quoc-Bao-Phong Nguyen

Guest performer: Cory Poon

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:

Dang, Renxing	Hung, Bernice Hei-Tong	Shi, Chutian
Adalin, Dillon Cade	Hussain, Nasir	Shu, Hanchen
Bai, Emma	Hwang, Irene Liang	Song, Ziqing Sam
Bai, Jiacheng	Jarosova, Timea	Sparks, Pete
Bojanowski, Julia	Jiang, Jing	Sun, Annie
Cai, Sunny	Johnson, Julian Roy	Tan, Teong Seng
Cao, Yuan	Ketkaroonkul, Matt	Tang, Fiana Yuhui
Casenas, Ling Wang	Lam, Dawson	The, Angel Jia Chi
Chan, Chelsea Megan	Lau, Vivian Shan	Tian, Troy Hanfei
Chan, Isaac Tin-Long	Lee, Audrey Erin	Tran, Anthony
Chan, Jessie	Lee, Simon Chak Leung	Tseng, Daphnie Lauren
Chang, Ethan Augustine	Li, Kexin	Tsou, Megan
Chang, Yuchen	Li, Xingrui	Tu, Mark
Chen, Carol	Li, Yueying	Tung, Eason
Chen, Emily Bin	Liang, Ashley Lin	Vo, Eleanor Mei-Shia
Chen, Kayson	Liang, Tian	Vuong, Jennifer
Chen, Keith	Lim, Katherine	Wan, Xinyun
Chen, Luisa Ma	Lin, Hung	Wang, Cylin
Chen, Richfield	Lin, Langrun Enya	Wong, Joshua Wellington
Chen, Sharlene	Liu, Jiaao	Wu, Tsam Wa Athena
Chen, Shenran	Liu, Jinghan	Xu, David
Chien, Melody	Liu, Judy	Yan, Xuanxia
Chin, Kayla Kien	Liu, Katherine Wenching	Yang, Roland Daniel
Cho, Sujin	Liu, Madeline Maria	Yen, Rachel L
Chou, Ning	Liu, Silu	Yep, Jessica Olivia
Chow, Stanley	Liu, Wennan	Yeung, Michelle Ck
Chu, Shawna	Liu, Yi	Yeung, Nathan
Chwang, Caitlin Grace	Li-Wu, Justine	Yeung, Tsz Chung
Cui, Kimberly	Lor, Noah Yag Kiatoukaysy	Young, Megan
Dang, Renxing	Lu, Gracie Elizabeth	Yu, Heidi Kaylan
Deng, Yinzhi	Lu, Melissa	Yuan, Helen
Dillon, Milo	Ma, Chenlin Jenny	Zhang, Angelina
Ding, Haoyan	Ma, Muzhi	Zhang, Iris
Dong, Alexandra Yizhuo	Matinez, Armando	Zhang, Ivy
Fields, Nico Yu	Mirhan, Lauren Rachel	Zhang, Izzy
Fong, Celine Janelle	Ng, Nathan Kyle	Zhang, Joann
Gan, Krystal	Nguyen, Angelina Quynh Thu	Zhang, Naomi
Gip, Emilee	Nguyen, Jordan Lechen	Zhang, Sirui
Gu, Cathy Jialu	Nguyen, Lan Anh	Zhang, Yun
He, Phoenix Xinyu	Nguyen, Pierre-Louis	Zhang, Zhixu
He, Wanning	Orr, Jason Rasheed	Zhang, Zhiyuan
Hepfer, Anna	Poon, Cory	Zhao, Kevin Tianyu
Hor, Jolina Wei	Pan, Lillyan	Zhuo, Yifan
Huang, Charlene Yune-Ting	Peng, Fei	
Huang, Joshua Dan	Qu, Gloria	
Huang, Kuan Yun	Ryu, Jodie Jaeshin	
Hui, Kyle	Shang, Amber Hualin	

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	Vivian Lau - Social Media	Gracie Lu – Graphic Designer
Eleni Antonis - Graphic Designer	Eleanor Vo – Stage Manager	Krystal Gan - Social Media/Stage Manager
Anthony Tran – Stage Manager	Audrey Lee – Stage Manager	Chelsea Chen – Stage Manager