

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

2026 Spring Festival of World Music

Music of China Concert

Chi Li, Director

8:10 pm, Friday, May 29, 2026

Schoenberg Hall

1100 Schoenberg Music Building, UCLA

445 Charles E Young Dr E, Los Angeles, CA 90095

Program

1. *Qin* unison

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

By the Ili River (伊犁河畔) ----- Gongliang Cheng
The *zheng* piece “*By the Ili River*” draws on the **Sainaim** musical style of the Uyghur people in Xinjiang. It employs distinctive techniques to imitate the timbre of the *rawap* (a traditional Xinjiang lute), while grace notes and characteristic variation patterns help evoke a unique regional musical style. With its lively rhythms and exuberant spirit, the piece vividly portrays the industrious peoples of Xinjiang singing and dancing along the beautiful riverbanks, celebrating a bountiful harvest.

Carol Chen, Tyler Kuan, Yueying Li, Wennan Liu, Janice Nam, Nathan Ng, Lillyan Pan,
Gloria Qu, Jodie Ryu, Amber Shang, Zhixu Zhang, Sophie Zhou
Drum: Julie Xiang, Chutian Shi

3. Chamber Music

Mountain Whispers: A Phantasm (山语.幻) ----- HaodiQi

This piece blends traditional poetic sensibility with a modern aesthetic. It evokes the atmosphere of antiquity while retaining a contemporary sense of rhythm and vitality. Its inspiration comes from “*Fu on the Mountain*” by the Tang dynasty poet Linghu Chu. The first theme unfolds from a lively and agile motif, developing progressively from the lower register to the upper. The second theme features long, lyrical melodic lines.

Chen Richfield, Wanning He, Shitong Li, Madeline Liu, Mukun Liu, Yi Liu,
Cory Poon, Churian Shi, Hanchen Shu, Julie Xiang, Xuanxia Yan, Joann Zhang, Zhixu Zhang, Yifan Zhuo

4. Jing Opera

The Drunken Imperial Concubine (贵妃醉酒) ----- Mei Lanfang

Gui Fei Zui Jiu (The Drunken Imperial Concubine) This is an aria from the *Jing* opera *Gui Fei Zui Jiu* (The Drunken Beauty). The scene again features Yang Yuhuan, the favorite concubine of Emperor Tang Xuanzong (713-756 A.D.). While waiting for the emperor's arrival, Yan Yuhuan arranges a banquet in front of the Bai Hua Pavilion, but the Emperor Tang changes his route and visits another of his concubines instead. Disappointed, Yang decides to drink alone. This aria is introduced at the beginning of the play, when Yang expresses her disappointment.

Chenlin Ma, Lisa Chen, Yinzhi Deng, Milo Dillon, Enya Lin, Yvonne Liu,
Pete Sparks, Annie Sun, Fiana Tang, Fang Wei, Meiqi Zhao, Yiming Zu

5. Dai People's Dance

Peacock Dance (孔雀舞) ----- Choreographed by Chi Li

The Peacock Dance is a traditional folk dance of the Dai people. For them, the peacock symbolizes good fortune, happiness, beauty, and sincerity. Performing this dance is a celebration of a joyful life and an expression of heartfelt wishes for well-being and prosperity.

Connie Chen, Caitlin Chwang, Cathy Gu, Ashley Liang, Jiaao Liu, Jin Liu, Elaine Xu, Mingrui Ye

6. Genshin Ensemble

Flourishing Lights of the Snowmelt Realm (雪融之境的繁光) ----- Yupeng Chen
Arranger: Cory Poon

Evoking feelings of warmth, prosperity, and hope, the ninth piece from Yu-Peng Chen's *Fantasyland* transports listeners to a vibrant scene of cable cars and a tranquil mountain rest area. Originally composed for Western orchestra, this arrangement reimagines the work for Chinese orchestra, blending symphonic textures with the distinctive timbres of traditional instruments including the erhu, guzheng, dizi, pipa, and morin khuur. In this version, the original accordion solo has been thoughtfully adapted for soprano sheng, preserving its expressive character while integrating it seamlessly into the Chinese orchestral soundscape.

Conductor: Cory Poon

7. Ensemble

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

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.

Accordion: Ray Gan,

Cello: Kaden Gustafson, Katie Elissa Mccarthy

Daruan: Jiacheng Bai, Troy Tian

Dizi: Dillon Adalin, Chelsea Chan, Marielle Cruz, Armando Martinez, Nathan Huynh, Emily La, Simon Lee, Hung Lin, Gia Uy Ngo, Pete Sparks, Anthony Tran, Xuanxia Yan,

Erhu: Emmylin Adler, Yu-Chen Chang, Andrew Choi, Nico Fields, Matt Ketkaroonkul, Jiaao Liu, Madeline Liu, Brian Nguyen, Tan Teong Seng, Hanchen Shu, Suri Wan, Megan Young

Liuqin: Liu, Yi

Percussion Brian Cao, Sitong Liu, Gracie Lu, Jodie Ryu, Kye Shi, Julie Xiang, Rolan Yang

Pipa: Shitong Li, Allison Li, James Li, Jinghan Liu, Katherine Liu, Mukun Liu, Jingyi Wu, Angela Zhang

Sheng: Ethan Chang, Keith Chen, Richfield Chen, Spencer Mar, Cory Poon, Eason Tung

Suona: Kyle Lai, CHUTIAN SHI,

Xiao: Judy Liu

Yangqin: Joann Zhang, Yifan Zhuo

Zhong Ruan: Emily Chen, Lan Anh Nguyen, Jojo Wang, Helen Yuan

Zheng: Wanning He, Zhixu Zhang

Zhonghu: Isaac Chan, Kayson Chen, Jordan Nguyen, Pierre Nguyen

Performers from UC Irvine: Lawrence Lee, Xiteng Li, Elaine Liu, Brian Nguyen, Gia Uy Ngo, Nathan Yeung, Annie Yin, Alina Yuan, Ivy Zhang, Jeff Zhang,

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:

Adalin, Dillon Cade
Adler, Emmylin Aree
Bai, Jiacheng
Cao, Brian
Chan, Chelsea Megan
Chan, Isaac
Chang, Ethan Augustine
Chang, Yu-Chen
Chen, Amber
Chen, Carol
Chen, Connie
Chen, Emily Bin
Chen, Kayson
Chen, Keith
Chen, Lisa
Chen, Richfield
Chen, Sharlene
Chien, Melody
Chin, Genevieve
Chin, Kayla Kien
Choi, Andrew Jaewon
Chou, Ning
Chwang, Caitlin Grace
Cruz, Marielle
Cui, Kimberly
Cylin Wang
Dang, Renxing
Deng, Yinzhi
Diec, Janet
Dillon, Milo
Dong, Alexandra Yizhuo
Fan, Ingrid
Fields, Nico Yu
Gan, Ray
Ge, Nathan Z
Gip, Emilee
Gu, Cathy Jialu
Gustafson, Kaden
Hatton, Nicole Mei
He, Phoenix Xinyu

He, Wanning
How, Iryne Shi Chi
Huang, Joshua
Huang, Roy
Hui, Kyle
Huiqi Ling
Hung, Bernice Hei-Tong
Huynh, Nathan
Hwang, Irene Liang
Ketkaroonkul, Matt
Kuan, Tyler Christopher
La, Emily
Lai, Kyle
Lam, Dawson
Lao, Claire
Lau, Vivian Shan
Lee, Noella H
Lee, Simon Chak Leung
Leung, Gwyneth
Li, Allison
Li, James
Li, Shitong
Li, Yueying
Liang, Ashley Lin
Lim, Katherine
Lin, Enya Langrun
Lin, Hung
Ling, Huiqi
Liu, Jiaao
Liu, Jin
Liu, Jinghan
Liu, Judy
Liu, Katherine Wenching
Liu, Madeline Maria
Liu, Mukun
Liu, Sitong
Liu, Wennan
Liu, Yi
Liu, Yvonne Xin Rui
Lor, Noah Yag Kiatoukaysy

Lu, Gracie Elizabeth
Ma, Chenlin Jenny
Ma, Muzhi
Mantong, Audrey Isabel
Mar, Spencer
Mccarthy, Katie Elissa
Nam, Janice Seung Min
Ngo, Gia Uy
Nguyen, Brian
Ng, Nathan
Nguyen, Jordan Lechen
Nguyen, Lan Anh
Nguyen, Pierre-Louis Quoc-Bao-Phong
Orr, Jason Rasheed
Pan, Lillyan
Pan, Yuer
Peng, Fiona
Poon, Cory
Qu, Gloria
Roy Huang
Ryu, Jodie Jaeshin
Seng, Tan Teong
Shang, Amber Hualin
Shi, Chutian
Shi, Kye
Shu, Hanchen
Sparks, Pete
Su, Lizzie
Sun, Annie Yixin
Tan, Jennifer
Tang, Fiana Yuhui
Tian, Troy Hanfei
Tran, Anthony
Trinh, Euleena S
Tsan, Emily
Tsou, Megan
Tung, Eason
Vu, Nancy Kim
Wan, Suri

Wang, Isabelle
Wang, Jojo
Wang, Wade
Wei, Fang
Wong, Brianna Jingxin
Wu, Jingyi
Xiang, Julie
Xu, Elaine
Yan, Xuanxia
Yang, Carolyn

Yang, Rolan
Ye, Colby
Ye, Mingrui
Yeung, Tsz Chung
Young, Megan
Yuan, Helen
Zhang, Angela
Zhang, Iris
Zhang, Izzy
Zhang, Joann

Zhang, Naomi
Zhang, Sirui
Zhang, Yun
Zhang, Yuqi
Zhang, Zhixu
Zhao, Meiqi
Zhou, Grace Tiange
Zhou, Sophie
Zhuo, Yifan

Credits:

Yizhuo Dong – Producer
Chutian Shi – Associate Producer
Yinzhi Deng – Financial Officer
Suri Wan - Graphic Designer
Krystal Gan - Social Media

Hanchen Shu – Associate Producer
Yifan Zhuo – Financial Officer
Carol Chen – Financial Officer
Jodie Ryu – Stage Manager
Amber Shang – Stage Manager

Kayson Chen – Associate Producer
Gloria Qu – Associate Producer / Social Media
Vivian Lau - Social Media
Chelsea Chen – Stage Manager/ Costume
Katherine Liu – Stage Manager/ Costume