

8:00 PM, FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2026 | 1100 SCHOENBERG MUSIC BUILDING
4:30 PM, MONDAY, JUN 01, 2026 | 110A OSTIN ENSEMBLE ROOM

MUSIC OF *China*

SPRING 2026 CONCERT
**CHINESE MUSIC
ENSEMBLE AT UCLA**



2026 SPRING FESTIVAL OF WORLD MUSIC
THE UCLA HERB ALPERT SCHOOL OF MUSIC
DEPARTMENT OF ETHNOMUSICOLOGY

Program

May 29, 8:00 pm

Schoenberg Hall, 1100 Schoenberg Music Building

–

Guangling San

By the Ili River

Mountain Whispers: A Phantasm

Peacock Dance

The Drunken Imperial Concubine

Flourishing Lights of the Snowmelt Realm

Yao People's Dance Music

June 1, 4:30 pm

110A Ostin Ensemble Room, Evelyn & Mo Ostin Music Center

–

Phoenix's Courtship

Two Cranes Listening to a Spring

The Moon At The Fortified Pass

Picking Osmunda

Any Wine Bottle to Sell

Wild Goose

Visiting My Mother's Home

5月29日

—

廣陵散

伊犁河畔

山語·幻

孔雀舞

貴妃醉酒

雪融之境的繁光

瑤族舞曲

6月1日

—

鳳求凰

雙鶴聽泉

關山月

采薇

酒千倘賣无

鴻雁

回娘家

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.

Performed by 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.

Performed by 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)

Haodi Qi

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.

Performed by Chen Richfield, Wanning He,
Shitong Li, Madeline Liu, Mukun Liu, Yi Liu,
Cory Poon, Chutian 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.

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



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.

Performed by 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.

Conducted by Cory Poon



7. Ensemble

Performers

Yao People's Dance Music (瑶族舞曲)

Accordion: Ray Gan

Liu Tieshan, Mao Yuan
Arranged by Peng Xiuwen

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, Teong Seng Tan,
Hanchen Shu, Xinyun 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



June 1st

I. 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).

Performed by Janet Diec, Huiqi Ling



b. *Two Cranes Listening to a Spring* (双鹤听泉)

Manuscript of Wo Yun Lou (1722)

This short Qin piece first appeared in the manuscript of Wen Hui Tang (finished in 1596). It depicts the wild cranes leisurely strolling in spring in the deep mountains. It is a metaphor of having a spirituality and noble life style.

Performed by Joshua Huang, Roy Huang,
Kyle Hui, Irene Liang Hwang, Vivian Shan Lau,
Chutian Shi, Tsz Chung Yeung



2. Zheng Unison

a. *The Moon At The Fortified Pass* (关山月)

Ancient music

Poem by Ancient Poet Li Bai: The bright moon lifts from the Mountain of Heaven, In an infinite haze of cloud and sea, And the wind, that has come a thousand miles, Beats at the Jade Pass battlements.... China marches its men down Baideng Road, While Tartar troops peer across blue waters of the bay.... And since not one battle famous in history, Sent all its fighters back again, The soldiers turn round, looking toward the border, And think of home, with wistful eyes, And of those tonight in the upper chambers Who toss and sigh and cannot rest.

Performed by Genevieve Chin, Kimberly Cui, Iryne Shi Chi How, Gwyneth Leung, Katherine Lim, Fiona Peng, Euleena S Trinh, Nancy Kim Vu, Isabelle Wang, Carolyn Yang, Grace Zhou



b. *Picking Osmunda* (采薇)

Qu Zhang

The Book of Poetry (《诗经》), completed more than 2,500 years ago, is the oldest existing collection of Chinese poetry. “Picking Osmunda” (《采薇》, Caiwei) is one of its most celebrated poems. The poem laments the suffering of soldiers stationed far from home during prolonged border wars. Through vivid descriptions of the changing seasons, it portrays the passage of time and the growing hardships, loneliness, and sorrow endured by the soldiers.

Performed by Sharlene Chen, Melody Chien, Kayla Chin, Ning Chou, Emilee Gip, Phoenix He, Ashley Liang, Megan Tsou, Naomi Zhang, Sirui Zhang



3. Ensemble

Any Wine Bottle to Sell (酒千倘卖无)

Jiande Hou

The lyrics of this song portray the deep connection between a girl and her blind stepfather, who sustain their livelihood by recycling wine bottles. Despite his visual impairment, he has been a steadfast pillar of support during difficult times. The girl acknowledges the profound impact he has had on her life and expresses gratitude for his nurturing presence.

Performers:

Dizi: Genevieve Chin, Kayla Chin,

Ingrid Fan, Colby Ye, Naomi Zhang

Erhu: Bernice Hei-Tong Hung,

Audrey Isabel Mantong, Lizzie Su

Percussion: Nicole Mei Hatton, Sitong Liu

Pipa: Yuqi Zhang

Sheng: Nathan Ge

Suona: Eason Tung, Wade Wang, Brianna Wong

Xiao: Renxing Dang, Jennifer Tan

Yangqin: Jodie Jaeshin Ryu

Zhong Ruan: Richfield Chen, Claire Lao,

Yuer Pan, Emily Tsan

Zhonghu: Noah Yag Kiatoukaysy Lor, Noella Lee



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.

Performed by Ziqing Sam Song

Erhu: Hanchen Shu

Zhonghu: Kayson Chen, Pierre Nguyen

Yangqin: Yifan Zhuo

Dizi: Pete Sparks

Daruan: Troy Tian



5. Erhu Unison

Visiting My Mother's Home (回娘家)

About the Director

Chi Lyu

This erhu piece was composed by Chi Lyu in the autumn of 1981 and is based on the folk songs from the Liaoning Province of Northern China. The music depicts a newlywed couple traveling back to visit the wife's natal home and enjoying the scenes of the autumn harvest along the way with amusement and cheerfulness.



Performed by Madeline Maria Liu, Hanchen Shu, Teong Seng Tan, Xinyun Wan, Megan Young, Izzy Zhang
Yangqin: Yifan Zhuo



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
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
Hatton, Nicole Mei
He, Phoenix Xinyu
He, Wanning
How, Iryne Shi Chi
Huang, Joshua
Huang, Roy
Hui, Kyle
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, 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
Ng, Nathan
Ngo, Gia Uy
Nguyen, Brian
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

Ryu, Jodie Jaeshin
Shang, Amber Hualin
Shi, Chutian
Shi, Kye
Shu, Hanchen
Sparks, Pete
Su, Lizzie
Sun, Annie Yixin
Tan, Jennifer
Tan, Teong Seng
Tang, Fiana Yuhui
Tian, Troy Hanfei
Tran, Anthony
Trinh, Euleena S
Tsan, Emily
Tsou, Megan
Tung, Eason
Vu, Nancy Kim
Wan, Xinyun
Wang, Cylin
Wang, Isabelle
Wang, Jojo
Wang, Wade
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

Hanchen Shu – Associate Producer

Kayson Chen – Associate Producer

Chutian Shi – Associate Producer

Carol Chen – Financial Officer

Yifan Zhuo – Financial Officer

Yinzhi Deng – Financial Officer

Gloria Qu – Associate Producer / Social Media

Vivian Lau – Social Media

Krystal Gan – Social Media

Xinyun Wan – Graphic Designer / Social Media

Kimberly Cui – Graphic Designer

Jodie Ryu – Stage Manager

Amber Shang – Stage Manager

Chelsea Chen – Stage Manager / Costume

Katherine Liu – Stage Manager / Costume

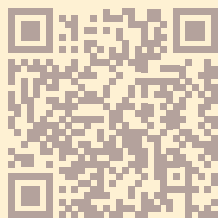


Music of China Ensemble

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Designed by Xinyun Wan

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