

THE UCLA HERB ALPERT SCHOOL OF MUSIC DEPARTMENT OF ETHNOMUSICOLOGY

CHINESE MUSIC ENSEMBLE AT UCLA

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# MUSIC OF CHINA

WINTER 2026



FRIDAY  
MARCH 6

5:00 pm

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, 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 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.

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

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

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

## 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

May All Things Go as You Wish • 万事如意 - 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  
长生殿 • 惊变 - 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, 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 Virture, 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

Moonlit Lanterns • 燈如明月在中天 - Yuxi Wang, Arranged by Cory Poon

"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.

**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 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



# PERFORMERS

Dang, Renxing  
Adalin, Dillon Cade  
Bai, Emma  
Bai, Jiacheng  
Bojanowski, Julia  
Cai, Sunny  
Cao, Yuan  
Casenas, Ling Wang  
Chan, Chelsea Megan  
Chan, Isaac Tin-Long  
Chan, Jessie  
Chang, Ethan Augustine  
Chang, Yuchen  
Chen, Carol  
Chen, Emily Bin  
Chen, Kayson  
Chen, Keith  
Chen, Luisa Ma  
Chen, Richfield  
Chen, Sharlene  
Chen, Shenran  
Chien, Melody  
Chin, Kayla Kien  
Cho, Sujin  
Chou, Ning  
Chow, Stanley  
Chu, Shawna  
Chwang, Caitlin Grace  
Cui, Kimberly  
Dang, Renxing  
Deng, Yinzhi  
Dillon, Milo  
Ding, Haoyan  
Dong, Alexandra Yizhuo  
Fields, Nico Yu  
Fong, Celine Janelle  
Gan, Krystal  
Gip, Emilee  
Gu, Cathy Jialu  
He, Phoenix Xinyu  
He, Wanning  
Hepfer, Anna  
Hor, Jolina Wei  
Huang, Charlene Yune-Ting  
Huang, Joshua Dan  
Huang, Kuan Yun

Hui, Kyle  
Hung, Bernice Hei-Tong  
Hussain, Nasir  
Hwang, Irene Liang  
Jarosova, Timea  
Jiang, Jing  
Johnson, Julian Roy  
Ketkaroonkul, Matt  
Lam, Dawson  
Lau, Vivian Shan  
Lee, Audrey Erin  
Lee, Simon Chak Leung  
Li, Kexin  
Li, Xingrui  
Li, Yueying  
Liang, Ashley Lin  
Liang, Tian  
Lim, Katherine  
Lin, Hung  
Lin, Langrun Enya  
Liu, Jiaao  
Liu, Jinghan  
Liu, Judy  
Liu, Katherine Wenching  
Liu, Madeline Maria  
Liu, Silu  
Liu, Wennan  
Liu, Yi  
Li-Wu, Justine  
Lor, Noah Yag Kiatoukaysy  
Lu, Gracie  
Lu, Melissa  
Ma, Chenlin Jenny  
Ma, Muzhi  
Matinez, Armando  
Mirhan, Lauren Rachel  
Ng, Nathan Kyle  
Nguyen, Angelina Quynh Thu  
Nguyen, Jordan Lechen  
Nguyen, Lan Anh  
Nguyen, Pierre-Louis  
Orr, Jason Rasheed  
Pan, Lillyan  
Peng, Fei  
Poon, Cory

Qu, Gloria  
Ryu, Jodie Jaeshin  
Shang, Amber Hualin  
Shi, Chutian  
Shu, Hanchen  
Sparks, Pete  
Sun, Annie  
Tan, Teong Seng  
Tang, Fiana Yuhui  
The, Angel Jia Chi  
Tian, Troy Hanfei  
Tran, Anthony  
Tseng, Daphnie Lauren  
Tsou, Megan  
Tu, Mark  
Tung, Eason  
Vo, Eleanor Mei-Shia  
Vuong, Jennifer  
Wan, Xinyun  
Wang, Cylin  
Wong, Joshua Wellington  
Wu, Tsam Wa Athena  
Xu, David  
Yan, Xuanxia  
Yang, Roland Daniel  
Yen, Rachel L  
Yep, Jessica Olivia  
Yeung, Michelle Ck  
Yeung, Nathan  
Yeung, Tsz Chung  
Young, Megan  
Yu, Heidi Kaylan  
Yuan, Helen  
Zhang, Angelina  
Zhang, Iris  
Zhang, Ivy  
Zhang, Izzy  
Zhang, Joann  
Zhang, Naomi  
Zhang, Sirui  
Zhang, Yun  
Zhang, Zhixu  
Zhang, Zhiyuan  
Zhao, Kevin Tianyu  
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



Krystal Gan  
Social Chair



Vivian Lau  
Social Media



Gloria Qu  
Associate Producer-Social Media



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