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 Fall Music of China Concert

Chi Li, Director

5:00 pm, Saturday, November 21, 2026

Schoenberg Hall

1100 Schoenberg Music Building, UCLA

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

Program

1. *Qin* unison

Phoenix's Courtship (凤求凰) ---------- Manuscript of Zi Yuan Tang (1802)

Feng Qiu Huang (Phoenix's Courtship) is an ancient guqin piece that uses the phoenix as a symbol of noble aspirations, ideal love, and sincere devotion. Through its delicate melodies and expressive phrasing, the music portrays the heartfelt longing of a young lover and conveys ideals of purity, dignity, and genuine affection. The piece is preserved in the Manuscript of Zi Yuan Tang (1802).

Caitlin Chwang, Victor Mei, Allen Siu Liu, Valarie Vong, Brandon Wu, Ivy Zhang, Celine Zhou

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

2. *Zheng* Unison

The Legendary Swordsman (笑傲江湖) ---------- Huang Zhan

This zheng piece is arranged from the iconic theme song of the martial arts film Swordsman (笑傲江湖). With its bold, sweeping melody and powerful rhythms, the piece evokes the free-spirited world of martial arts heroes. Its lyrics reflect on the impermanence of life, the pursuit of freedom, and the insignificance of worldly struggles against the vastness of nature. Blending heroic grandeur with philosophical depth, this timeless melody celebrates the courage to live freely and the spirit of rising above life's triumphs and tribulations.

Timothy Hung, Kayla Ko, Milo Kroh, Gracie Lu, Derek Ng, Vicky Zhang

Steep Mountain and Flowing Water (高山流水) ---------- Traditional Zheng music
Zhejiang school

Gaoshan Liushui (High Mountains and Flowing Waters) is one of the most celebrated traditional pieces in the Chinese guzheng repertoire, originating from the Zhejiang school of zheng music. Inspired by the ancient story of the profound friendship between the guqin master Yu Boya and his devoted listener Zhong Ziqi, the piece portrays the majestic grandeur of towering mountains and the graceful movement of flowing streams. Through its expressive melodies, flowing passages, and varied rhythmic patterns, the music evokes the beauty and vitality of nature. The piece also symbolizes the ideal of zhiyin (知音)—a rare and profound spiritual connection between kindred souls who truly understand one another through music.

Jessie Chan, Kayla Chin, Phoenix He, Katherine Liu, Rong Liu, Justine Li-Wu, Lizzie Su, Sirui Zhang, Yun Zhang

Yi People's Dance Music (彝族舞曲) ---------- Wang Huiran
Arranged by Wang Zhongshan

This music is adapted from Wang Huiran's 1965 pipa solo composition. Inspired by the music and dance traditions of the Yi ethnic group in southwestern China, the piece paints a vivid picture of a festive evening filled with lively dances and joyful celebrations. Its contrasting sections feature graceful, lyrical melodies, vibrant rhythms, and energetic passages that capture the rich colors and spirited character of Yi folk music. Through its expressive melodies and dynamic textures, the piece conveys both the warmth of a romantic gathering and the exuberance of a traditional folk celebration.

Carol Chen, Emma Bai, Jolie Ji, Yueying Li, Xiyao Lin, Nathan Ng, Lillyan Pan,
Gloria Qu, Jodie Ryu, Amber Shang, Ashley Wang, Sophie Zhou

3. Chuan Opera Aria

A Picturesque Land (江山如画)----------Chuan Opera Aria
This aria comes from the Sichuan opera Scenic Views from Another Cave (别洞观景). The story features the White Eel Fairy (白鳝仙姑), who takes advantage of her elder brother Kuilong's absence to secretly row a small boat to the human world for an outing. There, she encounters a beautiful landscape of green mountains, clear waters, birdsong, and blooming flowers. As she watches butterflies dancing among the flowers and listens to the melodious songs of shepherd boys, she becomes captivated by the beauty and tranquility of the human world. Through its expressive vocal melodies, this aria evokes a vivid, poetic picture of nature and conveys the fairy's delight and fascination with the world beyond her celestial home.

Yinzhi Deng, Anna Ding, Fang Wei

4. Fan Dance

The Moonlit Night on the Spring River (*Chunjiang Hua Yue Ye*) ---------- Traditional Music and Dance
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 Gu, Caitlin Chwang, Alyssa Zhang Zheng - Emma Bai

5. Ensemble 1

Golden Autumn (金秋) ---------- Chi Li

Jin Qiu (Golden Autumn) depicts the joyful and vibrant atmosphere of the harvest season in autumn. Through its bright, lively melodies and energetic rhythms, the piece celebrates the abundance of the harvest and the happiness of people gathering to share the fruits of their labor. The music evokes images of golden fields, bustling countryside celebrations, and the warmth of a prosperous autumn. With its cheerful character and festive spirit, Golden Autumn expresses people's gratitude for nature's gifts and their hopes for a fruitful and prosperous year ahead.

Joyful Peace and Prosperity (娱乐升平) ---------- Qiu HeChou

Yule Shengping (Joyful Peace and Prosperity) is a lively and festive piece from the Cantonese music tradition, celebrating the joys of peaceful living and the prosperity of society. With its bright, spirited melodies, buoyant rhythms, and colorful musical expressions, the composition creates an atmosphere of celebration and happiness. The music evokes scenes of festive gatherings and joyful occasions, reflecting people's hopes for harmony, abundance, and a prosperous life. Filled with warmth and optimism, this piece conveys heartfelt wishes for peace, happiness, and good fortune for all.

Da Ruan: Natalie Tokita, Benjamin Tung
Dizi:Kayla Chin, Zuhao Liu, Kye Shi
Erhu: Richard Chang, Aurora Ke, Milo Kroh
Pipa: Udbhav Anand Avadhani, Grace Li
Xiao Ruan: Jeremiah Tenn
Sanxian: Simon Lee
Suona: Milo Kroh
Xiao: Renxing Dang, Yuqi Liu
Yangqin: Jodie Ryu, Ziang Wu
Zhong Ruan: Annabelle Lo, Kate Tang, Zhihe Tian, Yuchen Zhang
Zheng: Aria Yi

6. Sheng Unison

Cavalry of the Grasslands (Cao Yuan Qi Bing) ----------Yuan Ye, Wu Rui, Hu Tianquan (1958)

This composition draws upon the melodic style of Inner Mongolian folk songs, beginning with a freely rotating prelude that depicts the vast and boundless scenery of the grasslands. The main theme incorporates the rhythmic pattern of galloping horse hooves, vividly portraying the strength and agility of the cavalry. The broad and expansive theme expresses the riders' deep affection for and admiration of the grasslands. The piece concludes with a gradually slowing and fading melody, evoking the image of the cavalry riding into the distance, slowly disappearing beyond the horizon.

Ethan Chang, Richfield Chen, Cory Man-Tik Poon, Chutian Shi

7. Ensemble 2

Lustrous Silk and Green Bamboo (丝长竹青) ----------Peihua Fu

lustrous silk and Green Bamboo is an ensemble composition inspired by the traditional Jiangnan Sizhu (江南丝竹), the traditional silk-and-bamboo music of the Jiangnan region of China. Incorporating characteristic performance techniques of the genre, the piece unfolds with a bright, lively, and graceful character. Flowing melodies, delicate ornamentation, and the interplay of silk and bamboo instruments create a fresh and elegant soundscape, capturing the gentle lyricism and refined charm of Jiangnan sizhu while celebrating the harmonious blending of diverse instrumental voices.

Tanci Three Six （弹词三六）----------Traditional Silk and Bamboo Music

This ensemble arrangement inspired by the traditional Jiangnan sizhu (江南丝竹) repertoire and the musical tradition of tanci (弹词), a form of musical storytelling that flourished in the Jiangnan region of southeastern China.. Based on the lively and graceful melody of Three Six (三六), the piece features flowing melodic lines, delicate ornamentation, and intricate rhythmic interplay among the instruments. Its bright yet elegant character captures the refined and intimate atmosphere of Jiangnan music. Through lively exchanges and expressive musical dialogue, the ensemble brings out the lyrical beauty, distinctive regional flavor, and spirited charm of this cherished traditional musical style.

Cello: Aurora Ke, Annabelle Lo, Katie Mccarthy
Da Ruan: Troy Tian
Dizi: Dillon Adalin, Simon Lee, Armando Matinez, Pete Sparks, Xinyue Tang, Anthony Tran,
Erhu: Madeline Liu, Audrey Mantong, Nico Santa Lucia, Hanchen Shu, Lizzie Su, Suri Wan, Macy Weng, Ivy Zhang
Liuqin: Lan Nguyen
Percussion: Jodie Ryu, Kye Shi
Pipa: Xiaoyan Cui, Jinghan Liu, Katherine Liu, Mukun Liu, Silu Liu, Yingyi Wang
Sheng: Ethan Chang, Richfield Chen, Cory Poon, Chutian Shi
Xiao: Sunny Cai
Yangqin: Yifan Zhuo
Zhonghu: Pierre-Louis Guyen
Zhong Ruan: Emily Chen, Helen Yuan
Zheng: Jolie Ji, Melanie Li

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**".

Guest Performer: Fang Wei

Performers:

Adalin, Dillon Cade
Cai, Sunny
Chan, Jessie
Chang, Ethan Augustine
Chang, Richard Vinh
Chen, Carol
Chen, Emily Bin
Chen, Richfield Wotian
Chin, Kayla Kien
Chwang, Caitlin Grace
Cui, Xiaoyan
Dang, Renxing
Deng, Yinzhi
Ding, Anna
Dong, Alexandra Yizhuo
Emma Bai
Gu, Cathy Jialu
Guo, Youle
He, Phoenix Xinyu
Hung, Timothy L
Ji, Jolie
Ke, Aurora
Ko, Kayla
Kroh, Milo
Lee, Simon Chak Leung
Li, Grace
Li, Melanie
Li, Yueying
Lin, Xiyao
Liu, Jinghan
Liu, Katherine Wenching
Liu, Madeline Maria
Liu, Mukun
Liu, Rong
Liu, Silu
Liu, Yuqi
Liu, Zuhao
Li-Wu, Justine
Lo, Annabelle
Lo, Annabelle Yongai
Lu, Gracie Elizabeth
Ma, Muzhi
Mantong, Audrey Isabel
Matinez, Armando
Mccarthy, Katie Elissa
Mei, Victor
Ng, Derek Henry
Ng, Nathan Kyle
Nguyen, Lan Anh
Nguyen, Pierre-Louis Quoc-Bao-Phong
Pan, Lillyan
Poon, Cory
Qu, Gloria

Ryu, Jodie Jaeshin
Santa Lucia, Nico Giovanni
Shang, Amber Hualin
Shi, Chutian
Shi, Kye
Shu, Hanchen
Siu Liu, Allen
Sparks, Pete
Su, Lizzie
Tang, Kate
Tang, Xinyue
Tenn, Jeremiah
Tian, Troy Hanfei
Tian, Zhihe
Tokita, Natalie
Tran, Anthony
Tung, Benjamin
Vong, Valarie
Wan, Suri
Wang, Ashley
Wang, Yingyi
Weng, Macy
Wu, Brandon Ean
Wu, Ziang
Yi, Aria
Yuan, Helen
Zhang, Alyssa
Zhang, Ivy
Zhang, Sirui
Zhang, Vicky
Zhang, Yuchen
Zhang, Yun
Zhou, Celine
Zhou, Sophie
Zhuo, Yifan

Credits:

Yizhuo Dong – Producer
Hancheng Shu – Associate Producer
Chutian Shi – Associate Producer
Gloria Qu – Associate Producer / Social Media
Gracie Lu – Graphic Designer
Suri Wan - Graphic Designer
Ethan Chang – Financial Officer
Carol Chen – Financial Officer
Katherine Liu – Wardrobe Supervisor /Stage Manager
Madeline Liu – Wardrobe Supervisor
Jodie Ryu – Stage Manager
Yun Zhang – Stage Manager
Sirui Zhang – Stage Manager