



University of North Texas College of Music

Ensemble Concert | Friday, November 15, 2024 | 8:00 p.m. | Recital Hall

Chinese Ensemble Fall Concert: Echoes of Mountains and Rivers in Chinese Music Yuxin Mei, director

Autumn Moon Over the Tranquil Lake Lü Wencheng
(c. 1930/2002) (1898–1981)
arr. Li Fubin

The Reflection in the Erquan Hua Yanjun
(c. 1940/1990) (1893–1950)
arr. Huang Xiaofei

A Night of Blossoms and Moonlight on the Spring River.....Traditional

Taking Tiger Mountain..... Revolutionary Jingju
(1967/1993) (n.d.)
arr. Wang Huiran

High Green Mountain.....Traditional
(2018) arr. Li Fubin

Program Notes

Autumn Moon Over the Tranquil Lake

In the late 1920's, the composer embarked on a visit to the famed West Lake in China's Jiangnan region. Enthralled by the tranquil beauty and exquisite scenery, this inspiration led to the creation of the piece. Subsequently recorded and released by Xingyue Records in Shanghai during the 1930's, it has since emerged as a quintessential work within the canon of Cantonese music.

The Reflection in the Erquan

It is one of the major erhu works in Chinese music. Hua Yanjun, also known as Ah-Bing, was a blind folk musician active in the Wuxi area. The Erquan is a beautiful natural scene in Wuxi town, known for its limpid springs. The beautiful moon is reflected in the spring, and the contrast between such natural beauty and Ah-Bing's struggling life fills this piece with a lament for life and a struggle against an unfair fate.

A Night of Blossoms and Moonlight on the Spring River

This music is widely regarded as one of the most celebrated and influential masterpieces in the pipa repertoire. This music intricately portrays a tranquil flowing river illuminated by moonlight, evoking a profound appreciation for the natural world and its serene beauty.

Taking Tiger Mountain

"Taking Tiger Mountain" is a classic musical piece from the revolutionary *Jingju* (Beijing opera) *Taking Tiger Mountain by Strategy* (1967). This music piece is a widely acclaimed work, showcasing the integration of traditional Jingju music with Western compositional styles.

High Green Mountain

This piece is adapted from a folk song of the *Gaoshan* people of Taiwan. The composition is vibrant and expressive, making it one of the representative works of Taiwanese folk music.

Chinese Ensemble Personnel

Yuxin Mei, pipa | Rachel Schuck, dizi | Erika Soveranes, ruan
Alexander Strader and James Shannon, sheng
Joshua Landin and Cam Dorchester, yangqin
Avery Wright, zheng | Sara Hart, erhu and gehu
Joshua Landin, Catherine Vanover, and Cam Dorchester, percussion

with special guests:

Daniel Chen, erhu
Mingkai Law and Liu Zhuqing, ruan
Alicia Qin, pipa

Biographies

The **UNT Chinese Ensemble** is the first of its kind to be established at a Texas university. Directed by founding director Dr. Yuxin Mei, the ensemble plays in the traditional Silk and Bamboo style. They have played at many events on campus and throughout the DFW, including the Society for Ethnomusicology Southern Plains 2016, 2020, and 2024 Conferences, the Celebration of Chinese New Year at the Crow Collection of Asian Art Museum in Dallas, and the AT&T Performance Center Volunteer Award Party. They also performed at the Denver Chinese New Year Celebration at the invitation of the Denver Confucius Institute in February 2018.

Yuxin Mei is a renowned pipa performer, educator, and the UNT Chinese Ensemble founding director. She holds a Ph.D. in Ethnomusicology from UNT and was awarded the Silver Medal in the Global Music Awards in 2024, as well as the prestigious Presser Graduate Music Award in 2018. Her paper, "Negotiating with Sound: The Living Sound Niche Created by the Chinese Immigrants in the Dallas Area," received the 2016 Vida Chenoweth Student Paper Prize award from the Society for Ethnomusicology Southern Plains Chapter 2016. She was a Texas Folklife Apprenticeship Program Artist Mentor in 2020, among other grants. Yuxin holds BA and MA degrees in Pipa Performance and Education from the China Conservatory of Music in Beijing and the Xingai Conservatory of Music in Guangzhou, China. From 2006 to 2012, she was on faculty at the Xinghai Conservatory of Music, and prior to this, she was the Artistic Director and soloist for the Zhuhai Chinese Music Chamber Orchestra. She has performed in China, Portugal, Norway, Singapore, France, Germany, and other countries. She has taught masterclasses at the Macau Art School and the Chong Hong Chinese Music Association in Macau. From 2012 to 2016, she was invited to Norway as part of the cultural exchange project "Spoor" hosted by The Cultural Rucksack in Akershus. In 1998, Mei released the album *Spring of Zhu Hai*.