



University of North Texas
College of Music

Ensemble Concert | Tuesday, April 8, 2025 | 8:00 p.m. | Recital Hall

Chinese Ensemble Spring Concert
Yuxin Mei, director

***From Dancing Snakes to Soaring Dragons:
A Zodiac Odyssey in Chinese Music***

Golen Dancing Snake (1934/2023)	Nie Er (1912–1935) arr. Yuxin Mei
Trot in the Spring (1954/2003)	Chen Deju (n.d.) arr. Li Fubin
Wu Ge is Herding His Flocks (arr. 2002)	arr. Li Fubin (b. 1962) Shanxi Folk Song
The Golden Pheasant Rising Forth (n.d.)	Traditional
Flying Dragon, Leaping Tiger (1991)	Li Minxiong (b. 1952)

***Program six hundred forty-eight of the 2024–2025 season
Photography and videography are prohibited***

Program Notes

Golen Dancing Snake (1934/2023) | Nie Er (1912–1935) | arr. Yuxin Mei

Nie Er was a Chinese composer best known for "March of the Volunteers," the national anthem of the People's Republic of China. Nie composed this piece in 1934 based on the folk melody "Dao Ba Ban" (Reverse Eight Beats). As one of the country's classic works, this piece has been widely performed at various Chinese festivals, celebrations, and concerts. In this revised version, Mei Yuxin has integrated the percussive cadenza from the renowned percussion piece "Dragon Soars, Tiger Leaps" into this composition, rejuvenating a work that has been performed for nearly a century with new vitality.

Trot in the Spring (1954/2003) | Chen Deju (n.d.) | arr. Li Fubin

This piece of Cantonese music, marked by its humor and vivacity, beautifully encapsulates the essence of people's optimistic aspirations for life with the advent of the new year.

Wu Ge is Herding His Flocks (arr. 2002) | arr. Li Fubin (b. 1962) Shanxi Folk Song

This folk song is one of the representatives of the Shanxi folk song genre, Da Zuo Qiang, featuring a solo singer and a small group of accompanying instruments. This song conveys the story of a young girl who expresses her concern.

The Golden Pheasant Rising Forth (n.d.) | Traditional

This piece is a renowned traditional folk percussion style from the Hunan region of China, known as "Da Liuzi." Through the interaction between four small percussion instruments, it vividly portrays the playful and lively scenes of various groups of golden pheasants frolicking and tussling in the wild mountain landscape.

Flying Dragon, Leaping Tiger (1991) | Li Minxiong (b. 1952)

The music is adopted from Zhedong Wing-Percussion Folk Ensemble music "Dragon's Head and Dragon's Tail." Li composed a cadenza that features a percussion section, including the pot drum and the set drums.

Chinese Ensemble Personnel

Pipa

Yuxin Mei
Xinzhuo Li

Dizi

Rachel Schuck
Jessica Wu

Sheng

Alexander Strader
James Shannon

Ruan

Alexander Moreno
Erika Soveranes
Milos Socanin

Yangqin

Joshua Landin
Cam Dorchester

Zheng

Avery Wright

Erhu

Sarah Hart
Layla Garrett

Gehu

Sarah Hart

Percussion

Joshua Landin
Catherine Vanover
Cam Dorchester

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*.