



COLLEGE OF MUSIC

University of North Texas College of Music

Doctoral Lecture Recital | Monday, October 16, 2023 | 5:00 pm | Recital Hall

Zhaodong Chen, piano

**A PEDAGOGICAL ANALYSIS OF SEVEN CHINESE FOLK SONGS
BY WANGHUA CHU**

Wanghua Chu (b. 1941) is an outstanding Chinese composer and pianist. He has written a large number of works for piano over the course of his life, but one in particular stands apart, his *Seven Chinese Folk Songs* (1999). This piano solo work is one of his most famous and well-regarded. It is included in many important Chinese piano textbooks, as well as frequently performed in concerts in China.

Seven Chinese Folk Songs is suitable for late-intermediate level piano students. One distinctive feature of the work is its broad appeal, stemming from its combination of brilliant piano performance techniques and the melody of Chinese folk songs that would be known by most audience members in China. Beyond their popularity, Chu chose folk song melodies to represent different regions, and each song, moreover, has different melodic characteristics and emotional expressions. As a study piece, *Seven Chinese Folk Songs* exposes the pianist to the diversity and richness of Chinese folk songs and offers them a different kind of learning opportunity in which they not only broaden their horizons through learning Chinese folk songs and ethnic cultures but also improve their piano playing techniques, as well as enhance their musical expression and imagination abilities.

This dissertation has two related purposes. The first is to introduce Wanghua Chu's *Seven Chinese Folk Songs* to a broader community of pianists outside of China. The second is to provide a pedagogical analysis so that late-intermediate and higher pianists can learn it effectively and teachers can teach it successfully.

Seven Chinese Folk Songs (1999) Wanghua Chu (b. 1941)

1. Song of the Mountain
2. Merry Sunrise
3. The Liuyang River
4. Woodcutter
5. From Far Away
6. Love Song
7. Guessing Tune