



COLLEGE OF MUSIC

University of North Texas College of Music

Ensemble Recital | Wednesday, January 25, 2023 | 8:00 pm | Recital Hall

Chinese Ensemble Yuxin Mei, director

Chinese New Year Concert

Spring Festival Overture (1955)Li Huanzhi (1919–2000)
arr. 2001 Li Fubin

Spring Festival Overture is the first movement of the *Spring Festival Suite*. This music vividly depicts the people in Shanbei region when celebrating the Chinese New Year (Spring Festival). The tune is primarily heard in Mainland China, where it appears frequently in school music textbooks, as well as being played on various festive occasions.

The Flower SuiteChinese Folk Song
arr. 2008 Li Fubin

The suite consists of three small pieces (The Luchai Flower, Jasmine Flower, and Duihua), which are folk songs from the Yangzi Delta and northeast China.

The Menacing Tiger/Tiger Grinding
Its Teeth (1982)An Zhishun (1932–2022)

Adapted from Wei Bei folk percussion music in Shaanxi Province, composer An Zhishun features a variety of techniques on the wooden pot drum, cymbals, muyu (wooden slit drums) and clappers to mimic a hunting tiger.

White Snow in the Sunny Spring Traditional
arr. 2006 Li Fubin

This music is part of the traditional pipa repertoire. This version features solo pipa and the ensemble.

Longing for the Spring Breeze (1933) Teng Yu-hsien/Lee Lin-Chiu
(1906–1944)/(1909–1979)
arr. 2022 Xiao Yun, Yuxin Mei,
August Bish, Alexander Strader

One of the most representative Taiwanese Hokkien song. It was originally recorded for Columbia Records in 1933 and featured female singers.

Jasmine FlowerChinese Folk Song
arr. 2002 Fang Jinlong

Jasmine Flower is probably one of the most widely performed Chinese folk songs in the world. This new arrangement features a pop music style known as the "New National Music."

Ambush from All Sides Traditional
Liu Dehai's performance version

Ambush from All Sides is a famous Chinese classical pipa work, which was composed on the basis of the decisive battle in 202 BCE at Gaixia (southeast of today's Linbi County, Anhui Province) between the two armies of Chu and Han. The music gives an incisive and vivid depiction, in the form of musical narrative, of the fierce, desolate, solemn and stirring scenes of the battle. The unique techniques of pipa performance have been brought into full play in this music. The entire piece is majestic and passionate, sharp in artistic image, exalting in melody, and extremely thrilling.

Beautiful Flowers and the Full Moon (1930s)Huang Junyi (1915–1995)
arr. 1950s Peng Xiuwen

This music was composed by Huang Junyi for the Jiangnan, or silk and bamboo, ensemble in the early 1930s. The famous Chinese conductor and composer, Peng Xiuwen, arranged this music for the newly formed Chinese orchestra in the 1950s. Since then, this music has become a classic piece in contemporary concerts.

The **UNT Chinese Ensemble** is the first of its kind established at a Texas university. Directed by founding director Yuxin Mei, the ensemble plays in the traditional *Jiangnan sizhu* (silk and bamboo) style. They have played at many events on campus and throughout the DFW area, including the Society for Ethnomusicology Southern Plains 2020 Conference, 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 and at Middle Tennessee State University in 2021.

Yuxin Mei is a renowned *pipa* performer, educator, and the UNT Chinese Ensemble founding director. She is also a PhD candidate in ethnomusicology at UNT and winner of the Presser Graduate Music Award in 2018. Her paper, "Negotiating with Sound: The Living Sound Niche Created by the Chinese Immigrants in Dallas Area" received the 2016 Vida Chenoweth Student Paper Prize award from the Society for Ethnomusicology Southern Plains Chapter in 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 2006–2012, she was on faculty at the Xinghai Conservatory of Music and prior to this she was 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*.

UNT Chinese Ensemble • Yuxin Mei, Director

Pipa: Yuxin Mei

Dizi: Rachel Schuck

Sheng: Alexander Strader

Middle Ruan: Alexander Moreno,
Christopher Demas, Anairis Alvarez

Bass Ruan: Frederick A. Bish

Yangqin: Jacob Bissell, Yijuan Wang (Guest Performer)

Zheng: Avery Wright

Erhu: Weiping Lu (Guest Performer)

Percussion: Jacob Bissell



*Three hundred ninetieth program of the 2022–2023 season
Photography and videography are prohibited*