



COLLEGE OF MUSIC

University of North Texas
College of Music

Ensemble Recital | Friday, April 12, 2024 | 8:00 pm | Recital Hall

UNT Chinese Ensemble • Yuxin Mei, director
The Four Seasons in Chinese Melody

- Trot in the Spring (1954) Che Deju (?)
arr. 2003 Li Fubin
- Thunder in the Drought (1921) Qiu Hechou (1880–1942)
arr. 2018 Yuxin Mei
- Autumn Moon Over the
Tranquil Lake (1930s) Lv Wencheng (1898–1981)
arr. 2002 Li Fubin
- Aflame (2022) Xiong Junjie (b. 1979)
- White Snow in the Sunny Spring Traditional
arr. 2006 Li Fubin
- Dancing Golden Snake (1934) Nie Er (1912–1935)
arr. 2023 Yuxin Mei

Eight hundred fourteenth program of the 2023–2024 season
Photography and videography are prohibited

Trot in the Spring—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.

Thunder in the Drought—This piece was first published in *Xian Ge Bi Du* (Fundamental Repertoire of String Music), a milestone collection of the yangqin (Chinese dulcimer) music of the Guangdong Province compiled by Qiu Hechou in 1921. Qiu adapted the music from Yan Laolie's yangqin solo music and changed the tempo from moderate to fast and joyful. The music depicts a vivid scene in which people are thrilled to hear thunder after experiencing a long drought.

Autumn Moon Over the Tranquil Lake—In the late 1920s, 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 1930s, it has since emerged as a quintessential work within the canon of Cantonese music.

Aflame—This composition vividly captures the lively scene of individuals joyously dancing around a bonfire during the winter season.

White Snow in the Sunny Spring—This music is part of the traditional pipa repertoire. This version features a solo pipa and the ensemble

Dancing Golden Snake—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, Yuxin Mei 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.

UNT Chinese Ensemble

Pipa: Yuxin Mei, Ethan Schneiderman

Sheng: Alexander Strader, James Shannon

Middle Ruan: Alexander Moreno, Joshua Landin

Yangqin: Jacob Bissell, Cam Dorchester

Zheng: Catherine Vanover

Erhu and Gehu: Sarah Hart

Percussion: Jacob Bissell, Joshua Landin, Cam Dorchester

Piano: Xiao Yun

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 2016, 2020, and 2024 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.



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 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 2012–2016, 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*.

