



COLLEGE OF MUSIC

University of North Texas College of Music

Ensemble Recital | Wednesday, April 26, 2023 | 8:00 pm | Voertman Hall

UNT Chinese Ensemble's 2023 Spring Concert: "From Flying Dragons to Leaping Tigers" Yuxin Mei, director

Dancing Golden Snake (1934)Nie Er (1912–1935)
arr. 2016 Yuxin Mei

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

Horse Riding in the Suburb
in the Spring (1954)Chen Deju (1907–1970)
arr. 2018 Yuxin Mei

The Menacing Tiger/Tiger
Grinding its Teeth (1982) An Zhishun (b. 1932)

Swan Geese Inner Mongolian Prairie Song
arr. 2017 Xiao Yun

Horse Racing (1964) Huang Haihuai (b. 1941)
arr. 2017 Xiao Yun/Hua Xin

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

***Eight hundred eighty-eighth program of the 2022–2023 season
Photography and videography are prohibited***

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.

Wu Ge is Herding His Flocks—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 and attachment to a young man named Wu Ge.

Horse Riding in the Suburb in the Spring—Horse riding first became a fashionable Chinese custom in the Tang Dynasty (618–907). The topic of horse riding became prevalent in art and music. Western music influence is noticeable in this piece as well as most Chinese music from the 1950s.

The Menacing Tiger/Tiger Grinding its Teeth—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.

Swan Geese—"Swan Geese" is a drinking song from the Inner Mongolian region, which is popular throughout China. It depicts the forthright and genuine character of Inner Mongolia and conveys nostalgia for traditional nomadic life.

Horse Racing—Adapted from the "Red Flag Song," an Inner Mongolian folk song. This erhu solo piece has been a canonic work for the instrument since the 1960s.

Flying Dragon, Leaping Tiger—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.

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.

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 2012–2016, 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

Pipa: Yuxin Mei • Sheng: Alexander Strader

Middle Ruan: Christopher Demas • Bass Ruan: Frederick A. Bish
Yangqin: Jacob Bissell & Catherine Wang • Zheng: Avery Wright

Gehu: Sarah Hart • Piano: Xiao Yun

Percussion: Graham Viegut & Jacob Bissell

UNT Chinese Ensemble 2023 Spring Concert



From Flying Dragons to Leaping Tigers

The Influences and Representations of the Animal World
in Traditional Chinese Music

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2023 | 8:00 PM

VOERTMAN HALL

Free Admission!

UNT
EST. 1890

DIVISION OF MUSIC HISTORY,
THEORY & ETHNOMUSICOLOGY
College of Music