



COLLEGE OF MUSIC

University of North Texas College of Music

Doctoral Lecture | Tuesday, November 28, 2023 | 9:00 am | REMOTE

Yafei Lin, saxophone

A PERFORMANCE GUIDE FOR THE TWO QUARTETS FOR SAXOPHONES BY GUŌ YUÁN

Guō Yuán (b. 1965) is a Chinese composer and currently a professor and head of the Department of Composition at the Sichuan Conservatory of Music. He is one of the earliest Chinese composers to write original works for the saxophone. This dissertation provides a performance guide for the two quartets for saxophones by Guō Yuán: *Eyes Creating Sun-Birds* (chuàngzào tàiyángniǎo de yǎn), composed in 2012, and *The Eyes Threading Through Sun-Trees* (chuānyuè tàiyángshù de yǎn), composed in 2021. These two pieces were chosen because they demonstrate mature compositional skills and high artistic value, representing a refined level of development of Chinese quartets. Significantly, the composer identifies the two quartets as belonging to a specific series of compositions: both pieces are inspired by the Jinsha (jīnshā) Site and the Sanxingdui (sānxīngduī) Civilization, especially the bronze masks, the Sun-Trees of the Sanxingdui, and the gold ornaments of the Sun-Birds of the Jinsha, which are iconic symbols of the civilization in the land of Ba-Shu (bāshu), where the composer lives. As if writing a poem, Guō attempts to sonically and musically recreate the mask, the Sun-Trees, and the Sun-Birds gold foil, endeavoring to portray the people of Bashu as they worshipped the sun. This dissertation will explore how Guō employs modern compositional techniques and Chinese traditional elements in composing the works, and examine the methods by which he successfully incorporated extended techniques to balance the timbres of the saxophone quartet, with the musical goal of creating a variety of color and textural changes.

Three hundred sixty-sixth program of the 2023–2024 season
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