



COLLEGE OF MUSIC

University of North Texas College of Music

Doctoral Lecture Recital | Wednesday, March 8, 2023 | 8:00 pm | Recital Hall

Jingye Xu, mezzo-soprano
Hongling Liang, piano

**A PERFORMANCE GUIDE FOR FIVE
MEZZO-SOPRANO ARIAS FROM CHINESE OPERAS**

In the West, operas in Czech, English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, and Russian are the best known in collegiate and professional classical music settings. Given the changes in social climate in recent decades, however, attention is being given to the study and performance of under-represented minorities. There have been operas composed in the West on Asian topics, but one does not yet hear operas in Asian languages programmed as part of a regular season in major opera houses in the United States. The challenge for Western singers is threefold: access to the music, reading and pronouncing the language, and understanding the nuance of the rich Chinese culture in the libretto.

This study will present the following five arias: "We Have to Be Apart," from *The Dawns Here Are Quiet* by Tang Jianping; "The Daughter of Yimeng" and "Milk, Tears and Blood," from *The Mountain of Yimeng* by Luan Kai; "Forgetting Everything While Turning," from *Saying Goodbye to Cambridge Again* by Zhou Xueshi; and "Lullaby," from *The Orphan of Zhao* by Lei Lei. It includes a brief biographical introduction to the composer and librettist for each opera, a synopsis of the plot, a description of the character singing the aria, transcriptions and romanizations of the text, IPA, word-by-word and poetic translations, translations of all musical directions in the score written only in Chinese, explanations of the cultural context, and vocal recommendations for performance.

Forgetting Everything While Turning,
Saying Goodbye to Cambridge
Again (2001) Zhou Xueshi (b. 1962)

Lullaby, *The Orphan of Zhao* (2018) Lei Lei (b. 1952)

We Have to Be Apart, *The Dawns
Here Are Quiet* (2015) Tang Jianping (b. 1955)

Milk, Tears and Blood, *The Mountain
of Yimeng* (2016) Luan Kai (b. 1973)

The Daughter of Yimeng, *The
Mountain of Yimeng* (2016) Luan Kai