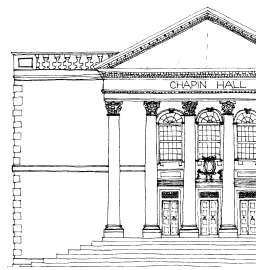


Williams College Department of Music



Cantonese Opera Music from China

Medley of Cantonese Opera Tunes

Traditional

Four traditional Cantonese opera tunes played as instrumental interludes or as background music for the actors are arranged in a medley with a refrain.

Chinese Opera Demonstration

A demonstration of stylized acting for male and female roles consisting of prescribed hand gestures, posturing, and body movements.

Cantonese Opera: The Jade Bracelet

A young man woos a village maiden in a scene filled with charm and humor. Frustrated by the girl's coquettish and coy behavior, the suitor leaves behind a jade bracelet as an offering of marriage.

Xie Peng: Wai Wah Law; *Yuk Geuw:* Cindy Huang

Intermission

Birds in the Forest

Yi Jianquan

Nature comes alive through playful imitation. The bright timbre of the gao hu and the use of ornamental slurs and portamenti techniques reflect the Cantonese style.

Melody of the Purple Bamboo

Traditional

This arrangement borrows musical material from Huju, a local opera of the Shanghai area. It represents the silky texture and flowing melodic style of music from south of the Yangzi River.

Beijing Opera Tunes

Arr. Gu Guanren

The *xipi* and *erhuang* tunes from *Jingju*, or Beijing Opera, suggest the vocal performance and musical progression of this northern style opera.

Song of Henan

Arr. Liu Mingyuan

The *erhu* has a voice-like timbre reinforced by the frequent use of slurs and portamenti. Borrowing folk and *Yuju* opera tunes from Henan province, this composition invokes the local speech and operatic singing to create a playful tableau of folk life.

Wang Guowei, *erhu*; Susan Cheng, *yangqin*

Cantonese Aria: Qingwen Mends a Cape

This is a vignette from *A Dream of Red Mansions*, one of the masterpieces of Chinese literature from the Qing dynasty. The ailing Qing Wen, devoted maid to the novel's principal character Bao Yu, feverishly works through the night to mend his torn cape in time for an important family gathering.

Qingwen: Cindy Huang

Rising Joy

Traditional

An upbeat, festive mood is imparted by this popular Cantonese tune.

Sponsored by the W. Ford Schumann '50 Performing Arts Endowment

Sunday, November 16, 2008

3:00 P.M.

*Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall
Williamstown, Massachusetts*

*Please turn off or mute cell phones.
No photography or recording is permitted.*

Music From China performs Chinese classical and folk music as well as new music by living composers to audiences across the U.S. and internationally. Established in 1984, the ensemble has appeared at the Library of Congress, Boston Early Music Festival, 92nd Street Y, Freer Gallery of Art, Smithsonian Folklife Festival, with the Avison Ensemble in England and BBC broadcast, Dionysia Festival in Rome, Eastman School of Music, Chautauqua Institution, Metropolitan Museum of Art, as well as colleges and universities including Princeton, Duke, Pittsburgh, Yale, Wisconsin, Indiana, Bucknell, Colgate, Vermont, Middlebury, Wesleyan, Vassar, Rhode Island, Lafayette, and St. Bonaventure. Music From China commissions and produces a series of annual concerts premiering works by established and emerging composers and is recipient of a Chamber Music America/ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming. Other Music From China programs consist of the *Xiang Yue—Songs of Folk Life* community concert series, Cantonese opera productions, touring and residencies, music commissioning, the annual Music From China International Composition Competition, arts in education, music instruction, and training the Music From China Youth Orchestra and the Wesleyan University Chinese Music Ensemble. Website: <http://www.musicfromchina.org>

Musicians

| | |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| Wang Guowei | <i>erhu, jinghu, zhonghu</i> |
| Tien-jou Wang | <i>gaohu, zhonghu</i> |
| Susan Cheng | <i>yangqin</i> |
| Yingying Cao | <i>sanxian, ruan</i> |
| Chunyi Chen | <i>houguan</i> |
| Foo Lau | <i>percussion</i> |

Instruments

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| Erhu | 2-stringed, spiked fiddle of medium to high register. A snakeskin-covers the resonator and the horsehair of the bow passes between the strings |
| Gaohu | 2-stringed fiddle of high register, principal instrument in Cantonese music |
| Zhonghu | 2-stringed fiddle of medium register |
| Jinghu | 2-string fiddle of high register, principal instrument in Beijing opera |
| Yangqin | Hammered dulcimer |
| Zhongruan | Medium-size round bodied plucked string instrument with a straight neck |
| Sanxian | Long-necked, fretless lute with snakeskin covered resonator |
| Houguan | Double-reeded bamboo pipe used in Cantonese music |

Upcoming Events:

- 11/18: Piano Master Class: Adam Neiman, Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall, 4:15 p.m.
- 11/19: MIDWEEKMUSIC, Thompson Memorial Chapel, 12:15 p.m.
- 11/19: Russell Sherman Bösendorfer Concert, Chapin Hall, 8:00 p.m.
- 11/20: Piano Master Class: Russell Sherman, Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall, 12:00 p.m.
- 11/21: Berkshire Symphony Orchestra, Chapin Hall, 8:00 p.m.
Pre-Concert Talk, Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall, 7:15 p.m.
- 11/22: Williams Percussion Ensemble, Chapin Hall, 8:00 p.m.
- 11/23: Student Recital: Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*, St. John's Episcopal Church, 4:00 p.m.
- 12/3: MIDWEEKMUSIC, Chapin Hall, 12:15 p.m.