

Song of Silk 丝之歌

A Concert of Beijing Opera and Chinese Music

09/14/2024 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Bangor High School Auditorium 885 Broadway, Bangor, ME



BINGHAMTON
UNIVERSITY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Center for
Theater
Arts
Collaboration
戏剧交流中心

班戈中文学校
BANGOR CHINESE SCHOOL
CLCC
Chinese Language & Culture Center

Program

1. *Pipa* (Chinese lute), *Dizi* (Chinese bamboo flute) & *Guzheng* (Chinese zither)
琵琶、笛子和古筝

Higher with Each Step 步步高

ZHOU Yi, *pipa* 周 懿 琵琶

MIAO Yimin, *dizi* 繆宜民 笛子

Zhongbei WU, *guzheng* 吴中蓓 古筝

2. Beijing Opera Excerpt 京剧选段
Picking up the Jade Bracelet 拾玉镯

Linghui TU 涂玲慧

3. *Guzheng* Solo 古筝独奏

Dragon Boat Racing on the Miluo River 汨罗江上赛龙舟

Zhongbei WU, *guzheng* 吴中蓓 古筝

4. Vocal Solo 独唱

The Murmuring Stream 小河淌水 (Ethnic Bai song 白族民歌)

Beautiful Grassland, My Home 美丽的草原我的家

(Ethnic Mongolian song 蒙古族民歌)

Beat the Long Drum 长鼓敲起来 (Ethnic Korean song 朝鲜族歌曲)

Hong ZHANG, mezzo-soprano 张 泓 女中音

Margaret Pej REITZ, piano 李珮玢 钢琴

5. *Pipa* and Frame Drum 琵琶与手鼓
Spring along the Silk Road 丝路春色

ZHOU Yi, *pipa* 周 懿 琵琶

MIAO Yimin, frame drum 繆宜民 手鼓

6. Beijing Opera Excerpt 京剧选段
Long Sleeve Dance 长袖善舞

Linghui TU 涂玲慧

7. *Dizi* and Cymbals 笛子与铙钹
Selling Groceries 卖菜

MIAO Yimin, *dizi* 繆宜民 笛子
ZHOU Yi, cymbals 周 懿 铙钹

8. Vocal Solo 独唱

Crimson Azalea Blanketing the Mountain 映山红花满山坡

(Ethnic Daur song 达斡尔族歌曲)

My Father's Grassland, My Mother's River 父亲的草原，母亲的河

(Ethnic Mongolian song 蒙古族歌曲)

Beautiful Mood 美丽的心情

(Modern lyric song 现代抒情歌曲)

Hong ZHANG, mezzo-soprano 张 泓 女中音

Margaret Pej REITZ, piano 李珮玢 钢琴

9. *Guzheng* Solo 古筝独奏

Yi People's Dance 彝族舞曲

Zhongbei WU, *guzheng* 吴中蓓 古筝

10. *Guzheng* & Piano 古筝与钢琴

Big Fish and Begonia Flowers 大鱼海棠

Zhongbei WU, *guzheng* 吴中蓓 古筝

Margaret Pej REITZ, piano 李珮玢 钢琴

11. Beijing Opera Excerpt 京剧选段

Ode to Pear Blossoms 梨花颂

Linghui TU 涂玲慧

12. Pipa, Dizi, Guzheng & Xiao (Chinese Vertical Bamboo flute)

琵琶、笛子、古筝和箫

A Night of the Moon and Flowers on the River 春江花月夜

ZHOU Yi, *pipa* 周 懿 琵琶

MIAO Yimin, *xiao* and *dizi* 缪宜民 箫和笛子

Zhongbei WU, *guzheng* 吴中蓓 古筝

13. Ensemble 歌唱与器乐

Pamir, So Beautiful My Hometown 帕米尔，我的家乡多么美

(Ethnic Tajik song 塔吉克族歌曲)

Hong ZHANG, mezzo-Soprano 张 泓 女中音

Margaret Pej REITZ, piano 李珮玢 钢琴

Zhongbei WU, *guzheng* 吴中蓓 古筝

ZHOU Yi, *pipa* 周 懿 琵琶

MIAO Yimin, *dizi* 缪宜民 笛子





Program Notes

Higher with Each Step 步步高

“Higher with Each Step” is representative of Cantonese music. Its lively melody and robust rhythm provide festive tempos and positive energy. This song is often played in festivals and celebrations, including the Chinese New Year.

Picking Up the Jade Bracelet 拾玉镯

This is an excerpt from a frequently performed opera which is designed for the huadan (lively young girl) role. Simple in plot, it relies mainly on dramatic technique to entertain its audiences. This ancient story of a young country girl’s awakening of first love is brought to life on stage by vivid gestures of female protagonist, Sun Yujiao. This excerpt displays the delicacy of her motions as she does needlework and her graceful posture as she feeds the chickens.

Dragon Boat Racing on the Miluo River 汨罗江上赛龙舟

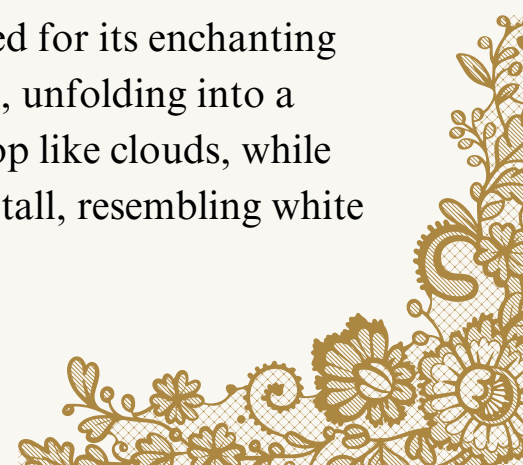
This is a contemporary guzheng piece played with modern playing techniques. It vividly portrays the dragon boat race in the Dragon Boat Festival on the Miluo River, expressing people’s grief and memory of the great poet Qu Yuan.

The Murmuring Stream 小河淌水

This piece is a Bai ethnic folk song from Yunnan province in southern China. On a tranquil night, looking at the bright moon, listening to the murmuring stream, a girl expresses her deep longing for her love, who lives by a remote mountain.

Beautiful Grassland, My Home 美丽的草原我的家

This is a renowned Inner-Mongolian folk song, celebrated for its enchanting melody. The lyrics depict the idyllic charm of the grassland, unfolding into a mesmerizing panorama that extends for miles. Horses gallop like clouds, while cows and sheep resemble glistening pearls. Our tents stand tall, resembling white





lotus blossoms. Shepherd girls serenade joyous songs, filling the sky with their euphonious melodies.

Beat the Long Drum 长鼓敲起来

Let's beat the long drum and begin to dance. The red sun rises from the forest top; a waterfall rush down from Changbai Mountain. Sweet songs and light dance, accompanied by the long drumbeat—this is our lovely and happy hometown.

Spring along the Silk Road 丝路春色

The basic melody is based on the Rawap music from northwestern China where the ancient Silk Road connected China to its western neighbors.

Long Sleeve Dance 长袖善舞

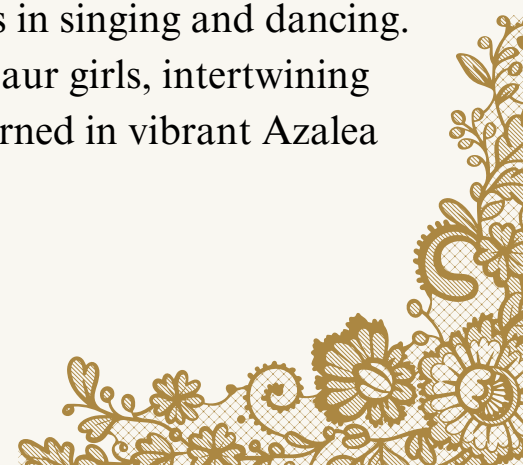
This is a Chinese classical dance using flowing sleeves that incorporates the concept of *yin* and *yang* as well as elements of Beijing Opera and *tai chi*. Praised as the “Number One Long Sleeve Dancer” by Chinese media, Linghui Tu published several books and CDs on long sleeve dance in China.

Selling Groceries 卖菜

This Northern China wind and percussion music is adapted from Shanxi folk songs. The music goes back and forth connecting the dizi and cymbals, which imitates the negotiations between a street vender and buyer.

Crimson Azalea Blanketing the Mountain 映山红花满山坡

The Daur, inhabitants of Inner Mongolia and Heilongjiang Province in northern China, are known for their extraordinary prowess in singing and dancing. This song exalts the mesmerizing melodies performed by Daur girls, intertwining harmoniously with the enchanting vistas of mountains adorned in vibrant Azalea blossoms.





My Father's Grassland, My Mother's River 父亲的草原，母亲的河

This song depicts the singer's deep affection of her motherland, the inner-Mongolian plateau, and the strong and irresistible sense of belonging that completed her. This song flows through everyone's heart like a gust of wind on the grassland or the trickling currents in the river.

Beautiful Mood 美丽的心情

This is a modern art song, which describes the beautiful mood: "the wind sends the doves to the starry sky, the moon shines upon our happy dancing. Let our dreams grow auspicious wings, let beautiful moods follow us everywhere."

Yi People's Dance 彝族舞曲

This lyrical melody is based on traditional music of the Yi people, one of the ethnic minorities in China who live in the forests of southwest China. Yi people are famous for their colorful clothes, beautiful dances, and songs. This piece drew its inspiration from the dancing and singing of Yi people as they celebrate their harvest. It is loved by many musicians due to its ethnic characteristics.

Big Fish and Begonia Flowers 大鱼海棠

This is the theme song of a 2016 Chinese animated epic fantasy movie, *Big Fish & Begonia*. The story was inspired by a myth from the ancient Chinese Taoist classic Zhuangzi, and integrates many stories from other Chinese classics such as Classic of Mountains and Seas and In search of the Supernatural. The combination of guzheng and piano renders so many emotions of love, happiness, hope as well as sadness, loss, and guilt.

Ode to Pear Blossoms 梨花颂

It is the theme song of a historical Beijing opera "The Great Tang Concubine" depicting the love story between the imperial concubine Yang, and Emperor



Xuanzong. The lyrics are: “Pear Blossoms bloom, the spring brings rain; Pear Blossoms fall, spring enters the land. I will only go for one man; I long for him; still, I know it’s in vain. Such heavenly beauty is hard to contain, a song of confounding, everlasting pain; a song of longing, everlasting pain.”

A Night of the Moon and Flowers on the River 春江花月夜

This 17th Century music piece is like fine ink painting scrolls, reflecting the Chinese philosophy of “The wise love the water.” Its elegant style depicts the water, pavilion, mountain, moon, flowers, breeze, cloud, wave, fishermen and a boat by the ancient Yangtze River.

Pamir, So Beautiful My Hometown 帕米尔，我的家乡多么美

This is an ethnic Tajik lyrical song. Pamir is a high plateau in the Xinjiang region. The song describes Pamir's beautiful scenery and passionately tells a common theme - people's love for their hometown.



Biographies



Yimin Miao, a maestro of Chinese woodwind instruments, has established his artistry and educational endeavors in the vibrant city of New York. As a co-founder of the New York Ba Ban Chinese Music Society, he has been recognized for his exceptional contributions to performance and teaching in the concert halls, universities, and libraries across the United States.

Margaret Pej Reitz is currently on the faculty of Binghamton University and Ithaca College School of Music. She holds degrees in piano performance with accompanying emphasis from Boston University, the New England Conservatory and Binghamton University. She has accompanied throughout the United States and in England and Austria.



Linghui Tu is a National Tier-One Performer of Chinese opera as well as a renowned director in China. She has won many national awards, including the prestigious “Plum Blossoms Award” and the “Wenhua Award.” Currently, she teaches the Beijing Opera course at Binghamton University as a visiting professor.



Zhongbei Daisy Wu is an award-winning *guzheng* (Chinese zither) artist. Currently, she is a Professor of Music at Alfred University. She has performed in remarkable settings such as China Central Television, Carnegie Hall, the United Nations Headquarters at New York, and the National Press Club at Washington DC.

Hong Zhang stands as an internationally acclaimed singer and award-winning educator. She has performed and presented at nearly 100 universities in the U.S., China, Canada, Singapore, and Cuba. Currently, Zhang holds the position of tenured Instructor of Chinese and serves as an associate faculty member of Music at Binghamton University.



Yi Zhou, a virtuoso of the *pipa* and *qin* based in New York, has garnered acclaim from the Washington Post for her "breathtaking" precision in technique and profound expressiveness. As a co-founder of the New York Ba Ban Chinese Music Society, she has graced the stage alongside prestigious ensembles such as the New York Philharmonic and the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra, among others.



戏剧交流中心

The Center for Theater Arts Collaboration (CTAC) was jointly formed by Binghamton University, State University of New York, and its partner, the National Academy of Chinese Theater Arts (NACTA) in Beijing, China, in December 2021. As the only center of its kind in the world, CTAC works with scholars and artists in the U.S., China, and across the world, advancing East-West theatrical exchange, communication, and collaboration through teaching, performance, research, and its unique electronic journal, *TheaComm: An E-Journal of Theater Arts Communication*.

Website: <https://www.binghamton.edu/centers/ctac/aboutus.html>

