

# MSU Music

PRESENTS:

*Musique 21:  
Orchid Ensemble &  
University Chorale*

*David Rayl, conductor*

Tuesday, March 3, 2015, 7:30 pm  
Fairchild Theatre, MSU Auditorium Building

**MICHIGAN STATE**  
**UNIVERSITY**

College of Music

## Program

- Maqam: Prelude and Dance  
Zhou Ji,  
Shao Guangchen, Li Mei  
arr. Mei Han
- Xiao He Tang Shui  
arr. Lan Tung
- Dancing Moon  
Lan Tung
- Ya Ribon  
Traditional  
arr. R. Raine-Reusch,  
M. Denburg, & Orchid Ensemble
- Ting Song  
Yan-jun Huan  
arr. Lan Tung
- In the Very Highest Place  
Janet Danielson
- Ghost Mind  
Jin Zhang  
Elizabeth Hermanson, mezzo-soprano
- Magnificent Horses  
arr. Jing Ling Tam  
Kyle White, baritone  
Elizabeth Hermanson, conductor

# Program Notes

## **Maqam: Prelude and Dance**

Maqam is a musical form found throughout the Middle East, Central Asia and the Xinjiang province of northwestern China. It is generally defined as a sequence of notes with rules that define its general melodic development, each maqam having a different character conveying a mood. In Xinjiang, maqams are sometimes considered “suites” defining a specific mood, or moods. Xinjiang maqams can include instrumental, vocal and dance music, often with complex rhythmic patterns and dramatic tempo changes.

## **Xiao He Tang Shui**

A new interpretation of the famous folk song from southwest China, it features a dialogue between vocal and zheng, contrasting between lyrical and rhythmic phrasings, with room for improvisation.

*The rising moon shines over the river  
Seeing the moon reminds me of my love in the deep mountains  
He is like the moon walking in the sky  
My love, do you hear me singing your name by the river*

## **Dancing Moon**

The fast 5/4 melody is inspired by a folk song from south west China. To contrast with its constant motion, a number of gestures for improvisation are inserted, taking inspiration from a Chinese classical poem praising the moon hanging high over the mountains. The piece ends in a fast 9 beat cycle and a series of modulations, inspired by Balkan music.

## **Ya Ribon**

In the 10th Century, a number of Persian Jews traveled through the Silk Road to settle in Kaifeng, central China. The community they founded still survives today observing Jewish holidays and customs. This arrangement of an Ashkenazi sacred song is a contemporary tribute to the fusing of these cultures.

## Program Notes (cont.)

### Ting Song

During the Song Dynasty (960-1279 AD) there were many wars between the Han in central China and the invading northern Jin (Jurchen). One account from this period describes a battle where the forces of Yue Fei, the famous Han general, routed the Jin army, which then fled in panic to the foot of a mountain. There the Jin waited anxiously, listening to the sound of the approaching Han troops by putting their ears to stones known as pine stones. This piece was inspired by that event. Hua Yan-Jun, also known as A Bing, was a wandering blind folk musician who left a rich legacy of compositions that have become “classics” in Chinese music.

### In the Very Highest Place

Orchid Ensemble commission, with funding from the British Columbia Arts Council

“Musical tones have their origins in the human mind, being that which ultimately connects man and the cosmos, just as a shadow derives the plane from a three-dimensional object or an echo answers responsively to an issued sound.” - Shih-Chi (Records of the Grand Historian)

The text for this piece comes from Wu Li's extended poem Singing of the Source and Course of the Holy Church, beautifully translated by Jonathan Chaves and used with his kind permission. Wu Li (1632-1718) was one of the Six Orthodox Masters of early Ch'ing Dynasty painting, and an exceptionally skillful poet.

The progression of triads in the musical setting is meant to suggest the dynamic interchange of mutual adoration epitomized in the mystery of the Trinity. A pentatonic melody approximating the tones of the Mandarin text weaves its way in and out of the triadic structure.

*In the very highest place, deep within a mansion  
Dwells a family perfectly united, loving and devoted.  
Beyond past, beyond present, the three Persons are one;  
Penetrating heaven, penetrating earth, the one family is three*

### Ghost Mind

Ghost Mind is based on four Chinese characters: meng (dream), xu (blur), piao (float), yi (suspect), representing different images of ghosts in Chinese tradition. Starting with the first character, each section of the piece adds a new layer representing the next characters.

## The Orchid Ensemble

The Orchid Ensemble blends ancient musical instruments and traditions from China and beyond, creating a beautiful new sound that is both creative and distinct. The ensemble has embraced a variety of musical styles to its repertoire, ranging from the traditional and contemporary music of China, World Music, New Music to Creative Improvisation. The energetic yet endearing performance style of the ensemble consistently intrigues and delights its audiences, consistently receiving standing ovations. Acclaimed as 'One of the brightest blossoms on the world music scene' (Georgia Straight), the Orchid Ensemble has been tirelessly developing an innovative musical genre based on the cultural exchange between Western and Asian musicians. Orchid Ensemble's 2004 release, 'Road to Kashgar', was nominated for a Juno award in the Best World Music category.

The Orchid Ensemble regularly collaborates with musicians from a wide variety of world cultures and actively commissions new works by Canadian and US composers for its unique instrumentation. The ensemble has performed in concerts across North America, and at prominent World, Jazz and Folk Music festivals. Recent appearances include The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; the Smithsonian Institution's Freer Gallery; Canada Day Celebrations in Ottawa; Festival Miami, and the Vancouver International Jazz Festival.

### **Lan Tung** – erhu & vocal

Lan crosses the lines between classical, contemporary, folk, blues and various ethnic styles, such as Indian, Celtic and Middle Eastern, to expand the horizons of the erhu. Lan has performed with Huun Huur Tu (Tuva), Baka Beyond (UK), Khac Chi Ensemble (Vietnam) and Hossam Shaker (Egypt) and shared the stage with many Vancouver's innovative improvisers, such as Ron Samworth and Coat Cooke. She is a member of Vancouver world music ensemble Tandava, and she has premiered numerous compositions by Canadian and US composers. Trained at Taiwan's Chinese Cultural University, Lan went on to study with erhu virtuosi Jiebing Chen in San Francisco and Zhang Funming in Beijing, with Hindustani violinist Kala Ramnath in Bombay and Egyptian violinist Dr. Alfred Gamil in Cairo. The various influences are evident in Lan's compositions and music arrangements. Lan started classical voice training since she was 12, and she continued at Capilano College and with Joseph Shore in Vancouver. A concert producer and arts administrator, Lan also serves as a board director of the Vancouver Inter-cultural Orchestra.

### **Haiqiong Deng - zheng**

A performer on the traditional Chinese instrument the *zheng*, Haiqiong was the winner of the Outstanding Performance Prize at the Chinese National *zheng* Competition in Shanghai 1995. She was the recipient of the Master Artist of the Florida Folklife Apprenticeship Award in 2012, and the Florida Individual Artist Fellowship in 2013. Both of her CDs, "*Mountain, Water, Sentiments - Traditional Chinese Zheng Masterpieces Performance by Haiqiong Deng*" and "*Echoes of Strings - Classical Indian Music by Sitar and Zheng*" were nominated for the 13th Annual Independent Music Awards in "World Traditional" Category in 2014. She has developed an international reputation as zheng soloist and chamber musician with numerous performances throughout China, Japan, Singapore, Canada, and the United States. Haiqiong received her Bachelor of music degree in zheng performance from Shanghai Conservatory of Music and Master of Arts in Arts Administration and Ethnomusicology from Florida State University College of Music. She is currently the Director of the Chinese Music Ensemble at the Florida State University.

### **Jonathan Bernard - marimba & percussion**

Jonathan combines his background in western percussion with a fascination for Asian traditions to create a unique sound palette incorporating a myriad of instruments, techniques and styles. Jonathan's interests span genres from orchestral music to New Music, and World Music. Having premiered over seventy chamber works, Jonathan regularly performs with Turning Point Ensemble, Vancouver New Music, Fringe Percussion, Lalun, Tandava, orchestras including the Vancouver, Victoria, CBC Radio Orchestras, and is principal percussionist with the Vancouver Island Symphony. Jonathan has performed as soloist in Tand Dun's Water Concerto and Jin Zhang's No Rush at Tapei's National Concert Hall. Jonathan's interest in World Music has led him to perform Chinese, Javanese, Balinese and Korean music and study traditional and contemporary Chinese percussion in Beijing, China, Arabic percussion in Cairo, Egypt, Flamenco Compas in Spain, and Carnatic rhythm in South India with the support of the Canada Council for the Arts and British Columbia Arts Council. Jonathan has toured throughout North America, Europe, and Japan.

# University Chorale

David Rayl, conductor

Elizabeth Hermanson, assistant conductor

Judy Kabodian, piano

## Sopranos

Meredith Bowen  
Megan Boyd  
Leah Brzyski  
Sarah Brzyski  
Vanessa Caswell  
Jung-An Chou  
Anna Doering  
J. Christine Le  
Caite Lenahan  
Maura McGlynn  
Bakara Nkenge-Hinds  
Katharine Nunn  
Skyler Sheltroun  
Lindsay Snyder  
Alina Tamborini  
Andrea VanDeusen

## Tenors

Daniel Albert  
David Anderson  
Zachary Lindquist  
Marcus McGuire  
Andrew Minear  
Jon Oakley  
Kris Schave  
Brandon Williams  
Kyle Zeuch

## Altos

Kalli Allen  
Katie Bethel  
Kate DeYoung  
Jessica Glaser  
Gedeane Graham  
Elizabeth Hermanson  
Molly Khatcheressian  
Holly Lewis  
Lena Miles  
Anne Today  
Jenna Washburn

## Basses

Andrew Breuninger  
Scott Emelander  
Tyler Frisbie  
Stuart Hill  
Nick Kreider  
Tyler Martin  
Josh Palkki  
Aaron Petrovich  
Brandon Smith  
Zaikuan Song  
Kyle White



THE  
**CHINA**  
**EXPERIENCE**

AN MSU EXPLORATION  
OF ARTS & CULTURE

As one of the kickoff events of the MSU China Experience, an 18-month-long exploration of arts and culture, the College of Music is pleased to present this performance featuring its University Chorale and guest artists the Orchid Ensemble.

Coinciding with the 10th anniversary of the MSU China Initiative, the exploration of Chinese arts and culture is designed to provide creative programming, engage in open dialogue and encourage active student, faculty, and community involvement in China-themed year activities. Read more about the China-themed year at <http://artsandculture.msu.edu>