

# Wednesday Noon Hours

Chan Centre for the Performing Arts  
September 29, 2021 | 12:00pm

## Silk Road Music 絲綢之路音樂團

Silk Road Music is a Vancouver based ensemble that bridges classical Chinese music with 21<sup>st</sup> century practices. Since 1991, it has performed hundreds of concerts in many parts of the world, from festivals, universities, and symphony orchestras. Its artistic direction reflects the fundamental desire of each musician to strive for discovery. Two-time winner at the West Coast Music Awards and twice nominated for a JUNO. Silk Road Music currently have released 4 CDs. Its educational book and CD *Village Tales* is a great source for learning Chinese Folk Songs in both English and Mandarin.

Introducing Chinese Music, focuses on a variety of musical styles from classical to folk based pieces. It includes instrumental solos, ensemble pieces, a song with Tang poetry that spans a thousand years showcasing each artist and the lifelong devotion to the art form.

You can find out more about Silk Road Music on its website: [silkroadmusic.ca](http://silkroadmusic.ca).

## Musicians

Silk Road Music features an ensemble of well-established Chinese musicians living in Vancouver. All are currently performing and teaching, some as faculty members of the VSO School of music.

Qiu Xia He 何秋霞: Artistic director 音樂總監/Pipa 琵琶/Voice 歌唱

Yun Song 宋云: Erhu 二胡

Zhi Min Yu 于志敏: Ruan 阮

Zhong Xi Wu 吳忠喜: Suona 唢呐/Sheng 笙/Bili 箏

Min Lin 林敏: Guqin 古琴

Andre Thibault: Percussion 打擊樂/Voice 歌唱

*We gratefully acknowledge that we are gathered together for this performance on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Musqueam people.*

# Programme

## 喜洋洋 Xi Yang Yang

Happiness

By Liu Ming Yuan (published 1958 )

Pipa, Erhu, Ruan, Sheng/Suona, Percussion

We invite you to travel from the beautiful Chan Center and journey to the ancient land: China. A thousand years of folk tradition, Chinese use a variety of instruments. Today, we have Wind 吹, String 拉, Plucked 彈, Percussion 打 to celebrate the joy of life!

## 安樂鹽 An Yue Yan

Peace Song

Tang Court Music (600-800 AD)

Sheng/Bili, Guqin, Pipa, Erhu, Ruan, Percussion

An intro piece before the musicians and dancers appear.

The Japanese sources about 1200 AD. We use the staff notation of "Music from the Tang Court," vol. 6, ed. Laurence E. R. Picken. Cambridge University Press, 1997 (Thank you to Dr. Steven Nelson and David Badagnani for sharing this information).

## 平湖秋月 Ping Hu Qiu Yue

Autumn Moonlight on the Ping Lake

Folk Music Arr. Zhimin Yu

Pipa, Erhu, Ruan, Sheng, Percussion

From Guang Dong province, this is an instrumental style dating from the early 20th century. These melodies are well loved by ordinary people all over China.

## 欸乃 Ai Nai

Fishing Song

Published in 1549 in a 25 volume of Qin Music.

Guqin

Based on Tang poem by Liu Zong Yuan ( 773-819 )

渔翁夜傍西岩宿，晓汲清湘燃楚竹。

烟销日出不见人，欸乃一声山水绿。

回看天际下中流，岩上无心云相逐。

Silk Road Music 絲綢之路音樂團

UBC Wednesday Noon Hours | Chan Centre for the Performing Arts | September 29, 2021 | 12:00pm

### 三六 San Liu

Three and Six

Silk and Bamboo Music of South China

Pipa, Erhu, Ruan, Sheng, Muyu

Beautiful south China, where fragrant tea grows! Sit down and hear this ever-changing rondo, a melody repeated after each variation. What is your variation?

### 良霄 Liang Xiao

New Year's Eve

By Liu Tian Hua (1895-1932) Arr. Qiu Xia He

Pipa, Erhu, Ruan, Sheng

E G A C D 5 notes begin this profound feeling of peace and joy in the enchanted evening. This composer is one of the most important figures to combine Chinese music with western symphonic ideas on Erhu and Pipa repertoires in the 1900.

### 陽春古曲 Yang Chun Gu Qu

Snowflakes in the Early Spring

Wei Zhong Le (1908-1997) book. Ruan adaptation by Zhimin Yu

Pipa, Ruan

This piece has been documented and played since 1860. With the uplifting sense of Spring coming, and Winter ending.

### 陽關三疊 Yan Guan San Die

Farewell at Yang Guan in Three Stanzas

Tang poetry by Wang Wei (701-761) 《琴学入门》 1864. Traditional

Guqin, Sheng and Voice

Earliest known music score is from 明代 1491 《浙音释字琴谱》

Guqin, Sheng and Voice

"Farewell at Yang Guan in Three Stanzas" (Wang Wei)

July 2020 Translation by Dr. Jan Walls

In Wei City dust is settled by early morning rain.

The willows by the tavern turn fresh green again.

Come on friend, down another cup of wine with me.

West of Yang Gate there'll be no old friends to see.

Silk Road Music 絲綢之路音樂團

UBC Wednesday Noon Hours | Chan Centre for the Performing Arts | September 29, 2021 | 12:00pm

### First Stanza

The season is spring, in Wei City dust is settled by early morning rain. The willows by the tavern turn fresh green again. Come on friend, down another cup of wine with me. West of Yang Gate there'll be no old friends to see. Frosty mornings, frosty nights, hurry on your way, pass through key points on the long trail. The sadness of military life, so much toil, so much toil, oh so much toil! Do take care, do take care!

### Second Stanza

In Wei City dust is settled by early morning rain. The willows by the tavern turn fresh green again. Come on friend, down another cup of wine with me. West of Yang Gate there'll be no old friends to see. Can't bear to say goodbye, sleeves soaked in tears. We can help each other better ourselves no more, I'll think of you, think of you 24 hours a day. With boundaries keeping us apart, who to rely upon, who to rely upon, who can we rely upon? All day my soul will race to you.

### Third Stanza

In Wei City dust is settled by early morning rain. The willows by the tavern turn fresh green again. Come on friend, down another cup of wine with me. West of Yang Gate there'll be no old friends to see. Carpets of green grass all around, fine wine, fine wine, makes us feel mellow before we even drink. Hasten your steed, hasten your steed, when will your carriage return? How many patrols can you drink through? A thousand patrols will finally conclude, but heartfelt feelings will never end. Endless heartache, so far apart, hoping for letters to come soon. Letters will tell, letters will tell, letters will frequently tell, attachment so deep, attachment so deep. Oh, after our farewell today, our feelings will be felt in frequent dreams, waiting for word to arrive.

### 賽馬 Sai Ma

Horse Race

By 王海懷

Erhu, Pipa, Sheng, Ruan, Percussion

A showpiece for solo Erhu. Composed in 1964. The music vividly demonstrates the excitement and character of the horse race in Mongolian traditions.

### 百鳥朝鳳 Bai Niao Chao Feng

Hundred Birds and Phoenix

Folk Music by Ren Tong Xiang Arr. By Zhong Xi Wu

Suona, Pipa, Erhu, Ruan, Percussion

Suona solo piece originating from folk traditions of Wind and Drum Music. In 1953, it was introduced in a stage performance. It is a difficult piece that requires complete mastery of the instrument.

### 鳳陽花鼓 Feng Yang Hua Gu

Feng Yang Flower Drum Song

Folk Music of An Hui

Vocals, Erhu, Ruan, Suona and Sheng, percussion

Music passed on through generations! Street songs are people's stories, performed in the villages and markets. Every person has something to tell, let's keep our own story going!

### Silk Road Music 絲綢之路音樂團

UBC Wednesday Noon Hours | Chan Centre for the Performing Arts | September 29, 2021 | 12:00pm

## Biographies

Qiu Xia He 何秋霞 : Pipa 琵琶

(Chu Sha Her) was born in Shaanxi China. She has devoted all her life to the performing arts. Her interests include singing, dancing and world instruments, but her main focus is the Chinese Pipa. At thirteen, she became a professional and at twenty went on to study at the Xian Music Academy and eventually becoming an instructor after graduation. In 1989, she immigrated to Canada.

In 30 years of traveling and performing, Qiu Xia and her company Silk Road Music has appeared at the Montreal International Jazz Festival, BBC recital in England, hundreds of schools and universities across North America, plus community concert series and festivals around the world. Featured as soloist with symphony orchestras including Vancouver, collaborated with VICO, AU Ensemble in Amsterdam and Japan, Brussels with the Selini String Quartet. Her latest video projects on YouTube are produced by Early Music Vancouver, VICO, Uzume Taiko, BCCME and the Chan Centre. She also teaches privately and at the VSO School of Music.

Andre Thibault: guitar 吉他 , oud 乌特 , percussion 打击

Born in Montreal. A brilliant guitarist and multi-instrumentalist whose fiery rhythms and stunning technique result from a unique blend of Flamenco and Moorish traditions coloured with jazz, classical, and world music. Andre's key instrument is guitar. He has also studied many other instruments including: oud, ethnic flutes and hand percussions. His musicianship has led him to many world class stages and is a key player in a few cutting-edge world-music ensembles. Andre has produced 6 CDs and participated on many other recordings, some were nominated for a Juno and won music awards. As a performer with Silk Road Music, he has delighted thousands of audiences around the world.

Zhimin Yu 于志敏: Ruan 阮

Ruan soloist and composer, was born in Beijing, China. While studying, she was chosen to perform for foreign dignitaries. Later joined the top orchestra of China at the age of 17 (CCTV Broadcasting Symphony Orchestra). Performed around the world, including live concerts for the BBC in London, NHK in Japan, CCTV in China, and CBC in Canada. As head of the Chinese Music department at the VSO school of music, she teaches and conducts the Azalea student ensemble. With exceptional skills, she tours with many companies.

Yun Song 宋云 : Erhu 二胡

One of the most prominent Erhu performers of her generation. At 17 she received the First Prize from the Traditional Music Grand Prix organized by the Ministry of Culture in China. As an Erhu soloist, she was invited to represent China's Young Musicians in festivals and concerts around the world, including Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan, Japan, and Finland. In Canada, she teaches and performs as a special guest on many projects such as VICO, BCCME and Silk Road Music. Her passionate musical approach has made her a sought after player.

Zhong Xi Wu 吴忠喜 - suona 唢呐, sheng 笙, bili 箏

Born in northeastern China, he started learning reed and wind instruments at the age of eight from his father and elder brother, both renowned musicians. He graduated from the Heilongjiang College of Performing Arts and was appointed as the lead suona player and composer for their Repertory Theatre. He has won many first prizes in music competitions and his name was cited in the "Who's Who of the World" as one of the most renowned professionals from China. He has performed as a soloist in China, Japan, Hong Kong, U.S.A. and Canada. He is actively involved in traditional Chinese music as well as contemporary compositions. His strong roots and virtuosity have showcased him on many world stages.

Silk Road Music 絲綢之路音樂團

UBC Wednesday Noon Hours | Chan Centre for the Performing Arts | September 29, 2021 | 12:00pm

Min Lin 林敏 : Guqin 古琴

She is an accomplished performer and teacher from the Guang Ling School of Guqin. In 1987, she began her studies on the zheng and the guqin from Master Mei Riqiang. In 1995, she went to the Shanghai Conservatory. Under the tutelage of Professor Lin Youren, she further expanded her knowledge of guqin repertory. In 2010, she moved to Vancouver and established a flourishing teaching studio. Also created the Vancouver Guqin Society. She was invited to design and implement a guqin examination syllabus for the Canadian Chinese Music Society. She teaches and performs many concerts in the community.

## Instruments

Bili: a cane double reed oboe played in early Chinese Music.

Dizi and Xiao: are bamboo flutes played horizontally and vertically. The older version of bird bone flute is over 8000 years old. Same as the Xun which is a clay ocarina.

Erhu: 2 stringed violin with a wooden bowl at one end covered with a python skin, the horsehair bow rests between the 2 strings. It has a unique timbre for melody and voice like approach.

Guqin: a zither. The earliest document is in “詩經” Gathered by Confucius (479-551 BC). The oldest instrument found from 湖北’s tomb was 2700 years old. There are over 3000 scores and manuals for the Guqin. It has retained the same shape and silk strings during its long tradition.

Pipa: 4 stringed lute. It's one of the most prominent Chinese instruments outside of China due to its versatility and rich history. The extensive Tang répertoires (600-800 AD) became the most influential sources of early music study of China all around the world. Pipa is pear shaped with a bent neck similar to the Oud.

Ruan: was under the name of “pipa” as plucked instruments in ancient times. A 4 stringed lute dating back over 2000 years in history. Ruan is constructed round with a straight neck and multiple frets. It is the early Chinese version of the lute.

Sheng: an ancient free reed mouth organ that has been used in both folk and classical traditions. A forefather of the accordion.

Suona: a double reed wooden chanter introduced in China by Persian and Arabic cultures around the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. It is a key ritual instrument in China due to its sound and expression.

*Thank you for joining us!*

Chan Centre for the Performing Arts | [chancentre.com](http://chancentre.com)  
University of British Columbia School of Music | [music.ubc.ca](http://music.ubc.ca)



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
School of Music

