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Mostly Music Staff

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Mostly Music at NEIU
Presents

Betty Xiang, Erhu
and
Wei Yang, Pipa

Sunday, October 13, 2002

4:00 p.m.

Home of Roger and Ann Cole

125 Mary Street

Winnetka, IL

Program

Duets for Erhu and Pipa

Rainbow Dance	Traditional
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Spring in the Air	Jin Fuzai
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Erhu Solos

Moonlight	Liu Tianhua
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Listen to the Whispering Pine Trees	Hua yanjun
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"A" Capriccio	Hu Duntiao
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Intermission

Pipa solos

Moonlight over the spring river	Traditional
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Spring in Tian mountain	Wang Fandi
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Home on the Range	Arr. Liu Dehai
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Duets for Erhu and Pipa

Water of Life	Zhu Jianer
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Ballad Variations	Lu Pei
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Trio for Clarinet, Erhu and Pipa

Birds and the Phoenix	Lu Pei
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Christie Vohs, clarinet

Betty Xiang

Since her childhood, Ms. Betty Xiang was deeply motivated and strictly trained by her late father, Mr. Zuying Xiang, a renowned Erhu soloist and master in China and an Erhu professor at Shanghai Conservatory of Music.

At age 17, Betty made her solos debut with the premiere orchestra of China, the National Shanghai Orchestra. From 1987 to 1994, she appeared as a soloist with orchestras in France, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, and Taiwan. She has also had solo appearances with Shanghai Broadcasting Symphony Orchestra in 1994 through 1996, she performed several solo concerts to great acclaims. Betty has won numerous awards in nationwide Chinese music competitions and she made a number of Erhu solo and concerto recordings.

Wei Yang

Mr. Yang started learning to play Chinese musical instruments at the age of six. By the age of 13, he concentrated all his efforts in mastering Pipa. He was privately tutored by several of the great Pipa masters in China, including the renowned Professor Dehai Liu, principal of the Chinese Conservatory of Music.

At 18, he performed as a Pipa soloist with the National Shanghai Orchestra, one of the most important orchestras in China. He has been a featured soloist with the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, Shanghai Broadcasting Symphony orchestra, the Singapore Chinese Orchestra, the National Taipei Orchestra, and the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra. In addition he has performed numerous concerts in Belgium, France, Malaysia, and Japan.

Mr. Yang has also won many awards in music competitions over the years. His solo and concerto recordings have been released through major recording companies in China, Hong Kong, and Singapore. During the spring of 2001, Mr. Yang completed a world concert tour with cellist Yo-Yo Ma playing a number of works especially commissioned for them.

Since immigrating to the United States in 1996, both Betty and Wei have given many concerts and demonstrations at universities and colleges in the Midwest as well as public libraries. During 1998 and 1999 they were invited to perform at The Art Institute of Chicago as well as in St. Louis, Missouri; Fort Wayne, Indiana; and New York City. From November 2000 to January 2001 they were appointed as musician-in-residence for the Art Institute's Taoism and the arts of China exhibit in Chicago. In June 2000, they were selected to be part of group of top international musicians performing in the All Bach Program at the Ravinia Music Festival in Illinois

Besides their busy performance schedule, Mr. And Mrs. Yang are teach Pipa and Erhu in their private studios in Elk Grove Village, Illinois. In recognition of their outstanding musicianship, They have recently been awarded of the IAC (Illinois Arts Council) Artist Fellowship.

Program Notes

Rainbow Dance

This piece was originally an imperial dance performed in the emperor's court over 1500 years ago. Both instruments exude grace and delicacy, just like the dancers.

Spring in the Air

A beautiful ancient Chinese poem was the inspiration for this piece. The music expresses the joyful spirit when we celebrate the arrival of the spring season.

Water of Life

The flowing water is murmuring
Through hundreds of twists and turns
Sometimes it moves forward gently,
Leaving a myriad of ripples behind,
Forming mountains of waves ahead.
So life is like the flowing Water,
Rising and falling, with whirlpools and billows.
What will come next? Life or death?
Success or Failure?
Nobody can tell. Come what may.

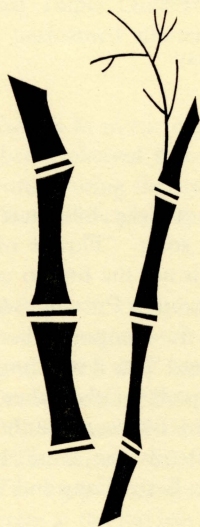
Ballad Variation

This piece is based on the American folk tune "She'll be Comin' Round the Mountain", the Chinese folk song "Flower of Jasmine", and the sounds of American jazz. The composer is not the first to use the famous Chinese folk song, "Flower of Jasmine" in a large work – Puccini used it in the opera, "Turandot". In composing "Ballad Variation", the composer discovered a close tonal relationship between "Flower of Jasmine" and "She'll be Comin' round the Mountain", namely that one is the thematic retrograde of the other. This discovery has served the composer's purpose in this composition, since the structure of the one is reflected in the other, and perfectly extends the musical atmosphere across both. The composer dedicated this work to Betty Xiang and Wei Yang.

The Instruments

The Pipa is a pear-shaped lute with a history of more than 2,000 years. The modern Pipa has 24 frets. Its four strings are tuned to A, D, E, and a, covering a tonal range of 3-1/2 octaves. Strumming or plucking the strings with plectra on the fingers plays it.

The Erhu is a two-stringed Chinese violin with a history of about 1,000 years. It is played with a bow passing between the strings. Usually the strings are tuned to D and A, and cover a tonal range of three octaves. It is the leading instrument in ensemble playing.



Mostly Music at NEIU Upcoming Concerts:

October 20, 2002 at 4pm

Haydn By the Lake

Chicago Historical Society, Clark Street at North Ave.

October 21, 2002 at 7:30pm

A concert for Polish Heritage Month

Jaroslaw Golembiowski, composer/lecturer Adam Golka, piano
NEIU Recital Hall

November 10, 2002 at 4:00pm

Eusia String Quartet
Glencoe Residence

December 15, 2002 at 4:00pm

Mikhail Yanovitsky, piano
Evanston Residence

For more information call 773-442-INFO or
email mostly-music@neiu.edu



Tickets \$20, \$15 for students

Seating is limited!

Call 773-442-4978 to reserve seats
and for complete address information.

Mostly Music at NEIU
presents

The Ensia Quartet

Kazuhiro Takagi, violin

Janne Tateno, violin

Yukiko Ogura, viola

Adrien Zitoun, cello

Performing Music of Haydn,
Beethoven and Debussy

Sunday
November 10, 2002 at 4:00 pm
Home of Elaine Skorodin
Glencoe, Illinois