

Melodies of China

Beitong Liu Erhu Recital

《曾侯乙传奇》
The Legend of Zenghouyi

Li Bochan (b. 1992)

Diana Borshcheva, piano

《迷胡调》
Mi Hu Melody

LuRirong (b.1933)

《闲居吟》
Chant of a Leisure Life

Liu Tianhua (1895-1932)

第二二胡协奏曲《追梦京华》
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**Erhu Concerto No.2: Nostalgic Dreams of Beijing,
Movement IV Winter**

Guan Naizhong (b.1939)

Diana Borshcheva, piano

《雪山魂塑》
The Brave Spirits of the Snow Mountains

Liu Wenjin (1937-2013)

Diana Borshcheva, piano

PROGRAM NOTES

《曾侯乙传奇》 The Legend of Zenghouyi

Li Bochan 李博禅 (b. 1992)

The Legend of Zenghouyi was created in 2013 by young contemporary composer Li Bochan. This piece are full of Hubei music elements. The composer vividly described the his understanding of the life of the Warring States prince Zenghouyi with the unique musical language of Erhu. This piece not only absorbs the elements of Chinese traditional music culture, but also incorporates new composition techniques. The melody gives the performer a lot of space emotional for processing.

Composer Li Bochan studied at the Central Conservatory of Music between 2004 and 2015, receiving a Master of Arts in Composition. He currently teaches in the Composition Department at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. Li's compositions span the range from symphonic, chamber, concerto, and other genres and have been widely performed at music festivals across Asia, Europe, and North America.

Mi Hu Melody 《迷胡调》

Lu Rirong 鲁日融 (b. 1933)

The splendid Yellow River culture has cultivated the straightforward and bold personality of the people in the Yellow River Basin. It has also formed a generous, passionate music style. The composer Lu Rirong used the local opera “Meihu Tune”(眉户调) in Guanzhong, Shanxi as the material to adapt Mi Hu Melody. This is a famous piece of Qin School Erhu. The music uses the sound of “Happy note” and “Bitter note” in Shanxi opera, which fully demonstrates people’s infinite love for life.

Composer Lu Rirong is a Chinese Erhu performer and a professor of Xi’an Conservatory of Music. He works at teaching, performance and composition in his artistic career and has composed more than 150 Erhu etudes and more than 20 solo pieces. Lu made important contributions to the establishment of the Qin School of Erhu.

《闲居吟》 Chant of a Leisure Life

Liu Tianhua 刘天华 (1895-1932)

“Chant of a Leisure Life” is an Erhu piece composed by Liu Tianhua in 1928 summer. This piece is an Erhu variation which is the first time uses harmonics playing techniques. Combining the historical background, China was in a dark moment at that time, and people are indifferent to Chinese music development. However, Liu Tianhua wanted to improved and reformed Chinese music and founded the National Music Improvement Organization. This is a relatively smooth period for Liu Tianhua’s music career, but he still needs to face future challenges. Therefore, under this ambivalence, Liu Tianhua composed this piece to express an optimistic attitude.

Composer Liu Tianhua was one of the earliest and most important orchestral composers in China in the early to mid-20th Century. Although he was only 37 years old when he died in 1932, his contribution to contemporary Chinese music is incalculable. His greatest achievement was to modernize playing techniques for the Erhu using traditional violin techniques and bringing the ancient instrument into modern orchestral settings. His work revolutionized Erhu playing in the

20th century and inspired generations of players. He actively promoted Chinese music and contributed to the development of modern Chinese music.

第二二胡协奏曲 《追梦京华》

第四乐章 除夕

**Erhu Concerto No.2: Nostalgic Dreams of Beijing,
Movement IV Winter**

Guan NaiZhong 关乃忠 (b.1939)

The Second Erhu Concerto Nostalgic Dreams of Beijing is created by the famous Chinese composer Guan Naizhong in 2002. In this piece, the composer uses the elements of Chinese Beijing Opera, and the western sonata style. The music is divided into four movements in the four seasons of spring, summer, autumn and winter, which describes the ordinary life of people in Beijing. “Winter” is the last movement of the whole piece. In this movement, the composer writes, “At that time, the winter in Beijing was much colder than it is now. On New Year’s Eve, snow fly, the family sit around the stove, eat the dinner of New Year’s Eve, children look forward to midnight come, then they see firecrackers cut through the sky, and everyone falls into the joy of the new year.”

Composer Guan Naizhong is a modern Chinese composer and conductor. He composes pieces for many instruments such as piano, violin, Erhu, flute, etc. Guan Naizhong has composed five Erhu Concertos. He believes that the Erhu is a very expressive instrument. He has an “unreasonable” theory: the closer the instrument is to the player, the more expressive it is.

《雪山魂塑》 **The Brave Spirits of the Snow Mountains**

Liu Wenjin 刘文金 (1937-2013)

The Brave Spirits of the Snow Mountains is composed by composer Wenjin Liu to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Red Army’s victory in the Long March. This is a music poem describing the soldiers of the Long March of the Red Army. The whole piece is divided into four movements, the Warpath, the Snow Mountain, the Comrade, and the Sunrise. The music depicts the hardships of the Long March soldiers over the snow-capped mountains, the nostalgia for the sacrificed comrades, and the longing for victory.

Composer Liu Wenjin was admitted to the Central Conservatory of Music to study composition theory, piano, and Chinese musical instruments Erhu and Suona. In 1984, he served as the head of the Central National Orchestra. In 1985, he served as guest conductor of the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra. In 2012, a concert of Liu Wenjin’s works was held in the Beijing Concert Hall. The Brave Spirits of the Snow Mountains is a work created by the composer in 2007.

BIOGRAPHIES

Beitong Liu

Beitong Liu is from Shenyang in Liaoning Province, China. Beitong began studying Erhu in 2008, and entered the Shenyang Conservatory middle school in 2012 to study with Li Naiping. Since then she has won many awards. In 2017, she began to study with Central Conservatory of Music (CCOM) Erhu professors Yu Hongmei and Yan Guowei. She is now in her third year of study as a member of the first class of the US-China Music Institute of the Bard College Conservatory of Music. In the summer of 2019, she was invited to attend the Bard Conservatory's recruiting event in Guangzhou, China to represent the school. In 2021, as a soloist, she participated in The Sound of Spring concert with The Orchestra Now (TÖN).

Diana Borshcheva

Praised for her beautiful deep sound, virtuosic skills, and immense artistry, Russian-born pianist Diana Borshcheva started her career nearly 15 years ago. Ms. Borshcheva won several competitions in Russia and Europe, among them the International Piano Competition in Gorizia (Grand Prix), Moscow Virtuoso Competition (First Prize), and International Piano Competition by S. Moniuszko (First Award) before she moved to the USA. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Solo Performance from Longy School of Music of Bard College in 2016, and Master of Music Degree in both Solo and Collaborative Piano from Cleveland Institute of Music in 2019. In addition, Ms. Borshcheva has worked for more than a decade as a vocal coach and piano teacher. Before her position as a piano fellow at Bard College Conservatory, Diana studied with Warren Jones, the venerate pianist and vocal coach at the Manhattan School of Music.