

Asian composers music webinar hand out by Li-Ly Chang , March 15, 2023.

1. Chen Yi, a Chinese American composer. She was the first women to receive a Master of Music in composition in Central conservatory. During that time, she spent summers studying Chinese folk music. She received her DMA from Columbia University . She has received many awards and is a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize for music in 2006. Currently, she is a faculty member of the University of Missouri-Kansas City . “ Singing In The Mountain “ Is a commission by the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music in 2006 . This short tone poem. , 32 measures, 2/4 time, was included in their ongoing collection of contemporary piano works. This work is an excellent example of piano dynamics - the melody sings in the upper register over sustained chords in the lower, (symbolize mountain echos), 4th, 5th chords , dotted rhythms, syncopation , encompass over 5 octaves range .All is an excellent introduction to the contemporary art for advancing students. Published by Theodore Presser.

2. Chiang Wen Yeh was born in 1910 in Taiwan. As a high school student, he moved to Japan and studied composition and voice at the Tokyo Music Academy. By the age of 20, he had already shown his superior talent by winning international competitions in Berlin and Paris. I got to know his music when I studied piano with Ming Tcherepnin during her last 5 years in New York a while back. She introduced me to music of Tcherepnin and this talented Chinese / Taiwan Composer Chiang Wen Yeh whose music her husband had admired greatly and published in 1935 through his publishing company . This piece won awards at National Music Festival in France. His style is heavily influenced by 20 c. masters Debussy, Bartok and Stravinsky, using mixed meter, quintal, quartal chords, atonal.
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A. Chiang wen Yeh “s bagatelle op 8, no 11. Using D& A as bass ostinato, while Rh plays syncopated motives . A slow and expressive piece , depicting a state of dream and tranquility. One of the longest history of traditional Chinese instruments appeared some 3000 years ago in Persia , the Erhu has a mahogany sound box covered with a snakeskin membrane and two steel strings , tuned in D and A, that are played with a horsehair bamboo bow. It belongs to a musical family known as the huqin, which includes many similar instruments made using regionally available materials, like bones, gourds and coconut shells, and used to accompany local opera. Enjoy Erhu plays a folk song.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I39IGoevN7A>

B. Bagatelle , op 8 , no 15- Playing Pipa under the moonlight . Mr Chiang used staccatos, repeated notes throughout to symbolize the pipa light and crisp sound. The word pipa describes the plectrum's plucking strokes: pi, “to play forward,” pa, “to play backward.” Developed during the Tang dynasty (618–907).

The pipa (琵琶) is a four-stringed Chinese musical instrument, belonging to the plucked category of instruments. Sometimes called the "Chinese lute", the instrument has a pear-shaped wooden body with a varying number of frets ranging from 12 to 31. The pipa is one of the most popular Chinese instruments and has been played for almost two thousand years in China.

Please enjoy “ Jasmine Flower “ by a Pipa Player

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZvRM6VGy3kE>

C. Bagatelle op 8, no 8- Gu Zheng . 6 octaves range from low C to high Ab, by just using basically Bb7th broken chord with some passing chromatic notes to effectively depict Gu Zheng's strumming effect. The zheng or gu zheng, is a Chinese plucked zither. The modern guzheng commonly has 21, 25, or 26 strings, is 64 inches long, and is tuned in a major pentatonic scale. It has a large, resonant soundboard made from Paulownia wood. Other components are often made from other woods for structural or decorative reasons.

Please enjoy “ Face like the Peach Blossom “ <https://youtu.be/MY48H2UfQ2w>

3. Li-Ly Chang , Nature Garden 2023. I am always inspired by nature and the little animals in it. Their motion has given me emotions. So I wrote Suite “ Nature Garden ” to celebrate this year's webinar “ Asian Composer music “. Four pieces are "A Bunny Day, Flying Squirrels , Giant Caterpillar and Deer Ping Pong" as into the Four Seasons.

To celebrate New Year of the Rabbit 2023, it starts with “ A Bunny Day” with subtitles of Bunny Hops,(slur, accent), Bunny Hide (dotted rhythms) , Bonny Seek,(chromatic, staccato) and Bunny Lullaby (chromatic , LH rocking, finished softly); A Giant Caterpillar, A- a giant caterpillar was born in slower 4/4, B - it turns into a dancing butterfly in lively 3/4 , back to A ,



a giant caterpillar as a life circle , getting ready for another life adventure; Flying Squirrel, 2-note slur as they are gliding from tree to tree, some counterpoint as they are enjoying playing around with the autumn swirling leaves ; “ Deer Ping Pong” introduces Em, G, Am, D broken chords, some sequences, counterpoint , symbolize deer enjoying chasing each other in the winter woods .

Hope this vibrant garden will “spring “ you into the fruitful 2023.

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