

in the Wind and Snow,” and the poem “Self-Mocking” in both ancient and modern literary forms. His publications include “The Aesthetics and Musical Ideology of *Guqin* Performance during the Tang Dynasty” (published in Taipei), and the “*Guqin* Foundation Course” (Shanghai Music Publishing House).

Currently, Professor Li is a professor in the Central Conservatory of Music, Vice-President of the Beijing *Guqin* Research Association, President of the Chinese Orchestral Music Association *Guqin* Committee, a member of the China Musicians’ Association, an executive member of the International Cultural Exchange Center of China, a senior advisor to the North America *Guqin* Association, an advisor to the Youlan Qin Association of London, and the honorary president of the *Guqin* Association of Macau. In 2007, he was awarded the title of “Expert with Superb Contribution” by the State Council, a title that comes with a financial allowance. Subsequently, he was named “A Representative Inheritor for a National Intangible Cultural Heritage” for his *guqin* art. In June 2009, he received an award for his contributions to “Advancing the Protection of Intangible Culture.”



*Confucius Institute*

The Confucius Institute at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (CI-UHM) was established under the Center for Chinese Studies in 2006. It focuses on promoting Chinese language education in Hawai'i and the U.S. by building infrastructure through teacher training and materials development, supporting existing credit-bearing programs, and offering non-credit classes. It promotes Chinese culture by offering performances, distinguished lectures, conferences and symposia, and exhibitions. CI-UHM serves as a conduit between the PRC Ministry of Education and U.S. students and scholars, in offering information about Chinese government scholarships and fellowships to study short-term or for degrees at PRC universities, conducting the HSK Chinese language exam annually, and coordinating short-term study tours to China that are subsidized by the Hanban (Confucius Institute Headquarters). The CI-UHM also co-sponsors an annual summer language camp for high school students and concurrent teacher training institute, with major funding provided by the U.S. government's STARTALK program. For further information, visit <http://confuciusinstitutehawaii.org/>.



*Center for Chinese Studies*

The Center for Chinese Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (CCS-UHM) brings together 57 faculty and some 200 graduate students whose research primarily focuses on issues related to China. UHM offers about 150 Chinese Studies courses in 20+ departments and professional schools, leading to BA degrees in two departments, MAs in 11 departments, and PhDs in nine departments. The Center coordinates financial support for students and faculty; organizes conferences, lectures, and symposia; publishes a quarterly online journal of reviews called *China Review International*; and supports specific research and publications projects. The Center receives support from the U.S. Department of Education through the National Resource Center for East Asia program, and from the PRC Ministry of Education through the Confucius Institute program. For further information, visit <http://chinesestudies.hawaii.edu/>

## *A Lecture Demonstration of Guqin Music* Performed by Li Xiangting



李  
祥  
霆  
古  
琴  
演  
奏  
會

September 28, 7:30 p.m.  
Orvis Auditorium, Music Department, UHM

## Program

*Liushui* 流水 [Flowing water]

*Yiguren* 忆故人 [Remembering an old friend]

*Guyuan* 古怨 [Melancholy thoughts of the past]

*Youlan* 幽兰 [Secluded orchid]

*Jiukuang* 酒狂 [Drunkenness]

*Ao'ai* 欸乃 [Fisherman's song]

## Intermission

*Meihua sannong* 梅花三弄 [Three variations on the theme of a plum blossom]

Improvisation based on a given theme 命题即兴演奏 [*guqin*]

Improvisation based on a given theme 命题即兴演奏 [*xiao*-vertical flute]

Lyric poetry recitation and improvisation 诗词即兴演奏

Lyric poetry recitation and improvisation 诗词即兴演奏

*Guanglingsan* 广陵散 [a melody from Guangling]



The *guqin* 古琴, 'ancient string instrument,' is a seven-stringed plucked zither. Having a history of more than 3,000 years, the *guqin* is China's oldest stringed instrument. The *guqin* was a symbol of Chinese high culture through its association with the literati and cultural elite. Detached from the vernacular musical world, the *guqin*'s hermitic existence was largely due to the fact that playing the *guqin* was considered an act of contemplation and a process of self-purification, which could eventually lead one to spiritual enlightenment because of its association with Confucian philosophy, Daoist mystical symbolism, and Buddhist teaching.

In 2004, UNESCO proclaimed *guqin* music as an Intangible Cultural Heritage. *Guqin* music is serene, meditative, and soulful, and often consists of subtle changes in tone-color. The tonal quality of the *guqin* is so exquisite and culturally significant that Confucius considered *guqin* music to be the sound of antiquity, an exemplar of the ideals of a harmonious world. The earliest *guqin* music can be dated to the 5th century, and many *guqin* handbooks have been produced throughout the centuries. *Guqin* music has experienced a revival since the 1980s.

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**Li Xiangting**, of Manchu ethnicity, is originally from Liaoning province. Born in Liaoyuan City, Li is an expert on the *guqin* and *dongxiao* (Chinese flute), as well as being an expert in poetry, calligraphy, and painting. He began learning the *guqin* under the tutelage of the famous player Zha Fuxi, and Chinese painting from Pu Xuezhai and Pan Su in 1957. In 1958, he was accepted into the Conservatory of Music (CCM) to study *guqin* under Wu Jinlüe. After graduating in 1963, he began teaching at CCM. In March 1989, he accepted a fellowship from Cambridge University to research *guqin* improvisation and from 1990–1994 began to lecture on *guqin* and *dongxiao* as at the Music Department of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.

Since 1963, more than 500 students from China and overseas have studied *guqin* under Professor Li Xiangting. Besides performing in China, Li has staged over 40 performances in countries including the USA, UK, Germany, Japan, Australia, Netherlands, Switzerland, Finland, Austria, Italy, Singapore, and New Zealand. These include recitals at the "Autumn Festival of Paris" in 1986, and the Edinburgh International Film Festival in 2003. He has also lectured at various universities, such as Cambridge, Oxford, and the University of California, Berkeley. The recital he held in 1982 at the Oriental Music Festival in Durham, UK, was the first of its kind in the history of the *guqin*. Another recital he gave in 1992 at the De Laville Theatre in Paris (with a seating capacity of 1000) attracted a full-house audience, making it the largest ever attendance for a *guqin* recital. Since 2004, he has taken part in many significant performances playing the rare "Jiaoxiaohuanpei" *guqin*, which was made in the Tang Dynasty (756 AD) and later restored by He Zuoru. Radio and television stations in China and radio stations in France and the UK have broadcast a number of programs featuring his *guqin* music. Many influential films and TV dramas, like *Sons of the East*, *Figure*, *Backstage*, *Music Life*, *Masters*, and *The Elite* have broadcast special programs on his works.

Professor Li has recorded albums at home and abroad, including "The Art of Li Xiangting's *Guqin* Performance" (Radio France), "Youju" (ROI Productions LTD), "Li Xiangting" (Hugo Record Company), "Sleeping Lotus" (U.S. Real Music record company), and "Poetry of the Tang People," "Poetry of the Song People," and "Ancient Cadence from Yuanqu" (China Record Corporation). He has also cooperated with American artists in the improvisation of "Tao of Healing," and "Tao of Peace" (Soundings of the Planet record company), and numerous cassettes and video tapes. He was involved in the musical arrangement for the art education film and television drama "The Courtship of the Phoenix," and the TV specials "The Melody and Lyrics of *Guqin* Music" and "An Appreciation of Famous Chinese Melodies," which were all broadcast by China Central Television. He also composed the entry on "*qin*" (a class of instruments which includes the zither) for the "Encyclopedia of China."

Li's major written works include "A Brief Introduction to the Art of *Guqin* Music," "The Artistry of Zha Fuxi's Performances on the *Guqin*," "The Artistry of Wu Jinglüe's Performances on the *Guqin*," "An Outline for Research into Improvisation in *Guqin* Performance," "An Outline for the Basics of Playing *Guqin*," and "Artistic Features of *Guqin* Music." His compositions include "Lonely Orchid" and "Ancient Bitterness," "Boat: Song of the Three Gorges," "Building a Road