



Mimi Jong
推廣中國藝術文化

[1][本報訊]匹茲堡女士(Mimi Jong)最近應邀參與奧斯汀多元文化聯盟首次大型活動，本次參與活動的有代表中國、印度、韓國和日本十多位藝術家，Mimi Jong的二胡演奏是音樂會上最受歡迎的節目之一。

Mimi Jong在匹茲堡南郊區開業經營建築師事務所多年，也擅長演奏二胡與中國笛，在中文學校擔任二胡指導老師。近年來經常致力於推廣中國藝術文化，將中國音樂和藝術家的表演介紹給匹茲堡民衆，同時她所設計的禪堂(Zendo)玩具屋，曾在賓州匹茲堡第25屆 Home and Garden 展覽中，參加“女童軍築夢”比賽，大受觀衆贊賞，獲得 People's Choice 大獎，她在匹茲堡華人圈享有盛譽。同時她也是本報忠實讀者和朋友(她曾經來過本報社)。她求學於德國攻讀建築。

(Mimi Jong)還和其他人一起組織一個名叫“Harmoni Zing”社團。她的主要目的是想增進東方的藝術和西方藝術之間的瞭解和互相交流與學習，之後能創新一格，成爲美國獨有的文化風格，這是一件非常賞心悅目的事。

MELODY OF DRAGON DESCRIPTION OF INSTRUMENTS

Melody of Dragon is a Chinese musical ensemble in which four virtuoso musicians play the Dizi (Chinese bamboo flute), Yangqin (hammered dulcimer), Ruan (plucking stringed instrument), Erhu (two string fiddle), Xun (blowing instrument) and Guqin (seven string zither).

Mr. Chen Tao, ensemble conductor, will play the Dizi and the Xun. The dizi is a transverse bamboo flute with six finger holes, one blowhole and an extra membrane hole. The combination of the bamboo tube vibrating and the reed membrane are responsible for the instrument's bright, piercing tones. It is a most important wind instrument used in all genres of folk music and songs.

The Xun is a blowing instrument found in China's primitive society. The imitation of bird and animal sounds by the ancestors explains a possible reason for its coming existence. It was used to attract wild animals for hunting and gradually it turned into a melodious instrument on which tunes can be played. The xuns found in primitive society were of various shapes including an oval shaped one that was 7000 years old and an olive shaped one with an estimated history of 6000 years.

The Yangqin, played Ms. LiLi-Quin, is a hammered dulcimer and is found in many countries worldwide including Europe, the Americas, Asia and the Middle East. Its appearance in China occurred sometime during the Ming dynasty (1368-1644) where it became known as the Yangqin and quickly became absorbed into Chinese traditional music. It is appreciated for its ability to blend easily with other instruments, to support vocalists and as a solo instrument capable of great range of nuance and expression.

The Erhu, played by Mr. Wang Tien-Jon, is a two stringed fiddle, most commonly used in folk ensembles and is the principal bowed string instrument in the modern Chinese orchestra. Its

tonal range is from medium to high register. A long, straight stem is attached to a resonator covered with a snakeskin, which serves as the soundboard. The instrument is held in an upright position on the lap. As the horsehair bow passes between the strings, the fingers press inward or outward to make the instrument sound. The absence of a fingerboard allows the performance of a variety of vibratos and slides important to articulation in Chinese music.

The Guqin will be played Mr. Liu Li and is an ancient seven string zither. It is about 130 centimeters in length, about 20 centimeters in

cultural lineage inherited from great qin players such as Confucius, Sima, Xiangru, Cai Yong, Ji Kang has never come to an end. The art of guqin has been absorbed and furthered by the traditional culture of the Chinese people and has spread across the world in recent years, The guqin has become to the West an (artistic) symbol of Oriental culture.

The Ruan, played by Mr. Liu Li, is a plucking string instrument, having the appearance of a simple lute. The range of the traditional four-stringed ruan was narrow and its scale incomplete. After improvement, the head, neck and frame of the sound box are now made with cigar-box wood and the finger board is attached to the neck. Wood from the phoenix tree is used to make the front and back covers of the body, in which seventeen to twenty-four pins are positioned and set to achieve equal temperament. The ruan was fond as early as the reign of Emperor Wu in the Han dynasty 140-87 BC. It was present during the Han, East Jin and Tang dynasties. From there it passed on to Japan.

The GaoHu is a Chinese bowed string instrument used in playing traditional



width and about 5 centimeters in height. The upper part of the sound box is usually made with wood from the phoenix tree and the wood of the bottom part from the Chinese catalpa tree. The whole thing is then polished with lacquer. At one end of the qin is a short wooden stand for supporting the strings of the instrument, under which are qinzhens (tuning knobs) for regulating the pitches of the strings. On the upper part of the instrument, there are thirteen hui (round-dotted marks) indicating the position of particular pitches. The seven strings of the guqin are set according to thickness with the thickest on the outside, mostly tuned according to the pentatonic scale. It has become an instrument of Chinese scholars down through the ages. The

Guangdong Cantonese music and operas. It belongs to the hugin family of instruments, together with the zhonghu, erhu, banhu, jinghu, and sihu, its name means "high pitched huqin". It has two strings and its soundbox is covered on the front (playing) end with snakeskin. The gaoHu was developed in the 1920s by the musician and composer Lü Wencheng (1898-1981) and is now the leading instrument of Cantonese music and opera ensembles. The gaoHu is similar in construction to the erhu but is tuned a fourth higher, to G4 and D5, and is played with the body held between the knees. Well known pieces for the gaoHu include Bu Bu Gao (Higher Step By Step) and Ping Hu Qiu Yue (Autumn Moon On Calm Lake).

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