Embracing our Roots to build solidarity

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Concert

May 15 | 4 PM

Arizona Arts YouTube Channel
Embracing Our Roots to Build Solidarity
Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Concert

**American Premiere Time:** May 15, 2021, 4 pm – 6 pm, Arizona Time

**Asian Premiere Time:** May 15, 2021, 4 pm – 6 pm, Beijing Time

**Viewing Platforms:**
American Premiere: [Arizona Arts YouTube Channel](https://www.youtube.com.Channel)
Asian Premiere: [Purple Bamboo Ensemble University of Arizona](https://www.purplebamboouaaz.com)
Program

Part I. Embracing Our Roots

1. **Guqin and Xiao: Pale Yellow Willow**  
   Music & Lyrics by Jiang Kui (1155–1211)  
   Peiyou Zhang, guqin  
   Renjie Song, xiao  
   Yves Seban, lyrics recitation

2. **Gayageum: Gayageum Sanjo**  
   Eun Sun Jung, 12-string gayageum

3. **Speech: We Celebrate Your Success**  
   East Asian Studies at the University of Arizona  
   Albert Welter  
   Professor and Head in the Department of East Asian Studies

4. **Shakuhachi: Murasaki Reibo**  
   Ikkyu Zenji (1394–1491)  
   Paul Amiel, shakuhachi

5. **Indian Dance: The Lotus**  
   Nita Mally, choreography/dance

6. **Tabla: Peshkaar**  
   Shreya Iyer, tabla

7. **Speech: APIDA UArizona Students**  
   Asian Pacific American Student Affairs (APASA)  
   Kenny Importante, Dianne Saez, Harley-Quinn Alonzo, Noah Huang

8. **Vibraphone & Piano:**  
   Ho Zhanhao (b. 1933) & Chen Gang (b. 1935)  
   *Butterfly Lovers’ Concerto* (Adagio cantabile)  
   arr. Guan Shengyou  
   Kevin Cross, vibraphone  
   Joshua Tan, piano
9. **Hawaii Dance**: *He Inoa No Kalakaua*
   Halau Hula O Ualani

**Part II. Building Solidarity**

10. **Harp Ensemble**: *Ceili*  
    Traditional Celtic Tune  
    arr. Chiara Coombs

    Harp Fusion Ensemble  
    Michelle Gott, Yvonne Cox, Xiaodi Xu  
    Victoria Gonzalez, Hunter Ackerley, Sarah Carruth

11. **Speech**: *People are Born Good*  
    Pima County Public Library  
    Xuan Zhou  
    Assistant Manager at Eckstrom-Columbus Library

12. **Voice & Guitar**: *Poema*  
    Mario Melfi (1905–1970)  
    arr. Maxi Larrea  
    Lyrics by Eduardo Bianco

    Duo Telar  
    Teresa Tam, voice  
    Maxi Larrea, guitar

13. **Piano and Dance**: *Thalassaki mou* (*My Little Sea*)  
    Yannis Constantinidis (1903–1984)

    Eleni-Persefoni Stavrianou, piano  
    Jared Baker, choreography/dance

14. **Speech**: *We Have More in Common than Differences*  
    National REACH Coalition  
    Charmaine Ruddock  
    Project Director of Bronx Health REACH at the Institute for Family Health

15. **Voice & Guitar**: *Alma mía*  
    María Grever (1885-1951)  
    arr. Zapién, Guevara, Barraza

    Carlos Zapién, voice  
    Edwin Guevara-Gutiérrez/Misael Barraza-Díaz, guitar
16. Guzheng and Guitar: *Tahhiyya li Ossoulna (Ancestor’s Song)*

Sérgio Assad (b. 1952)

arr. Bin Hu and Jing Xia

Duo Chinoiserie

Bin Hu, guitar

Jing Xia, guzheng

**Program Notes**

*Pale Yellow Willow*

*Pale Yellow Willows* was one of the 17 Ci Songs composed by the Southern Song dynasty poet, Jiang Kui (1155-1221). Jiang Kui wrote a preface to this song:

"I stayed at Ho-fei in the south of the city, west of Red Magnolia Bridge. The streets were mournful - different from Left of the River (South of Yanzi River in Kiangsu and Anhui Provinces). Only the colour of the willows lining the streets, fresh and green, moved one to pity. Accordingly, I composed this piece to relieve my feelings while a guest." — translated by Laurence Picken (1910-2007)

*Gayageum Sanjo*

*Sanjo* is perhaps the most representative Korean instrumental genre. The word sanjo (in Sino-Korean) means “scattered (san) melody (jo)”. This piece is an improvised multi-movement solo genre. Eun Sun presents the gayageum sanjo of the lineage of the late Master Kim Byŏg-ho (1910-1968).

*Murasaki Reibo*

"Murasaki Reibo” is traditionally attributed to the eccentric Zen Buddhist monk Ikkyu Zenji. The simplicity of the piece, a characteristic of the oldest honkyoku, allows the player a very wide range of emotional expression allowing insight into her own character.

*The Lotus*

Lotus represents a survivor, inspiring us to have the power to overcome difficulties in life as it makes us learn lessons on the way towards “the surface.” The perfectly formed leaves of it symbolize our potential. As the lotus begins to emerge, it symbolizes never giving up, and never quitting even when things seem difficult.

*Peshkaar*

This is a traditional, slow moving, improvisational piece that has a meditative element to it which makes us focus on the sounds of the instrument as a means of centering our attention and delving deeper within.

*Butterfly Lovers’ Concerto*

This work is based upon an ancient Chinese legend telling of two lovers, Zhu Yingtai and Liang Shanbo. It is a love tragedy since they were unable to get married. In the end, they became a pair
of butterflies that means their two souls would never be separated again. The music reflects the different chapters of this story and also contains themes derived from Chinese folk tunes.

**He Inoa No Kalakaua**
*He Inoa No Kalakauka* is derived in large part from “Mele Inoa no Kalakaua” (Name Song for Kalakaua), a traditional Hawaiian chant.

**Ceili**
*Ceili* is a traditional Celtic tune arranged by Chiara Coombs, a former member of the Harpfusion ensemble.

**Poema**
*Poema* is an old traditional tango from Argentina. It is a romantic tango with a beautiful melody that musicians interpret in their own style, respecting the traditional melody but adding some modern harmonies and new textures. This song is a very popular tango dance song, a favorite in the San Francisco tango community where their duo was formed.

**Thalassaki mou**
“Thalassaki mou” (My Little Sea) is a Greek popular folk tune in Greece. The dancer explores the connection, or a lack thereof, between an individual and their roots (their homeland).

**Alma mia**
María Grever was the first female Mexican composer to achieve international acclaim. This beautiful song represents the longing for another soul like itself, and what would happen if that came true.

**Tahhiyya li ossoulina**
As one of the Assad Brothers’ Grammy Award-winning pieces, this piece is about the impression of their ancestor’s song. The whole piece is filled with Middle Eastern and Arabic flavors.

**About the Artists**

**Peiyou Zhang** has been playing the guqin for more than 20 years. She has participated in numerous guqin performances and activities, and given lectures about the guqin at many renowned universities. As the president of the New York Qin Society, Peiyou is devoted to Guqin music reconstruction, composition, promotion, and performance both solo and ensemble. [www.peiyouqin.com](http://www.peiyouqin.com)

**Renjie Song** was born in Xi’an, China. He graduated from Nanjing Southeast University School of Medicine and its graduate school, then immigrated to the U.S. in the mid-1980s, and now lives in New York State. He has loved Chinese traditional culture and art since young, so he taught himself the Xiao flute and Qin and practiced Tai Chi for many years.
Yves Seban lives in New York and is a semi-retired dilettante with a taste for music from all over the world. He has also performed major literary book public readings, such as James Joyce’s Finnegans Wake. His Podcast (in progress): https://soundcloud.com/yves-seban

Eun Sun Jung is a gayageum player and a multi award-winning performer. She actively engages in performing across countries and has performed at the J. F. Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. and the Philadelphia Museum of Art. She also has held a solo recital in New York City and performed at various venues in Manhattan.

Paul Amiel, a native of Los Angeles, is a composer and performer on a variety of instruments in several musical traditions. While living in Japan in 2008 he studied shakuhachi, the Japanese bamboo flute, under Iida Katsutoshi. In 2014 he started the Empty Bamboo Shakuhachi Practice Circle in Tucson, Arizona, to encourage meditative musical practice.

Shreyas Iyer has been learning the tabla since he was 7 years old. His innate passion and dedication to learning this complex art form have been furthered by the gurus he met. He has accompanied several local and international artists at venues that span Arizona and decided to spread his knowledge and passion for this instrument through classes and workshops.

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/PhoenixTabla
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/shreyasiyerphxtabla/

Nita Mallya is the Founder and Director of Sampradaya Dance of India. She is a Bharatanatyam dancer, choreographer and a teacher. She has been teaching in Phoenix, AZ for over sixteen years and has performed widely in the United States, Australia, Canada, the Middle East and India.

Joshua Tan lives in Los Angeles, CA, and holds a DMA in piano performance from the University of Southern California; Kevin Cross lives in Tucson, AZ, and holds a DMA in percussion performance from the University of Arizona. The duo seeks to create music that resonates with listeners, composers, and performers alike: as a pleasing sound, emotionally, intellectually, socially, and historically.

Halau Hula O Ualani is a Polynesian group that has been studying and performing in Tucson since 1993. This diverse group of hula dancers, both wahine (women) and kane (men) have dedicated their lives to learning the hula. Some have been with the group since 1993, others join new every year.

Harpfusion Ensemble has become one of the most creative and exciting ensembles on the international concert stage. The group is known for its performances of arrangements and original compositions by members who are all University of Arizona students. Named for its unique blend of many different styles and cultures, this highly innovative harp ensemble has earned international respect for its inspiring performances.

Maxi Larrea is a guitarist, arranger, composer, and music educator from Rosario, Argentina. He is a specialist in Argentine popular music. He has performed multiple times at the World Tango
Championships in Buenos Aires. In 2015 he moved to the United States and recently relocated to Tucson, Arizona. www.maxilarrea.com

As an avid Argentine Tango dancer, Teresa Tam is beyond excited about her new voice and guitar duo with accomplished Argentine tango guitarist, arranger, and musical director Maxi Larrea. They are blending some of the most beautiful jazz and tango melodies with the harmonic complexity of these two rich genres to breathe new life into familiar songs.

Carlos Zapién is a Tucson-based musician, singer, pianist, cultural manager, and composer. He was born in Ciudad Obregón, Sonora. He studied piano and organ at the Conservatorio de Las Rosas in Morelia, Michoacán. In 2004 he obtained a degree in music from the University of Oregon, where he later obtained a master’s degree in 2006. He recently proposed a new interpretation of the Gregorian chant in an album titled The Beauty of Gregorian Chant.

Edwin Guevara-Gutierrez is a guitarist, composer, arranger, and director. He started at age three with his father at the National Conservatory of Colombia on guitar, composition, and direction. He won 67 awards and graduated from the Higher Conservatory of Music of the Liceo de Barcelona (Spain) with Guillem Pérez-Quer and magister in the symphonic direction from the National University of Colombia.

Misael Barraza-Diaz is one of the most outstanding Mexican guitarists of his generation. He graduated with a Master's in Music degree from the University of Arizona in 2014 and has received some of the highest awards such as the Music Advisory Board Graduate Distinguished Student Award. He is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of Arizona.

Founded in 2016, Duo Chinoiserie is a world-culture-inspired ensemble composed of a traditional Chinese instrument and a western instrument. Its repertoire embraces traditions from cultures across Eurasia and displays the interactions and similarities as well as the uniqueness and exoticism of different musical cultures. The communication between east and west promotes an intercultural artistic exchange for a more inclusive world. Jing Xia is an award-winning guzheng performer. Her captivating performing style has gained international acclaim. Bin Hu received an award from the Northern Trust Bank to record his all-Bach album with Eudora Records in Spain. https://www.duochinoiserie.com/

Concert Manager/Director: Jing Xia
Video Editor: Dafeng Zhuang, Jingwen Shi
Poster Designer: Shangning Yi, Kangping Wang
Program Editor: Bin Hu
Volunteers: Sohail Rajesh Daulat, La Riah Glasper
Acknowledgement

Harley-Quinn Alonzo (Asian Pacific American Student Affairs)
Susan Chan (Tucson Chinese Cultural Center)
Jennie Gubner (Applied Intercultural Arts Research, Graduate Interdisciplinary Program)
Chad Herzog (Arizona Arts Live)
Ange Hwang (Asian Media Access)
Kenny Importante (Asian Pacific American Student Affairs)
Martha Moore-Monroy (Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health)  Colin O’Donohoe (Pangean Orchestra)
Julia Pernet (Tucson Guitar Society)
Jennifer C. Post (Fred Fox School of Music)
Xiangdong Ren (All America Chinese Youth Federation)
MaryAnne Riodique (Asian Corporate & Entrepreneur Leaders)
Charmaine Ruddock (National REACH Coalition)
Dianne Saez (Asian Pacific American Student Affairs)
Andrew Schulz (College of Fine Arts)
Yvonne So (OCA-Greater Phoenix Chapter)
Albert Welter (East Asian Studies)
Lori Wiest (Fred Fox School of Music)
Xuan Zhou (Pima County Public Library)

Thank you for your contribution!