



SCHOOL OF MUSIC

**MTSU Chinese Music  
Ensemble**

**Songs Beneath the Silver Moon**

**Mei Han**  
*Director*

**Jingyi Zhan**  
*Visiting Scholar and Instructor*

Tuesday, November 25, 2025  
7:00 p.m.

T. Earl Hinton Music Hall, Wright Music Building

## Colorful Clouds Chasing the Moon 彩云追月

Ren Guang 任光, 1930s

Chinese music has been heavily influenced by Western classical music since the early 20th century. Music that used Western compositional idioms first appeared in clubs and concerts in metropolitan centers such as Shanghai and Guangzhou. Written in 1935, “Colorful Clouds Chasing the Moon” demonstrates the influence of Western music through its melody and instrumentation.

*Ensemble*

## Dry Thunder 旱天雷

Yan Laolie 严老烈, early 20th century

A Cantonese piece written by Yan Laolie, a composer and yangqin performer from Guangdong Province, this work demonstrates characteristic elements of Cantonese music such as contrasting moods, playfulness, and ornamentation. It depicts people rejoicing when they see clouds in the distance and hear rolls of thunder after a long drought.

*Pluck string ensemble*

## Autumn Moon Hanging on the Han Palace 汉宫秋月

Traditional

This is one of the most well-known compositions in the Shandong zheng style of northern China. The melody was developed upon baban (“eight beats”), a mother tune that serves as a compositional framework for many traditional Chinese instrumental works. Performers emphasize their left-hand string bending technique to create “moving tones,” an essential aesthetic in traditional Chinese Music.

*Zheng: Mei Han, Alana Greene, Elizabeth Carrier*

## Crescent Moon Over Ancient China 月儿弯弯照九州

Traditional

arr. by Zhu Changyao 朱昌耀

This is an orchestral arrangement of a popular folk song from Jiangsu province in central-southern China. The piece is known for its gentle, lyrical melody that evokes the calm beauty of a crescent moon shining over the country. Zhu Changyao's arrangement expands the song's expressive warmth, giving it a glowing, cinematic quality.

*Ensemble*

*Suona: Jake Capistrant*

## Autumn Moon Over the Calm Lake 平湖秋月

Lü Wencheng 吕文成

arr. Fu Huaqiang 傅华强, Sha Lijing 沙里晶

This is another classic Cantonese style composition. The theme is associated with the West Lake in Hangzhou. With its flowing and lyrical melodies, the piece paints a serene scene of moonlight reflecting on still waters in early autumn, evoking a sense of quiet elegance, nostalgia, and poetic tranquility.

*Pipa: Jingyi Zhan, zheng: Mei Han*

## Moon Over the Mountain Pass 关山月

Traditional, arr. by Mei Han

Su Wu was a statesman from the Chinese Han Dynasty (206 BCE–220 CE). He was captured by a northern tribe in a battle. They exiled him to Siberia for 19 years, to live as a shepherd. This piece depicts his longing for his homeland.

*Xiao: Jake Capistrant, dizi: Jakob Young,*

*sheng: Henry Wright, pipa: Jingyi Zhan, zheng: Mei Han*

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# Middle Tennessee State University School of Music

Dr. Leah Lyons, Dean, College of Liberal Arts

Dr. Jennifer Snodgrass, Director

Dr. Chris Combest, Assistant Director

Dr. Christopher Dye, Assistant Director

Mr. Mark Britt, Piano Technician

**MTSU Chinese Music Ensemble is open to MTSU students  
and is always accepting new members!**

**Rehearsals each Monday and Wednesday  
4:10–5:30 p.m.**

For registration, contact Mei Han at [mei.han@mtsu.edu](mailto:mei.han@mtsu.edu)

**Spring 2026: MUEN 3760, CRN 82212**

**MTSU Center for Chinese Music and Culture**

503 E. Bell St., Suite 1600 | Murfreesboro, TN 37132

**Website:** [chinesemusic.mtsu.edu](http://chinesemusic.mtsu.edu) | **Facebook:** [facebook.com/CCMCMTSU/](https://facebook.com/CCMCMTSU/)

**YouTube:** [youtube.com/channel/UC9HLlor-f3wuKK3P3vS8luw](https://youtube.com/channel/UC9HLlor-f3wuKK3P3vS8luw)

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