

**MIDDLE
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STATE UNIVERSITY®

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 Currier

Crescent Moon Over Ancient China 月几弯弯照九州

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

A Xi Dance 阿细跳月

Traditional

Axí Tiaoyue, often translated as “The Axi People Dance Under the Moon,” is a lively and celebratory piece rooted in the music and dance traditions of the Axi people in Yunnan, southwest China. The work draws inspiration from the community’s famous “Moon Dance,” a festive gathering where villagers dance in a circle under the full moon to mark important occasions. Rhythmic vitality is at the heart of the piece, featuring driving drum patterns, energetic melodic motifs, and a buoyant tempo that captures the communal spirit of the dance.

Fernleaf Hedge Bamboo in the Moonlight 月光下的凤尾竹

Shi Guangnan
施光南, 1979

A well-known hulusi melody of Dai ethnic group, this composition portrays the enchantment of the sound of the hulusi wafting through the bamboo grove under a bright moon.

Ensemble
Chime drum: William Sprayberry

Blossoms and Full Moon 花好月圆

Huang Yijun 黄贻钧1935
arr. Peng Xiuwen 彭修文

This 20th-century classic for Chinese orchestra features cheerful melodies and lively rhythms, portraying joyful scenes of people singing and dancing beneath a bright moon, surrounded by flowers. It evokes a timeless sense of harmony, togetherness, and the quiet beauty of shared celebration.

Ensemble

MTSU Chinese Music Ensemble Members

- Elizabeth Currier: zheng, percussion
Graduate Teaching Assistant
Harp Performance, M.M., 2027

Alana Greene: zheng, percussion
Theory-Composition and Japanese, 2026

Ani Heng: pipa
Audio Production, 2027

Benjamin Anderson: sheng, hulusi
Music Education, 2027

Henry Wright: sheng, hulusi, daruan
Theory-Composition and Euphonium
Performance, 2027
- Jaida Anthony: dizi, hulusi
Music Education, 2027

Jakob Young: dizi, hulusi
Music Education, 2026

Kylei Loh: zhongruan, daruan
Music Education, 2028

William Sprayberry: percussion
Video and Film Production, Live Production, 2025

Guest musicians
Jake Capistrant: suona, hulusi, xiao, xun,
and zhongruan
Bo Capistrant: pipa and zhongruan

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

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 | **Facebook:** facebook.com/CCMCMTSU/

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