



Tranquil Notes

July 2012

WELCOME NOTE

We have been very busy since the last newsletter and are excited to bring new programs and events to the Studio. I just returned from a trip to Shanghai to visit with Prof. Dai Xiaolian at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. We discussed teaching guqin both here in the United States and in China. She is thrilled that we have a growing interest in the guqin here in the States. Her support of the Studio has always been greatly appreciated and on this visit she had another surprise for us. Students and Members of Tranquil Resonance Studio will have the opportunity to travel with me to Shanghai to participate in a Master Class and Competition for Guqin next year. We are all very excited about this. More information will be available soon. We hope to continue introducing and passing on the guqin tradition to the greater community.



David Wong
Executive Director

TEA NOTE

Introduction to Phoenix Oolongs



Phoenix oolongs (dancong) is the hidden secret of the Chinese tea world. Even within China, this tea has only recently been discovered by tea lovers. Production and availability of good quality Phoenix oolongs is low and prices are high. The literal translation of “dancong” means single bush or single tree. It is grown in Chao-

An township in the southern province of Guangdong, China. The history of Phoenix

oolongs dates back at

least 800 years, with many existing tea trees over 400 years old. Grown on the slopes of Phoenix mountain, a once active volcano, this is one of the teas where traditional methods of growing and firing are still kept alive. Good quality Phoenix oolongs are made from leaves

harvested from trees grown over 3000 feet above sea level, oxidized then rolled into the characteristic long twisted tea leaves with hues of yellow to purple. The teas when brewed, are naturally fragrant and are reflected in the names of many Phoenix oolongs such as “Honey Orchid”, “Osmanthus”, “Almond”, “Jasmine”, etc... Although fragrant, this tea packs a punch when brewed in the Chaozhou style, similar to the espresso form of brewing coffee. This is a favorite of the TSR team and is a top recommendation for those looking for a naturally fragrant tea.



CULTURE NOTE

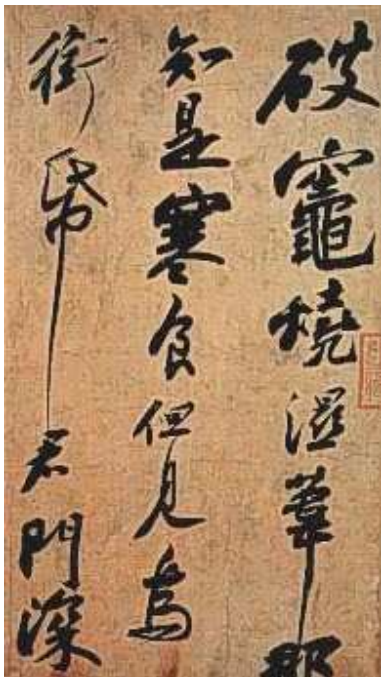
Experience the arts and hobbies of the ancient Chinese scholar. Join us for our August Yaji, **“Poetry, Guqin, and Tea,”** on **Sunday, August 19, 2012 at 2pm.**

We are very excited to present our August Yaji, entitled “Poetry, Guqin, and Tea.” All three of these were the favorite hobbies and pastimes of the ancient Chinese scholars. During this yaji we will showcase traditional tea poetry recitation with gongfu tea ceremony and music. Traditional Chinese poetry was put to music and sung or verses were recited with music matching the expressive feeling of the poem. Join our musicians and local poet, Clara Hsu, as they bring together guqin music and poetry.

In anticipation of our August Yaji we would like to introduce one of the poets whose poetry will be featured in the Yaji.

Su Shi 蘇軾 (1037-1101)

Probably best known by his pseudonym, Su Dongpo 蘇東坡, a name taken from his farm, Su was not only one of China's most influential poets he was also an accomplished painter, calligrapher, guqin player, and tea lover. Born into a scholarly family in Sichuan, he passed the civil service exam at a young age and then served in the imperial court. His political career was filled with setbacks and banishments due to his outspoken criticism of high-ranking officials and bureaucratic policies, yet it is these political setbacks and his unrestrained personality that enriched his poetic style and artistic expression. Su mastered almost all the styles of traditional poetry, but it is his *shi* 詩 and *ci* 詞 form that remained some of his most popular and influential works. Within his 2400 *shi* and 350 *ci* poems, many use the guqin or tea as the subject, expressing his love for both. The Shu (Sichuan) school of guqin still claim to be influenced by his works, including texts like the “*Za Shu Qin Shi* 雜書琴事.”



Su's tendency to be unrestrained characterized his style and outlook on life. Always optimistic, even during times of adversity, Su sought to enjoy his life as much as possible, taking the bad with the good and just running with it. This philosophy manifested itself in his artistic expression as well, comparing writing poetry with painting, stating that both forms should, like water, run spontaneously, flowing wherever they should go and stopping wherever they should stop. Su also believed that tea brewing could not be fully appreciated until water is personally collected from a spring and tea is brewed in the wild on a moonlit night, when the sound of an ancient temple bell is tolling in the distant. Su's ideas of being unrestrained and carefree, combined with his appreciation of nature, enriches our outlook on poetry, music, art, and tea!

EVENT NOTE

Yachats Music Festival - July 13-15, 2012

The thirty-second Yachats Music Festival will take place July 13-15th in Yachats, Oregon. The Yachats Music Festival is the summer classical festival of California-based Four Seasons Concerts. Music concerts are scheduled at the Yachats Community Presbyterian Church, 360 West 7th Street in Yachats at:

Friday July 13th – 8:00pm

Saturday July 14th – 8:00pm

Sunday July 15th – 2:00pm and 8:00pm

The Festival presents 24 internationally acclaimed artists who give 24 separate and mesmerizing performances during each concert. David Wong will be performing guzheng during the Festival and giving a workshop, "Guzheng – Folk Songs from China's Past and Present" on Friday, July 13, 2012 at 1:00pm. For more information and ticket sales, please check the links below.

http://fsarts.org/?page_id=22

<http://www.yachats.info/ymf/index.htm>

A Cultured Gathering – Poetry, Guqin, & Tea



Sunday, August 19, 2012

2:00 PM

Tickets: \$20

Tranquil Resonance Studio

1352 Mason St.

San Francisco CA 94133

雅集

Cultured Gatherings in ancient China provided friends, scholars, artists, poets, and family a chance to share music, tea, and art.

Poetry, Guqin, and Tea have been hobbies of the Chinese scholars for centuries. Poets would recite their new verses to guqin melodies while tea is served to friends.

Come join us as we serve tea to music and poetry!

Featuring -

Clara Hsu, local poet

Members of Tranquil Resonance Studio

Seating is limited so please purchase your ticket as soon as possible

For tickets: info@tranquilresonance.com or call 415-829-2234

