



Tranquil Notes

January 2015

WELCOME NOTE

Happy New Year!

2015 promises to be an exciting year for Tranquil Resonance Studio. We have special guests visiting us and great events already scheduled for the year, including our annual student recital. Keep posted to learn when the events happen.

Our Director, David Wong, returned from the Modern Music for Guqin Festival, held at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. He attended three concerts and one lecture, all showcasing the new compositions and the current direction that Guqin is moving towards, all very exciting! Old masters like Gong Yi and Li Xiangting also performed their modern compositions and even master Qin maker Ni Shiyun was in attendance. Check out our website for more photos.



Prof. Li Xiangting with David



Master Ni Shiyun with David



Zhang He (Zhang Ziqian's grandson)
with Lu Xiaozhi playing the Se



Prof. Dai Xiaolian with David

EVENT NOTE

“Women Qin Players”

A presentation by Yip Mingmei

Date/Time: Sunday, February 15, 2015
6:30pm

Location: Tranquil Resonance Studio
1352 Mason St.
San Francisco, CA 94133

ADMISSION: \$10 includes tea and snacks

Among the cultured elite of China, the Qin 琴 was considered the most refined form of music, which should be played only by classically educated scholars. It was one of the four literati arts; the others being *qi* 棋, or *weiqi* 围棋 (Go in Japanese), *shu* 书, calligraphy, and *hua* 画, painting.



Although supposedly reserved for men, there are many instances in which gentry women excelled in the four arts. Freedom of women to pursue these arts, as well as other forms of learning and artistic activity depended on social factors such as class, wealth, family background, tradition, historical period, as well as the obvious individual factors such as talent and personality.

However, while some gentry women were free to develop their artistic talents, the qin was also played by women of lower social status – especially prostitutes and actresses, despite the disapproval of the literati because of the supposed lofty nature of the qin.

In this lecture, I will discuss women's relationship with the qin and also their position in the male-dominated qin culture. I will consider women qin players according to five categories: gentry women, court ladies, prostitutes, nuns, and legendary figures.

About the presenter

Author and Guqin musician, Yip Mingmei studied guqin with Master Tsar Deyun in Hong Kong. Besides being a distinguished guqin musician and scholar, with numerous books published in multiple languages, she is an accomplished fiction writer, children's book writer, and scholar of traditional Chinese culture. She will be sharing traditional qin music, qin songs and her writing with us during this gathering. Do not miss this night of music and culture!



Lunar New Year Celebration

"Guqin: Ancient Music of the Chinese Literati"

Date/Time: Tuesday, February 24, 2015 10:30am

Location: CCSF Chinatown/North Beach Center
Room 402
808 Kearny St.
San Francisco, CA 94108

Date/Time: Thursday, February 26, 2015 10:15am

Location: City College Downtown Center Library
Room 821
88 Fourth Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

FREE ADMISSION

One of China's oldest string instruments, the guqin has long been associated with the ancient scholars. The music of the Qin would have been heard in the literati studios, Buddhist monasteries, and Taoist temples, sounds that inspire mental cultivation and spiritual meditation. The guqin expresses the inner ideas and emotions of the musician, with pieces that paint vivid landscapes and the beauty of nature. Poems and Philosophical ideals can also be heard through the seven strings of the guqin as well as regional differences that developed throughout Chinese history. The music of the Qin connects past and present and gives us a glimpse into the life of the ancient Chinese scholar!