



# Tranquil Notes

February 2015

WELCOME NOTE

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## Year of the Sheep



2015 brings a new year of activities and excitement for us at Tranquil Resonance Studio.

This is the year of the Wood Goat, a year that combines the practicality and slow growth of Wood with Goat's creative, social, and emotionally sensitive nature.

Here at Tranquil

Resonance Studio we are in the process of working with new artists to create new programs for the studio and more Cultured Gatherings to introduce even more aspects of traditional Chinese Culture.

We hope to see all our old friends and meet new ones at our upcoming events.

Looking forward to sharing music and culture with you in this year of the Horse!

Painting by Zhao Mengfu (1254-1322), *Sheep and Goat*

## EVENT NOTE

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### “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 she will discuss women's relationship with the qin and also their position in the male-dominated qin culture, consider women qin players according to five categories: gentry women, court ladies, prostitutes, nuns, and legendary figures, and perform guqin pieces taught to her by her teacher master Tsar Deyun.

#### Performance Program:

Drinking Spree 酒狂

Confucius Reading the Book of Change 孔子读易

The Way That Can Be Named Is Not The Eternal Way 道可道非常道 (with singing, from the Book of Change)

Three Variations of the Plum Blossom 梅花三弄

Evening Song of the Drunken Fisherman 醉渔唱晚

Flowing Water 流水

Immortals of the Magpie Bridge 鹊桥仙 (with singing)

Evening Cry of the Crow 乌夜啼

#### 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!