



(LAS 7202)

LOTUS LANTERN THE CHINESE CLASSICAL ORCHESTRA

THE MUSICIANS:

Pipa - Lui Pui Yuen

Ti - Lau Chuk

Ta Ren & Cheng - Wong Yuet-Sang

Sheng - Shau Ming

Yang Chen - Ng Ka-Huei

Ta-Hu - Lam Yu

Percussion - Li Liu-Chung

Erh-Hu - Chan Ching Chi and Ng Tai Kong

In such parts of the world as Hong King and Taiwan, one means by which the ancient classical music of China is kept alive and cherished is through the musically gifted families that pass along techniques and arts to the upcoming generations. Prominent among such is the family of Lui Pui Yuen, a resident of Hong Kong, who, like his brother Lui Tsun Yuen, is an expert classical Pipa player. Lui Tsun Yuen (now residing in the United States) has recorded for Lyricord his Chinese Classical Masterpieces for Pipa and Chin (LL 7182) and Exotic Music of Ancient China (LL 7122). The classical ensemble formed by Lui Pui Yuen and eight outstanding musicians plays authentic Chinese classical music on traditional instruments of their ancestral heritage. A teacher at

the Hong Kong Academy of Music, Lui Pui Yuen numbers among his pupils all the First-Prize winners in the annual Pipa competitions sponsored by the School Music Festival of Hong Kong. He is associated with other schools as well, and also provides film music accompaniment for Hong Kong's leading filmmakers. The instruments of the orchestra are the two-stringed violin (Erh-Hu), bamboo flute (Ti), and a larger two-stringed guitar (Ta-Ren). The Yang-Chen, which could be described as a butterfly-shaped harp or dulcimer, is played by striking it with two bamboo sticks. There is also the sixteen-stringed zither called the Cheng, and the Sheng, which is a bamboo mouth organ of curious shape. The Ta-Hu, a larger-size two-stringed guitar tuned to A, D, E and lower A. This instrument probably originated in Central Asia and was brought into China before the Tang Dynasty. No plectrum is used. Lui Pui Yuen, as well as being the leader of the group, is the pipa soloist for this recording.

TRACKS:

1. DANCE MUSIC OF HUA T'IAO TZU - 2:51

This light and spirited folk song originated in the An Hui Province. It portrays the light heartedness and swift movements of Hua T'iao Tzu, a coolie, as he goes about his chores, carrying heavy loads.

2. LOTUS LANTERN - 7:04

The lotus flower symbolizes the virtues of the scholar. It conveys the beauty and purity of the flower, which is much loved by the Chinese.

3. BOW DANCE - 5:05

A melody in the military style, it is a heroic story of the Tai Ping Empire. (A.D. 1850-A.D. 1864)

4. PRELUDE TO DANCE AND SONG - 3:34

A solo for the Pipa, this work was composed by the late Liu Tien-Hua who contributed many works of great distinction to the repertoire of both Pipa and Erh-Hu compositions.

5. HORSEBACK RIDING IN A SPRING FIELD - 2:36

In this version of a Cantonese piece, it is spring and flowers are blooming. The melody is full of the joyous spirit inspired by riding through spring fields inhaling their fragrance.

6. THE DANCE OF HAPPINESS - 3:46

The music that accompanies an ancient dance.

7. HAN PALACE BY AUTUMN MOONLIGHT 4:51

This was originally a famous solo piece for the Pipa. Here, it is played on the Erh-Hu and Cheng. It describes court life of the Han Dynasty (B.C. 206-A.D. 196).

8. PLAYING IN THE GARDEN - 5:43

This music came from one of the famous K'un-Ch'u acts a type of drama which bloomed in the Yuan dynasty A.D. 1206-1341) and became very popular during the Ming (A.D. 1368-1628) and Ching (A.D. 1644-1908) dynasty periods. The theme is the story of a

young girl who went to play in the garden with her maid. Falling asleep in the fragrant surroundings, she dreams of a fantasy land where she meets a handsome young man and falls in love.

9. WITHOUT A SONG - 4:04

A Chinese folksong in which the singer states that was he not able to sing a mountain song every day of his life, he could not be happy.

10. THE COWHERDER AND THE COUNTRY GIRL - 4:08

A song derived from a melody that originated with the Peking Opera. A cow herder is riding along playing on his flute; he encounters a pretty country girl who has lost her way. She asks him for the way to Apricot Blossom Villa. They sing and dance together until sunset, and then they bid each other farewell and return to their homes. (Ti solo.)

This release is part of the Lyrichord Archive Series.



THE LYRICHORD ARCHIVE SERIES

PO Box 1977 Old Chelsea Station
New York, NY 10011 Ph: 212 404 8290 Fax: 212 404 8291
email: nick@lyrichord.com Web: www.lyrichord.com

© and (P) Lyrichord Discs Inc. These texts (including images) are published under copyright by Lyrichord Discs Inc. All rights are reserved.
The texts, and the music associated, with them, may only be republished, duplicated or sold, with written permission from Lyrichord Discs Inc.