

**WSMTA Conference
Ellensburg, Washington
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***Scenes from a Jade Window:
A Multimedia Lecture Recital of New Teaching and Performing Pieces by
Major Contemporary Chinese Composers***

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Jasmine (2009)	Zhang Zhao
See a Babbling Brook	(b. 1964)
Jingpo Folk Song	
Hani Love Song	
Small Beautiful Things (2016)	Alexina Louie
VI. Moonbeams	(b. 1949)
VII. Little Balinese Dancer	
IX. A Walk in the Park	
“Pausing, Awaiting the Wind to Rise” from My Windows (2007)	Lei Liang
Touching with Sound (2023)	(b. 1972)
Piano Sonata (2018)	Tan Dun
4. Only for Love	(b. 1957)

Notes

This lecture-recital with PowerPoint slides features a selection of new piano works by four award-winning living Chinese composers, namely Zhang Zhao (Beijing), Alexina Louie (Toronto), Lei Liang (San Diego), and Tan Dun (New York). These internationally recognized composers have received numerous accolades, including the Palatino Award in China, JUNO award in Canada, Rome Prize, Grawemeyer Award, and Italy's Golden Lion Award for Lifetime Achievement. Their music shares the common thread of embracing a blend of Asian and western traditions as well as transcending cultural and musical boundaries. Some of these compelling, diverse and deeply expressive pieces drew inspiration from Chinese folk music, instruments, poetry and philosophy, while others are results of interdisciplinary projects with oceanographers and film makers, as well as response to requests for pedagogy pieces valuable for students. They provide a window through which one can experience the works of some of today's finest Chinese composers.

Zhang Zhao employs folk materials from various parts of China, including his native Yunnan Province. Containing beautiful folk melodies, colorful harmonies, lively dances and expansive textures, the pieces featured are selections from his *Melodies of China* (2009).

Alexina Louie's *Small Beautiful Things* (2016) is a set of eleven miniature pieces expressing nature and daily life. Filled with childlike innocence, the pieces contain subtle Asian elements.

Lei Liang uses scientific research and Chinese philosophy in his music. *Pausing, Awaiting the Wind to Rise...* (2007) imitates *guqin* playing, while *Touching with Sound* (2023) consists of transcribed sonar signals.

Tan Dun's *Only for Love* is the last movement of his *Piano Sonata* (2018), a piano version of selections of his music from the film *The Banquet*. This piece expresses much longing.

Scores

- * *Melodies of China* (2009)
Zhang Zhao (b. 1964) – Schott Music Mainz, Germany
- * *Small Beautiful Things* (2016)
Alexina Louie (b. 1949) - Canadian Music Centre
- * *My Windows* (2007), *Touching with Sound* (2023)
Lei Liang (b. 1972) - Schott Music Corporation, New York
- * *Piano Sonata* (2018)
Tan Dun (b. 1957) - G. Schirmer, Inc., USA

Susan Chan, pianist

Praised by *Fanfare Magazine* for her “tremendous musicianship and technical mastery,” Susan Chan has performed, taught in masterclasses, adjudicated and presented in conferences on four continents. She received “Special Citation for Championing Piano Music by Asian Composers” in the 2015 American Prize competition and was awarded an Individual Artist Fellowship by the Oregon Arts Commission. Her critically acclaimed CDs include *Echoes of China: Contemporary Piano Music* (Naxos) and *East West Encounter I and II* (MSR Classics). She holds a Doctor of Music degree from Indiana University and serves as Professor of Music as well as Founder and Director of the PSU Steinway Piano Series at Portland State University. (susanchanpiano.com)