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## **When the Piano Meets Beijing Opera**

**-- A Fusion of Western and Chinese Musical Element**

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A national treasure of Chinese culture, Beijing opera is one of the most dominant and well-known forms of Chinese traditional opera. It stands out with distinctive music, vocal performance, dance, facial makeup, and costumes. Developing in the mid-Qing dynasty (1644-1912), Beijing opera has become significantly popular among all levels of Chinese society. Alongside the rise in popularity of Beijing Opera, piano music in China has developed over the 20<sup>th</sup> century and especially in the most recent fifty years. Chinese composers have blended Chinese cultural elements into music for the piano and other western instruments. This research poster will give a brief overview of Beijing Opera, its music, instruments, and practice, and will explore Chinese contemporary piano repertoire that is composed using Beijing Opera elements.

### **Beijing Opera**

- Also known as Peking Opera (Old name)
- Arose in the late 18th century
- became fully developed and recognized by the mid-19th century
- It was listed into Unesco Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity List in 2010

#### **1) Performer and Roles**

- Vocal, acrobatics, and dance
- Four main roles

- Sheng, Dan, Jing, Chou

## 2) Facial paintings, makeup, and costumes

## 3) Music and instruments

- String instruments
  - Jing Hu, Er Hu, Yue Qin, San Xian
- Wind instruments
  - Sheng, Suo Na, Di Zi
- Percussion instruments
  - Gong, Percussion Block, Drum

## Repertoire

- ***Pi Huang (1995/2005) by Zhao Zhang***
  - 1) The use of main arias
    - Xi Pi
    - Er Huang
  - 2) The use of forms and variations
- ***Instants d'un Opera de Pekin (2000/2004) by Qigang Chen***

The use of transition passages
- ***Four Etudes (1975-76) by Hongjin Ni***

The use of Qu Pai (fixed folk melodies)

## Other Pieces:

- ***The Impression of Beijing Opera*** (Prelude and Fugue, 1995) by Xudong Zhang
- ***Impromptu*** (2000) by Wanghua Chu
- ***Sheng, Dan, Jing, Mo, Chou*** (2007) by Amao Wang
- ***Impromptu with Beijing Opera Themes*** (2014) by Guohui Ye