Asian Piano Music for Intermediate Learners

Dr Charisse Baldoria
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Program

China: He Luting, *Shepherd Boy Piccolo*
China: Shi Fu, *Silk Headscarf Dance*
Philippines: Christine Muyco, *Gangsa Toppaya*
Korea/USA: Nahre Sol, *Cocou Waltz*
Philippines/USA: Charisse Baldoria, *Boat Song*

*Overview of other countries, compositions*
How did the piano arrive in Asia?

France
Spain
USA
Netherlands

Various Western powers
Missionaries

Western culture = modernization

Map showing the spread of Western influence through missionaries and modernization processes, with pianos depicted in various countries to indicate their arrival in Asia.
China
China

1839-1949: Century of humiliation

1920s Shanghai: conservatory, orchestra, concerts, Jewish and Russian refugees

HE Luting (1903-99): 牧童短笛
Shepherd Boy’s Piccolo or Cowherd’s Flute (1934)

- Legendary composer, inspired by Chinese folk melodies
- China’s first 8K panoramic movie: an opera movie about his life
- Studied, taught in, directed Shanghai Conservatory
- Music: 2-part pentatonic melody, fast middle section with pentatonic runs
- Focus on: good phrasing, fingering

Listen: Lang Lang (DG), young Yuja Wang
Score: pianorarescores.com

Credit: https://lujuba.cc/en/13717.html
China

Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region

Uyghur: Turkic ethnic minority in China

- Shi Fu collected 2000 folk songs from Xinjiang while in the army (1950); wrote ballets, operas, symphonies, piano works, etc.

- From Xinjiang Suite No. 3, based on sanam (a Uyghur dance)

- Music: LH dance rhythm, melody derived from Persian-Arabic mode maqām hijāz

Listen: Gulimina Mahamuti
Score: Amazon, ILL (Interlibrary Loan)

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Other Chinese Composers

- **Chinese Piano Pieces** (Anthology) - includes *Buffalo Boy’s Flute*

- Album: **Popular Chinese Pieces** (arr. Jianzhong Wang; Sheung Tsz Ma, piano)
  - Jianzhong Wang’s piano works (ILL)

- Album: **Dragon Songs** (Lang Lang, piano)
Philippines

1581-82: Pipe organ, polyphonic male choir
1590: First academy of music
1606: Organ building
1816: Construction of bamboo organ of Las Piñas begins

Organ built in the early 1700s, San Agustin Church, Manila

1565-1898: Spanish colony
1898-1945: American colony

Music in Spanish style
Newer music inspired by indigenous influences

- Also an ethnomusicologist, teaches at Univ. of the Philippines (UP), Master’s at Univ. of British Columbia, Ph.D. from UP
- From *Tugtog-Likha-Tugtog* (*Play-Create-Play*) - modern, graphic notation, improv, Philippine influences
- *Gangsa* (flat gongs) from Northern Philippines played with hands (*toppaya*)
- Staggered entrances, sound thickens and builds up, repetition, improv

Score: Download
Other Filipino Composers

- Augusto Espino:
  - *The Suite* for Piano Solo (based on folk songs) and other pieces: ILL, Listen
  - *Pieces for Children* (*Mga Tugtuging Pambata*) - forthcoming in 2022

- Lucrecia Kasilag, Nicanor Abelardo, Lucio San Pedro, Rosendo Santos, Bernardino Custodio, Antonio Molina, Francisco Buencamino

- National Music Competitions for Young Artists commissioned works anthology (ILL)

- Advanced level: Ramon P. Santos
1885: first reed organs for worship
1900: first piano
1910: Japan annexes Korea, inf. music education
1950s: piano manufacturing in Korea
Piano-playing grew with the economy

- YouTuber, b. Alice Gi-Young Hwang, piano degrees from Juilliard, Glenn Gould School, studied in Paris
- Inspired by here analysis of Chopin’s Mazurka Op. 59 No. 1 (see video)
- Inf. by Western forms and harmony, jazz, minimalism

Listen: Alice in Wonderland album
Score: Download
Other Korean Composers

- Young Jo Lee, *Five Korean Legends*: Listen

- More on advanced-level composers:
  - *Piano Works By Isang Yun, Young Jo Lee And U Zong Choe* (dissertation by Song E. Kim)
  - *Pa-Mun: Ripples on Water (Piano Music from Korea)* - Klara Min, piano

- Philippine-born pianist, composer
- An improvisation inspired by Bartók’s *Boating* (from *Mikrokosmos*)
- Quartal harmonies in LH, pentatonic melody: can be a basis for an improv exercise for the student
- Part of a set called *Songs without Words*

Listen: Concert livestream, album forthcoming
Score: Download
1868: **Meiji Restoration**: restoration of imperial rule

- Ended feudal rule, decided to modernize, market economy
- Incorporated Western music in its music education
- 20 concerts by Godowsky in 5 cities (1922-23), also Heifetz, Kreisler, Rubinstein
Japanese Composers

- Akira Yuyama, *Confections: A Piano Sweet*: ILL, Amazon
- Hikaru Hayashi
- *Album of piano pieces for children by Japanese contemporary composers*
Asia and the Piano: Further Explorations

Indonesia

- Sinta Wullur, *Bali in Blue*
- Ananda Sukarlan (insp. by folk melodies)
- Michael Asmara (avant-garde)

Malaysia

- Chee-Hwa TAN, *A Child’s Garden of Verses*
- *Free hand. Anthology I: 21st Century Malaysian Piano Works*

Hong Kong

- Austin Yip, *Piano Works*
Asia and the Piano: Further Explorations

Singapore
- Ho Chee Kong
- Zechariah Goh
- Diana Soh-Hudry

Cambodia
- Chinary Ung, *Seven Mirrors* - [ILL](https://www.sheetmusicplus.com/), [SheetMusicPlus](https://www.sheetmusicplus.com/), [Listen](https://listen.com)
Vietnam
- French, Russian influences
- Lecture-recital by Temple U DMA student Nam Hoang Nguyen on 20th-Century Vietnamese Piano Music

Myanmar
- Burmese piano (sandaya) - simulates indigenous music and techniques

India
- Reena Ismail: Piano works info
Thank you!

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