

Voice of Taiwan: Ma Shui-Long (1939-2015)

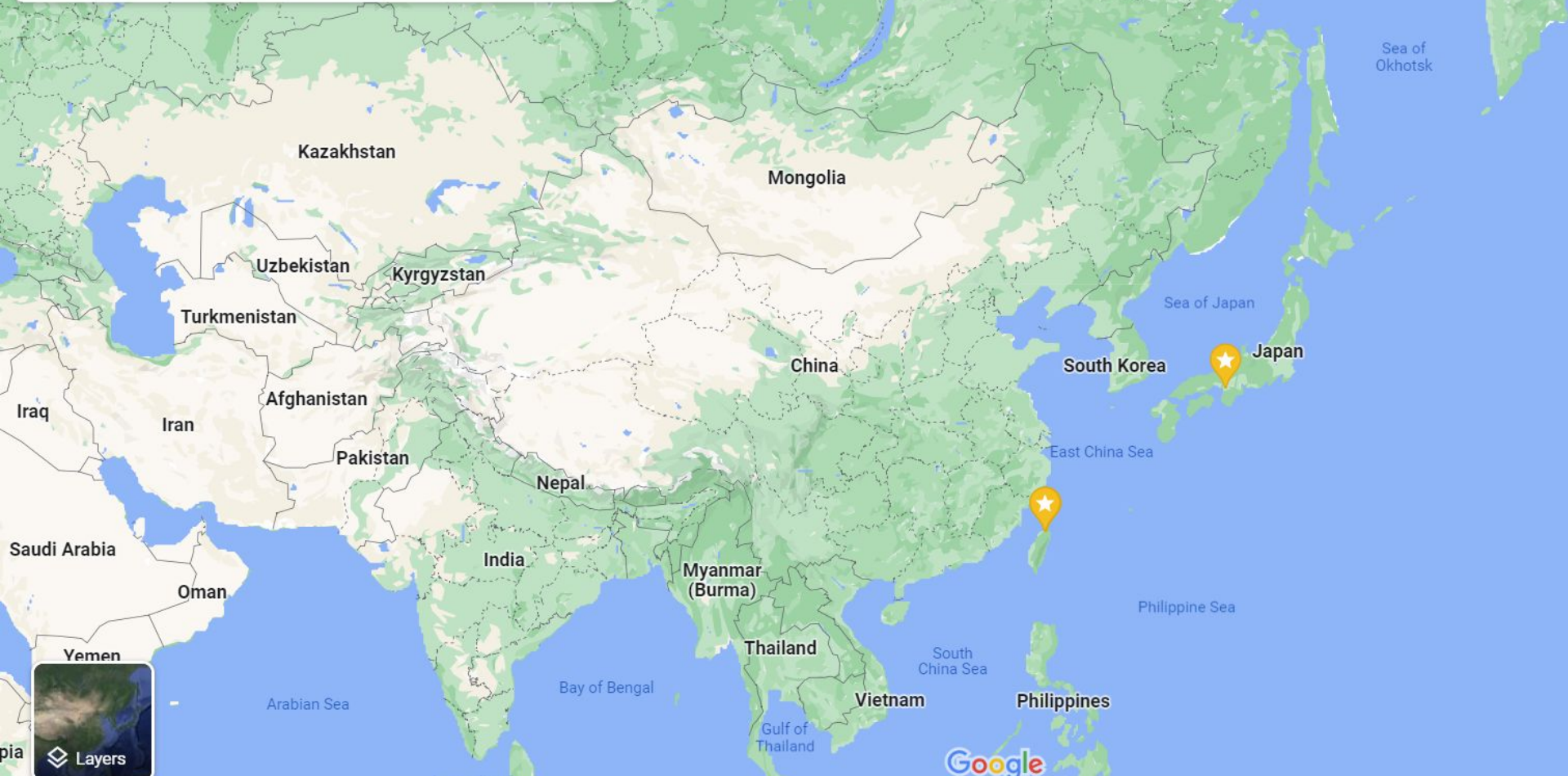
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日月潭文武廟



Where is Taiwan?

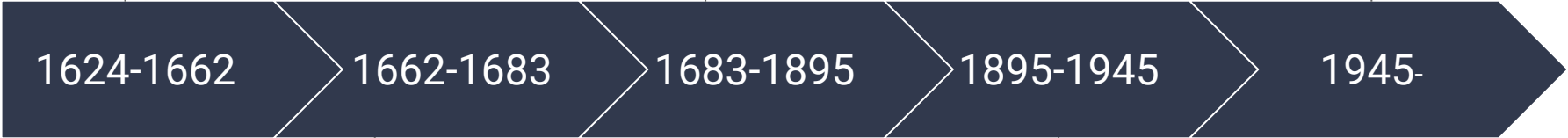
History of Taiwan



**Dutch and Spanish
Colonies**

Qing Dynasty

**Republic of China
(Taiwan)**



1624-1662

1662-1683

1683-1895

1895-1945

1945-

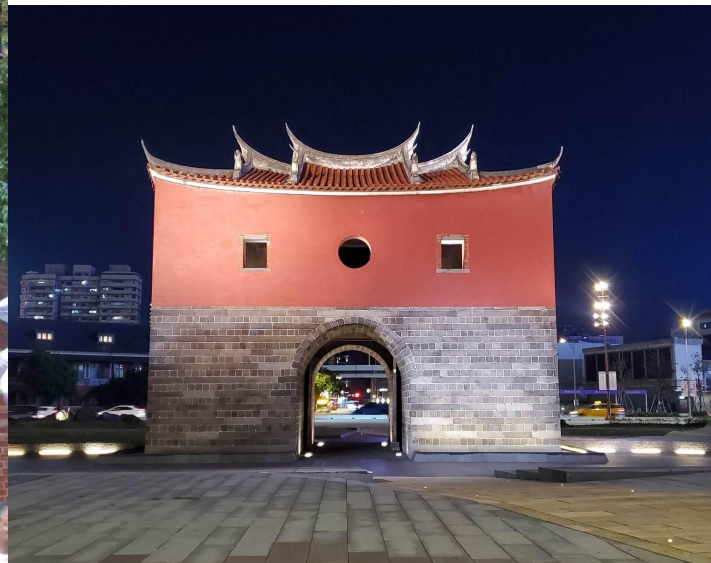
Ming Dynasty

Japanese Empire

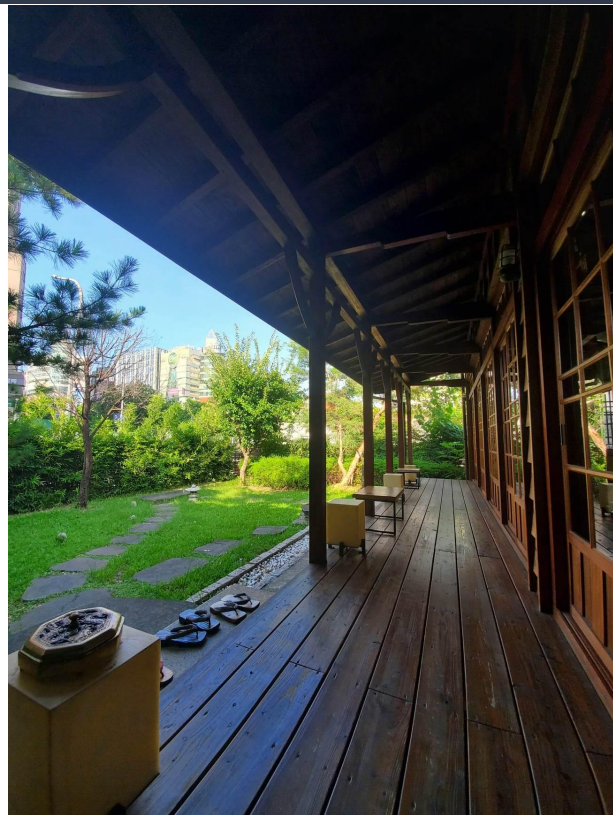
Fort Zeelandia & Fort Santo Domingo



Influences of Ming and Qing Dynasty



Influences of Japanese Empire



Indigenous People and Their Music



MA, Shui-Long (1939-2015)

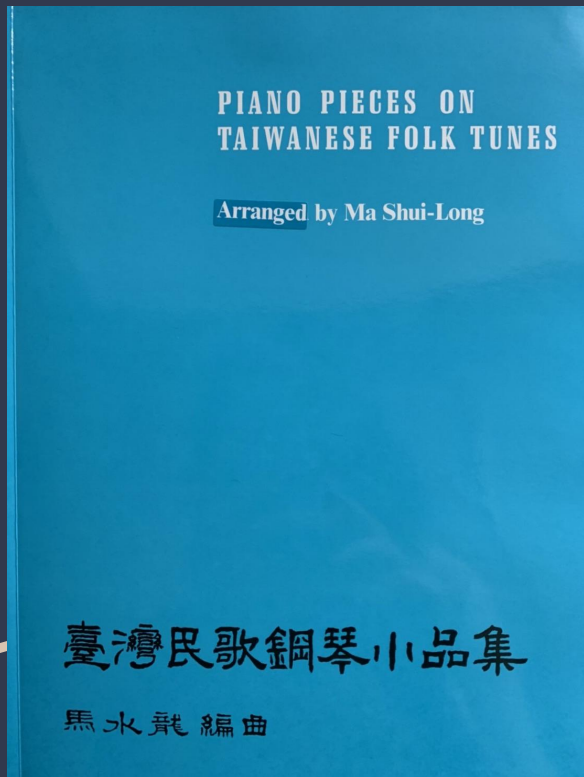


- Born and raised in Keelung and Jiufen - northeast shore of **Taiwan**
- Surrounded by **rain, mountains, gold mining, and tunnels**
- Largely self-taught in his early years
- Graduated with honors from the **Regensburg Music Academy** in Germany on scholarship (1975)
- Served as Dean and President of **National Taipei University of the Arts**
- Went to the United States with Fulbright scholarship (1986)
- The first Taiwanese composer to have had his works performed at **the Lincoln Center**.
- **Compositions** include voice, instrumental solo, chamber music, and orchestral music

Mountain, Tunnel, Gold Mining



MA's Music



- Influences of Chinese Culture and Western Music
- Often combines traditional Chinese instruments and Western instruments in his works
- Transcribes the authentic **folk melodies** of the region
- Adopts **Chinese pentatonic scales** in the melody: modes consist of major 2nds and minor 3rds
- Western influenced **harmonization**
- Effective and realistic **sound depiction**

Bamboo-Flute Concerto (1981)

- **Chinese version of “flute”**
- 2 movements
- Could be played with Chinese orchestra or western standard orchestra



Bamboo-Flute: Yuan-Yu Liao; Conductor: Ching-Yeh An
Tainan National University of the Arts Chinese Orchestra

Taiwan Suite (1966)



Pianist: Hsing-Chwen Giselle Hsin

A substantial **Piano Solo** Work

4 movements:

- The Temple
- Religious Procession
- Lion Dance
- The Lantern Festival

Sound Imitation of Woodblocks
and Bells

Unique soundscape

Advanced Level

- Thick texture
- Fast passages
- Two voices in one hand
- Sophisticated articulations

A Sketch Of the Kuan Du (1999)



Pianist: Yi-Wen Chang

Commissioned by Chew's
Culture Foundation

Kuan Du Plain is where
Ma resides

Expresses the nostalgia of his
hometown

I live in the north area of Kuan Du Plain. For a long time I have been embraced by the expansive scenes of nature, and enjoying the lovely hours near dawn and dusk. My indulgence in the hazy morning fog and resplendent night lights has offered me a great deal of sensations and inspirations. Naturally, I was motivated to create this piece.

- Preface to A Sketch Of the Kuan Du

Taiwanese Folk Songs (pub. 2016)



The Darkening Sky

天黑黑



- A story of a typical **rainy day**
- Use **LEGATO** for tuneful melodies
- Use **STACCATO** for raindrops and provide liveliness
- To **depict arguments** between an old couple
 - 3-beat phrases
 - dialogues between soprano and bass
- Use **CLUSTERS** to imitate thunder
- **Intermediate level** teaching piece:
 - sophisticated articulations
 - lightness of staccatos
 - double notes reading and playing
 - introduce “scenery depictions” (Debussy)
 - freedom to “arrange a storyline”

Due Due Don

丟丟銅仔



- The reflection of **the very first tunnel** in Taiwan
- **Sound of trains**
 - train steam/whistle at the start
 - *accel.* used for train speeding up
 - LH ostinato gesture as a train
- **Staccatos** largely used for “moving constantly”
- **RH melody is “harmonized”** with a second voice
- A brief **contrapuntal imitation** and a **lyrical section** as transition
- **Intermediate level** teaching piece:
 - voicing
 - articulation independence

Summer Rain Pouring Down

西北雨直直落



- Effectively uses **trills** as non-stop rains
- **Glissandos** are “pouring rain”
- **More advanced passages**
 - LH melody with RH flourishes
 - **rhythmic variation** of the theme with hand alternations and staccato vs. non-staccato notes
- **Late Intermediate level** teaching piece:
 - complex articulations
 - primary and secondary voices
 - accurate **glissandos** (rhythm & range)
 - imagination of “**sound depictions**”
 - sense of steady pulse despite techniques adopted

Where to find
the music?

SheetMusicPlus

many works available
for digital downloads

Questions?

Thank you~

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And to ALL who provided pictures:

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