



CHINA Speaks Your Language

Presented by
Silk Road Music
www.silkroadmusic.ca



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China Speaks Your Language!

Performed by The Silk Road Duo: Qiu Xia He and Andre Thibault

Program Description:



Recent research suggests that the Chinese explorers of the 15th century voyaged not only to India and Africa, but around the world to the Americas. Whether true or not, this controversial theory has inspired a worldwide journey of musical exploration by the *Silk Road Duo*. In an adventurous encounter of musical traditions, *Qiu Xia He* and *Andre Thibault* show that China does indeed speak your language.

"China Speaks Your Language" is a music performance that will introduce audiences to different cultures through the experience, discoveries, and travels of the Silk Road Duo: *Qiu Xia He* accompanied by multi-instrumentalist *Andre Thibault*. The pipa, a Chinese lute with a wide range of expression, will be the focal point.

This husband-and-wife team is well equipped for their cultural voyage. Both have lived passionately as professional musicians. Their common bond and love of music have taken them on tours all over the world with award-winning groups like *Silk Road Music*, *ASZA*, *Cordes en Folie* and *Jou Tou*. They have performed from Montreal to London, from South Africa to Malaysia, from British Columbia to Hawaii. In 2004, they were featured with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra at the Orpheum to welcome His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

"China Speaks Your Language" will surround the Chinese pipa with many world instruments, such as the flamenco guitar from Spain and the oud and bouzouki, lutes from the Middle East and Greece. Percussion instruments include pandeiro and surdo from Brazil; musical bow and mbira from Africa; bendir from Morocco; kanjira tambourine and shanai from India; gongs and wood percussions from Asia; and hulusi and bawu flutes from China's Yunnan province.

Music performed:

Chinese Classical & Folk
Middle Eastern Folk

French and Celtic Music
Spanish Flamenco

Indian Folk
African and Brazilian

South American
Original compositions

Note: A guest percussionist is available for touring.

"Vancouverites should be justly proud to have such innovative global artists working here."

—Tony Montague, The Vancouver Courier

About Silk Road Music

Silk Road Music's CDs, *Endless* and *Village Tales*, have twice won the West Coast Music award for Best World Music Album and *Endless* earned a 1999 Juno nomination for Best Global Album. Music lovers were amazed and delighted to find Chinese music so accessible, and to hear how eloquently Silk Road could express Western genres.

Silk Road's performance features traditional instrumental pieces, original compositions and Chinese folk songs, arranged for cross-cultural instrumentation, and performed in both English and Mandarin by duets from both cultures. All the presentations can be done in English, French and Mandarin Chinese. Audiences have found the result is a breathtaking work of beauty, virtuosity, and innovation.

The music is truly accessible to people of all cultures. In addition to its artistic strengths, Silk Road's music is also a remarkable window into Chinese culture. The 40-page *Village Tales* booklet contains sheet music for all the songs (with lyrics in both languages), Chinese pronunciation keys, and background on the instruments and songs. A teacher-designed study guide is also available for students, presenters and those who want to pursue their interest in Chinese culture or to share it with others.

Silk Road Music is one of the few Chinese touring ensembles in North America to have performed at all the major festivals in Canada. Its music has been featured on CBC's Asian music compilation, at the Philadelphia Museum, the Whitefish Theatre in Montana, the Seattle Asian Museum, BBC international recital in UK, Montreal Jazz Festival, Festival De Quebec, Kentucky Arts Center, and Charlotte, NC.

Throughout its travels, Silk Road Music has realized the potential of music as both the expression of a culture and a powerful link between cultures. Silk Road's audiences have gained a greater understanding for Chinese music, for the music of their own traditions, and for the energy that results when cultures eagerly try to learn from one another.

"I was most impressed by the manner in which they executed their performance. They catered to the needs and interests of the entire audience; they shared a part of themselves with the listeners; and they portrayed the importance of music in every society."

—Heather Yopp, Charlotte, NC

CONTACT

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Qiu Xia He

— Chinese pipa performer, composer and producer —

Born in Baoji, China, Qiu Xia He (pronounced chu sha her) has had two notable careers in music: as a performer and teacher in China, and then as performer, composer, producer and teacher in Canada.

Neither career was entirely predictable. As a little girl hoping to learn the violin, Qiu Xia was told she would instead study the pipa, a Chinese lute. Showing early talent, she toured the country with the popular Bao ji Shaanxi Music and Dance Troupe. She both studied and taught the pipa at Xian Music Academy.

Given the opportunity to settle in Canada, Qiu Xia learned fluent English, made friends everywhere she went, and delighted audiences across the country and around the world. Qiu Xia has been a featured soloist with the Vancouver Symphony and the Glacier Symphony of Montana. She has performed with top musicians such as Brazilian virtuoso Celso Machado and Indian legend Trichy Sankaran. She has toured internationally with her own remarkable group, Silk Road Music, as well as with the renowned world-music groups ASZA and Jou Tou.

As a musical producer, Qiu Xia is the founder and musical director of "Enchanted Evenings," a series of summer concerts at the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Gardens in Vancouver. She has produced numerous concerts, musical events, and CDs. Her compositions include the sound tracks for films such as Tears of the Lotus and Darcy Island (both Leo nominees) and In Our Own Hand.

Qiu Xia has been an artist in residence with the Vancouver School Board, and a musician in the "Learning through the Arts" program of the Royal Conservatory of Canada. In both these roles, she teaches music appreciation to children in the schools.

"My music has a definite cross-cultural bent," she says. "It combines the traditional styles of the east, with new influences picked up in the west. I play Chinese music on Chinese instruments, but with western performance techniques gained from jazz, folk, and Celtic music. And I also use the pipa to play western music. I love to play with musicians from other cultural backgrounds, creating an entirely new sound."

Her own Silk Road Music CDs, Endless and Village Tales, capture this multicultural fusion by including songs from both Chinese and western traditions.

"I believe strongly in this new art," she says. "I want to bring the Chinese pipa into the new world where I now live, to introduce the richness of Chinese music to a new audience. I want to build a deeper understanding between east and west, and to develop a unique new language on this traditional instrument."

"My wife and I were enthralled with the virtuosity of the performers and by the beautiful fit of the lyrics to the Chinese rhythms... Thanks for a new experience."

— Ken Pinder, Vancouver



Andre Thibault

— Guitarist, multi-instrumentalist, and vocalist —

Andre Thibault is well respected in the acoustic music world. He is a brilliant guitarist, whose fiery rhythms and stunning technique result from a unique blend of Flamenco and Moorish traditions coloured with jazz, classical, and world music.

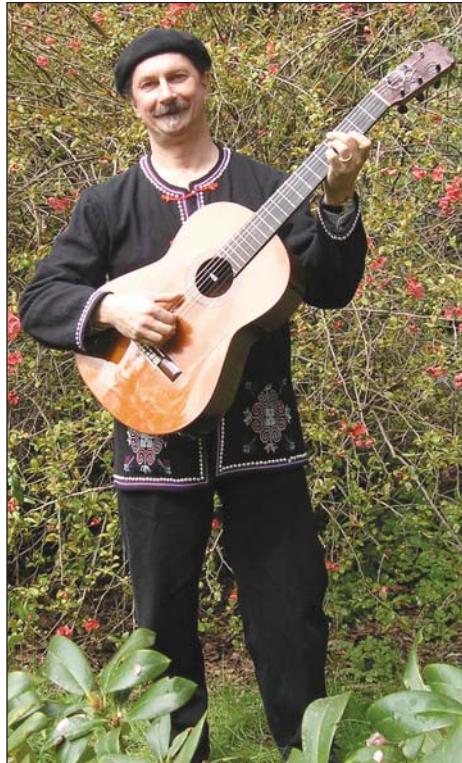
His virtuosity has led him to share the stage with famous musicians such as David Lindley, D'Gary, and Oscar Lopez. He has been an opening act for such stars as Strunz and Farah, Tuck and Patti, and Rachid Taha.

Raised in Montreal, Andre began his guitar studies at an early age. His interest in world music led him to study bouzouki and oud, lutes of the Arabic world. He is also skillful on flutes and percussion.

The noted musician Sal Ferreras says: "Andre is a voyageur whose quest for the spirit of Spanish, Arabic and Brazilian folklore is amply evident in the breadth of his work and the beauty of his interpretations. He can transport the listener from the Casbah to the Gypsy caves of Andalucia."

Redefining Multicultural Music

Andre has been a key player on the west coast world-music scene for over 20 years. Through groups like ASZA, Cordes en Folie and now JouTou, he has helped to redefine—and energize—multicultural music. He also performs with Silk Road Music, where his many instruments add new sounds and colour to its Chinese-based repertoire. His recording Samar was nominated for a West Coast Award, and as a band member he has received several awards and nominations.



For Andre, "world music" is not just a phrase; besides North America, he has played all over the planet, from Malaysia to India, Cuba, Colombia, Vietnam, Singapore, Thailand, Hawaii, and South Africa. His audiences have ranged from crowds at festivals and concerts to intimate groups in workshops and schools. Whatever the setting, he creates an instant rapport with his audiences through his love of music, his virtuosity, and his sense of humour.

Ancient sounds

Chinese sounds

Drum sounds, guitar sounds, other sounds

Loud, noisy, shrill like commotion

Then soft, little sounds

Beautiful like "Jasmine Flower"

Chinese and English

Written by Ms. Scalfani's 2nd Grade Poets
at H.O. Wheeler School, Burlington, Vermont

The PRESS says



“

Qiu Xia He played the pipa, a Chinese lute, with the pristine ferocity of a worldclass virtuoso. Shifting between ancient Chinese odes and contemporary, jazzy arrangements, she was an instrumental marvel.”

MARY ROSE, KY COURIER JOURNAL ~ LOUISVILLE

“

I would like to express my feeling of fortune and happiness of meeting all of you during the Calgary Globalfest... I do not know where to start, I have been listening to your music CD... I cannot help but feel the power and dynamic energy in your music that can and will shape and bridge the gap of cultural barriers. It is just what is needed nowadays.”

KEN LEE ~ CALGARY

“

I have had the pleasure of listening to your concert in Britain broadcast live on the BBC world service last week... I am utterly stunned by your music... and I find it really touching with deep meanings and open spaces in the horizon...”

ABDULLATIF A. O. ~ AMSTERDAM

“

The dazzling performance was a polyglot musical voyage not only to Beijing and the mountains of Tibet, but to France, Turkey, Spain, Venezuela, Brazil, the pubs of Ireland and even, for a moment, the place where Thailand intersects with the Mississippi Delta.”

MARTY ROSEN ~ KENTUCKY SCENE REVIEWS

“

If Andalusia, Morocco and Brazil could form one word, what would it sound like? Well, we're giving you a clue: Andre, this man has the whole wide world in his hands.”

FESTIVAL DE QUEBEC

“

Andre is a voyageur whose musical quest for the essential spirit of Spanish, Arabic and Brazilian folklore is amply evident in the breadth of his work and the beauty of his interpretations.”

SAL FERRERAS ~ VANCOUVER

“

Andre's main instrument is the guitar, but he also plays a mean oud. In a most exotic moment of the concert, he also tackled twin shenais (Asian oboe) for a snake-charming climax that had the crowd ululating.”

KEN EISNER ~ GEORGIA STRAIGHT

“

Technique and feeling guide a Global Guitarist. Andre Thibault is at last receiving recognition as one of the finest acoustic guitarists in Canada.”

TONY MONTAGUE ~ VANCOUVER

Selected

praise

from

press

& fans

Silk
Road
MUSIC
丝绸之路中乐团

PRESENTS

China
Speaks
Your
Language

China Speaks Your Language!

Instruments used in the program



Birimba (bi, rim, baw)
Afro-Brazilian musical bow



Luo (lowa)
Chinese Gong



Oud (woud)
Middle Eastern lute



Di zi (di, tzi)
Chinese bamboo flute



Rik (rick)
Tambourine



Shou gu (show, goo)
Chinese frame drum



Capachos (ka, pa, chos)
Venezuelan Maracas



Basket shakers
Central Africa



Pi pa (pee, pah)
Chinese lute



Mu yu (moo, eu)
Wooden tone block



Guitar
Flamenco



Bombarde
Medieval oboe