

Silk
Road
MUSIC
丝绸之路中乐团

Silk Road Duo

Presented by
Silk Road Music
www.silkroadmusic.ca



• Photos: Tim Matheson (cover, p3); Frank Henning (pp 6-7) • Press kit & web design: EyeSoar graphics • Text editing: Crawford Kilian

About Silk Road Music

Silk Road Music's CDs, *Endless* and *Village Tales*, have both 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

Silk Road Duo

Based in Vancouver, Silk Road Duo is a mini version of Silk Road Music. Andre Thibault and Qiu Xia He, a husband-and-wife team, take an innovative approach to classical Chinese music. They are now touring their newest release, *Autumn Cloud: Journey with her Pipa*.

Leaders in award-winning world-music ensembles such as Silk Road Music, ASZA, Cordes en Folie, and JouTou, Andre and Qiu Xia blend Asian and other musical traditions. The result is a surprising, vivid, and colorful "world fusion" style.

This style has emerged through 15 years of traveling and performing. Andre and Qiu Xia have appeared in a wide range of venues, including the Montreal International Jazz Festival, the Commonwealth Games in Malaysia, a BBC recital in England, hundreds of schools and universities across North America, and countless community concert series around the world.

They have won several Best World Music Awards and have been nominated for Junos.

In 2004, Andre and Qiu Xia were featured with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra at the Orpheum to welcome His Holiness the Dalai Lama. In May 2006, they celebrated Asian Heritage Month with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra. They performed by special invitation in Guangzhou, China in July 2006.

Guest musicians are available by request. For more about Silk Road Music, please visit <http://www.silkroadmusic.ca>

CONTACT

SILK ROAD Music Qiu Xia He (chu sha her)
Tel & Fax: (604)434-9316

e-mail: qxcloud@telus.net

website: www.silkroadmusic.ca

Silk Road Duo

Canadienne d'adoption, la virtuose de la pipa (forme de banjo-luth) Qiu Xia He quittait sa Chine natale en 1989 pour s'établir à Vancouver, emportant avec elle les sons de son pays. Fascinée par la jeunesse et l'énergie de la musique américaine, elle n'hésite pas à incorporer à ses airs traditionnels des éléments de jazz ainsi que de musiques latines et celtiques, créant un amalgame sonore unique.

Qiu Xia He s'unit à André Thibault pour former le Silk Road Duo, un ensemble qui croise rapidement la route du succès avec son premier essai, "Autumn Cloud". Né d'un projet aux desseins didactiques, leur plus récent effort, se veut un pont entre les cultures chinoise et Internationales. Ayant reçu la demande de réaliser un enregistrement pouvant être utilisé par les étudiants pour découvrir la musique, la langue et la culture chinoises, Qiu Xia He a relevé le défi avec brio. L'album regroupe une douzaine de pièces, folkloriques traditionnels et compositions moderne interprétées à la fois virtuose et creative, un concept unique à ce jour. Un blues, une rumba flamenca, un reel, des fusions Orientales et même un concerto pour pipa et orchestre, tout y est compris.

Un simple coup d'oeil au joli livret accompagnant le disque suffit pour comprendre le caractère unificateur de l'œuvre. Comportant l'ensemble des explications en deux langues, l'Anglais et le Mandarin, le feuillet présente également une description des instruments traditionnels. Aux dires de He, (si les gens apprécient la musique, ils chercheront sans doute à en apprendre plus sur notre culture).



La musicienne souhaite également que l'album soit utilisé en milieu scolaire, l'usage qui lui était à prime abord réservé. Un usage loin d'être exclusif car, à l'écoute de "Autumn Cloud", on se laisse d'emblée transporter à des kilomètres d'ici, bien au-delà des soucis de la vie étudiante!

Silk Road vous convie à des événements riches en découvertes, où le choc des cultures se fera tout en douceur.

丝绸之路中乐团

丝绸之路中乐团的“琵琶行”音乐会，以崭新的中西合作方式，用千年的民族乐器奏出异乡的浪漫，以中外艺术家的智慧唱出中国音乐的优美。其音乐会将隆重推出一组中西合作的乐曲，无论你是华夏之子，还是西域洋人，都会在他们的音乐中感受到一丝亲切的共鸣。

丝绸之路中乐团是一个活跃在北美主流社会中的中国专业音乐团体。自从1991年在加拿大温哥华成立后，乐团走遍了加拿大所有的主要城市，在众多的艺术节和音乐会中受到世界各地观众的赞扬。丝绸之路中乐团以其独特的艺术风格和精彩的表演技巧，为中国音乐的普及和弘扬搭建了一座坚实的桥梁。

丝绸之路中乐团除在加拿大完成了近千场音乐会外，并且应英国BBC电台和法国南部艺术节特约，前往欧洲录制了实况音乐会和巡回演出。在美国为肯德基南部艺术节，纽约艺术展览会，费城博物馆和其它众多城市举办数场音乐会。其乐团琵琶演奏家何秋霞曾与许多世界著名音乐家合作，并被加拿大温哥华交响乐团和美国科雷社交响乐团邀请做独奏演员。2006年5月，丝绸之路中乐团被特约与加拿大卡城交响乐团合作举办了专场的音乐会。

在北美的艺术界，丝绸之路中乐团以其多姿多彩的音乐风格和精心设计的中西合作形式，赢得了社会的高度评价。乐团的CD“天涯”和“乡音”先后两次被选为加拿大西部最佳世界音乐唱片。其中“天涯”又被提名于加拿大最高朱诺奖。这是加拿大中国移民历史上从未有过的一例。2006年1月，乐团的第三盘CD“琵琶行”在全加拿大隆重发行，深受广大听众的欢迎，曾在CBC国家电台反复播出。

丝绸之路中乐团的音乐家都具有多年的专业训练和丰富的表演经验，并且有深厚的艺术修养。乐团由来自中国西安音乐学院的琵琶演奏家何秋霞领队，与加拿大著名西班牙吉它手 André Thibault 安德鲁蒂博演奏吉它，打击乐一同合作，从中国传统的“寒鸦戏水”，到北美新颖的世界音乐和自我创作，精益求精，博采众长，以创新为荣。多年来，以其坚实的步伐，走出了一条独具加拿大中国移民风格的音乐之路。

特约音乐家有二胡，中阮，打击乐，歌唱等等。

CONTACT

SILK ROAD Music

Qiu Xia He (chu sha her)

Tel & Fax: (604)434-9316

e-mail: qxcloud@telus.net

website: www.silkroadmusic.ca

2000-2006 Major Performances of Silk Road Music

Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra	Calgary, AB
CBC radio concert	Winnipeg, MAN
Prologue For the Performing Arts tour	Toronto, ON
Vermont tour	Vermont, USA
Vancouver Symphony Dalai Lama Concert	Vancouver, BC
Global Festival	Calgary, AB
CBC Musical Film Gung Haggis Fat Choi	Vancouver, BC
Ojai California tour	CA, USA
Seattle community concerts and schools	WA, USA
Hawaiian Islands tour	HA, USA
Alaska concert tour	Alaska, SA
Penn State-Behrend College	Erie, PA, USA
Vermont school tours	VT, USA
CBC Radio Two live concert recording	VT, USA
Oklahoma Libraries' school program	OK, USA
Longwood Gardens	Philadelphia, PA, USA
Windspear Center	Edmonton, AB
Kentucky Arts Center	KY, USA
Montreal Jazz Festival	Montreal, Quebec
Festivale De Quebec	Montreal, Quebec
Sunfest, London, Ontario	London, ON
Freight and Salvage Folk Club	San Francisco, USA
Pacific National Exhibition	Vancouver, BC
New York City and Louisville Kentucky Showcases	KY, NY, USA
Documentary on Voice of America	Washington, USA
Philadelphia Museum Concert Series	PA, USA
Seattle Museum	WA, USA
Langon Festival (Les nuits Atypiques) and 6 city concert tour	South France
Edmonton Festival	Edmonton, AB
Prince George concert tour	Prince George, BC
BBC International Live Concert recital	London, UK
Vancouver Sun Concert Series at Britannia Theatre	Vancouver, BC
CBC live broadcast Westcoast Music Performance	Vancouver, BC
Film Music for Island of Shadows documentary	International Broadcast
UBC Classical Noon hour concert	Vancouver, BC
Great Canadian Theatre concert	Ottawa, ON
Kingston concert for Live Wires series	Kingston, ON
Woodinville noon hour concert	WA, USA
Shadbolt Centre Concert	Burnaby, BC
Salmon Arm Folk Festival Society concert	Salmon Arm, BC
McBride concert Roundhouse Theatre	Vancouver, BC
Dragonboat Festival concert	Vancouver, BC
Courtenay Summer Festival	Courtenay, BC
Dr.Sun-Yat Sen concert series	Vancouver, BC
Victoria Folk Festival	Victoria, BC
Canmore Folk Festival	Canmore, AB
Vancouver World Music Collective Concert	Vancouver, BC
Westcoast Sacred Music Festival	Vancouver, BC
BC. Chinese Music Association Concert	Vancouver, BC
Asian Museum concert	Seattle, WA
CBC live radio concert Science World	Vancouver, BC
Skate Canada concert	Vancouver, BC

New CD by Silk Road Music **Autumn Cloud—Journey with her pipa**

Silk Road Music's new CD focuses on innovative compositions for the pipa (Chinese lute) reflecting the vast musical experience founder Qiu Xia He has gathered in Canada and in her travels. As a musician, Qiu Xia has developed a unique style that combines traditional techniques, Western harmony and a great understanding of world folklore that she has gained in a lifetime of playing music. The CD project seeks to extend the language of the pipa and provide a refreshing look at this extremely versatile instrument.

The material recorded on this album reflects those experiences and speaks those languages: from traditional Chinese to a Celtic reel; from a folk song to a contemporary classic; from a Spanish guitar piece to a flamenco rumba; add a Brazilian baião, a modern blues and a pipa concerto. This musical journey includes traditional music plus compositions by some of Silk Road's friends as well as several pieces written by Qiu Xia and Andre Thibault. Like their live performances, this album offers music from around the world which they love to play.

Autumn Cloud is Silk Road Music's third recording. They are a professional Chinese ensemble that has been touring and recording since 1991. They enjoy a consistently successful rapport with their audiences and the last two CDs both won Best World Music Album at the West Coast Music Awards. Their debut CD, *Endless*, was also nominated for a JUNO.

The other core member of Silk Road Music is innovative guitarist and multi-instrumentalist Andre Thibault. Andre is noted for his work with Jou Tou, Cordes en Folie, ASZA and for his own exceptional solo recordings. Together, Andre and Qiu Xia have toured hundreds of venues around the world. They have influenced each other and have developed a special repertoire that comes from live performances: works such as the flamenco number "Rumba Calabria"; the jazz fusion piece "Way In" and "Lakota's Lament /Junky Reel," which combines a First Nations flute composition with a Chinese/Celtic number.

Autumn Cloud is an important next step in Silk Road Music's vision— to develop cross cultural repertoire for Chinese instruments and to bring that music to the world.

Musicians on the CD:

Qiu Xia He on pipa and vocal
Andre Thibault on guitar, oud and flute
Celso Machado on guitar, percussion
Stefan Cihelka on tabla
Jun Rong on erhu
Zhimin Yu on ruan



For more information, please check the website and contact Silk Road Music at:

www.silkroadmusic.ca

e-mail at : qxcloud@telus.net

Qiu Xia He

Pipa (Chinese Lute), vocals

Born in the province of Shaanxi China, Qiu Xia He has had two notable careers in music: as a performer and teacher back home, and then as performer, composer, producer and teacher in Canada since 1989.

At thirteen she became a professional pipa player. With intense determination, she overcame all competition and went on to study at the Xian Music Academy where she became an instructor after graduation.

Qiu Xia has made friends all across the continent, and delighted audiences around the world. She has been a featured soloist with several symphony orchestras, and has performed with many top musicians such as Celso Machado, John Reischman and Trichy Sankaran.

As an artist, Qiu Xia has forged her own stamp on the world music scene. Her vision of open possibilities for Chinese music has brought a refreshing creativity to its traditional form: "My music has a definite cross-cultural bent. It combines the traditional styles of the east on an ancient lute while incorporating western performance techniques gained from jazz, folk, and European music."



Née a Baoji dans la province de Shaanxi au centre de la Chine où elle était professeur à l'académie de Xian. Elle a tourné à travers la Chine avec la troupe professionnelle de Shaanxi. Au Canada elle a la réputation d'une musicienne très versatile et confortable avec tout les styles. Elle a été en vedette comme soliste avec plusieurs orchestres en Amérique et en Europe en plus d'avoir collaboré avec d'excellents musiciens de réputation internationale. La force intégrale derrière Silk Road, Qiu Xia avance la cause de la musique innovatrice soit en concert où dans les classes.

音乐家简历
何秋霞 琵琶

出生于中国的陕西省，十三岁进入宝鸡歌舞团担任琵琶演奏员，后进入西安音乐学院深造并留校做琵琶教师，1989年移民加拿大。

秋霞自到温哥华后，勤奋努力，博采众长，专心探索中国音乐在海外发展的道路。曾发起重多项目以推广人们对传统中国音乐的认识，【丝绸之路中乐团】即是其成功的一例，乐团多次在美国，加拿大和英国巡回演出，并两次荣获加拿大西部最佳世界音乐奖。多年来，她和世界各地的音乐家多次合作，力求不断完善琵琶的演奏技巧和音乐风格，以温哥华的多元文化生活为源泉，创立她独特的音乐语言，是一个兼有中国和世界音乐风格的琵琶演奏家。

安聚理 吉它，路特，笛，打击乐

安聚理出生于加拿大东部的法文区魁北克省。他自幼学习各种音乐形式，以其西班牙吉它的丰富语汇融纳古典音乐，爵士和世界各地的民族风格，在加拿大的世界音乐舞台上独具风采。

他擅长多种乐器的演奏，除西班牙吉它外，他所喜欢的乐器还有中国的葫芦丝，印度的笛子，唢呐，西腊的布苏吉，和阿罗伯的路特。广博的艺术修养和成熟的音乐语言，使他成为丝绸之路中乐团中重要的一员，为这张唱录制增添了无数的光彩。

Andre Thibault

Guitar, oud, flute, percussion

Andre Thibault was born in Montreal. He is a brilliant guitarist, whose fiery rhythms and stunning technique result from a unique blend of Flamenco colored with jazz, classical, and world music. His virtuosity has led him to share the stage with many world class musicians all over the planet from Malaysia, Cuba, South Africa, India to North America.

Andre's interest in world music led him to play 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."



Andre has been a key player on the West Coast world music scene with groups like Silk Road Music and Jou Tou. His artistic input and strong support has made this CD possible.

André Thibault—

Guitariste et multi-instrumentaliste. Les rythmes enflammé et la technique stupéfiante de André exprime un style distinct avec des couleurs de l'Andalousie mélanger avec le jazz, le classique et la musique du monde. Il est très versatile et beaucoup en demande sur la côte Ouest. André a participé a des douzaines

d'enregistrements avec des groupes aussi variés que Cordes en Folie, ASZA, Silk Road Music et beaucoup d'autres. Il est un pionnier de la musique du Monde au Canada.

China Speaks Your Language!

Instruments used in the program



Birimbao (*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



“ 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

The PRESS says

Selected
praise
from
press
& fans

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PRESENTS

China
Speaks
Your
Language

Music REVIEWS

Calgary, AB
Calgary Herald
 May, 2006

The PRESS says



ImaginaAsian Concert 2006

Silk Road Music with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, Pierre Simard, Conductor

Review by Kenneth DeLong for the Calgary Herald

Each year, as part of Asian heritage month, the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra puts on a concert devoted to the musical traditions of the far east.

This year's event, similar in general outline to previous concerts, nevertheless contained some interesting new elements that made it especially satisfying for the listener.

Notable was the guest appearance of Silk Road Music, a group of six musicians, four of Asian origin and two from the West. Their style of music and their way of presentation is a fascinating mixture of western and oriental cultures, the songs presented in a multilingual fashion, and the instrumental element moving seamlessly among musical traditions ranging from China to Celtic.

Central to the spirit of the group is Qiu Xia He, a spirited young lady who is a superb virtuoso on the pipa, a type of Chinese guitar or lute.

Whether the music is soulful or playfully rhythmic, Qiu Xia He was able to plumb the musical center of every piece she played, a remarkable show of innate talent and technical expertise.

Her western male alter ego, André Thibault, was also impressive for his expressive playing and general high spirits on stage.

The group performed several pieces by itself, ranging from Mongolian and Chinese folk melodies to faux Celtic music, performed surprisingly idiomatically on Chinese instruments.

The remainder of the program included works performed by the CPO under the able direction of Pierre Simard, who



was also the arranger of three of the items, including a piece by Gustav Holst and composers from Vietnam and Korea.

Of greater musical interest were the works actually composed for a symphony orchestra by composers whose cultural roots are in the far east, but whose musical training is western. This included a symphony movement on Taiwanese melodies by Maon Shuen Chen and the final work by Jin Zhang, a conductor/composer working in the Vancouver area. This last was a clever, attractive work entitled Spring in the Snow Mountains, which featured some splashy playing by the Silk Road Music.

Filling out the program was an appearance of the Mount Royal College Conservatory Trio, sporting two members of Asian background who play Western music in a completely idiomatic way.

Silk Road MUSIC
 丝绸之路中乐团

Silk Road DUO

Music REVIEWS

Silk Road takes pipa player on a journey

Should you desire a quick trip to Bombay, Silk Road Music's Qiu Xia He has just the ticket. If Rio's your preferred destination, she can get you there. Guangzhou, of course, is no problem — but neither is Casablanca. And if you'd like something a little closer, the ever-adventurous pipa player is even willing to escort you to now-deserted D'Arcy Island, just east of the Saanich Peninsula, which once housed an internment camp for Chinese Canadian lepers.

The Silk Road Music founder is a fearless traveller, and that's amply reflected on her new CD, *Autumn Cloud: Journey With Her Pipa*. The destinations listed above are just a few of the places visited on the new disc's dozen songs, which touch on almost as many different musical styles. After one CD, *Endless*, which dealt with the Shaanxi-born virtuoso's first impressions of Canada, and another, *Village Tales*, that took a nostalgic look at her roots, He has abandoned boundaries altogether in favour of finding new ways — and new settings — in which her instrument can flourish.

"This one is focused on the pipa itself," she says, calling from the Vancouver home she shares with Silk Road guitarist André Thibault. "I'm trying to use the pipa as a centre to explore all these musical styles that I have been interested in for the past 15 or 16 years. It covers the full spectrum of what I've been doing over all that time."

The pipa, for those just discovering Chinese music, is a pear-shaped stringed instrument that resembles a Renaissance lute but sounds more like a member of the mandolin family. Unlike the mandolin, however, the pipa lends itself to a number of guitarist techniques, including bluesy stringbending and five-fingered picking patterns, many of which He explores on *Autumn Cloud*. (The disc's title, by the way, is an English translation of her given names.) But her musical fusions transcend pastiche: when He encounters a style she likes, she first absorbs it, then makes it her own.

"I don't think I'm ever completely fluent in other styles of music; I don't think that is possible for me," she explains. "But I'm trying to understand as much as I can from my point of view."

An important part of that process is meeting, and playing with, musicians from other cultures. She cites *Rays and Forays*, a collaborative project with Indian composer Chitravina N. Ravikiran, American percussionist Glen Velez, and other musicians as typical. "Basically the music forced me to encounter it, you know," she says. "I didn't know Indian music very much, and then in one week I had to go into the studio with those guys! It was very stressful, but it was also a good introduction. You get into the music right away, and you don't have any excuses; there's no way to back off, because you're going to do a recording, right?"

A similar spirit animates *Autumn Cloud's* gutsy "Way In", an Indian-flavoured excursion driven by Stefan Cihelka's percussive virtuosity, and "Entre Lagos e Montanhas", a duet with Brazilian guitarist and music collaborator Celso Machado. Cihelka won't be able to join He and Thibault when they launch *Autumn Cloud* at the St. James Hall on Saturday (June 17), but an array of other guests will be on hand—including Machado,



Qiu Xia He can play in seemingly any style on her pipa. You ought to hear what she does with "Purple Haze". Rebecca Blisset photo.

who'll unveil his new *Capivara* CD at the same event.

The concert promises to be quite festive, although it will likely include a brief detour into melancholy when He plays "Fire! Fire! Fire!", an instrumental adaptation of the theme from Erik Paulsson's documentary *Island of Shadows*. This is the piece that takes us to D'Arcy Island, and it's a good example of how He, like many Chinese composers, attempts to paint a musical picture of the feelings associated with a particular landscape. It's also another illustration of how, by combining genres, she comes up with music that's all her own.

"Originally, this piece was a song, with singing," He explains. "But I really liked the melody, so when I started working with André, who is trained in flamenco in a very traditional way, I thought it would be interesting for me to explore flamenco playing on the pipa. So I used that piece to explore that idea, and all the similar techniques we have: the tremolo playing, and the strumming things, and the fast scales."

"But it's funny," she adds. "I thought I was working in the flamenco style, so André should feel very comfortable with it. That's what I intended! But when he started working on it, he went, 'No, this is not in the flamenco style. This is so difficult for me to play!' So that's a good example of what happens when you learn new styles: you assume you can do what other musicians do, but in the meantime you're interpreting the music to fit how you see it."

Of course, this kind of give-and-take is a vital part of any multicultural society, and in that regard Silk Road Music is a microcosm of the city where it was born: our city, in all its vibrant diversity. The harmony that He, Thibault and their friends have found is impressive — and exemplary, too.

Local Motion
Alexander Varty



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