

Hello everyone!

I hope you all are doing well!

### **CI Music Hour Recap 2/17/22**

Last week, we had the pleasure of welcoming Clare Yang to our music hour for a second time! Clare introduced us to the Chinese Erhu. "Er" literally means "two," referring to the instrument's two strings, and "hu" refers to the "Huqin" family of instruments which were traditionally used by nomadic tribes in Northern and Western China. Due to its history as an instrument of nomadic tribes, the bow used to play the instrument is attached in between the two strings, for easy transportation. We also learned that the front of the Erhu is made of python skin which is pulled over the hexagonal body of the instrument. The body itself is hollow in the back.

Clare's father passed off the Erhu to Clare after he passed away and now she is learning to play the instrument as a tribute to her father. She performed an improvised piece for us called "Happy Evening" by the founder of modern Erhu playing, Liu Tianhua. She showed us how the sheet music for this piece is written in both Western and Chinese notation. While many of us are familiar with Western notation in which different notes are placed on a staff, this type of Chinese notation is written in numbers which correspond to specific notes.

Clare showed us a second more fast paced piece called "Horse Racing." This piece uses a combination of bowing and plucking techniques, and if you listen carefully, you can hear the Erhu imitate the neigh of a horse at the end! Here is a recording of the piece recommended to us by Clare: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M79DVHaFu4A>.

We also discussed the sound of the Erhu. Many CI users found this instrument more pleasing to listen to than other string instruments and described the sound as "round," "not as screechy," and "melancholy." Clare also introduced us to the pentatonic or five note scale. This scale is commonly used in many Erhu pieces. If you would like to learn more about the pentatonic scale, check out this video shared by our group member, Eric: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MGpUscFY9RA>.

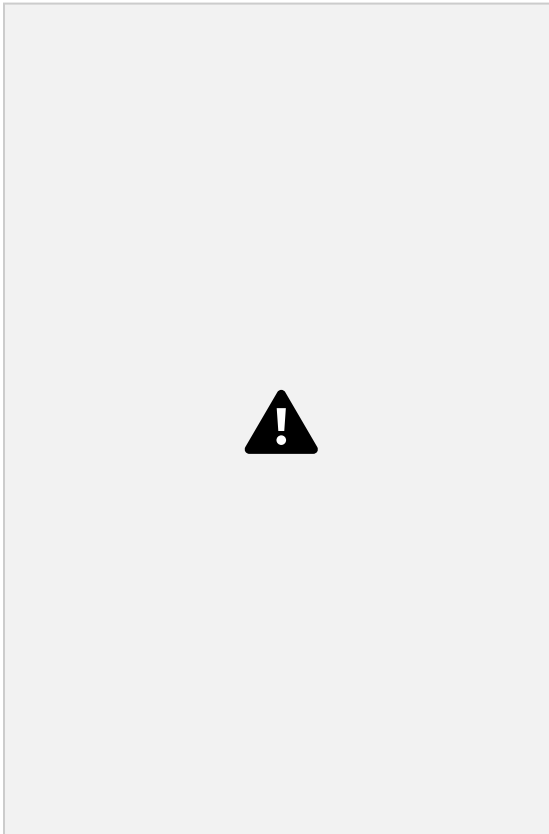
During the second half of the session Clare shared another Chinese instrument with us called the Pipa. This is a four stringed instrument, with a tear-drop shaped body. The instrument is played by plucking the strings instead of bowing them. Finally, Clare ended the music hour by playing the Banjo! We enjoyed hearing the sounds of these various instruments.

### **CI Music Hour Directory**

If you would like to be included in our CI music hour directory so you can easily communicate with other members of our group, please fill out this survey: <https://forms.gle/rLNKTaugg2HKaPDF9>.

### **Tomorrow's CI Music Hour 2/24/22**

Tomorrow we will welcome a group fan favorite, harpist, Seika Dong! Please find her bio and photo below!



Seika Dong is a classically trained harpist, harp teacher, and cat mom to four cats. She started the harp at the age of 4 and is an internationally acclaimed soloist. Currently she is pursuing her doctorate degree in harp performance at USC with a concentration in marketing. Based in Irvine, Seika teaches privately and is dedicated to empowering students and inspiring people to love the harp through music.

See you all tomorrow!

Julianne & Chrysa