

Intersection & MTSU Center for Chinese Music and Culture  
PRESENT

融合

# CONVERGENCE

**October 1**  
**3 p.m. | Casa Azafrán**

An all ages concert of music featuring traditional & contemporary music for Chinese zheng



**MIDDLE  
TENNESSEE**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

*Center for Chinese  
Music and Culture*

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[www.intersectionmusic.org/convergence](http://www.intersectionmusic.org/convergence)

# PROGRAM

Li Zuji, Zhang Yan

Harvest Drum 丰收锣鼓 (1972)

Chihchun Chi-sun Lee  
b. 1970

Zheng Tu 箏途 (2004)

Sun Yue  
b. 1984

Moon Phase 月相 (2022)  
\*World Premiere

Traditional

High Mountain, Flowing Water 高山流水

Chihchun Chi-sun Lee

Dots, Lines, Convergence (2003)

Concerto for Zheng and Chamber Ensemble 点. 线. 面

# PERFORMERS

Dr. Haiqiong Deng, zheng

Dr. Mei Han, zheng

Kelly Corcoran, conductor

Celine Thackston, flute

Todd Waldecker, clarinet

Lawson White, percussion

Esther Sanders, violin

Emily Crane, violin

Sarah Cote, viola

Meghan Berindean, cello

Sarah Ransom, bass

# ABOUT THE ARTISTS

## HAIQIONG DENG

is a master player of the 21-string Chinese zheng who received her Ph.D. in Musicology at Florida State University. She has performed and lectured extensively at concert halls, universities, museums, and festivals, introducing traditional and new music of the zheng and 7-string qin in North America. She received many awards, including the recent 2022 Innova Recordings artist and the 2017 Florida Cultural Heritage Award. Haiqiong has explored diverse world music traditions. Deng has learned classical Indian music with guru Nalini Vinayak since 2013. Her discography ranges from solo, ensemble, concerto, and cross-cultural works released by Sony BMG, BIS, Delos International, Capstone Records, Tribal Record, and Celebrity Music. Deng taught at Florida State University, the University of South Florida, and Tallahassee Community College. She also directed the FSU Chinese Music Ensemble for 17 years. In 2020, Deng founded the Inner Space Music Academy (ISMA) to provide a live and virtual platform to cultivate mindful listening, nurture cultural understanding, and contribute to the human well-being of people from all over the world.

## KELLY CORCORAN

Named “Best Classical Conductor” by the Nashville Scene, Kelly Corcoran is Artistic Director & Conductor of Intersection, a contemporary music ensemble now in its 9th season in Nashville. Corcoran founded the Nashville Philharmonic Orchestra and conducted the Nashville Symphony for nine seasons as Associate Conductor and Director of the Symphony Chorus. She has guest conducted many major orchestras including The Cleveland Orchestra, the Atlanta, Detroit, Houston and National Symphonies and orchestras in Argentina, England, Germany, Czech Republic, Spain, Mexico and Chile. Corcoran has worked with artists such as Bela Fleck, Leslie Odom Jr. and Amy Grant and conducted National Geographic's Symphony for our World international tour. A graduate of Boston Conservatory and Indiana University, a proud alum of the Taki Alsop Conducting Fellowship, the New World Symphony and the Lucerne Festival with Pierre Boulez, her primary mentors are Leonard Slatkin and Marin Alsop. Additionally, Corcoran is on the music faculty at Middle Tennessee State University and is proud to serve on the Advisory Council for Music Makes Us (supporting music education) and Nashville's Health Equity Workgroup.

# ABOUT THE ARTISTS

## MEI HAN, Ph. D.

is one of the world's leading contemporary zheng artists. Han studied with Gao Zicheng and Zhang Yao, two zheng masters, and took the top zheng performance position at the prestigious Beijing Zhan You Ensemble at the age of 20. Moving onto international stages, she has been exploring new directions for solo zheng and unique combinations of zheng with other instruments in a contemporary experimental aesthetic. She has performed with leading artists around the world in a multitude of musical genres from symphonic, chamber and New Music; to traditional and World music; and from Creative Improvisation to electronic. Han's career spans Asia, Africa, Australia, Europe, and North America with performing in many prestigious venues. She has recorded eight albums, three of which received nominations for the Canadian Juno Award and Songlines Awards (England). She is the director of the Center for Chinese Music and Culture at Middle Tennessee State University and Associate Professor at the School of Music.

## SUN YUE

is a composer and pianist. She holds a doctoral degree in music composition from Florida State University. Born into a musical family in China, Sun began her musical training from her childhood. She received her bachelor's degree at Shenyang Conservatory of Music (2002-2007) and master's degree from Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing where she held an outstanding CCOM fellowship (2007-2010). Sun has studied composition with many well-known composers, including Ladislav Kubík, Stephen Montague, Ellen Taaffe Zwilich and Chen Yi. As an active composer, Sun seeks inspiration from different cultures and strives to mix them seamlessly into a musically satisfying combination for performers and audience alike. Sun received a special reward "Ellen Taaffe Zwilich Assistantship" for her residence-in-composer at FSU orchestras (2016-2017) where she was commissioned by University Philharmonic Orchestra (Premiered in April 2018). As an active pianist and a pedagogue, Sun plays in different venues and manages her own piano teaching studio for more than 15 years.

# PROGRAM NOTES

Harvest Drum 丰收锣鼓 (1972) - for zheng  
Li Zuji, Zhang Yan

Based on folk melodies from Shandong province in northern China, this work is one of the first contemporary compositions written for the zheng. The piece reflects the simple yet energetic lives of farmers of the region.  
Zheng: Haiqiong Deng and Mei Han

Zheng Tu (2004) 箏途 - for solo zheng  
Chihchun Chi-sun Lee (b. 1970)

“Gazing through the mist of dawn, the warrior reflected. Life flashed as a day was just relived; struggles and glories keenly caressed the healed wound. As the dust of passion fell, then settled, the road lengthened; a fearless mind, rejuvenated, led toward another journey of determination worth living for.” Zheng-Tu phonetically implies “The journey of conquest.” For every facet of life, obstacles ought to be conquered with an optimistic determination.

Moon Phase 月相 (2022, world premiere)  
Sun Yue (b. 1984)

The Moon represents feminine energy, wisdom, intuition, and spiritual connection. The phases of the Moon symbolize the life cycle; each phase has a different meaning and rhythm. Every culture has rich literature dedicated to the Moon. In this composition, the zheng represents the spirit of the Moon. The solo instrument and the ensemble collectively celebrate the creativity and vitality of the Moon through intricate and robust interactions.

Zheng: Haiqiong Deng & Intersection Musicians

# PROGRAM NOTES

High Mountain, Flowing Water 高山流水

Traditional

This piece comes from Peng Baban, a folk chamber music genre from Shandong province in Northern China. The musicians play variations of the baban simultaneously, demonstrating a heterophonic structure of traditional Chinese music.

Zheng: Haiqiong Deng and Mei Han

Dots, Lines, Convergence: Concerto for Zheng and Chamber Ensemble  
点. 线. 面 (2003)

Chihchun Chi-sun Lee

The composer entitles the three connected movements “Dots,” “Lines,” and “Convergence.” “Dots” brings the zheng into the world of contemporary Western music, using the ideas of Pointillism and Klangfarbenmelodie and focusing on texture rather than melody. “Lines,” in contrast, pulls the orchestra into the East Asian traditions. Lyrical in emphasis, this movement emphasizes a dialogue between the soloist and the ensemble. The final movement, “Convergence,” connects “Dots” and “Lines” and integrates the previous materials while expanding and developing them into a greater unity. This composition was commissioned by the Harvard Fromm Music Foundation and dedicated to Haiqiong Deng, who performed the world premiere in Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, New York, on September 19, 2003.

Zheng: Haiqiong Deng & Intersection Musicians

# **ABOUT INTERSECTION**

## **MISSION**

Intersection is a flexible contemporary music ensemble dedicated to challenging the traditional concert experience, exploring music of the 20th and 21st centuries, supporting living composers, presenting programs for younger audiences, embracing collaboration, technology and the avant-garde, while expanding, respecting and embracing the musical and cultural diversity of Nashville.

## **VISION**

The vision of Intersection is to expand and shift the perspectives of audiences and musicians of all ages, through the creation, cultivation and performance of contemporary music, a vital, thriving and inspiring form of art.

## **FOLLOW & DONATE**

Intersection is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and appreciates the generosity of our supporters and donors. To make a donation visit our website [HERE](#).

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## **SPECIAL THANKS**

Intersection was supported by New Music USA's New Music Organizational Development Fund. In addition to our gratitude for all of our donors, partners, artists, Metro Arts, and the Tennessee Arts Commission, Intersection expresses gratitude to Conexion Americas for hosting our event and Lipscomb University for hosting our rehearsals for Convergence.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

October 15, 2022 at 8pm

[People, Places, Things at Soft Junk](#) presented by [Lockeland Strings](#)

# **ABOUT MTSU CENTER FOR CHINESE MUSIC & CULTURE**

The MTSU Center for Chinese Music and Culture is the only center of its kind in North America. CCMC's mission is to engage regional, national, and global communities about rich and diverse musical and cultural traditions from China. We strive to promote cultural diversity and mutual understanding through learning, scholarship, and service opportunities.

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