# Embracing Goudiao 句鑃 and the Land of Wuyue 吴越： Cultural Voice and Historical Connections in Contemporary Music Composition 

Volume I：Thesis

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A thesis submitted in partial fulfilment
of the requirements for the degree of Master of Music（Composition）

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## Statement of Original Authorship

The work contained in this thesis has not been previously submitted to meet requirements for an award at this or any other higher education institution. To the best of my knowledge and belief, the thesis contains no material previously published or written by another person except where due reference is made.

Signature:

Date:

## Keywords

Music, Composition, Ethnomusicology, Goudiao, Musical Artifact, Musical Archaeology, Musical Traditions, Creativity, Cultural Memory, Cultural Affinities, Cultural Voice, Cultural Insider, Collective Memory, Cultural Continuity, Cultural Heritage, Historical Heritage, Musical Sustainability, Musical Revitalisation, Emotional Geography, Everywhen, Eastern Zhou Dynasty, Spring and Autumn, Wuyu, Wuyue, Wu Vassal State, Yue Vassal State, Bronze Artifact, Jiangnansizhu, Kun Opera, Pingtan, Silk and Bamboo.


#### Abstract

This thesis examines the complex relationship between cultural heritage，land，and historical instruments in contemporary music composition，with a focus on the Wuyue 吴越 region in southeastern China．The study explores the potential of the goudiao 句鑃，a historical bronze struck idiophone associated with Wuyue，for creating new music that reflects the cultural voice and historical connections of the area．As a native of Wuyue，the author also actively incorporates personal cultural memory and engages with Wuyue＇s traditional musical languages to create a collection of new music that resonates with her as a cultural bearer．

The thesis employs a combination of theoretical research，fieldwork，spectral analysis， performance，and compositional practice to investigate how the goudiao can function as both a symbol representing Wuyue＇s cultural identity and a source of inspiration for contemporary compositions．It also considers the roles played by emotional geography and the concept of ＂everywhen＂in shaping the nuanced musical expressions arising from cultural heritage．

From a musicological standpoint，this research contributes to the realm of goudiao research and highlights the intrinsic value of cultural heritage，history，and geographic perspectives in understanding the creative processes underlying a nuanced interpretation of musical traditions．Compositionally，the thesis establishes a model for integrating cultural heritage into contemporary compositions and illuminates the possibilities of engaging with historical instruments．Additionally，the study addresses a gap in previous studies， characterised by a lack of compositions by Wuyue composers drawing inspiration from the historical discoveries associated with Wuyue culture．


## Acknowledgements

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my esteemed supervisors, Dr. Danial Rojas and Dr. Catherine Ingram. Their invaluable guidance, expertise, and continuous support have been instrumental in shaping and refining this research project. Their insightful feedback and scholarly advice have significantly enriched the quality of this work.

I am profoundly grateful to Dr. Zhu Guowei for his invaluable assistance in making my field trip a reality. Without his support and facilitation, the collection of essential data and firsthand experiences of the goudiao would not have been possible.

I would also like to extend my appreciation to Dr. David Kim-Boyle for his generous contribution of knowledge on spectral sound and his provision of recording devices during the field trip. His expertise and guidance have greatly enhanced my understanding of sound recording techniques, particularly in capturing the spectral profile of the goudiao.

I express my gratitude to the musicologists, artists, and friends who shared knowledge on various traditional Wuyue musical forms. I am thankful to my guqin teacher, Wu Xiaodan, as well as Fang Yanlei and Lu Jiale, for their instruction in the pingtan singing style. I am also appreciative of Prof. Zhang Xuan from Shanghai Conservatory of Music for teaching me Kunqu. Dr. Liu Lu from Sydney Conservatory of Music facilitated several performance opportunities, allowing me to engage and experience the aforementioned musical forms. Moreover, I am indebted to John Jingdao Ling for serving as my introductory mentor in Chinese Music.

I am indebted to the talented musicians who graciously dedicated their time and expertise to record and perform my compositions for the portfolio. Their exceptional skill and artistic interpretation have breathed life into my musical vision, and their contributions have been invaluable to the overall quality and impact of this research.

Lastly, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my family and friends for their unwavering support, understanding, and encouragement throughout the entire process, particularly during the challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic. Their unconditional love, belief in my abilities, and encouragement have been a constant source of motivation and inspiration.

To all those mentioned above, and to those who have contributed in ways beyond what words can capture, I extend my sincerest thanks. Your support, guidance, and encouragement have been indispensable in the realization of this research project.

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## Use of the Chinese Language，Orthography and Musical Transcription

In this thesis，Chinese terms are Romanised using Hanyu pinyin zimu 汉语拼音字母，the most widely used method for transcribing Modern Standard Chinese（MSC）．A glossary of Chinese titles，names，and concepts mentioned in the project is provided at the end of this thesis． For clarity among terms with similar Romanised rendering，I also include the Chinese characters in the main body of this thesis．

The orthographic rendition for Wuyu 吴语，customarily known as the Wu dialect， employs a unique system I devised，deviating from the commonly employed Hanyu pinyin zimu system．

In this thesis I follow Chinese name order for Chinese names，with surname preceding the given name．For example，Dong Chuping and Zhu Guowei with Dong and Zhu being the surmanes．Researchers with the same surname are mentioned using their full name to avoid misunderstanding．

All musical transcriptions presented in this thesis are undertaken by me，unless indicated otherwise．In doing so，I reflect my understanding of music theory，performance practice，and compositional techniques that facilitated the accurate representation of the musical material in the Wuyue musical traditions．

## Introduction

This thesis and portfolio of compositions examine the interplay between history, creativity, and cultural heritage, highlighting the use of historical artifacts as inspiration for contemporary artistic endeavors. They offer insights from a cultural insider's perspective, exploring the connection between past and present in creative expression. The overarching goal is to make an informed and original contribution to the preservation and revitalisation of the Wuyue musical legacy. Central to this exploration is the study and incorporation of the goudiao句鑃, a distinctive idiophone associated with the region's historical legacy. Crucial to the success of this project was the connection I established with Dr. Zhu Guowei, a musical archaeologist who was involved in the construction of a goudiao replica set displayed at the Museum of Chinese National Music in Wuxi, Jiangsu province. Through this connection, I was able to undertake a field trip, actively engage with the instrument, and subsequently record and sample the goudiao replicas. According to Dr. Zhu, this set of replica was constructed using identical materials, measurements, and shapes as the original goudiao set. For this reason, the sound it produced should be highly similar to the original instrument, although I acknowledge that nuances may not be fully captured in the replica. These recordings and samples are invaluable resources that I eventually incorporated into my compositions.

This study has two primary objectives. Firstly, it aims to make an original contribution to the field of music composition by exploring the creation of new music using the goudiao. Limited musicological research has been conducted on this instrument, and its potential for composition remains largely untapped. To the best of my knowledge, no composer has utilised the goudiao as a foundation for their musical compositions. Secondly, this study aims to establish a model that can serve as a guide for other composers aspiring to create music that reflects the voice of their own culture while bringing history into the present. Goudiao is employed as a musical symbol of the culture of Wuyue, as well as a practical source of musical data and inspiration. Through this approach, I demonstrate how a historical instrument can be creatively incorporated into contemporary compositions, providing insights that can be compared to concepts of musical sustainability or revitalisation.

This introduction first explores the personal, cultural, and historical origins that hold significance to me, and which shaped the motivation behind this thesis and portfolio of
compositions．It then highlights the significance of the study in engaging with the interplay among history，creativity，and cultural heritage in relation to the goudiao，Wuyue cultural heritage and contemporary music composition．Additionally，this chapter elucidates the chosen methodology employed to conduct the study，providing a framework for the research process， and introduces the accompanying portfolio of compositions．Furthermore，an overview of the portfolio of compositions is provided．Lastly，this chapter outlines the structure and content of the subsequent chapters．

## PERSONAL，CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL ORIGINS

My research and portfolio are centred on the culture and history of my home region in southeastern China，as this endeavor is catalysed by a profound personal connection and a deep exploration of my sense of cultural＂origin＂and its significance．For the purpose of this study， origin，refers to＂the place where it began＂（Cambridge Dictionary，n．d．）．The notion of＂origin＂ serves as the theoretical cornerstone for this research endeavor．Within this section，I elucidate the interconnectedness of personal origin，cultural origin，and historical origin，demonstrating the intricate web that binds these concepts to my cultural identity．

To this end，I present my personal background to provide context for my sense of personal ＂origin＂．I was born and grew up in Shanghai and relocated to Sydney in 2010．My musical background is rooted in piano and classical singing，and later with a specific focus on composition within the Western tradition．As I explored my compositional identity，a growing emotional attachment to the memories and sounds of Shanghai，my hometown，and the backdrop of my childhood and teenage years，became increasingly apparent．Shanghai，as the birthplace of my personal experiences and development，holds a significant position as my personal＂origin＂．

While Shanghai remains my city of birth，the broader regional area known as the Wuyue region（wuyue diqu 吴越地区），where Shanghai is physically，culturally and linguistically located，serves as an extension of my hometown ${ }^{1}$ ．The Wuyue region，henceforth referred to as Wuyue ${ }^{2}$ ，encompasses Shanghai，Zhejiang，the southern portion of Jiangsu province，and the

[^0]eastern part of Anhui province（see Figure 0．1）．I consider this area as my cultural＂origin＂ providing a sense of belonging and kinship with fellow individuals who share the same regional dialect．It fosters a collective identity and nurtures a feeling of shared heritage．


Figure 0．1：A map of the regional area around Shanghai（Chen et al．，2020）

During the period of the COVID－19 pandemic between 2020 and 2022，the longing and yearning to reconnect with my cultural＂origin＂intensified．As a result，I immersed myself in the practice of traditional regional musical arts alongside my own music composition endeavors．These artistic pursuits included the guqin 古琴 of the Guangling School （guanglingpai 广陵派），pingtan 评弹，and kunqu 昆曲．

Tragically，at the same time，I experienced the loss of a family member，and another family member encountered a significant health setback．Regrettably，due to the strict travel restrictions imposed by the pandemic and the severe lockdown measures enforced in Shanghai， I was unable to visit them in person．The frustration arising from the lack of accessibility to my personal＂origin＂，has evoked a sense of being confined within my current physical space in Sydney and disconnected from my cultural＂origin＂on an intimate and tangible level．

My exploration of the collective cultural memory in Wuyue has been guided by the theoretical framework by Assman（1992）．This concept encompasses dimensions such as ＂memory culture＂and＂reference to the past＂and to preserve cultural continuity and nurture a collective sense of identity rooted in our shared historical heritage（Randhofer，2004，38－39）． Drawing from this framework，my creative research delves into cultural and musical materials on the land of Wuyue，from both the past and the present，serving as a foundation and informing

[^1]my work．The objective is to establish an identification with and forge a connection to Wuyue＇s cultural continuity and employ artistic expressions that resonate with those sharing the same culture．

Just as the constraint of space prevented me from physically accessing my family，the historical tapestry of Wuyue is also physically inaccessible．This parallel between my personal circumstances and the broader historical context allows me to engage with my cultural memory in a way that transcends space and time，offering a unique perspective．The historical aspects of Wuyue acts as an anchor to my cultural memory and reinforces my role as a custodian of Shanghai＇s regional culture．

To uncover my understanding of the historical origin of Wuyue，I began by exploring the etymology of the terms Wu and Yue．The term＂Wuyue＂derives from the names of two vassal states，Wu 吴 or Gouwu 句吴 and Yue 越 or Yuyue 于越．They were located in the lower reaches of the Yangtze River during the Eastern Zhou dynasty（ 770 BCE to 256 BCE）．These areas correspond to the present－day regions of Shanghai，Jiangsu，Anhui，and the northern part of Zhejiang provinces（ $\mathrm{Wu}, 2021,32$ ）（see Figure 0.2 ）．The indigenous inhabitants in this region were the non－Sinitic Yuyue people ${ }^{3}$ ．They were perceived as culturally distinct by the Sinitic states，evoking a sense of cultural＂otherness＂（Major and Cook，2017，18）．However，today Shanghai and the entire Wuyue region no longer carry this connotation of＂otherness＂and are Sinified．

[^2]

Figure 0.2: The distribution of Southeastern ethnic branches of "barbarians" Bai Yue (Wu, 2021, 32)

During the Zhou era, the Sinitic culture of the Zhou dynasty underwent a significant expansion that involved the cultural assimilation of indigenous ethnicities in the southeastern direction from its core territories, exemplified by the emergence and early development of the Wu state ( $\mathrm{Wu}, 2021,29$ ). The state of Yue also assumed a prominent role in warfare and interstate political maneuvering during the late Zhou dynasty (Major and Cook, 2017,18). The tracing of the term "Wuyue" back to the vassal states of Wu and Yue, along with their notable historical and cultural influence, highlights their symbolic relevance in shaping my cultural heritage. I hence regard the Wu and Yue vassal states as my historical "origin".

This led me to deeply consider the ways that I could create culturally appropriate music that captures some of the region's key cultural sensibilities while infusing its historical legacy into contemporary compositions. This inquiry stems from a desire to bridge the gap between the past and the present, enabling a meaningful and resonant musical expression of Wuyue's cultural heritage.

## SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This project encompasses the integration of personal experiences and cultural memory, and the goudiao within the musical landscape of Wuyue, forging a profound connection to my home region and enhancing a compositional process that is authentic to me as a cultural insider. This thesis and portfolio therefore explore two essential aspects: first, the utilisation of the
objective knowledge of the region's past sounds, and second, the incorporation of my cultural memory as a native insider with an active engagement of its native musical languages. The challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic limited my research to be carried out mainly in Australian rather than the land of Wuyue itself, these facets converge to compose new music that blurs temporal and spatial boundaries. Appendix B offers instances of contemporary composers who have incorporated musical inspiration derived from their respective cultural backgrounds, which I studied and considered prior to developing my own approach.

My approach relies on historical musical knowledge and my personal experience in connecting to and discovering the sound of my hometown and its cultural memory. The challenge I faced was to create a sincere representation of my ancestral and historical homeland without relying on a present-day tradition, or having access to primary data such as historical musical notations. The use of goudiao serves as a pathway to connect with the cultural memory of the Wuyue region. Appendix C introduces a model illustrating the adaptability of my approach in exploring diverse cultural influences within one compositional endeavour.

The goudiao (Figure 0.3) is a struck bell-shaped idiophone first made of bronze and later porcelain, usually played in a set with the mouth facing upwards and the handle at the bottom. By studying the goudiao's historical and cultural significance through textual records and playing an exact replica at the Museum of Chinese National Music, I experienced a direct connection to the instrument's sounds and legacy. My personal immersion in Wuyue's environment and musical traditions, has also deepened my understanding of the methods of integrating the goudiao into contemporary music. In light of this understanding, my artistic intention is to embrace this transformative nature of Wuyue's legacy and explore the creative possibilities that arise from the interplay between the past and the present.


Figure 0.3: A picture of the goudiao (Suzhou Bowuguan, 2017)

## METHODOLOGY

This research adopts a cross-disciplinary approach, integrating ethnomusicological research with composition. Initially, I conducted an extensive study of the ethnomusicological knowledge related to Wuyue, aiming to gain a comprehensive understanding of the musical practices, cultural and historical context associated with the region. To understand more about the goudiao I conducted an extensive literature search and also made efforts to establish connections with researchers who possess up-to-date information on this instrument. My field trip to Wuxi in August 2022 gave me an opportunity to play, record, and sample a set of goudiao replicas ${ }^{5}$. This hands-on approach allowed for spectral analysis of the collected samples, contributing to the acquisition of data for the composition process ${ }^{6}$.

[^3]Building upon the ethnomusicological knowledge related to Wuyue，knowledge drawn from the research of the goudiao，three dimensions of materials informed my compositional process．The first aspect focuses on the goudiao itself，encompassing aspects such as its design， spectral information，and musical significance．This involves studying the instrument in detail and understanding its unique characteristics and cultural importance．The second aspect involved an exploration of the history，culture，and music of the Wu and Yue vassal states， which are integral to what I see as the historical origin of Wuyue．This exploration served as a source of inspiration，providing additional narrative depth to my musical imagination and expression．The third aspect involves my personal engagement with the regional musical forms， cultural memory，and emotional landscape of Wuyue during the creative process．This aspect emphasises my own subjective experiences，connections，and reflections，which are interwoven into the compositional process．

## PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

A part of the result of this study is a portfolio consisting of four distinct bodies of work，each draws on different but related sources of inspiration．They are：

- Wuyu 吴欤（Whispering Sighs of Wu）for chamber orchestra and choir
- Yuejue 越绝（The Utmost Yue）for chamber orchestra and choir
－Shanghai Streets，a suite with four movements for piano solo
－As Goudiao Calls Upon Me for Chinese and Western String ensemble．

Wиуи and Yuejue are named after drawing inspirations from the Wu and Yue vassal states of the Eastern Zhou dynasty respectively．Both works feature the goudiao as a major source of inspiration，and include samples of recordings of a goudiao replica set．These pieces also derive inspiration from the historical events，cultural contexts，the environment，song lyrics，and musical discoveries of the Eastern Zhou dynasty，as well as my own memory and connection to the cultural origin of Wuyue．

In Shanghai Streets，I intertwine my impression of four streets representing different stages of Shanghai＇s historical development．This musical narrative reflects the city＇s evolution

[^4]over time and holds personal significance as these streets connect to my own residencies in Shanghai．Moreover，they symbolically relate to the historical progression of the goudiao．By merging the historical stages of the goudiao with the physical locations of my personal homes， I bring the past to the present．This artistic exploration collapses the boundaries of time and space，creating a cohesive musical experience that captures both the city＇s historical trajectory and my own lived experiences．

As Goudiao Calls Upon Me is a composition for a nine－member ensemble，combining Chinese and Western string instruments．It follows a through－composed structure，tracing the chronological order of events during my field trip to the Museum of Chinese National Music． The composition process involved semi－improvisation on the piano，whereby the improvisational process facilitated the reconnecting with forgotten details and intertwining musical expression with personal recollection．It draws inspiration from the musical devices and textures used in the local silk and bamboo（jiangnansizhu 江南丝竹）ensemble tradition．

## THESIS OUTLINE

This chapter has outlined my thesis aim，exploring the untapped potential of creating new music using the goudiao，and mentioning a model for composers to incorporate their cultural voice and historical connections into their compositions．In Chapter 1，I explore the musical aspects of my sense of personal，cultural，and historical origins．Firstly，I focus on my experience in Shanghai and the musical influences of the Wuyue traditions．I then provide an overview of the historical musical knowledge of the Wu and Yue vassal states，justifying the choice of making the goudiao as a musical symbol of Wuyue cultural legacy．This exploration provides both emotional and logical reasoning for envisioning an imagined musical landscape that resonates with my composition endeavours．

Chapter 2 presents data and information on the goudiao drawn from published literature as well as my own firsthand research on the spectral analysis of the goudiao．This empirical approach adds depth and credibility to the study，supporting the exploration of the goudiao＇s potential for composition and filling the gap in existing musicological research．By presenting data of the goudiao，the chapter shows the importance and untapped potential of the goudiao as a foundation for contemporary music composition．

Chapter 3 demonstrates the integration of personal experience，historical imagination，and objective knowledge of the goudiao in the process of composing music．Through this synthesis， the chapter illustrates how time and space are collapsed，and the geographical conditions and
enduring pathways of Wuyue are incorporated into the compositions. Using concepts of "everywhen" and "emotional geography", the chapter provides an in-depth analysis of how the compositions transcend temporal and spatial boundaries. This analysis reinforces that the music reflects the sound of my cultural origin in a contemporary context and serves as a testament to the potential of incorporating cultural heritage into creative expression.

## Chapter 1：Origins：Personal，Cultural and Historical

This chapter explores my personal，cultural，and historical origins in the context of my jiaxiang－Wuyue．It begins by delving into my experience growing up in Shanghai which forms a key element in my personal connection to my cultural＂origin．＂Subsequently，it explores some of the features in Wuyue＇s musical traditions that I practiced and performed during the course of this research，which informed my understanding of the musical language of the region， which I actively practiced．Furthermore，it examines the historical and musical aspects of the Wu and Yue vassal states，serving as the cultural memory and a sense of historical＂origin＂of Wuyue．By establishing these personal and historical connections，this chapter lays the groundwork for the motivation of this research and provide the reasoning for using certain methods and techniques in my compositions ${ }^{7}$ ．

## 1．1 SHANGHAI：MY PERSONAL ORIGIN

The sounds of a typical afternoon from my childhood home remain etched in my memory． The home rested on a quiet street；its stillness occasionally disrupted by the melodious chants of street vendors conversing in Shanghainese ${ }^{8}$ ．There were the flower sellers；their melodic chants of＂$d z d z$ hoo，buh lay $h o o{ }^{9}$ 枙子花，白兰花＂（gardenia and white magnolia flowers） echoed through the neighborhood as they gracefully traversed the area in search of potential buyers．The melody they created resembled the musical notation found in Figure 1．1．

[^5]

Figure 1．1：The tune sung by the flower sellers

The repairers responsible for mending coconut coir beds wound also make their calls：＂$A$ yoe loh uh dzong bung shee＇oe va，tdun bung shee＇oe va 阿有老额棕绷修伐，藤绷修伐＂（Any old coconut coir bed to be repaired？Rattan bed to be repaired？）（see Figure 1．2）．


Figure 1．2：Musical transcription of the chant from the coir bed repairers

To me，these street calls harmonised with the sizzling sounds emanating from my grandparents＇kitchen as they prepared meals for our family．The amalgamation of these auditory elements evoked a profound sense of security，tranquillity，and affection within me， and eventually informed my compositional decisions as discussed in Chapter 3.

Sometimes，I would diligently practice the piano．With the piano positioned near the window，its sounds would blend in the outer atmosphere．At times，the sky would gradually darken，giving way to a gentle drizzle．At other times，the birds outside would join in with their twittering，inspiring me to align my piano playing with their songs．With caution and creativity， I would improvise，carefully crafting music that would hopefully blend with the birds＇singing， and I would feel a strong sense of emptiness once the birds took flight．While the experience of playing the piano accompanied by the sounds of rain and birds may be a familiar one for many individuals，within the humid climate of Wuyue，there emerges a distinct impression of unity， where raindrops，birdcalls，and the piano timbre converge into an indivisible presence．The resulting musical interplay exemplifies a delicate balance between freedom and meticulousness，
as each sound component seemed to contribute to the cohesive tapestry of auditory sensations experienced in this Wuyue atmospheric milieu．

## 1．2 WUYUE MUSICAL TRADTION：PRACTICING TRADITIONAL MUSIC OF MY CULTURAL ORIGIN

The music tradition of Wuyue that I practiced seemed to also acknowledge this sense of active listening，semi－improvisation and interaction with the surrounding environment．

Early 2020，I started to learn the guqin，a seven－string zither with a very ancient history， and studied qin playing of the Guangling School．The Guangling School was first founded in Yangzhou，a city in Wuyue．As I delved into learning this instrument，I discovered a fascinating aspect of its musical language．While the rhythms and note inflections were not explicitly notated on the score，I learned them orally during my lessons．For instance，in a piece called Autumn Wind（Qiufengci 秋风词）（see Figure 1．3），the notated time signatures were marked as $2 / 4+3 / 4$ ．


Figure 1．3：Score Excerpt of Qiufengci（Dai，2014，5）

Throughout my learning，however，I realised that the execution was more nuanced and fluid．The musical elements and details that I learned and played in the end is illustrated in Figure 1．4．The nature of this music renders precise notations inadequate，as each performance encapsulates a distinct and ever－evolving rendition．The piece itself embraces and encourages
artistic freedom and interpretation, granting the performer the liberty to imbue the music with their unique sensibilities and adapt it to the momentary context. Consequently, attempting to rigidly capture the nuances of this musical tradition through fixed notations would undermine its inherent fluidity and improvisational nature. Careful listening to my inner-self, the surrounding environment, and the nuances of the instrument at that moment became crucial in producing the most fitting sound for the occasion.


Figure 1.4: A Score Demonstration of how the first two notes of Autumn Wind was learned and played (Dai, 2014, 5)

A similar situation arose in my exploration of the kun opera, one of the oldest surviving forms of Chinese opera, originating in Kunshan, another city within Wuyue. As I learned an aria from The Peony Pavilion called "Zaoluopao," I encountered a similar phenomenon of learning orally without detailed expression and interpretation indicated on the score. A passage from the aria can be seen in Figure 1.5.


Figure 1.5: One passage from "Zaoluopao" shown on the musical score (Guan, 2010, 45)

When I was learning this passage, I was taught to treat the word lok staccato-like, as this word is pronounced short in the Wu dialect. As kun opera is sung in the Wu dialect, I would also need to cut the word short. This treatment, however, is not demonstrated on the original score in Figure 1.5. Additionally, further inflections and gestures were added to create a push and pull effect during the oral teaching, resulting in a distinctive sound characteristic of the kun
opera．The result of what this passage actually sounded like after I learnt it can be demonstrated in Figure 1．6：


Figure 1．6：Notation of the musical inflection learned in＂Zaoluopao＂

These inflections are what I learned from my teacher．Performers in other Schools may learn the inflections differently．Although the details of the inflections are also free to be interpreted and re－composed by the singer for the best sound to their taste，certain inflections cannot be changed and are considered typical of the kun opera．For example，the musical inflection above the word shr in Figure 1.6 cannot be sung in the way shown in Figure 1．7．This means that for a note to move up or down a $2^{\text {nd }}$ degree within a gesture，it must go up a $33^{\text {rd }}$ or a $4^{\text {th }}$ degree first before moving down．

shr $\qquad$

Figure 1．7：Incorrect musical inflection execution in the Kun opera tradition

This emphasis on semi－improvisation within a culturally conditioned framework is not limited to the kun opera but is also observed in the pingtan tradition．The piece Great Scene in Suzhou（Suzhou Haofengguang 苏州好风光），which I learned，can be a good example．In Figure 1．8，which shows the opening bars of this piece，the highlighted notes represent the main melody，while the other notes within the same beat grouping serve as embellishments or jiahua加花（adding flowers）．These embellishments allow the performer to semi－improvise ornamentations based on their own artistic sensibilities and the particular moment of the performance．Interestingly，the patterns of embellishments seem to follow a similar structure to
that of the kun opera，where moving down a $2^{\text {nd }}$ or a $3^{\text {rd }}$ interval requires the preceding embellishments to ascend a $2^{\text {nd }}$ or a $3^{\text {rd }}$ degree before descending．


Figure 1．8：The opening section of Great Scenes in Suzhou．

This musical characteristic can also be found in the local silk and bamboo ensemble tradition native to Wuyue．This ensemble tradition combines bowed，plucked，and struck string instruments with bamboo flutes and a mouth organ，and active listening and intuitive interaction between musicians are highly valued．An example of this can be observed in the opening of the silk and bamboo piece Harmonies on the Streets（Xingjie Sihe 行街四合），as depicted in Figure 1.9.

The jiahua technique is evident in this example，allowing performers the freedom to interpret and embellish the basic melodies．This emphasis on variation among the melodic lines creates a heterophonic texture and encourages musicians to develop their own unique renditions．The alternating and contrasting melodic density，register，and volume of any two musical lines，whether improvised or precomposed，are emphasized（Witzleben，2002，226）． The intrinsic understanding of the sounds fosters a deep interlocking sound quality of the music of this tradition．

My engagement with the aforementioned musical practices of Wuyue underscores the significance of active listening，sensory perception，and deliberate improvisation in the local musical tradition．It reveals a profound resonance with my childhood experiences，where my own active participation took part in the careful integration of diverse sounds into a unified environment．The moist climate of Wuyue seems to effortlessly unite these sounds，allowing them to＂stick together＂in the atmosphere．The attentive listening and interpretation of these sounds in a harmonious yet deliberate manner accentuate the intricate balance between artistic freedom and meticulous execution，a prominent characteristic that permeates my musical exploration of my cultural origin in Wuyue．

Xingjie Sihe


Figure 1.9: Score for the opening of Harmonies on the Streets

### 1.3 THE HISTORICAL ORIGIN OF WUYUE: WU AND YUE VASSAL STATES AND THEIR MUSIC

I now provide the historical context of the Wu and Yue vassal states ${ }^{10}$ during the Eastern Zhou Dynasty, which provides trans-temporal insights in my previous musical exploration of my cultural origin in Wuyue.

### 1.3.1 Wu and Yue Vassal States

The Eastern Zhou dynasty can be further divided into two distinct periods: the Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 BCE) and the Warring States Period (475-221 BCE).

The historical events occurred during the late Eastern Zhou dynasty between these two states shaped the cultural landscape of the region and became a significant source of inspiration for the historical narratives in my compositions. According to Major and Cook, during this period, Wu and Yue engaged in territorial struggles. Wu temporarily gained great-power status after defeating another vassal state, Chu, and absorbing some of its territory (2017, 132) (see Figure 1.10). However, King Helü of Wu was mortally wounded during an invasion of Yue in 496 BCE. Following his father's footsteps, King Fuchai of Wu continued his ambitious endeavors. In 493 BCE, Fuchai inflicted a devastating defeat on Yue, capturing its king, Goujian. Goujian's wife became one of Fuchai's concubines, and Goujian himself was forced to serve Fuchai (Major and Cook, 2017, 132-133).

[^6]
## Chinese plain in the late Spring and Autumn period (5th century BC)



Figure 1.10: Map of the late Spring and Autumn period of China ( $5^{\text {th }}$ century BC) (Yug, 2011)

However, Fuchai's triumph was short-lived. Goujian, feigning acceptance of his humiliation, had secretly plotted revenge with loyal supporters in Yue. Yue eventually avenged its previous defeat by Wu , annihilating the Wu army and ultimately absorbing the state of Wu (Major and Cook, 2017, 133) (see Figure 1.11).


Figure 1．11：Map of the early Warring States period of China（Wikipedia Commons，2017）

## 1．3．2 A Brief Discussion of the Music and Artifacts of Wu and Yue vassal States

Upon further investigation into the musical culture and practice of the Wu and Yue vassal states，it becomes evident that there is a scarcity of primary data，such as musical notations．The negative perception of the Yue people as cultural＂others＂by the Sinitic states（Major and Cook， $2017,18)$ may have contributed to a lack of interest in studying or documenting their musical culture．

Historical documents that mention music primarily consist of Sinicised lyrics without musical notations ${ }^{11}$ ．As a result，these historical documents only offered sources of inspiration and imagination for the story，landscape，setting，and environment of my creative musical

[^7]output ${ }^{12}$ ．The limitations of these texts and the necessity for approximations led me to examine research on the archaeological discoveries from the region as the artifacts would provide more objective information and tangible data that shed light on the musical practices of that period．

In particular，bronze artifacts hold particular significance．This is because the Bronze cultures during the West and East Zhou dynasties are characterized by a combination of indigenous cultural traditions originating from the local Neolithic Age and the assimilation and dissemination of bronze cultures from the Shang，Zhou，Wu，and Yue regions（Wu，2021，107）． Studying the numerous archaeological discoveries of bronze instruments becomes essential to gain deeper insights into the musical practices of Wu and Yue vassal states．

Wang Zichu＇s＇s analysis revealed that certain bronze idiophones were significant to the Yue people in Wu and Yue vassal states．These are nao 铙，yueshi yuanzhong 越式圆钟（Yue－ styled round bell）and goudiao 句鑃（2015，63－67）．In 2019，Sui Yu examined the shape， musical performance，and acoustic characteristics of bronze bells in Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces．Sui found that while the two kinds of Sinitic bronze bells，bianzhong 编钟 and bianbo 编镈，exhibited a high degree of standardisation，the goudiao，a bronze idiophone of the Yue people，displayed less standardisation in terms of shape and size（Sui，2019，330）．This suggests a divergence in the usage patterns of bronze instruments between the Yue and Sinitic populations．Zhu＇s analysis on the types and sizes of the musical instruments unearthed in the Hongshan Yue tomb indicated a reason for the lack of standardisation．He noted that the Yue people might have used the goudiao to represent social class identities through material choices and instrument sizes（Zhu，2010，38）．

These findings not only underscored the significance of the goudiao within the cultural context of the Yue people residing in Wu and Yue vassal states but also shed light on its potential role in reflecting regional social dynamics and cultural practices．Furthermore，as discussed in section 2．2，the lifespan of this bell aligns precisely with the duration of the Eastern Zhou dynasty，which marked the emergence of Wu and Yue in historical records．Consequently，the selection of the goudiao，as a representative Yue－style instrument，serves as a musical symbol that encapsulates the historical＂origin＂of Wuyue culture in my study．

[^8]
## Chapter 2: Goudiao

In this chapter, I present and analyse the main information available about the goudiao, ranging from its distribution, historical evolution, to a spectral analysis of the goudiao samples collected during my field trip. The chapter aims to shed light on the significance of the goudiao within the context of Wuyue culture. It also aims to establish a factual and informative basis for my artistic choices concerning the goudiao, which I utilised as a cultural symbol, a reservoir of inspiration as well as a source of sound in connection to Wuyue. These considerations served as reasoning guiding my compositional decisions throughout my musical compositions.

### 2.1 DISTRIBUTION

Tables 2.1-2.5 ${ }^{13}$ provide a summary of the locations where the goudiao known up to today have been found and Figure 2.1 shows the locations where these bells were found on the map. These sets of data highlight the concentration of the goudiao in the provinces of Jiangsu and Zhejiang, suggesting a stronger geographical presence in these regions. In contrast, the relatively smaller number of the goudiao found in Hubei, Hunan, and Jiangxi may indicate a lower prevalence of the instrument in those areas. This spatial distribution underscores the regional prominence of the goudiao and its profound connection to the cultural heritage of Wuyue.

[^9]| Year | Qty. | Location | Historical State and Period |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1788 | , | Changshu | Yue vassal state (Yang, 2014, 49) <br> Late Spring Autumn (Zhu, 2010, 78) |
| 1958 | 7 | Wujin Yancheng | Early Spring Autumn (Yue, 2002, 491) <br> Warring States Period (Zhu, 2010, 78) |
| 1974 | 8 | Gaochun Gulong | Early Spring Autumn (Yue, 2002, 491) <br> Warring States Period (Zhu, 2010, 78) |
| 1974 | 2 | Gaochun Qingshan | Late Spring and Autumn Period (Li, 1994, 118) <br> Early Spring Autumn (Yue, 2002, 491) |
| 1976 | 5 | Wujiang North Meiyanlong | Unknown (Dong, 2010, 238) |
| 1980 | 2 | Kunshan Dingshanhu (near Zhujiajiao) | Late Spring Autumn (Wang, 2007) |
| 1985 | 1 | Zhenjiang Wangjiashan | Unknown (Dong, 2010, 238) |
| 1988 | 1 | Dantu | Unknown (Dong, 2010, 238) |

Table 2.1: 25 goudiao unearthed from southern Jiangsu province

| Year | Qty. | Location | Notes |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{1 8 2 7}$ | 13 | Wukang Shan | Late Spring and Autumn Period (Yue, 2002, <br> 491) <br> Yue vassal state (Dong, 2010, 106) |
| $\mathbf{1 9 2 9}$ | 11 | Shaoxing | porcelain goudiaos (Dong, 2010, 240) |
| $\mathbf{1 9 7 7}$ | 2 | Shangxing <br> Chengguan <br> Goutoushan, <br> Shaoxing | Late Spring and Autumn Period (Li, 1994, <br> 119) |
| $\mathbf{1 9 8 3}$ | 12 | Haiyanchang <br> Changchuanba <br> Huangjiashan | Warring States Period (Yue, 2002, 491) |

Table 2.2: 38 goudiaos unearthed from northern Zhejiang province

| Year | Qty. | Location | Notes |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{1 9 7 9}$ | 1 | Yicheng <br> Leijiapo | Unknown (Dong, 2010, 240) |
| $\mathbf{1 9 8 4}$ | 2 | Guangji | Late Spring and Autumn Period (Li, 1994, 120) <br> Early Spring Autumn (Yue, 2002, 491) |

Table 2.3: 3 goudiaos unearthed from Hubei province

| Year | Qty. | Location | Notes |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{1 9 8 6}$ | 1 | North | Also discovered a wooden mallet alongside (Dong, |
|  |  | Changsha |  |
| Hehuachi | 2010, 240) |  |  |

Table 2.4: 1 goudiaos unearthed from Hunan province

| Year | Qty. | Location | Notes |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{1 9 8 0}$ | 1 | Duchang <br> County | Warring States period (Zhou, 1989) |

Table 2.5: 1 goudiaos unearthed from Jiangxi province


Figure 2.1: Locations at which goudiaos were unearthed

### 2.2 HISTORICAL EVOLVEMENT

Ma Guowei categorised the evolutionary trajectory of the goudiao into four stages (2019, 284-285). During its initial stage ${ }^{14}$, the goudiao exhibited a thick and clumsy body, complemented by a sturdy and slender handle (Yue, 2002, 491) (see Figure 2.2). Goudiaos of this stage featured plain surfaces without any decorative elements (Ma, 2019, 284).

[^10]

Figure 2.2: Qingyang Goudiao - an example of goudiao in the first stage (Ma, 2019, 137)

During the mid-Spring and Autumn period, several transformations occurred. The body gradually became slenderer and more well-defined (Yue, 2002, 491), while the upper portion of the handle underwent a widening process, accompanied by the emergence of patterned designs (Ma, 2019, 285) (see Figure 2.3). The goudiao attained its mature development in the mid to late Spring and Autumn Period. Its body assumed a more rounded shape, while the widened section between the handle and the body became increasingly prominent (Yue, 2002, 491) (see Figure 2.4). During the declining stage, which occurred around the Warring States period, significant changes were observed in both the form and material composition of the goudiao (Ma, 2019, 284). Porcelain emerged as the primary material for crafting the bells during this period (Ma, 2019, 284) (see Figure2.5).


Figure 2.3: Wujin Yancheng Goudiao - an example of goudiao in the second stage (Ma, 2019, 136)


Figure 2.4: Qici Goudiao - an example of goudiao in the third stage (Gugong Bowuguan, n.d.)


Figure 2.5: Qiuchengdun - an example of goudiaos in the fourth stage (Ma, 2019, 141)

### 2.3 FUNCTION

The goudiao served a range of functions throughout its development stages, including its role in sacrificial ceremonies, ancestral worship, communication with deities, and funerary rituals. These purposes evolved as it progressed through its four development stages. Initially, during the first stage, these bells were frequently found in proximity to riversides and shores, accompanying ritual and sacrificial vessels (Ma, 2016, 57). It is believed that these were the places where the Yue people would conduct sacrificial ceremonies for their ancestors or worship the gods of the mountains and the rivers such as the Siwang 四望 (Ma, 2016, 57). The
goudiao may have served as ritual vessels or instruments used for communication with the gods （Ma，2016，60）．

Some goudiao from the second stage of development were found buried alongside ritual items such as the ding 鼎 and the $z u n$ 尊（Ma，2016，57）．It is known that the dings are cauldrons that were also used as ritual vessels（Wang，2012，85），and that the zun is a wine vessel used in ritual ceremonies（Cai，2018，47）．This indicates the continued use of the vessels in ceremonial contexts，even as they potentially started to be utilized indoors．

During the third stage，a significant development in the purpose of the goudiao can be observed，as evidenced by the presence of inscriptions on some of these instruments．These inscriptions highlight the ceremonial and symbolic significance attached to these goudiaos during this stage ${ }^{15}$（Ma，2016，57）．

Goudiaos dating from the Warring States Period，and which are considered to be the fourth stage of the instrument＇s development，are made of porcelain and primitive ceramics （yuanshi taoci 原始陶瓷）．They were found in the tombs of nobles in the Yue state（Ma，2019， 284）．These sets of goudiaos were part of elaborate ensembles alongside various other idiophone instruments made of porcelain from both the Sinitic and Yue culture，which together formed a noble musical ensemble of the Yue state．During the Warring States period，imitations of real－life objects were made to provide the deceased with necessities and comforts in the afterlife（Loewe and Shaughnessy，1999，728）．Therefore，although these artifacts could not produce sound，they were buried as representations of real musical instruments and reflect the actual music scene of the Yue state at the time of the funeral（Ma，2019，60）．

## 2．4 PLAYING METHOD

The playing method of the goudiao has been a subject of debate among scholars．Dong Chuping and Xu Mengdong argue that the goudiao was a hand－held instrument，where the player would hold the handle and strike the body with a mallet，while keeping the mouth of the

[^11]instrument facing upwards（Dong，2010，241；Xu，1994，40）．On the contrary，Fang Jianjun ${ }^{16}$ ， Ma Guowei，and Sui Yu suggest that the bells were likely to be inserted and placed on a surface， such as a raft or directly on the ground，particularly during the early stage when they were predominantly used for outdoor ritual performances（Ma，2019，310，51）．

In contrast，Li Chunyi highlights that the rectangular perforation observed on the handle of the Qingshan Goudiao suggests that this instrument was played while suspended from a rack （Li，1994，118）．However，this feature is specific to the Qingshan Goudiao and has not been observed in other goudiaos（Li，1994，118）．

Some researchers asserted that each goudiao can produce two pitches．The main pitch or front pitch（zhuyin 主音）is produced by hitting the front of the instrument．The side pitch（ceyin侧音）can be produced by hitting the instrument on the side（Xu，1994，40）．However，during my field trip，Ma Guowei pointed out that it remained inconclusive whether hitting the side of the bell could be considered a playing method，as there was no documentation supporting the notion that the goudiao is played in this manner．

## 2．5 ENSEMBLE SIZES AND COMBINATIONS

While a portion of the unearthed goudiaos were found individually，the majority of the goudiao discovered were part of sets of different sizes．This observation indicates that the goudiao was often used and presented in groups rather than in isolation．The presence of goudiao sets suggests the existence of ensemble practices or the utilisation of multiple pieces of goudiaos．

Early in 2002，Yue Sheng examined the sizes of some pieces of goudiaos at various locations（491）．Building upon this research and the set sizes provided by various authors documented in Tables 2．1－2．5，I have compiled a table outlining the developmental trajectory of goudiao sizes and set sizes during the Eastern Zhou dynasty in Table 2．6．

[^12]| Stage | Period | Goudiao | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Size (Yue, 2002, } \\ & 491) \end{aligned}$ | Number of goudiaos in a set |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $1^{\text {st }}$ | Early Spring and Autumn Period | Qing Yang Goudiao |  | 4 (Ma, 2019, 284) |
| $2^{\text {nd }}$ | Mid Spring and Autumn Period | Wu Jin Yan Cheng Goudiao | Tallest: 34.8 cm | 7 (Ma, 2019, 284) |
|  |  | Gao Chun Song Xi Goudiao |  | 8 (Ma, 2019, 284) |
|  |  | Guang De Goudiao |  | 9 (Yue, 2002, 491) |
|  |  | Gaochun Qingshan Goudiao | Tallest: 39 cm | 2 (Yue, 2002, 491) |
| $3^{\text {rd }}$ | Late Spring and Autumn Period | Wukangshan Goudiao | Shortest: 28.3 cm <br> Tallest: 51.4 cm | 13 (Yue, 2002, 491) |
| $4^{\text {th }}$ | Warring States Period | Yu hang Dalu Shimadou Goudiao |  | 7 (Yue, 2002, 491) |
|  |  | Haiyanchang Changchuanba Huangjiashan | Tallest: 45 cm | 12 (Yue, 2002, 491) |
|  |  | Changxing Bizishan Goudiao |  | 8 (Yue, 2002, 491) |
|  |  | Wuxi Hongshan Yuemu Goudiao |  | 29 (Yue, 2002, 491) |
|  |  | Wuxi Hongshan Yuemu Goudiao |  | 21 (Yue, 2002, 491) |

Table 2.6: The developmental trajectory of goudiao sizes and set sizes during the Eastern Zhou dynasty.

Although not conclusive, this pattern suggests that as the goudiao advances in its developmental stages, there is a tendency for both its individual size and the number of goudiaos within a set to increase. The observed increase in the size of the goudiao suggests to me a possible decrease in pitch as the instrument's size increases. Additionally, the expansion of the ensemble size, with a greater number of goudiaos within a set, signifies an expansion of the pitch register. This implies that the inclusion of additional bells allows for a broader range of pitches to be produced collectively. The adoption of larger bells and the incorporation of additional instruments in the sets not only altered the tonal range and harmonic possibilities but also potentially influenced the musical repertoire, performance techniques, and aesthetic sensibilities of the era.

The goudiao's role within musical ensembles also shifted overtime. During the first stage, the practice of playing multiple goudiaos as a set emerged, primarily in small-sized goudiaoonly ensembles (Ma, 2019, 334). The limited combination of the goudiao with other instruments during this period suggests a distinct emphasis on the goudiao as an independent musical entity. In the second stage, the goudiao was found in association with artifacts such as the Sinitic bronze bell yongzhong and ceremonial vessels such as ding 鼎 and yi 也. This indicates the practice of playing these instruments together (Ma 2016, 59). The precise arrangement and ratio between the goudiao and the yongzhong remain uncertain, but the coplacement of these instruments in tombs suggests the possibility of combined performances. Transitioning to the third stage, there was a decline in the use of goudiaos in combination with other instruments, as goudiao ensembles predominantly consisted of goudiao-only performances (Ma, 2019, 317). Lastly, the Warring States period witnessed a proliferation of ensemble practices featuring diverse musical instruments, including goudiaos, yongzhongs, and yueshi yuanzhongs. Notably, an abundance of the Sinitic bell yongzhong, Yue bells goudiao and yueshi yuanzhong were unearhed from tombs of this period in comparison to other instruments (Ma. 2019, 329). This suggests their prominent roles within ensembles.

These findings offer nuanced insights into the historical trajectory of the goudiao, highlighting its evolving functions and relationships within musical contexts, and reflecting the cultural and musical dynamics specific to Wuyue.

### 2.6 PITCH DATA IN LITERATURE

Some pitch choices in my compositions are informed by the pitch data of various goudiao sets collected by scholars. In particular, the findings of Xu and Sui were valuable in shaping my musical decisions ${ }^{17}$, as shown in section 3.1.3. Figure 2.6 shows the closest standard pitches from the goudiao sets Xu and Sui examined. The full notes indicate the pitches derived from striking the front side of the goudiao, while the pitches enclosed in parentheses represent the pitches obtained from striking the side of the goudiao.

[^13]
## Song Xi Goudiao



Yan Cheng Goudiao Pitch


Gu Long Goudiao


Figure 2.6: The closest standard pitches produced by Songxi, Yancheng and Gulong Goudiao sets (compiled by Jiang, from Xu, 2004, 46 and Sui, 2019, 220-222)

### 2.7 TONAL GRAPHIC ANALYSIS

In this section, I present a spectral data analysis on the goudiao samples collected during my field trip. The spectral data on the goudiao was obtained with the intention of utilsing the integral data of the bells to provide inspirations for exploring the sonorities within the Wuyue culture and not to conduct a thorough analysis of the spectral data. Using a spectral analysis and audio signal editing software called Spear, I conducted spectral analysis to examine the frequency characteristics of each pitch generated by striking at the front of the bells. Figures 2.7-2.9 show examples of the analysis conducted ${ }^{18}$.

[^14]

Figure 2.7: Spectral data of C3 in Spear, along with my analysis


Figure 2.8: Spectral data of A4 in Spear, along with my analysis


Figure 2.9: Spectral data of D3 in Spear, along with my analysis

My analysis revealed that the goudiao lacked the second harmonic (first octave) and the $4^{\text {th }}$ harmonic (doubled octave) compared to the standard harmonic series. The first prominent overtone of the goudiao seems to be the $12^{\text {th }}$ or minor $12^{\text {th }}$ interval, followed by the pitch 2 octaves and a minor or major $2^{\text {nd }}$ above. The following prominent overtones shared by the pitches analysed are: 2 octaves and a perfect $5^{\text {th }}$ or diminished $5^{\text {th }}, 2$ octaves and a minor or major $7^{\text {th }}, 3$ octaves and a minor or major $2^{\text {nd }}, 3$ octaves and a minor or major $6^{\text {th }}, 4$ octaves and a minor or major $2^{\text {nd }}, 4$ octaves and a minor or major $3^{\text {rd }}, 4$ octaves and a minor or major $6^{\text {th }}$.

In terms of duration and intensity, the $12^{\text {th }}$ or minor $12^{\text {th }}$ interval rings for a considerable period of time, sometimes longer than the fundamental pitch, whereas most of the other overtones disappear within or around 1 second. These characteristics of the goudiao informed my compositional methods, as discussed in Chapter 3.

Overall, the data as well as analysis of the goudiao instrument from various angles contribute to the understanding of the goudiao's cultural significance and potential for contemporary artistic pursuits. The research on the goudiao not only fills a gap in the field of ethnomusicology, but also provides valuable knowledge and insights that can serve as inspiration and material for new creative endeavors.

# Chapter 3: Collapsing Space and Time: Embracing Goudiao and Wuyue's Cultural Legacy 

The final chapter focuses on how I have engaged compositionally with personal experiences and cultural memory discussed in Chapter 1, as well as the data gathered about the goudiao in Chapter 2. By blending subjective encounters and imaginative exploration with objective data and knowledge, I forge a connection between historical periods and geographic locations, which I describe as the collapsing of time and space. My compositional methods draw inspiration from the goudiao and the historical narratives of the ancient Wu and Yue vassal states, while also embracing the musical traditions of Wuyue. Through the framework of cultural memory, the conventional boundaries that separate distinct historical periods and physical locations are diminished, fostering a profound affinity for my cultural heritage. In this way, I actively uphold and embody cultural continuity. This integrative approach has empowered me to make a well-informed and distinctive contribution to the preservation and revitalisation of the Wuyue musical legacy.

To engage with the framework of cultural memory further, I incorporated the concepts of everywhen, allowing me to explore my cultural memory across time, and emotional geography, enabling me to examine it across space. Everywhen, or "the Dreaming", derived from Indigenous Australian culture, embodies a timeless perception of time where the mind, body, spirit, landscape, and personal identity converge seamlessly (McGrath \& Rademaker, 2023,1416). Embracing this concept, I reconnect with my Wuyue heritage. Through music, specifically by incorporating the goudiao and the local bamboo and silk music ensemble, I combine personal and shared understandings of Wuyue's cultural legacy. This approach allows me to engage with history on a sensorial level, gaining a deeper understanding of its complexities and capturing the emotions of the moment (Troy, 2023, 39).

Emotional geography, on the other hand, explores the interplay between emotions and the physical, social, and cultural dimensions of space. It recognises that emotions are influenced by external factors such as landscapes, built environments, cultural norms, and social interactions. Personal affective memories, embedded in specific spaces and sensory experiences, can evoke emotions when revisited. (Lees \& Demeritt, 2023, 126). In the compositional process, I listen
and interact with my environments and memories are triggered by situating myself in the environment that I have been in.

By incorporating the concepts of everywhen and emotional geography, I can collapse time and space, facilitating the emergence of a creative synthesis. The past and present coexist, inform, and enrich one another. This fluid and dynamic relationship bridges temporal and spatial gaps by acknowledging the cultural memory's continued relevance and resonance of past cultural traditions and their capacity to shape contemporary artistic endeavors.

Drawing upon these conceptual frameworks, I employed the following methods in my compositions to engage with the music of Wuyue converging the temporal and spatial continuation:

1. Incorporating the sound of the goudiao as a symbol for the historical origin of Wuyue. I incorporated samples of the goudiao directly into my compositions, capturing its unique tonal qualities and timbre. Additionally, I drew inspiration from its playing method, exploring different possibilities to effect this method on various instruments. Furthermore, I utilised pitch sets derived from Sui and Xu's research, using them as melodic, harmonic and textural materials in my compositions. Finally, I adopted the result of my spectral analysis in my music, allowing the goudiao to serve as a sonic representation of the Wuyue legacy.
2. Utilising the historical narratives of the Wu and Yue vassal states as inspiration for the structural and contextual framework of my compositions while adopting devices of local Wuyue musical traditions. Drawing from the cultural interactions between the Sinitic and the Yue on this land, I paralleled these cultural differences with the use of non-Wuyue musical devices and local Wuyue musical tradition devices that I had personally experienced. By incorporating these elements, I sought to allude to a transcendent quality of Wuyue's heritage. This approach allowed me to intertwine historical narratives with lived experiences, creating a cohesive musical expression that reflects Wuyue's cultural tapestry.
3. Using my emotional geography to establish a connection between the music and the environmental elements of Wuyue. This region has been a significant link from the ancient Wu and Yue vassal states to my present-day home. By adopting an immersive approach, I incorporated various environmental sensibilities into my compositions. These textures are intimately connected to by my childhood experiences and my practice of the local Wuyue musical tradition that I previously described. By actively listening, feeling, and interacting with the environment, I aim to evoke a sense of "land" and interplay with the atmospheric milieu of the region which has been here throughout time.
4. Everywhen: In Shanghai Streets, I merged the historical development of Shanghai the with the historical evolvement of goudiao, and embody them in the familiar streets of my home. This results in a spatial convergence where the past and present coexist harmoniously. Moreover, I engage the process of Dreaming through a quasiimprovisation based composition process in As Goudiao Calls Upon Me. Within this musical exploration, forgotten aspects resurface, unveiling hidden layers of cultural memory.

As the goudiao is mostly absent from current musical practices and it is confined to museum settings, I contend that my efforts seek to infuse life into the goudiao by integrating its sounds and legacy into contemporary compositions, making it accessible to modern-day audiences. By doing so, I endeavour to transform it into a lived experience. Through these compositions, the goudiao's historical significance resonates within the context of present-day listeners, bridging the gap between past and present.

### 3.1 THE SOUND OF THE GOUDIAO

In this section, I discuss the four aspects of the sound of the goudiao I used in my compositions.

### 3.1.1 Direct Use of Samples

In the compositions Wuyu and Yuejue, I incorporated samples of the goudiao that were collected during my field trip. The goudiao was specifically written into the musical scores as one of the
playing instrument that aims to blend in with the overall musical landscape. While Western instruments such as the tubular bells and the gongs could potentially create a semblance of the goudiao, nuances related to register, range, and pitch differ ${ }^{19}$. The main objective of my work revolves around bringing the goudiao's sound to life within my compositions, aiming to allow the audience to experience and hear its distinctive timbre and character, even if the precise emulation of its intricacies might not be fully achievable. This integration of direct goudiao samples sought to invite the listeners to the sound of the Wuyue heritage in a genuine and faithful manner. By doing so, these compositions also achieved cultural continuity, bridging the historical and contemporary aspects of the region's musical legacy.

### 3.1.2 Playing Method

My compositional decisions were influenced by the playing technique experienced during my field trip and one of the methods proposed by scholars discussed in section 2.4 , where the bells were positioned on a rack. This method allowed me to strike the goudiao using two hammers, thereby producing harmonic intervals consisting of two notes, as well as melodies encompassing various notes at a relatively fast speed.

I also experimented with striking the sides of the goudiao during the fieldtrip. I noticed that the higher-register bells produced discernible pitches when struck on their sides, but the side pitches were not as distinguishable on the larger-sized bells. Since the goudiao I played were positioned closely on a rack, it was quite challenging to strike the sides without inadvertently touching the neighboring bell, and producing unwanted sounds (see Figure 3.1). Consequently, the pitches I produced on the sides varied, as I struggled to aim for and position myself to strike the precise area on the sides. The act of striking the goudiao and the overall playing experience provided me with a range of artistic possibilities and inspired the incorporation of several creative elements into my music.

[^15]

Figure 3.1: I played the set of goudiao replica at the Museum of Chinese
Firstly, in the context of music, a struck effect involves striking the instrument directly with an object, such as a mallet, stick, or hand, to create percussive or resonant sounds. This technique finds application in select instruments. For instance, in measures 185 and 186 of Yuejue, the celli and the second violins are instructed to execute a free ricochet, generating a loose and bouncing effect that symbolically represents the unhindered vibrations of the goudiao following a strike (see Figure 3.2).


Figure 3.2: Bars 181-186 of the string section in Yuejue

Between bars 69-77, the viola and cello players are instructed to play col legno battuto. Simultaneously, the harpist is instructed to strike the strings with their nails, as depicted in Figure 3.3. Following a brief pause, the double bass joins in from bar 82, employing two striking methods using nails and palm to strike the strings. This is succeeded by the entrance of the cello in bar 89 , where pizzicato playing is employed. Although pizzicato may not strictly adhere to the conventional definition of a strike, the sharp attack and clear pitch produced by this technique share similarities with striking, as depicted in Figure3.3.


Figure 3.3: Bars 65-71 of Yuejue

The tempo and melodic structure of the string section in bars 69-102 are influenced by my interaction with the side of the goudiao. An example of this influence can be observed in bar 82, where the violins and violas play the melody bowing in sul ponticello. Rests on quaver notes are incorporated into the melody to reflect the necessity of allowing time to transition and locate the appropriate bell to strike when moving between bells that produce notes with larger intervals. In contrast, in bar 83, semiquavers are utilised for F\# and G, which move in steps, allowing for faster movement between neighbouring bells, as depicted in Figure 3.4. The ornaments applied to the main melody are analogous to the pitches produced by the side notes. When the string players execute these ornaments at letter F in the Allegretto section, there is an increased risk of playing them out of tune, mirroring my own experience with playing the side pitches of the goudiao.


Figure 3.4: Bars 78-83 of Yuejue

Furthermore, the exploration of the striking effect extends to the woodwind sections. In bar 103, specific techniques are employed to achieve a percussive attack. The piccolo utilises slap tonguing, while the bassoons employ tonguing without pitch, resulting in a distinct and percussive sound produced by striking with the tongue. Simultaneously, the French horn incorporates flutter tonging, and the oboe performs multiphonics, symbolising the harmonics generated by the striking of the goudiao, as depicted in Figure 3.5. These techniques enhance the timbral effects of Yuejue, adding a bell-like quality to the woodwind section.


Figure 3.5: Bars 101-104 of the woodwind and French Horn sections in Yuejue

The dynamic aspect of the goudiao's sound is also explored in my compositions. An example of this can be found in bars 56-60 in Wuyu, where the strings and choir are instructed to employ forte-piano, while the woodwinds are instructed to play mezzo-forte-piano (see Figure 3.6). This dynamic contrast effectively emulates the sound characteristics associated with striking a bell. The dynamic contrast creates a dramatic impact and adds a percussive quality to the overall texture.


Figure 3.6: Bars 54-60 of Wuyu

### 3.1.3 Pitch Set

Certain pitch sets mentioned in Section 2.6 have been incorporated into the musical materials of the compositions. For example, the accompaniment's playful and chromatic pitch gestures from "Qibao Old Street" of Shanghai Streets are derived from the pitch set of the Songxi Goudiao (see Figure 3.7).


Figure 3.7: Pitches for the accompaniment gesture are derived from the pitches of the Songxi Goudiaos pitch set

Pitches for the main melody on the right hand also come from the pitchset of the Songxi Goudiao, with the front pitches being the pitches used on the downbeats or longer notes, and the side pitches being the pitches used on upbeats or notes of a decorative nature. For example, in bar 3, the C\# is used as a passing note (see Figure 3.8). This C\# is the side pitch of the 7th goudiao from the Songxi set.


Figure 3.8: Bars 3-4 of "Qibao Old Town"

Similarly, the main theme shared by Wuyu and Yuejue draws upon the pitches of this goudiao set, as depicted in Figure 3.9. The theme opens with an ascending gesture encompassing the pitches $\mathrm{D}, \mathrm{F} \#, \mathrm{G}$, and A , which correspond to the consecutive main pitches produced on goudiao 4-7 of the Gulong Goudiao set. The side pitches of this goudiao set are employed for ornaments and notes of an auxiliary nature within the compositions. For instance,
in bar 34 of Wuyu, the B in the quaver triplet, serving as a neighbouring note, corresponds to the side pitch produced on the 6th goudiao.


The main theme in Wuyu, introduced by the oboe in bar 32


The main theme in Yuejue, introduced by the flute in bar 8

## Gu Long Goudiao



Pitches produced by Gulong Goudiao set (compiled by Jiang, from Xu, 2004, 46)

Figure 3.9: The thematic materials from Wuyu and Yuejue and the pitches produced by the Gulong Goudiao set

The pitches derived from the Gulong Goudiao set are also employed in various musical elements beyond the main theme. For instance, the graceful accompaniment shared by the harp and woodwinds in Wuyu also incorporates these pitches in an arpeggiated manner (see Figure 3.10). Furthermore, in bar 21 of Yuejue, the harp plays a rapid ascending scale passage using the pitches from the Gulong Goudiao set (see Figure 3.11).


Figure 3.10: Parts of bars 32-38 of Wuyu


Figure 3.11: Bars 20-24 of Yuejue

Using the goudiao this manner is, to my mind, suggestive of a group of musicians playing the same pitches at the same time, just like how the goudiao is believed to be played as mentioned in section 2.4. Inevitably, the F\#, the main pitch of the $5^{\text {th }}$ goudiao and F, the side pitch of the $4^{\text {th }}$ goudiao often are played together. This serves as a meaningful stylistic source for my compositional engagement with the harmonic and textual language employed in the Wиуи. This minor 2nd interval is intricately woven into the musical texture. For instance, in bars 36 to 43, the woodwind section plays the main melody and arpeggiated accompaniment, featuring intermittent F\# notes. Simultaneously, the violins, predominantly, and the violas in bars 38-39, sustain F notes (see Figure 3.12). This deliberate juxtaposition of the F\# and F pitches creates a rich harmonic tension, reflecting the inherent characteristics of the playing method of the goudiao. By consistently utilising the pitches derived from a specific goudiao set throughout one composition, a unified and cohesive musical language is established, enabling the distinctive sound of the goudiao to permeate the composition. This intentional integration not only shapes the musical landscape but also allows the sound combination of the goudiao to shine through, reinforcing the connection to its cultural symbol as the historical "origin" of the Wuyue within a contemporary musical context.


Figure 3.12: Bars 36-73 of Yuejue

### 3.1.4 Spectral Profile

The result of the tonal graphic analysis shown in Section 2.7 also served as musical materials to draw upon creatively. In As Goudiao Calls Upon Me, bars 112-122 represents me playing and sampling the goudiao during my fieldtrip. Each instrument represents a key partial of the goudiao profile of a pitch. For example, the notes in bars 112-124 of this piece (see Figure 3.13) resemble the spectral features of the C3 pitched goudiao sampled at the Museum of Chinese National Music (see Figure 3.14). The dynamics of the C 3 fundamental becomes very soft very quickly, represented by the contrabass playing the C3 note from sforzando to pianissimo very quickly. The frequency 704 Hz , played by the guzheng in bars 112-113 as an F5, follow its tonal graphic pattern, where its volume (or intensity) appears intermittently. This is represented by the guzheng playing the F5 in staccato semiquavers in diminuendo. By doing so, I present a unique timbre using the western and Chinese strings, that resemble some features of the goudiao's timbre.

## Playing the Goudiao

## 60 BPM (Preciso)



Figure 3.13: Bars 112-126 of As Goudiao Calls Upon Me


Figure 3.14: Spectral Profile of C3 pitched goudiao at the Museum of Chinese National Music

In "Lingzhao Road" from Shanghai Streets, I went beyond directly using the notes of the partials. Figure 3.15 provides an illustration of the method and pitch set employed in this composition. First, I compiled a list of the prominent overtones of the goudiao, specifying the intervals at which they occur relative to the fundamental pitch. Instead of adding the intervals of the partials to the fundamental note, I then added the interval to the previous note to derive the subsequent pitches. By adopting this method, I was able to gain a broader range of available pitch set, and breathe new life into the goudiao's intervallic patterns with a unique harmonic palette while staying true to the essence of its intervallic relationships.


Figure 3.15: Notes during the Compositional Process illustrating the method used for "Lingzhao Road"

Following this approach, "Lingzhao Road" opens with the fundamental pitch Db , followed by the note G (one of the second partial notes). Notes associated with the intervals of subsequent goudiao partials are introduced one by one while holding the previous notes with the pedal. (see Feature 3.16). This approach of utilising intervals derived from the partials continues throughout the remainder of the piece.


Figure 3.16: Bars 1-4 of "Lingzhao Road"

As each partial interval builds upon the preceding note, the number of potential notes increases. A cluster effect is adopted to achieve this concept as the right hand plays all the notes within the indicated range (see Figure 3.17), represented by the symbol "\&". This accounts for the portrayal of the overall characteristics of the goudiao spectral profile, rather than focusing on individual notes.


Figure 3.17: Bar 9 of "Lingzhao Road"

In conclusion, the incorporation of the goudiao's distinct sound qualities into modern compositions not only revitalizes this ancient instrument but also blur the boundaries that separate the past from the present. Through this creative exploration, the goudiao becomes a vehicle for Wuyue's cultural preservation.

### 3.2 WUYUE'S HISTORICAL CONTEXT ENVELOPED WITH THE GOUDIAO AND LOCAL MUSICAL TRADITIONS

Historical accounts and knowledge helped me set the contextual materials in Wиуи and Yuejue, connecting my music to the past in a more transcending manner.

An example of utilising historical knowledge can be seen in Wuyu．As the Wu vassal state was closer to the Huaxia states，they faced stronger cultural assimilation of indigenous ethnicities（ $\mathrm{Wu}, 2021,29$ ）．To design the harmonic language in Wuyu，as well as portray the convergence of Sinitic and Yue influences，I employed a method in which I overlaid the pitch set from the Zenghouyi bianzhong 曾侯乙编钟，a bronze bell from the Sinitic tradition，onto the Gulong Goudiao pitch set．This process commenced by determining the pitch set from the Zengyihou bianzhong，aligning it with the corresponding register of the Gulong Goudiao（see Figure 3．18）．

## Zeng Hou Yi Bianzhong－Group Mid 2 （Yue，p．479）



Figure 3．18：Pitch set from the Zenghouyi Bianzhong at the same register of the Gulong

## Goudiao

Subsequently，the pitch sets of the goudiao and the bianzhong were utilised to construct triads and quartal chords，which were subsequently transposed into various keys．Figure 3．19 provides an illustration of several chords generated through this approach．The resulting harmonic progression was then devised by employing the chords either individually or by superimposing a goudiao chord upon a bianzhong chord to achieve my desired musical aesthetics．


Figure 3.19: Some of the chords created from the Gulong Goudiao and Zenghouyi Bianzhong pitch set

As a result, the harmonic progression attained through this method exemplified the prominence of the Yue people within Wuyue, while also capturing the influence of Sinitic culture. Furthermore, this approach underscored the parallel between the Western harmony tradition that I studied as part of my musical training and the melodic lines derived from the Yue goudiao pitch set, transcending the geographical boundaries of Sydney and Wuyue. Figure 3.20 shows the harmonic design of in the piano reduction score draft for Wuyu using this method.


Notes: G refers to the goudiao, B refers to the bianzhong

Figure 3.20: The chord design of in the piano reduction score draft for Wuyu using this method.

In contrast to the stronger Sinitic influence in Wu , the Yue vassal state exhibited a lesser degree of Sinitic cultural assimilation due to its geographical location. To highlight the significance of the local Yue presence within the Yue vassal state, I drew a parallel by incorporating local musical practices that are still prevalent among the Wuyue people today. For instance, the soprano solo in Yuejue showcases highly embellished lines, reminiscent of the ornate singing techniques found in the street chanting I heard, as well as the kun opera pingtan traditions that I have personally studied. In bars 220-224, as shown in Figure 3.21, there is a specific instruction for the singer to pitch bend at the end of certain pitches, creating a distinctive effect similar to sighing. This pays respect to the expressive singing style demonstrated in Figure 1.6 from the kun aria "Zaoluopao", as well as the tunes of street chants I heard, shown in Figure 1.1 and 1.2. Furthermore, the use of microtonal treatments on sustained notes allows for a degree of semi-improvisational freedom, mirroring another characteristic of the musical traditions in Wuyue ${ }^{20}$.

[^16]

Figure 3．21：Soprano Solo section from bar 220－224 in Yuejue

In conclusion，by incorporating these local musical practices and techniques，I sought to highlight the enduring presence Yue＇s legacy on the land where the Wuyue cultural heritage lay．The elements of Wuyue＇s musical legacy served as a bridge between historical narratives and lived experiences，enabling to convey the transcendent nature of the Wuyue heritage．

## 3．3 EMOTIONAL GEOGRAPHY ON THE LAND OF WUYUE

This section examines the connection between music and the environmental elements of Wuyue．By incorporating emotional geography and adopting an immersive approach，I integrate environmental sensibilities into my compositions．

## 3．3．1 Environment

As discussed in Chapter 1，the sounds in the environment have shaped my understanding and appreciation of Wuyue＇s musical culture．The timeless elements of water，rain，birds， language，and the humid climate have endured throughout generations，fostering a deep connection among the people living on this land，stretching back to the Wu and Yue vassal states of the past ${ }^{21}$ ．

To evoke the environmental elements in this region throughout time，various extended techniques are utilised in the composition．For instance，in bars 50－52 of Yuejue，the piccolo employs short notes with occasional pitch bends，imitating bird chirps，while the oboe and

[^17]bassoon produce rapid keyclicks resembling raindrops. The first violins and violas play fast, random notes on the highest strings to symbolise birdsongs in the bush, and the circular bowing motion on the double basses creates an airy and unstable texture, reminiscent of the region's humid climate (see Figure 3.22). The bird- and rain-sound timbre also resonates well with the lyrics of the song sung by the soprano solo: Bird Soaring High. These techniques combine to create a cohesive and atmospheric musical representation of the environment transcending time.


Figure 3.22: Bars 50-52 of Yuejue

In Wuyu，the element of water plays an important role．The piece uses and draws inspirations from a song recorded in the Records of Yue ${ }^{22}$ ，This song，starting with the line＂The sun shines bright（nee＇ay dzoh dzoh 日昭昭）＂，was said to be sung by a fisherman while on a boat near a field filled with dense reeds to a prominent Wu political figure，Wu Zixu ${ }^{23}$ ．To evoke the imagery of water and create a sense of being by the water＇s edge，a few techniques are employed including metric displacement and the combination of dynamic and registry techniques are employed in Wuyи．An illustrative instance can be observed in bars 37－43（see Figure 3．23），where the strings and choir gradually increase in volume from pianissimo to mezzoforte and fortepiano as well as ascending in their pitches respectively，resembling the rising crest of a large wave．Subsequently，they descend and play in decrescendo，simulating the wave＇s transition into a calm and quiet state．The use of fortepiano by the choir and mezzo forte by the strings before their decrescendo allows the choir＇s sound to merge and dissolve into the timbre of the strings．Creating more textural subtlety and a wave－like effect．

[^18]

Figure 3.23: Bars 37-43 of Wuyu

### 3.3.2 Active Listening and Semi-improvisation

As discussed in Chapter 1, the act of active listening, sensory perception, and deliberate improvisation to integrate diverse sounds into a unified environment was a significant part of the local musical practice and my personal experienced on the land of Wuyue. In my endeavor to incorporate these techniques as an expression of my emotional geography, I aspire to experiment with integrating them into a chamber orchestral setting.

One manifestation of this approach can be observed in the piece Yuejue, specifically from rehearsal mark J (bars 179-198). In this section, the texture of the music becomes particularly sparse and player-lead. Notably, the meter undergoes frequent changes, creating a sense of rhythmic fluidity. Furthermore, the cello takes on a solo role, performing with ad lib freedom, while other instrumental parts enter at different times, contributing additional layers of sonic complexity in a semi-improvised manner (see Figure 3.24). When performers play their parts, the intricacy in the musical expression lies in the collective act of active listening and the unifying, blending of each sound as a whole. By actively engaging with the soundscape and responding to one another's contributions, the performers become active participants in shaping the overall texture of the music. Through this process, I sought to allow for a dynamic interplay between the performers, the music, and the cultural context of Wuyue.


Figure 3.24: Bars 181-187 of Wuyu

### 3.4 EVERYWHEN ON THE LAND OF WUYUE

In this section, I show how I use music to engage with the changes and transitions of Wuyue historically, and within the region personally. This involves navigating through different historical stages, physical locations, and the engagement with Dreaming to develop a profound personal embodiment of the expressive qualities of myself as a Wuyue cultural bearer.

This section involves two parts. Firstly, I show how the concept of Everywhen is realised through the intertwined narratives of the goudiao and Shanghai in Shanghai Streets. Secondly, I show how through the creative journey of semi-improvisation-based composition, a remarkable process integrating the Dreaming and emotional geography unfolds. Within this musical exploration, dormant facets re-emerge, unfurling veiled layers of cultural memory, long forgotten yet resoundingly revived.

### 3.4.1 Shanghai Streets

The four movements of "Shanghai Streets" represent different stages of the city's development, drawing upon my personal connection to the places I resided during my time in Shanghai. Each movement reflects a distinct location and its significance in my life, intertwining my personal experiences with the historical trajectory of the city. The first movement, "Liantang Old Town," captures the serene ambiance of the old Liangtang watertown in Qingpu province, symbolising my cultural origin. The second movement, "Qibao Old Streets," portrays the vibrant streets of Qibao during the Song Dynasty. Fond memories of gathering with friends for snacks and shopping, as well as enjoying family dinners on the second floors of various restaurants, are woven into the composition. The third movement, "Sinan Road," transports listeners to the former French Concession area, which holds personal significance as it was the path I took to school and music lessons. Lastly, the fourth movement, "Lingzhao Road," symbolises my childhood home and the development of Pudong district, metaphorically representing my roots and the progress of the city.

Meanwhile, the sound quality and ensemble sizes of the four historical stages of the goudiao informed the musical idea of the four pieces in Shanghai Streets. The first movement, "Liantown Old Town", is informed by the characteristics of the goudiao during its first stage of development. The pitches of the piece are situated in the highest register within the suite, mirroring the pitch characteristics of the goudiao during its first phase. The pitches move to lower register and wider range gradually throughout the suite. By the last movement, "Lingzhao Road", the range of the pitches used encompass the entire keyboard (see Figure 3.25)


The beginning section of
"Liantang Old Town"

The beginning section of "Qibao Old Street"

The beginning section of "Sinan Road"

The beginning section of "Lingzhao Road"

Figure 3.25: The beginning sections of the 4 pieces in Shanghai Streets

The distinctive characteristics of the goudiao in each historical stage have also played a significant role in influencing my compositional choices in Shanghai Streets. I use "Liangtang Road" as an example here. As discussed in section 2.3, goudiaos from this period were frequently discovered near water bodies, and the serene and spacious outdoor ambiance of Liantang watertown, surrounded by paddies, encapsulates this expansive setting. The incorporation of irregular 5/8 time signature at the outset and sporadically throughout the piece, such as in bars $4-5$ and measures $8-9$, symbolises the unpredictable nature of an outdoor environment, aligning with the environment in which the goudiao from this stage were discovered. Subsequently, at bar 29, the tranquil character of the composition is disrupted by a
cadenza that depicts strong winds and a storm sweeping through the paddies, a climatic event characteristic of Wuyue (see Figure 3.26).


Figure 3.26: Bars 29-30 of "Liantang Road"

Furthermore, the prevalent use of the goudiao in small ensembles during this period, often without combination with other instruments, suggests a single timbre where the goudiao assumes the central role as the primary melodic and harmonic voice. To evoke this characteristics, the composition revolves around a singular musical idea that permeates the entire piece. This recurring motif, depicted in Figure 3.27, employs even semiquavers and an "undulating" pattern using a limited set of five notes, contributing to its concise and focused nature. It is based on the E major pentatonic scale of the zhi mode, encompassing the notes E, F\#, A, B, C\#, and E. The motif is reiterated in bar 2 and extended for another bar in $6 / 8$ time signature. Subsequently, it undergoes further development by transposing it a minor third higher in bar 4 and a major 2 nd lower in bar 8 .


Figure 3.27: Main idea of Liantang Old Town

From bar 12 to bar 17, the left hand maintains the steady semiquaver pattern while the right hand explores a related idea which also involves a descending three-note motif derived from the E major pentatonic scale of the gong mode. In this variation, the third note of the zhi mode scale, A, is altered to G\#, while a segment of the main idea is elongated (see Figure 3.28).


Bar 1
Bar 12

Figure 3.28: The second idea in Liantang Old Town is derived from a segment of the main idea

By intertwining the historical stages of Shanghai, the goudiao with the physical locations of my personal homes, Shanghai Streets transcends temporal boundaries and embraces the concept of "everywhen." It acknowledges that the land itself, serves as a conduit for accessing diverse temporal dimensions. This interplay between past, present, and individual and place allows for a profound sense of connectivity and continuity, enabling a deep exploration of collective memories and shared experiences. In this way, the land of Shanghai becomes a gateway to the timeless, inviting us to traverse the layers of history and immerse ourselves in the ever-present tapestry of the city's existence.

### 3.4.2 The Dreaming and Emotional Geography: As Goudiao Calls Upon Me

In the midst of navigating the uncertain and dynamic COVID-19 period in 2022, the longawaited opportunity to embark on the field trip to Wuxi, to play the goudiao replica, finally became possible in August 2022. The joy of this prospect, however, was accompanied by the necessity of swift transitions between cities. To navigate these circumstances, I developed a method centered around memory-evoked improvisation and motivic development. This approach allowed me to immerse myself in the cultural and personal memory of the encountered events in Wuyue, blurring temporal constraints through the Dreaming, and spatial constraints through emotional geography. As a result, I fostered a dynamic and deeply personal connection between musical expression and my engagement with my Wuyue heritage.

During the field trip, the act of semi-improvisation on the piano allowed for the Dreaming; it served as a means for immersing myself in the memory of the journey as it happened. Meanwhile, emotional geography served as a conduit for reawakening and reconnecting with
forgotten details and experiences, intertwining musical expression with personal recollection ${ }^{24}$. The music made both become the result of the Dreaming, but also the source of the dreaming to bring back and return to the memory, the time, and events. The result of this process became the initial form of As Goudiao Calls Upon Me, which was then arranged for a 9 piece Western and Chinese strings chamber ensemble.

Pleasingly, the structure of this composition traces the shape of a goudiao in the end. The goudiao features a broader top that gradually tapered towards the bottom and the climatic point of the piece is also towards its beginning between bars 32-54. By harnessing music as a vehicle for memory retrieval and emotional resonance, I not only forged a powerful connection to my Wuyue identity but also imbued the compositional process with an elevated sense of everexisting.

I now provide examples of the musical details that evoked personal memories and symbolically represented the events experienced during the field trip, akin to embarking on a Dreaming process.

The fieldtrip took place at the Museum of Chinese National Music (see Figure 3.29), situated within the Canal Park in the city of Wuxi. As I approached the park, a pathway unfolded before me, flanked by dense clusters of trees on both sides. The natural topography of the region imbued the road with a sinuous character, meandering unpredictably and featuring both inclines and declines, rendering it challenging to anticipate the forthcoming path or ascertain the precise destination. This experiential encounter is sonically represented in As Goudiao Calls Upon Me between bars 1-25, where each individual string instrument takes turns playing brief ascending and descending gestures. These musical motifs symbolise the continual series of turns and hills that pervaded the land and its surroundings, evoking a sense of perpetual exploration.

[^19]

Figure 3.29: The Entrance of Chinese National Music Museum

Upon reaching the entrance of the museum, a myriad of doubts, insecurities anticipation and excitement pervaded my thoughts. This was prompted by the significance of this being my inaugural field trip, meticulously prepared for over the course of a year. The exceptional circumstances brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic rendered the journey even more precious and surreal. This emotional fluctuation mirrors the undulating topography of the land itself and finds its musical manifestation between bars 32 and 56. Commencing with a semiimprovised repetition of a pipa pattern in bar 32 (see Figure 3.30), a key instrument within the local silk and bamboo ensemble, the musical gesture deftly links the physical landscape of Wuxi with the emotional landscape I inhabited. Subsequently, this pattern undergoes modulation and is eventually passed to the violin, initially with a series of quarter notes that progressively quicken, evoking a sense of disarray emblematic of my turbulent emotions during that period.


Figure 3.30: Bars 32-33 of As Goudiao Calls Upon Me

Shortly thereafter, Dr Zhu Guowei arrived, exuding an air of intellectual composure. During our wait before the door of the museum opens, we engaged in intermittent conversations about various aspects of the goudiao as well as trivial topics. I learnt during our conversations that the museum was closed due to COVID-related concerns. From my initial interactions with Dr Zhu, I formed the impression of a kind and knowledgeable individual, deeply passionate about the musical culture and historical heritage of Wuyue. It became evident to me that he held a genuine appreciation for anyone with an interest in this specialised field of study, irrespective of their background, and he exhibited a genuine curiosity about my own experiences and perspectives. Gradually, the presence of Dr Zhu and our amicable conversations alleviated my nerves. In As Goudiao Calls Upon Me, Dr. Zhu's entrance is introduced in the section titled "The Professor" in bar 57. The theme representing him evolves around E and A, a perfect $5^{\text {th }}$ apart, metaphorically conveying a sense of stability, calmness and wholeness in his presence. This theme, shared by both the erhu and the zhonghu, carries symbolic significance in representing the dialogues and interactions between Dr. Zhu and myself (see Figure 3.31). The erhu and zhonghu are both instruments used in the local silk and bamboo ensemble. Their warm and plaintive timbral qualities evoke a sense of emotional resonance that aligns with the cultural and geographical context. This theme reappears in bar 123, which is discussed in Appendix D.


Figure 3.31: Theme for Dr. Zhu Guowei between bars 57-62 of As Goudiao Calls Upon Me

Although my focus during the field trip was primarily directed towards the recording, sampling, and playing the goudiao, paying little attention to the environment, the semiimprovisational process allowed me to uncover the sonic elements within the museum that were previously overlooked. When translating my memory into piano music, I recalled the sonic details of the imperfect recording environments. The motion-detection lighting system intermittently switched off in the absence of visitors. Simultaneously, the playful child of Dr. Zhu's friend moved across the upper floor, emitting joyful laughter and generating stomping noises that reverberated through the ceiling. The museum's frequent door openings and communication activities disrupted the required undisturbed environment for capturing comprehensive spectral data.

Figure 3.32 provides a visual representation of the recording space. In the musical composition, these aspects find expression through the sporadic utilisation of harmonics on the pipa and guzheng in free rhythms, as depicted in Figure 3.33. The harmonics are not to be performed rhythmically in synchronization, thereby encapsulating the unpredictable and random nature of the ambient sounds that permeated the space. By eschewing rhythmic conformity, the pipa and guzheng players are encouraged to engage in active listening and interactive performance with one another, mirroring the intricate interplay of the diverse sounds present within the environment. The environmental realities were reawakened in the Dreaming process, allowing me to relive in the space at that time. Music was able to offer a sonic representation of the interplay between intentionality and chance, further allowing for a deeper connection between my emotional geography and the creative output.


Figure 3.32: Dr. Zhu Demonstrating Best Methods to Strike the Big Bells. (Photo by Dr Zhu's friend, name unknow)


Figure 3.33: Parts of bars 135-139 of As Goudiao Calls Upon Me

After the recording, Dr. Zhu proudly guided me through the dimly lit and dust-covered exhibits. Despite his involvement in curating and labelling the instruments, the museum's closure due to COVID-19 restrictions had taken a toll. Spider webs and mould encroached upon the instruments, evoking a sense of fascination alongside a melancholic and bitter atmosphere. Dr. Zhu's purpose in showcasing these forgotten displays became evident: these artifacts deserved greater attention and care. We, the few remaining custodians, were devoted to preserving these treasures and their enduring legacy.

This emotional geography was musically represented using the jiahua technique of the local silk and bamboo musical traditions from bar 152 to bar 178. Taking bar 166 as an example (see Figure 3.34), the primary melodic element consists of G, A, and D. However, each instrument is adorned with distinct embellishments, reminiscent of the heterophonic texture found in the silk and bamboo musical tradition discussed in section 1.2. The contour of the embellishments, often following a zigzag shape of ascending and descending in $2^{\text {nd }}$ and $3^{\text {rd }}$ intervals is prevalent in various musical forms of Wuyue that I have practiced. It also reflects the range of feelings associated with exploring the museum. The ascending intervals symbolise a sense of anticipation, hope, or rising energy, while the descending intervals evoke feelings of introspection, contemplation, or melancholy, both continuingly fluctuated in me at the museum.


Figure 3.34: The basic melodic idea for bar 116 and bars 116-118 of As Goudiao Calls Upon Me

In conclusion, the compositional process merged personal experiences, cultural insights, and acquired knowledge of history to collapse time and space in the composition process, establishing a trans-spatial connection between the experience of the past with the present state of dreaming. Everywhen and emotional geography have played crucial roles, embodying a holistic perception of time and exploring the interplay between emotions and spatial dimensions. The incorporation of the goudiao, historical narratives, and environmental elements of Wuyue has manifested the convergence of temporal and spatial continuity. This integrative approach preserves the Wuyue musical legacy, enriching contemporary artistic endeavors while honoring cultural heritage.

## Chapter 4: Conclusion

In this thesis I began by providing context and discussing my motivations for taking on this research. I highlighted three key aspects pertinent to my sense of origin: personal, cultural and historical. I subsequently explored the existing knowledge and data I collected of the goudiao, a historical idiophone that symbolises the historical legacy of Wuyue. Finally, I demonstrated the application of both subjective experience and emotions as well as objective goudiao-driven knowledge and data in my musical composition. This process is effectively an act of immersion into the cultural memory of Wuyue, and is referred to hereas a collapsing of time and space. This process stands as a model that can guide other composers who aim to create music reflecting their cultural voice while bridging history with the contemporary.

This project holds deep personal significance as it allows me to give voice to my ancestors and infuse my artistic sensibilities into the musical landscape of my heritage's historical legacy. However, its significance extends beyond the personal realm. Musicologically, this research highlights the intrinsic value of cultural heritage, history, and geographic perspectives in shaping and understanding the creative processes that underlie a nuanced interpretation of musical traditions. In terms of composition, this study is deeply connected to the musical culture I embrace as a composer, it also illuminates the possibilities of engaging with historical instruments. Furthermore, this research addresses a notable gap in previous studies, characterised by a lack of compositions by Wuyue composers drawing inspiration from the historical discoveries associated with Wuyue culture and environment.

In conclusion, this thesis contributes to the preservation and revitalisation of the Wuyue musical legacy, while emphasising the importance of cultural memory in shaping and perpetuating cultural heritage. Through research, field trips, recordings, and sampling, I have incorporated the historical and cultural significance of the goudiao into my compositions, and have employed them as a bridge to strengthen my connection to the Wuyue legacy and bring its sound to Sydney. The people of Wuyue, both present and past, continue to rebuild and revive our cultural practices, leaving an indelible mark on our shared history.

## Glossary

Goudiao 句鑃－an ancient idiophone from the Wuyue region．Often made by bronze，it first emerged during the Eastern Zhou dynasty．It is considered by academics as a Yue instrument．

Guangling School 广陵派－In the context of traditional Chinese music，different schools refer to distinct styles or lineages of musical performance and composition．These schools have developed over centuries and are associated with specific regions or influential musicians．The Guangling School（Guangling Pai）is named after the ancient state of Guangling during the Eastern Jin Dynasty（317－420 CE）．The Guangling School is known for its refined and lyrical style of music．It emphasizes expressive and melodic playing，often characterized by smooth and flowing movements．The school places great importance on the interpretation of musical pieces and seeks to evoke emotions and create a sense of tranquility through the music．

Guqin 古琴－Guqin is a traditional Chinese musical instrument that has a history of over 3，000 years．It is a plucked seven－stringed zither with a long，narrow wooden body and no bridges．The strings of the guqin are traditionally made of silk，although modern versions may use nylon or metal strings．

Jiangnan sizhu 江南丝竹－Jiangnan Sizhu is a traditional Chinese music ensemble that originated in Wuyue，which includes areas such as Shanghai，Suzhou，and Hangzhou．Sizhu， which means＂silk and bamboo，＂refers to a genre of Chinese instrumental music that predominantly uses stringed and wind instruments made of silk and bamboo materials．

Jiaxiang 家乡－a Chinese term that can be translated as＂hometown＂or＂ancestral home．＂It refers to the place where a person or their family originates from or has strong emotional and cultural ties to．Jiaxiang holds great significance in Chinese culture as it represents one＇s roots，heritage，and sense of belonging．

Kun Opera 昆曲－Kun Opera，also known as Kunqu，is one of the oldest forms of traditional Chinese opera that originated in the Kunshan region of Jiangsu Province during the late Yuan Dynasty（13th－14th century）．It is renowned for its elegant，refined style，and poeticism．Kun Opera is recognised as one of the cultural treasures of China and has been designated as a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO．

Pingtan 评弹 - Pingtan is a traditional Chinese performing art that combines storytelling, singing, and music. It originated in the Suzhou region of Jiangsu Province and has a history of several centuries. Pingtan is typically performed by a duo consisting of a storyteller (known as a pingtan performer or pingtan artist) and a musician playing the pipa, a traditional Chinese stringed instrument.

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## Appendices

## Appendix A

## Eastern Zhou Dynasty

The Eastern Zhou Dynasty, also known as the Eastern Zhou Period, was a major era in ancient Chinese history that lasted from 770 BCE to 256 BCE. It was a time of significant political, social, and cultural changes in China.

The Eastern Zhou Dynasty is divided into two main periods: the Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 BCE) and the Warring States Period (475-221 BCE). During the Spring and Autumn Period, China was divided into many small states that were often engaged in warfare and political struggles. This period saw the rise of influential thinkers and philosophers, such as Confucius and Laozi, who made significant contributions to Chinese philosophy.

The Warring States Period, which followed the Spring and Autumn Period, was marked by intensified conflicts between the various states. It was a time of great military competition and political maneuvering as the states sought to gain dominance over one another. This period also witnessed important intellectual and cultural developments, including the emergence of the Hundred Schools of Thought, with philosophers and thinkers offering different theories on governance, ethics, and social order.

The Eastern Zhou Dynasty is known for its bronze casting, which reached its peak during this period. Intricate bronze vessels, such as the famous "ding" tripods, were created for ceremonial and ritual purposes. This era also saw advancements in agriculture, ironworking, and the development of iron tools and weapons.

The Eastern Zhou Dynasty came to an end with the conquest of the last state Qi by Qin in 221 BCE. This marked the beginning of a new era in Chinese history, as the Qin Dynasty established the first unified Chinese empire.

## Appendix B

## Composers I Drew on in Developing My Compositional Approach

In developing my approach, I also explored the work of several other contemporary composres who have drawn musical inspiration from their cultural heritage using different methods.

Tan Dun's concerto for cello and video and orchestra, The Map (2002), showcases his unique approach to drawing musical inspiration from his cultural heritage. Growing up in a rural Hunan village immersed in shamanistic cultural traditions, Tan Dun was deeply influenced by the folk customs and musical elements of his hometown. For example, the mournful songs known as "Tan Silang" in a Hunan dialect seem to also have had a profound impact shaping his later styles (Zhang, 2020, 47). Tan Dun views his works not as representations of modernity, internationality, or even generalised Chinese culture, but rather "belong to the unconscious memories of my childhood" (YouTube, 2009).

The Map employs a multimedia approach to incorporate his cultural heritage into the composition. By synchronising sounds from multimedia images of original local folk musical material with a live orchestral performance, he brings together traditional elements and a contemporary Western orchestral setting. The multimedia images depict various Hunan practices, such as music played by stones, leaf songs, and shamanic ghost dances. The orchestral part is deliberately written to respond, support, and interact with the music played in the traditions depicted in the video. This is achieved through, for example, the use of similar rhythms and timbres, creating a cohesive musical experience that bridges the gap between cultures.

Another contemporary composer engaging their native cultural material is Canadian/Greek composer Coreen Morsink, who has explored a diverse range of methods to integrate ancient Greek musical elements into contemporary compositions. One notable example is her composition titled Erosion for solo violin. This composition serves as an exploration of compositional techniques, genera, employed during the 5th century BC in Greece, while also incorporating changing time signature patterns prevalent in the 20th and 21 st centuries.

The piece begins with a theme in the enharmonic genus, set in $3 / 8$ time, followed by five variations that employ different "hues" or shades of the chromatic and diatonic genera. These variations further incorporate poetic feet and combinations of time cycles used in 5th century BC poetry (Morsink, 2013, 45). Another work of hers, Orestes' Chamber, quotes a musical fragment written on papyrus and dated approximately third century BC , which likely represents a melody composed by Euripides himself (Morsink, 2013, 37). The composer reconstructed the fragments based on the theoretical writings of Aristoxenus, endeavoring to fill in the missing notes and bring the melody to life (Morsink, 2013, 38).

In contrast to Tan Dun's multi-media project on a living tradition, and Morsink's ability to explore and experiment with the available musical resources from ancient Greece, such as theoretical writings, musical notations and techniques, my challenges lie in using historical instruments and data to craft an expressive representation that transcends space and time without the accessibility of primary data referring to historical scores and theoretical writings.

## Appendix C

# A Model and Procedural Framework Delineating the Application of My Approach to 

## Alternative Cultural Influences

## Preparations:

Identify the culture and region you as the composer affiliate with.
Examine the existing literature pertaining to contemporary musical practice of this culture and region.

Examine the historical trajectory of the musical practice of this culture of interest, as well as the musical traditions specific to the region of interest. This phase entails delving into historical accounts, archival sources, and scholarly discourses that illuminate the evolution and significance of music across different epochs. Simultaneously, it involves a focused investigation into the musical heritage and practices indigenous to the targeted geographical area. By synthesising historical perspectives and regional musical traditions, this step aims to contextualise the continuum of musical evolution.

During the preparation phase, the composer should source any musical data that resonates with their impressions, memories, experiences, and insider knowledge of the culture and region of interest. This may include lyrics recorded in historical documents, descriptions of musical instruments used, types of music played, as well as scores and recordings.

## Insider Explorations:

Conduct a fieldwork which involves the study and sampling of instrument artifacts and/or their replicas.

Visit the region of interest. Observational focus extends to environmental elements encompassing colour schemes, scents, climatic conditions, fauna, flora, architectural structures, people, customary practices, lifestyles, and linguistic nuances.

Immerse oneself in the study and practical application of the musical traditions prevalent in the targeted culture and region. Record personal observations and reflections on the intricate nuances encountered during this learning process. Seek to establish personal connections between these nuances and one's affiliation with the culture or land, as well as historical musical
practices, sounds, or documented records specific to the land. This endeavour involves discerning parallels and intersections between the acquired musical insights and personal experiences, historical musical legacies, or sonic imprints associated with the land.

## The Dreaming

Artistically blend temporal and spatial dimensions in your compositions through the Dreaming. Some of the methods are:

- Employing indigenous historical instruments' sounds representative of the culture and land.
- Drawing inspirations from the lyrics and narratives from historical texts, shaping your own musical structures and narratives.
- Utilising pitch set analysis, examining pitchset relations and spectral profiles of indigenous historical instruments, incorporating patterns discovered in your music to evoke a sense of coexistence of past and present.
- Integrating historical playing techniques and ensembles to transcend temporal boundaries.
- Employing sounds representing or symbolising environmental features of the region, transcending geographical confines.
- Analysing distinct musical elements of the region's musical tradition to inform compositional choices.
- Forging connections between historical developments and personal experiences through the employment musical elements like texture, pitch sets, and rhythms.
- Embracing an improvisational-led compositional approach, intimately intertwining personal interactions with the culture and region throughout the creative process.

Figure C. 1 illustrates the model of my approach.


Figure C.1: Model of my approach in creating music that reflects the voice of my own culture while bringing history into the present

## Appendix D

## The Second Entrance of the Theme for Dr. Zhu Guowei in As Goudiao Calls Upon Me

This theme for Dr. Zhu Guowei reappears in 123 of As Goudiao Calls Upon Me, but with an alternation. Having sampled the goudiao, I playfully engaged in experimentation with this bell set. As I indulged in unconventional techniques and pushed the boundaries of traditional bell-playing, Dr. Zhu remained quietly present, refraining from interrupting or impeding my creative process. This theme, previously established to convey Dr. Zhu's stable and gentle personality, now represents his unobtrusive observance and support for my contemporary exploration on the bells in bars 123-131 (see Figure D.1). This time, the zhonghu plays the melody first, and the erhu comes in after. Compared to the previously light countermelody by the viola in bars 57-61, this time, the theme is supported by the entire string section, adding more weight and expansiveness and a sense of comfort and affirmation from Dr. Zhu to me.

Through the interplay of thematic development, timbral choices, and orchestration, the music served as a conduit for capturing the emotions that eluded my immediate grasp in the moment. By weaving together these compositional elements, the music evokes a sense of resonance with the surrounding space and the land upon which my emotional geography unfolded. This process of the Dreaming, allowed me to co-exist with my self in Wuxi during the composition phase, transcending the spatial and temporal boundaries I faced at the time of the writing.


Figure D.1: Parts of bars 123-128 of As Goudiao Calls Upon Me

## Appendix E

## Ethics Approval

## Research Integrity \& Ethics Administration HUMAN RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE

Dr Catherine Ingram
Musicology Unit; Sydney Conservatorium of Music
Email: catherine.ingram@sydney.edu.au

Dear Catherine,

The University of Sydney Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) has considered your application.
am pleased to inform you that your project has been approved

Details of the approval are as follows:

| Project No.: | 2022/181 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Project Title: | The Sounds of Goudiao |
| Authorised Personnel: | Ingram Catherine; Jiang Zhongyu; Rojas Daniel; |
| Approval Period: | $05 / 04 / 2022$ to 05/04/2026 |
| First Annual Report Due: | $05 / 04 / 2023$ |

## Documents Approved:

| Date Uploaded | Version Number | Document Name |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $13 / 02 / 2022$ | Version 1 | Evidence of Connecting with Goudiao expert Zhu <br> Guowei |
| $08 / 03 / 2022$ | Version 1 | Oral Consent Form |
| $08 / 03 / 2022$ | Version 1 | Participant Consent Form |
| $08 / 03 / 2022$ | Version 1 | Participant Information Statements |
| $08 / 03 / 2022$ | Version 1 | Safety Protocol |
| $08 / 03 / 2022$ | Version 1 | Semi-structured Interview Questions |

## Special Condition/s of Approval

Research Data Management Plan (RDMP)

1. Please update your RDMP and confirm that you will use USyd approved cloud storage. It is not permitted to store research data on personal laptop or Dropbox.
2. Please submit a justification for storage of data in perpetuity and outline the platform and access arrangements (ie PARADISEC?)

Conditions
3. It will be a condition of approval that certified translations of the public documents (e.g. Participant Information Statement, Participant Consent Form) be made and provided to participants, once these documents have been approved in English. See guidance here.
4. It will be a condition of approval that the researcher has all necessary University and Faculty approvals for travel in place before commencing the study.

## Condition/s of Approval

- Research must be conducted according to the approved proposal.
- An annual progress report must be submitted to the Ethics Office on or before the anniversary of approval and on completion of the project.
- You must report as soon as practicable anything that might warrant review of ethical approval of the project including:
$>$ Serious or unexpected adverse events (which should be reported within 72 hours).
$>$ Unforeseen events that might affect continued ethical acceptability of the project.
- Any changes to the proposal must be approved prior to their implementation (except where an amendment is undertaken to eliminate immediate risk to participants).
- Personnel working on this project must be sufficiently qualified by education, training and experience for their role, or adequately supervised. Changes to personnel must be reported and approved.
- Personnel must disclose any actual or potential conflicts of interest, including any financial or other interest or affiliation, as relevant to this project.
- Data and primary materials must be retained and stored in accordance with the relevant legislation and University guidelines.
- Ethics approval is dependent upon ongoing compliance of the research with the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research, the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research, applicable legal requirements, and with University policies, procedures and governance requirements.
- The Ethics Office may conduct audits on approved projects.
- The Chief Investigator has ultimate responsibility for the conduct of the research and is responsible for ensuring all others involved will conduct the research in accordance with the above.

This letter constitutes ethical approval only.
Please contact the Ethics Office should you require further information or clarification.

Sincerely,


## Associate Professor Helen Mitchell

Chair
Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC 1)
The University of Sydney of Sydney HRECs are constituted and operate in accordance with the National Health and Medical Research Council's (NHMRC) National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2018) and the NHMRC's Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (2018)

## Appendix F

## Musicians and Producers for the Recordings of the Portfolio

## Wuyu and Yuejue

Conductor
Flute doub. Piccolo
Oboe
Clarinet in Bb
Bassoon
Horn in F
Percussions
Goudiao
Harp
Soprano Solo
SATB Choir

Violin I

Violin II
Viola
Cello
Double Bass
Recording Engineer
Mixing Engineer

Ben Perche
Chloe Chung
Gahyun Lee
Austin O'Toole
Shengbo Zhao
Oliver Harris
Liz Cheung \& Jolin Jiang
Jolin Jiang
Bianca Beng
Jolin Jiang
Ashleigh Lane
Emelina Elizabeth-Marie
Tisha Mahmud-Kelemen
Rachel Jackson
Christine Li
Viktoriia Karapetian
Liz Cheung
Hazel Bingon
Ashly Zhang
Toby Wong
Sirius - Wang
Ben Cody-Osborne
Jasper Tops
Antony Khoury
Rory Knott
Pavle Cajic
Thomas Woods
Paul Chung
Carter Jia
James Parbery
Wendy Kong
Catherine J
Alex Patterson
Beverly Kwan
Thomas Talmacs
Isabel Taussig Talmacs
Alexendra Boyling
Harry Young
Conan Tran
Jolin Jiang

## Shanghai Streets

Liantang Old Town
Qibao Old Street
Sinan Road
Lingzhao Road

Jolin Jiang
Jolin Jiang
Pavle Cajic
Jolin Jiang

## As Goudiao Calls Upon Me

## Pipa

Zhongruan
Guzheng
Erhu
Zhonghu
Violin
Viola
Cello
Double Bass

Shurui Liang
Jolin Jiang
Julia Ousiyu Luo
June Yiqing Wu
Liz Cheung
James Parbery
Jolin Jiang
Alexandra Boyling
Harry Young

# Embracing Goudiao 句鑃 and the Land of Wuyue 吴越： Cultural Voice and Historical Connections in Contemporary Music Composition 

## Volume II：Folio of Creative Work

Zhongyu Jiang

A portfolio submitted in partial
fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Music（Composition）

Sydney Conservatorium of Music
University of Sydney

## Statement of originality

I declare that the research presented here is my own original work and has not been submitted to any other institution for the award of a degree.

Signed: $\qquad$

Date: $\qquad$

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Yuejue ..... 40
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- Qibao Old Street ..... 118
- Sinan Road ..... 122
- Lingzhao Road ..... 125
As Goudiao Calls Upon Me ..... 126

The recordings are available at the following URL:
https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ifxcmu85nusuynn/AAB_H0VhN2TrJ-
$\underline{\text { tWJqKZE7h9a?dl=0 }}$

# $\mathbf{W u} \cdot \mathbf{Y u}$ 

## 吴•欻

By Zhongyu Jiang

## Program Notes

Wuyu delves into the historical backdrop of the Wu vassal state during the Eastern Zhou dynasty ( 770 BCE to 256 BCE). This period witnessed the flourishing of philosophical and intellectual schools, including Confucianism and Taoism, which continue to shape Chinese thought to this day.

In the title of the piece, Wu 吴 refers to the Wu vassal state, while Yu 欤, refers to the idea of sighing, lament, and singing.

Wu and its neighbouring state, Yue, existed in the present-day Shanghai, Jiangsu, and Zhejiang provinces of China, known as the Wuyue region. Their close proximity and frequent interactions during the Eastern Zhou dynasty gave rise to captivating historical tales and profound cultural exchanges.

Although they shared many cultural similarities, the Wu state had more Huaxia influence, due to its closer proximity to the states of the Huaxia heritage. The term "Huaxia" predates the establishment of a centralised Han dynasty and has been used historically to denote the cultural and ethnic identity of the majority population in ancient China.

This composition evokes a contemplative atmosphere, weaving together lyrics believed to be sung by the people of the Wu state and drawing upon the historical narratives associated with Wu . The lyrics reflect the prayers offered by the inhabitants of Wu for the enduring prosperity of their king amid the foreseeable future of the Wu state being ultimately annihilated at the hands of the Yue state.

The musical composition also draws inspiration from multiple aspects of the goudiao, an ancient bronze bell that originated in the Wu and Yue states and was commonly used during the Eastern Zhou dynasty by the people in these states. A replica of a goudiao set was recorded and sampled, allowing its unique tones to be heard in this piece.

# INSTRUMENTATION 

FluteOboeClarinet in BbBassoon
Horn in F
Goudiao (samples played on the midi keyboard)
Harp
Choir: SATB
Violin IViolin II
Viola
Cello
Double Bass

# Text and English Translation 

The text is sung in the Shanghai dialect 上海方言

| Woo gong | chiew |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 梧 | 宫 | 秋 |

Nee＇ey Dzaw dzaw
日 昭 昭，

Tzin yee sih
侵 以 施，

Yü dzih jee foo loo dzih tzee
与 子 期 甫 芦 之 碕。
$\begin{array}{lcc}\text { loo dzong zen } & \text { Dweller among the reeds，} \\ \text { 芦 中 } & \end{array}$

Chee fee jee＇ong zih hoo
岂 非 穷 士 乎？

Autumn arrives the parasol－tree palace The King of Wu ，his sorrows run deep． The sun shines bright， Slowly descending its celestial path．

Let us await the sunset，and meet by the reed－lined riverbank．

Are you not but a wanderer in the realms of hardship and unravelling？

9
Transposing Score

WU.YU
吴•欤



11


Gd.













$17$









$\boldsymbol{f p}^{$|  chiew $^{\text {秋 }}=$ |
| :---: |$}$

T.





















*The duration of a quaver in $7 / 8$ equals to the duration of a note in the quaver-triplet in 3/4.




*Please see p. 24 .


































Gd. $\}$











B.




# Yue • Jue 

## 越•绝

By Zhongyu Jiang

## Program Notes

Yuejue delves into the historical milieu of the Yue vassal state during the Eastern Zhou dynasty（ 770 BCE to 256 BCE）．

In the title of the piece，Yue 越 refers to the 越 vassal state，while Jue 绝，refers to connotations of absolute，ultimate and extreme．

Yue and its neighboring state， Wu ，shared numerous cultural similarities；however， historical records indicate that Yue was predominantly governed by the Yue people and had comparatively fewer interactions with the Huaxia nations in comparison to Wu．The Wu and Yue states were frequently engaged in conflicts and wars throughout their history．

One notable episode occurred in 482 BC when King Goujian of Yue suffered a significant defeat at the hands of the Wu state．Rather than succumbing to despair，King Goujian adopted a strategic approach grounded in endurance and patience．Astonishingly，he chose to serve as a personal servant to the king of Wu for several years，clandestinely preparing his statesmen for an eventual revenge．By building trust with the Wu king，King Goujian seized the opportune moment to launch a sudden counteroffensive，resulting in decisive victories over the Wu forces．

This piece draws inspiration from two songs recorded in ancient texts．One of these songs，known as Fawuzhange 伐吴战歌（War Song of Conquering Wu），is believed to have been sung by the choir of soldiers as King Goujian prepared to launch an attack on Wu， ultimately leading to Wu＇s defeat．The other song，titled Yangfeiniao 仰飞鸟（Bird Soaring High），is thought to have been sung by King Goujian＇s wife during their period of servitude to the king of Wu ．In contrast to the contemplative and prayerful mood evoked in Wuyu，this piece embraces majestic and heroic qualities that is intertwines with the incorporation of environmentally and culturally inspired sounds from the Wuyue cultural legacy．

Furthermore，the musical composition draws inspiration from various elements associated with the goudiao，an ancient bronze bell commonly used in the Wu and Yue states during the Eastern Zhou dynasty．A replica of a goudiao set was recorded and sampled， allowing its distinct tones to be incorporated into the piece．

# INSTRUMENTATION 

Flute, doub. Piccolo

Oboe
Clarinet in Bb
Bassoon
Horn in F
Glockenspiel
Claves
Flexatone
A set of stones
A set of Chinese cymbals
Bass Drum
Goudiao (samples played on the midi keyboard)
Harp (with a triangle beater)
Soprano Solo
Choir: TB
Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Cello
Double Bass

# Text and English Translation 

## CHORUS

lee dzau tsoo＇ey chung nü Swiftly march forth，leaving behind the shame of old，跞 躁 摧 长 原，
draw jee yü shoo
擢 戟 驭 设，
swoh lee boo shee＇ung．In the face of adversity，we shall not surrender，所 离 不 降，

Yee shie who wung chee soo
以泄 我 王 气 苏。

Sahn jü＇in yee fay shee＇ung shee From celestial realms，three armies descend，

Together，we release our anguish and anger in the name of sovereignty． sovig．

Soo＇oh shee＇ung jee＇ay tsoo
所 向 皆 殂。

```
三 军 一 飞 降 兮,
```

In their wake，the enemy＇s demise foretold to attend．

A lone soldier，determined，slays the foe，

Unyielding，not even hundreds can impede their flow．

Uh dung bye foo
而 当 百 夫。

Unsheathe the spear，let the chariot carry the blade bold．

Yee sh pahn sih shee
一 士 判 死 兮，

Dow yoe yoe duh shee道 祐 有 德 兮，

Woo dzoo zih tu
吴 卒 自 屠。

Shü＇ey woh wung shee＇oh ch雪 我 王 宿 耻，

Way djen bah du
威 振 八都。
jü＇in woo nahn gung shee军 伍 难 更 兮，

Sh roo pee choo
势 如 貔 貙。

Woo woo
鸣 鸣

Hung hung guh noo lee shee
行 行 各 努 力 兮，

Yü．hoo．Yü hoo
於．乎，於．乎

Divine favour graces the virtuous king＇s reign，

The enemy Wu＇s army is self－defeating．

Washing away my king＇s shame of the old days，

The power of the gods echoes afar，shaking the very essence of every land and star．

The soldiers，unwavering in their fighting spirit，

Strike fierce as mythical creatures $p i$ and $c h u$ ，their merit．

Wo Hoo！Wo Hoo！

With unyielding valor，they march forth，

Wo Hoo！Wo Hoo！

## SOLO SOPRANO

| Yung fay neoh <br> 仰飞 鸟 | I looked up and beheld a flock of ebony raptors， |
| :---: | :---: |
| Lin shü＇ahn shü how pee＇ahn pee＇ahn凌．玄 虚 号．翩．翩。 | Swooping and clamoring，descending from lofty heights． |
| Jee jdoh jdoo yow dzih集 洲 渚 优 恣， | They gathered upon a small isle，recklessly pecking at fish and shrimp， |
| Djoo＇oh shee＇ah jee＇ow huh yüin jee＇ahn啄 虾 矫 翮 云 间， | Then spreading their wings amidst the clouds，freely soaring as their nature dictates． |
| Chee＇ay woo dzoo＇ay foo dee，妾 无 罪 负 地， | Though I am innocent，I must leave my homeland behind， |
| Huh goo chee＇ahn teeahn何 辜 谴 天？ | Banished unjustly to a distant horizon． |
| Fahn fahn doo shee wung帆 帆 独 西 往， | Like a wayward leaf carried by furious winds towards the west， |
| Fahn huh nee＇ahn？返 何 年？ | Who knows when I shall return to my cherished abode？ |
| Shin choo＇oh choo＇oh心 惙 惙， | My heart hurts． |
| Lay shee＇ahn shee＇ahn泪 泫 泫。 | My tears drop． |
| Bee fay neoh彼飞 鸟 | Those fierce predators have now returned to their roost， |
| Hoo＇ay shee＇ung huh soo | Single－mindedly preying upon feeble white shrimps， |

Huh jü jee＇ung hoo
何 居 江 湖？

Hoo＇ay foo shee＇ung yung


Djong woh ming jü＇in du．
终 我 命 君 都。

Yü huh shing
遇 何 幸

Lee goo＇oh chü woo
离 国 去 吴。

Chee＇ay yee huh way bee
妻 衣 褐 为 婢，
$\begin{array}{cccc}\text { Foo } & \text { chü } & \text { mee＇ahn } & \text { way noo } \\ \text { 夫 } & \text { 去 } & \text { 冕 } & \text { 为 奴。 }\end{array}$

Soo＇ay yow yow shee nahn jee
岁 遥 遥 兮 难 极。

Bay tong shin tzuh
悲 痛 心 恻。

Why have they come to this riverbank，this lakeside，to feast without end？ They left，then returned．

Then I was forced to journey to the capital of Wu ．

Why was I made
to forsake my homeland for distant Wu ？

Clad in coarse garments，reduced to a maid，

While my husband，stripped of his crown，became a servant．

Years，distant and far．Oh，how difficult they are．

Sorrow，pain，heart＇s lament．
Chung chee＇ahn jee＇ay foo ying，Interwined，a thousand knots，
肠 千 结 服 噟，

Yü hoo wung sh．
於 乎 忘 食。

Yü＇ahn woh shun shee roo nee＇ow愿 我 身 兮 如 鸟，

Ow shee＇ung jee＇ow yee
傽翔 矫 翼。

Chü woh gu＇oh shin yow
去 我 国 心 摇，

Fun wahn shay dj
愤 惋 谁 知！

Hurts so much that I forgot to eat．

Oh，how I long to transform into a bird，taking flight，

Spreading my wings high in the boundless azure sky， freely soaring．

My heart yearns for my distant ancestral homeland，

Overflowing with sorrow，fury，and poignant resentment．Who can truly fathom the depth of my emotions？

Tran posing Score

## YUE•JUE

越•绝







$53$


$55$






$60$




















$77$













$90$














| \% | - | - | - |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |
| ) $2: 3$ | - | - | - |




















# Shanghai Streets 

1.Liantang Old Town<br>2.Qibao Old Town<br>3.Sinan Road<br>4.Lingzhao Road

By Zhongyu Jiang

for

Piano Solo

## Program Notes

In the composition "Shanghai Streets," I have woven together my memories of four streets that symbolise the historical progression of Shanghai with the historical progression of the goudiao, all presented in an impressionistic aesthetic. Each street represents a different stage of the city's development, creating a musical narrative that reflects the evolution of Shanghai over time. These streets hold personal significance to me as they connect to the places where I resided during my time in Shanghai. Composing these pieces in Australia lead to an artistic exploration that allowed me to transcend the boundaries of time and space, Meanwhile, the intertwining of historical stages of the goudiao with the physical locations of my personal homes in Shanghai serves as a catalyst for transcending temporal limitations. Through this musical tapestry, I aim to capture the essence of both the city's historical trajectory and my own lived experiences within it.

## Movement I: Liantang Old Town

"Liantang Old Town" portrays the old Liangtang watertown in the Qingpu province, characterised by its stone-paved roads, traditional houses with high eaves and raised ridges, and a tranquil setting surrounded by paddies. Qingpu is known for being the earliest human habitat in Shanghai, therefore symbolises as the "origin" of my home. The composition captures the tranquil, serene, and harmonious ambience of this freshly green and idyllic setting.

## Movement II: Qibao Old Streets

"Qibao Old Streets" takes us to a town that emerged during the Song Dynasty (9601279). Unlike Liantang Old Town, the streets of Qibao are vibrant and bustling from afternoon until evening. The yellow lights illuminate the contours of the buildings in the Jiangnan style, and street vendors offer a wide variety of local dim sum. It was a place where I would often gather with friends after school on Fridays for snacks and shopping. On weekends, my family, including my parents, grandparents, and my cousin's family, would come together for dinner on the second floors of different restaurants. These low-ceilinged floors, reflecting the architectural style of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), created a cozy and intimate atmosphere. One of my fondest memories was leaving halfway through the dinner to buy additional snacks, which my cousin and I enjoyed.

Movement III: Sinan Road
During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, parts of Shanghai were governed by France, and Sinan Road is a tree-lined avenue situated within the former French Concession
(FFC) area. Twenty years ago, Sinan Road was the path I traversed from my primary school to one of my homes at that time: my parents' office. It is also the street where I would travel to my piano and singing teachers' studios weekly, marking the beginning of my musical journey.

## Movement IV: Lingzhao Road

"Lingzhao Road" holds a profound significance in my personal narrative as it is the street where my childhood home stood during my formative years, spanning from kindergarten to the culmination of primary school. Residing alongside my parents and maternal grandparents in Shanghai's Pudong district, I bore witness to the remarkable development of an area that was officially designated as a Special Economic Zone in 1993. Through this musical composition, I seek solace from the bustling modern financial and trade hub that Lingzhao Road and its surrounding areas have become, while retracing the steps to the origins of my cherished memories. Symbolically, the resounding presence of the fundamental note serves as a metaphorical representation of my root, whereas the gradual ascent of the higher notes parallels the developmental progress of the towering high-risesfilled the Pudong district.

The inclusion of French text is a deliberate choice rooted in the historical ties between Shanghai and France. The presence of the French Concession in parts of Shanghai from 1849 to 1943 significantly influenced the city's culture and history. As these pieces also hold personal significance to me, I aim to explore a fusion of languages, incorporating both French and English expressions, as well as drawing inspiration from Chinese notational techniques. I integrat symbols and markings used in Chinese instruments, and adapting them to the piano, a Western instrument. This blending of languages and musical traditions reflects the diverse cultural influences present in Shanghai, creating a unique and multi-layered musical experience within "Shanghai Streets."

## Performance Instruction

Cluster: Playing all the notes between the notated pitches.
$\square \circ 0 \longrightarrow$
Repeat the segment any number of times at your discretion.

## Liantang Old Town

Adagio (ca d.=54)

Jolin Jiang


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Full Score

rit.


## Cadenza



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Full Score


Repeat each segment any number of times at your discretion.

A tempo
$8^{v a--}$


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Full Score


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## Qibao Old Street

Jolin Jiang


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## Sinan Road

Jolin Jiang

## Moderato





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## Lingzhao Road



なって． $\qquad$

# As Goudiao Calls Upon Me 

By Zhongyu Jiang

Pipa, Zhongruan, Guzheng, Erhu, Zhonghu, Violin, Viola, Cello, Contrabass

## Dedicated to

Prof．Zhu Guowei
朱国伟教授

## Program Note

As Goudiao Calls Upon Me is a chamber music composition for 9 Chinese and Western string instruments. The piece is structured in a through-composed format, mirroring the chronological order of the events that unfolded during my fieldtrip to the Museum of Chinese National Music. The primary objective of my trip was to play and record a replica of ancient bells known as goudiao, which date back 2000 years. This recording session took place at the Museum of Chinese National Music, where I was accompanied by Prof. Zhu Guowei, a musical archaeologist deeply involved in the museum's curation and the construction of the goudiao replica.

Regrettably, my visit coincided with the strict Covid policy, resulting in the closure of the museum without any indication of a reopening date. It was disheartening to witness the neglected state of the instruments and displays, covered in mold and spiderwebs, highlighting the urgency for their preservation and restoration. Nevertheless, amidst these circumstances, I had a meaningful conversation with Professor Zhu Guowei, which evoked a sense of connection and shared passion for the preservation and revitalisation of the cultural legacy of the Wuyue region. It was a reminder that despite the challenges faced, there are individuals dedicated to safeguarding the rich heritage and passing it down to future generations.

## Performance Instructions



## Symbol/Name

Section "Playing the Goudiao" (bb. 112-122)


## Kouyao

## Instructions

This section depicts me playing the goudiao at the Museum of Chinese National Music. The music aims to represent some key characteristics of the goudiao's spectral profile that I analysed after the trip. Each instrument plays a fundamental pitch or a significant overtone relative to the fundamental pitch.

The lun effect on the pipa: to create a smooth tremolo effect, use each of your four fingers to individually flick the highest A string outwards.

Slow pitch bend from one note to the note which the arrow points at.

Repeat the fragment within the bracket in ad lib. as many times as you like.

The sao effect on the pipa: strum the four strings continuously.

The jiaoxian effect on the pipa: Firstly, push the string on the left towards the right using the index finger on the left hand. Position the string underneath one or several strings on the right side.
Secondly, use the other fingers on the left hand to pull one or multiple strings on the right side towards the left, pressing them onto the pushed string on the left side. Thirdly, remove the index finger. After these three movements, the twisting of the strings is completed. Simultaneously, strum the strings with the right hand to produce a percussive sound.

Continue the same pattern for a period until the arrow ends
While the right hand plays the tremolo on a string, the left index finger and thumb pinch the string lightly and slide between left and right

Quick pitch bend:

- Placed before the note: a quick pitch bend from any note to the note specified.
- Placed after the note: a quick pitch bend from the note specified to any note.

pressure scratch tone


Put more pressure on the bow against the string when bowing to produce a sound effect similar to scratching on a surface

Any pitch

Notes with arrow heads:

- Arrow pointing down: the lowest note possible
- Arrow pointing up: the highest note possible

Play the notes from fast to slow ad lib. to create a relatively sparse, irregular and distant waterdrop or footstep effect

## As Goudiao Calls Upon Me







## Entering Canal Park











Pi.


Ru.



Er.


Zh.


Vla.

Vc.

Cb .










The Goudiao





Playing the Goudiao
60 BPM (Preciso)



## The Museum

${ }_{123}$ Adagio d=ca. 50


Er.


Zh.


Vln.



Pi.


Ru.


Er.


Zh.


Vla.

Vc.







Er.

Zh.


Vla.

Vc.










## Leaving Canal Park <br> Largo $=48$







Vla.

Vc.



[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ The Chinese term for＂hometown＂is jiaxiang 家乡，which encompasses not only the physical place where one was born or grew up but also carries strong emotional and cultural connotations．It signifies a connection to the land，the customs，traditions，and cultural practices that have been passed down through generations．
    ${ }^{2}$ Wuyue is a contemporary geographical concept．Dong noted that＂currently，the concept of＂Wuyue culture＂ has，in fact，bifurcated into broad and narrow interpretations．The broad interpretation of＂Wuyue culture＂ encompasses both ancient and modern aspects，．．．The distinction between the［broad and narrow intepretations］ lies merely in the temporal scope，devoid of any value judgment or dichotomy in terms of worthiness．It is

[^1]:    unnecessary to posit one against the other based on these differences＂（2010，3）．Cai employs the term Wuyue Yinyue Wenhuaqu 吴越音乐文化区（Wuyue music cultural region）as the title of a book chapter that addresses traditional Chinese musical practices within the region $(2019,295)$ ．The concept of Wuyue also bears personal significance to me in my creative process．

[^2]:    ${ }^{3}$ Yuyue people were part of the various Hundred Yue（baiyue）peoples．Hundred Yue，a general term for a large number of different non－Sinitic people，consisted of numerous diverse tribes that trace their ancestry back to the earlier Yi tribe．They inhabited southeastern and southern China for a remarkable period of over 1800 years， including parts of what is now northern Vietnam，as shown in Chinese records（Ingram，2010，5）．

[^3]:    ${ }^{5}$ To conduct the recording, I positioned two Rode NT5 microphones in front of the goudiao replica set, approximately 2 meters apart and 3 meters away from this set of bells. Additionally, a Zoom H6 Handy Recorder was placed about 4 meters from the bells. I recorded the pitches of the bells in a sequential order, starting from the smallest bell to the largest. The pitch of each bell was captured and recorded by striking the upper front of the bells. Each sound produced by the bells had a duration ranging from 5 to 20 seconds, depending on the pitch, striking force, and hitting points. Additionally, different dynamics were explored by recording the same pitch produced with firm and soft strikes. Each sample was captured after the sound had fully released to ensure the complete sound envelope could be recorded for later spectral analysis.
    ${ }^{6}$ While analysing the samples, I took into consideration that the quality of the recordings had been compromised by the presence of additional sounds in the museum, such as motion-activated lights, footsteps, etc. In light of

[^4]:    this，I focused my analysis on identifying and comparing the shared patterns among the sounds．My aim was to uncover similarities and draw meaningful insights despite the contamination from other sources．

[^5]:    ${ }^{7}$ This chapter presents musical notations representing diverse Wuyue performance practices I have encountered． These notational examples aim to establish the foundation for integrating my understanding of the Wuyue musical tradition alongside my personal cultural memory and emotional landscape into contemporary compositions．However，the intention is not specifically to delve into the differences between notated scores and performance transcriptions．
    ${ }^{8}$ Shanghainese is one type of Wuyu 吴语．This term s customarily translated into English as the Wu dialect （Kurpaska，2010，1）．The term＂dialect＂is commonly used to refer to the regional variations within the Chinese language．However，it＇s important to note that there is ongoing debate among linguists regarding the classification of Wu as a dialect or a separate language．Some argue that the linguistic differences between Wu and other Chinese dialects are significant enough to consider it a separate language（Li，2013）．
    ${ }^{9}$ The orthography employed for Shanghainese is a distinct system developed by me and differs from the common Hanyu pinyin zimu system．

[^6]:    ${ }^{10}$ The states of Wu and Yue were initially outside the influence of the Zhou dynasty during the early Spring and Autumn Period. Despite adopting certain aspects of the Zhou's political and cultural models, they retained their distinct cultures. Originating in the lower reaches of the Yangtze River, these states were part of the same branch of the Hundred Yue peoples ( $\mathrm{Wu}, 2021,7$ ). Geographically close and sharing a common heritage, Wu and Yue exhibited cultural similarities. They shared customs, languages, and a reliance on rice as a staple food, while their lifestyle was characterised by exposed bodies with tattoos and water travel (Yang, 2014, 29). Despite their outsider status, the rulers of Wu and Yue aspired to be part of the Spring and Autumn multi-state system and claimed descent from the Xia dynasty, although this claim was likely unfounded. Despite their aspirations, they were granted only minor noble titles by the Zhou kings (Major and Cook, 2017, 132).

[^7]:    ${ }^{11}$ For example，the Spring and Autumn Annuals of Wu and Yue Vassal States 吴越春秋，written during the Eastern Han dynasty（25－220 CE），aims to record recounts the battles between the states of Wu and Yue in the Spring and Autumn period．Two songs included in this record that are believed to be sung by the people of the Yue：Yangfeiniao 仰飞鸟（Bird Soaring High）and Fawuzhange 伐吴战歌（War Song of Conquering Wu），are mentioned in the book．However，there is no other supporting evidence to confirm the existence of these songs during that time or their execution in those specific circumstances．Furthermore，even if the songs did exist，the given lyrics were written in Chinese despite the likelihood that they were originally sung in the language of the Yue people．

[^8]:    ${ }^{12}$ As Dr．Josh Stenberg mentioned：＂with ．．．a whole raft of questions around text authenticity and interpretation， one must speak broadly of inspiration because the music of the remote past is only available in those terms＂ （Stenberg，2021，42）．

[^9]:    ${ }^{13}$ The tables are organized in a manner that reflects the present-day provinces in which these artifacts were discovered. By doing so, I aim to facilitate a clear understanding of the instrument's distribution and geographic spread across the Wuyue region.

[^10]:    ${ }^{14}$ Ma referred to "the initial stage" as "the early stage".

[^11]:    ${ }^{15}$ One such inscription can be found on the Qici Goudiao．The inscription found on the Qici Goudiao states，＂正初吉丁亥，其次择其吉金铸句鑃，以享以孝，用祈万寿，子子孙孙永保用之＂．It conveys that on the auspicious day of the first month，the day of Dinghai，the finest metal material was carefully selected to cast this goudiao，which was then used for sacrificial offerings to express filial piety and pray for longevity for future generations（Ma，2016，57）．The Qici Goudiao was discovered in the Wukang Mountains of Zhejiang province， alongside six other bells，two of which bore inscriptions（Ma，2016，57）．

[^12]:    ${ }^{16}$ Fang Jianjun emphasises that the presence of goudiao in sets of various sizes suggests their use as a set of melodic instruments，with each player striking a goudiao to produce a pitch as part of a melodic line（Fang 1994， 3）．According to this perspective，playing the goudiao by hand would be highly inconvenient for coordinated melody playing，supporting the idea that goudiao were more likely played while placed on a rack or surface （Fang 1994，3）．The shape of goudiao from the mid and late Spring and Autumn period further supports this theory，as they often feature a widened area at the top of the handle connecting to the body，which is believed to create better acoustics by isolating the vibrating body from the handle（Fang，1994，3）．

[^13]:    ${ }^{17}$ In 2004, Xu Mengdong conducted a study examining the pitches of the Gulong goudiao set (46). He compiled the pitch data obtained from each strike and provided the closed standard pitches the frequencies corresponded to. Furthermore, Suiyu, in her 2019 publication, presented pitch data extracted from the Yancheng goudiao set (220) and Songxi goudiao set (222). In addition to identifying the standard pitches closest to the measured frequencies, Sui also noted the exact pitch frequency obtained.

[^14]:    ${ }^{18}$ Figures 2.7-2.9 depict some of the spectral data of the pitches sampled generated by Spear, along with my interpretation of the findings. In each graph, the $x$-axis represents time and the $y$-axis represents frequency. The darkness of the spectral representation indicates the intensity of various frequencies at each specific moment. Alongside these graphs, I noted the frequency and pitch of the most prominent and intense frequencies.

[^15]:    ${ }^{19}$ Exploring these sonic similarities falls beyond the primary scope of my study.

[^16]:    ${ }^{20}$ In this piece, I also drew inspiration from Spring and Autumn Annuals of Wu and Yue Vassal States. Incorporating the two songs Birds Soaring High and War Song of Conquering Wu, I recreated the world of Yue soldiers preparing for war while incorporating the voice of King Goujian's wife singing about freedom. This composition, rooted in historical narratives, allowed me to connect with the past through informed imagination, bridging historical boundaries and brought the context of Wu and Yue to life in a contemporary context.

[^17]:    ${ }^{21}$ In the Spring and Autumn Annuals of Wu and Yue Vassal States，the inhabitants of the Yue region are portrayed as residing within a realm characterized by traversing waterways and conquering mountains，where boats assume the role of carriages and oars act as horses．Meanwhile，birds held significant cultural importance． The myth of＇Feathered People 羽人＇has long been popular in the Wu and Yue regions（Dong，2010，224），while archaeological evidence from the culture of this region during the Neolithic period reveals a deep reverence for bird deities，including the progenitor deity known as the Divine Bird，who was associated with the sun and celestial movements（Dong，2010，213）．The Spring and Autumn Annuals of Wu and Yue Vassal States 吴越春秋 also mentions people who speak the language of the great birds of Yue，further highlighting the cultural significance of birds in the region（Dong，2010，227）．

[^18]:    ${ }^{22}$ Records of Yue（Yuejueshu 越绝书）documents the relevant history of King Goujian of Yue＇s rise and the downfall of Wu during the late Spring and Autumn Period．
    ${ }^{23} \mathrm{Wu}$ Zixu later became a prominent advisor to King Helü of Wu and played a crucial role in the rise and eventual downfall of the state of Wu ．In the setting of the song， Wu was planning to cross the river to escape from his pursuers from the Chu state and seek safety in a new location．As Wu hid in the dense reeds．The fisherman called out to him multiple times with the song，questioning if he was a poor nobleman in dire straits， and eventually helped Wu cross the river．

[^19]:    ${ }^{24}$ It was imperative, however, that the improvisation following the evocation of memory elicited genuine and profound connections to the events where I felt a deep personal resonance. Not all instances of playing could evoke or establish such a profound connection to the specific events. This endeavor rests in a continuous return to the environment and the constant repetition of musical materials that evokes my memories.

