## Embracing Goudiao 句鑃 and the Land of Wuyue 吳越: 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 excep-
where due reference is made.
Signature:
Date:

## **Keywords**

Musical 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* 句鑵, 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.

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# **Table of Contents**

State	tement of Original Authorship	2
Keyv	ywords	i
Abst	stract	ii
Ackı	knowledgements	iii
Tabl	ole of Contents	v
List	t of Tables	x
Intr	roduction	13
Perso	sonal , Cultural and Historical Origins	14
Sign	nificance of the Study	17
Metl	thodology	19
Porti	tfolio Overview	20
Thes	esis Outline	21
Cha	apter 1: Origins: Personal, Cultural and Historical	23
1.1	Shanghai: My Personal Origin	23
1.2	Wuyue Musical Tradtion: Practicing Traditional Music of my Cultural Origin	25
1.3	The Historical Origin of Wuyue: Wu and Yue Vassal States and Their Music	30
Cha	apter 2: Goudiao	34
2.1	Distribution	34
2.2	Historical Evolvement	36
2.3	Function	38
2.4	Playing Method	39
2.5	Ensemble Sizes and Combinations	40
2.6	Pitch Data in Literature	42
2.7	Tonal Graphic Analysis	43
Cha	apter 3: Collapsing Space and Time: Embracing Goudiao and Wuyue's	Cultural
Leg	gacy	47
3.1	The Sound of the Goudiao	49
3.2	Wuyue's Historical Context Enveloped with the goudiao and local musical trad	itions67
3.3	Emotional Geography on The land of Wuyue	71
3.4	Everywhen on the Land of Wuyue	78
Cha	apter 4: Conclusion	91
Glos	ossary	92
Bibl	oliography	95
App	pendices	101

Appendix A Eastern Zhou Dynasty	101
Appendix B Composers I Drew on in Developing My Compositional Approach	102
Appendix C A Model and Procedural Framework Delineating the Application of My Alternative Cultural Influences	* *
Appendix D The Second Entrance of the Theme for Dr. Zhu Guowei in <i>As Goudiao C. Me</i>	
Appendix E Ethics Approval	109
Appendix F Musicians and Producers for the Recordings of the Portfolio	111

# **List of Figures**

Figure 0.1: A map of the regional area around Shanghai(Chen et al., 2020)
Figure 0.2: The distribution of Southeastern ethnic branches of "barbarians" <i>Bai Yue</i> (Wu, 2021, 32)
Figure 0.3: A picture of the <i>goudiao</i> (Suzhou Bowuguan, 2017)
Figure 1.1: The tune sung by the flower sellers
Figure 1.2: Musical transcription of the chant from the coir bed repairers24
Figure 1.3: Score Excerpt of <i>Qiufengci</i> (Dai, 2014, 5)
Figure 1.4: A Score Demonstration of how the first two notes of <i>Autumn Wind</i> was learned and played (Dai, 2014, 5)
Figure 1.5: One passage from "Zaoluopao" shown on the musical score (Guan, 2010, 45)
Figure 1.6: Notation of the musical inflection learned in "Zaoluopao"27
Figure 1.7: Incorrect musical inflection execution in the Kun opera tradition 27
Figure 1.8: The opening section of <i>Great Scenes in Suzhou</i>
Figure 1.9: Score for the opening of <i>Harmonies on the Streets</i>
Figure 1.10: Map of the late Spring and Autumn period of China (5 <sup>th</sup> century BC) (Yug. 2011)
Figure 1.11: Map of the early Warring States period of China (Wikipedia Commons, 2017)
Figure 2.1: Locations at which <i>goudiaos</i> were unearthed
Figure 2.2: Qingyang <i>Goudiao</i> – an example of <i>goudiao</i> in the first stage (Ma, 2019, 137)
Figure 2.3: Wujin Yancheng <i>Goudiao</i> – an example of <i>goudiao</i> in the second stage (Ma 2019, 136)
Figure 2.4: Qici <i>Goudiao</i> – an example of <i>goudiao</i> in the third stage (Gugong Bowuguan, n.d.)
Figure 2.5: Qiuchengdun – an example of <i>goudiaos</i> in the fourth stage (Ma, 2019, 141)
Figure 2.6: The closest standard pitches produced by Songxi, Yancheng and Gulong <i>Goudiao</i> sets (compiled by Jiang, from Xu, 2004, 46 and Sui, 2019, 220-222)
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
Figure 3.1: I played the set of <i>goudiao</i> replica at the Museum of Chinese51
Figure 3.2: Bars 181-186 of the string section in <i>Yuejue</i>
Figure 3.3: Bars 65-71 of <i>Yuejue</i>

Figure 3.4: Bars 78-83 of <i>Yuejue</i>
Figure 3.5: Bars 101-104 of the woodwind and French Horn sections in Yuejue 55
Figure 3.6: Bars 54-60 of <i>Wuyu</i>
Figure 3.7: Pitches for the accompaniment gesture are derived from the pitches of the Songxi Goudiaos pitch set
Figure 3.8: Bars 3-4 of "Qibao Old Town"
Figure 3.9: The thematic materials from <i>Wuyu</i> and <i>Yuejue</i> and the pitches produced by the Gulong <i>Goudiao</i> set
Figure 3.10: Parts of bars 32-38 of <i>Wuyu</i>
Figure 3.11: Bars 20-24 of <i>Yuejue</i>
Figure 3.12: Bars 36-73 of <i>Yuejue</i>
Figure 3.13: Bars 112-126 of As Goudiao Calls Upon Me
Figure 3.14: Spectral Profile of C3 pitched <i>goudiao</i> at the Museum of Chinese National Music
Figure 3.15: Notes during the Compositional Process illustrating the method used for "Lingzhao Road"
Figure 3.16: Bars 1-4 of "Lingzhao Road"
Figure 3.17: Bar 9 of "Lingzhao Road"
Figure 3.18: Pitch set from the Zenghouyi <i>Bianzhong</i> at the same register of the Gulong <i>Goudiao</i>
Figure 3.19: Some of the chords created from the Gulong <i>Goudiao</i> and Zenghouyi  Bianzhong pitch set
Figure 3.20: The chord design of in the piano reduction score draft for <i>Wuyu</i> using this method
Figure 3.21: Soprano Solo section from bar 220-224 in <i>Yuejue</i>
Figure 3.22: Bars 50-52 of <i>Yuejue</i>
Figure 3.23: Bars 37-43 of <i>Wuyu</i>
Figure 3.24: Bars 181-187 of <i>Wuyu</i>
Figure 3.25: The beginning sections of the 4 pieces in <i>Shanghai Streets</i>
Figure 3.26: Bars 29-30 of "Liantang Road"
Figure 3.27: Main idea of Liantang Old Town
Figure 3.28: The second idea in Liantang Old Town is derived from a segment of the main idea
Figure 3.29: The Entrance of Chinese National Music Museum
Figure 3.30: Bars 32-33 of As Goudiao Calls Upon Me
Figure 3.31: Dr. Zhu Demonstrating Best Methods to Strike the Big Bells. (Photo by Dr. Zhu's friend, name unknow)

Figure 3.32: Dr. Zhu Demonstrating Best Methods to Strike the Big Bells. (Photo Zhu's friend, name unknow)	•
Figure 3.33: Parts of bars 135-139 of As Goudiao Calls Upon Me	. 86
Figure 3.34: The basic melodic idea for bar 116 and bars 116-118 of <i>As Goudiao Outpon Me</i>	
Figure C.1: Model of my approach in creating music that reflects the voice of my	own culture
while bringing history into the present	.102
Figure D.1: Parts of bars 123-128 of As Goudiao Calls Upon Me	.103

## **List of Tables**

Table 2.1: 25 goudiao unearthed from southern Jiangsu province	. 35
Table 2.2: 38 goudiaos unearthed from northern Zhejiang province	. 35
Table 2.3: 3 goudiaos unearthed from Hubei province	. 35
Table 2.4: 1 goudiaos unearthed from Hunan province	. 36
Table 2.5: 1 goudiaos unearthed from Jiangxi province	. 36
Table 2.6: The developmental trajectory of <i>goudiao</i> sizes and set sizes during the	
Eastern Zhou dynasty	.41

# **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 hometown¹. The Wuyue region, henceforth referred to as Wuyue², encompasses Shanghai, Zhejiang, the southern portion of Jiangsu province, and the

14

 $<sup>^1</sup>$  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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 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 interpretations] lies merely in the temporal scope, devoid of any value judgment or dichotomy in terms of worthiness. It is

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

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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.

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 (Wu, 2021, 32) (see Figure 0.2). The indigenous inhabitants in this region were the non-Sinitic Yuyue people<sup>3</sup>. 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> 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).

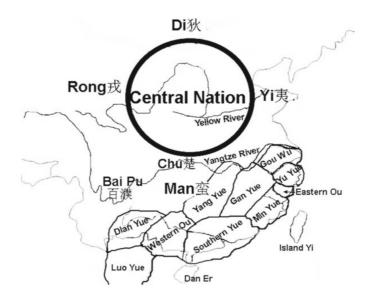


Figure 0.2: The distribution of Southeastern ethnic branches of "barbarians" *Bai Yue* (Wu, 2021, 32)

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 (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<sup>5</sup>. This hands-on approach allowed for spectral analysis of the collected samples, contributing to the acquisition of data for the composition process<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> 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

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.

Wuyu 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

20

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.

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<sup>7</sup>.

#### 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<sup>8</sup>. There were the flower sellers; their melodic chants of "dz dz hoo, buh lay hoo<sup>9</sup> 栀子花,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.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> 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).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> The orthography employed for Shanghainese is a distinct system developed by me and differs from the common *Hanyu pinyin zimu* system.

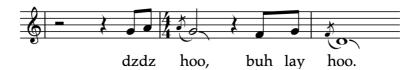


Figure 1.1: The tune sung by the flower sellers

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.

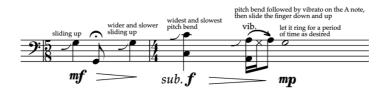


Figure 1.4: A Score Demonstration of how the first two notes of *Autumn Wind* was learned and played (Dai, 2014, 5)

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  $2^{nd}$  degree within a gesture, it must go up a  $3^{rd}$  or a  $4^{th}$  degree first before moving down.



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  $2^{nd}$  or a  $3^{rd}$  interval requires the preceding embellishments to ascend a  $2^{nd}$  or a  $3^{rd}$  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

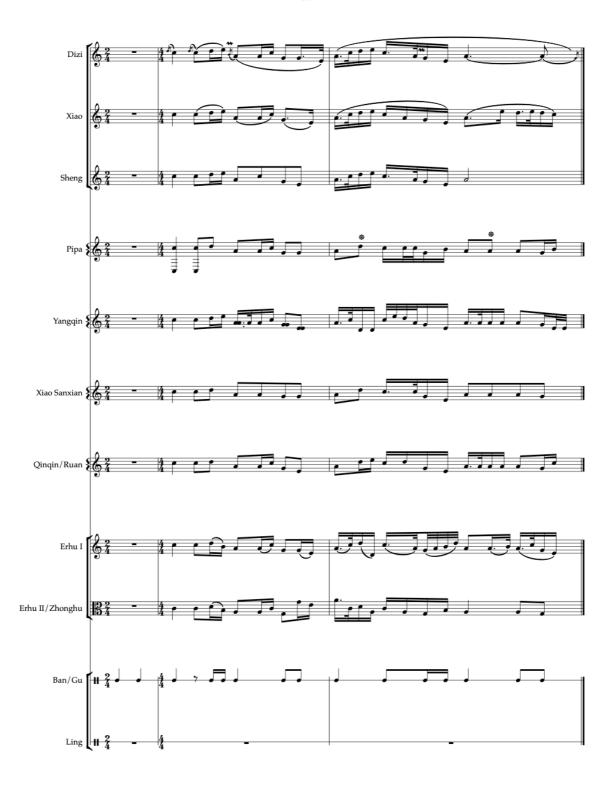


Figure 1.9: Score for the opening of Harmonies on the Streets

# 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<sup>10</sup> 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).

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> 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 (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).

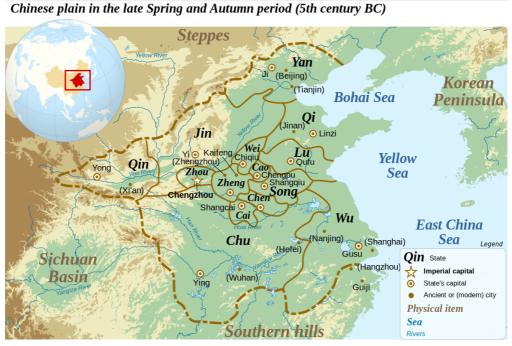


Figure 1.10: Map of the late Spring and Autumn period of China (5<sup>th</sup> century BC) (Yug, 2011)

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).

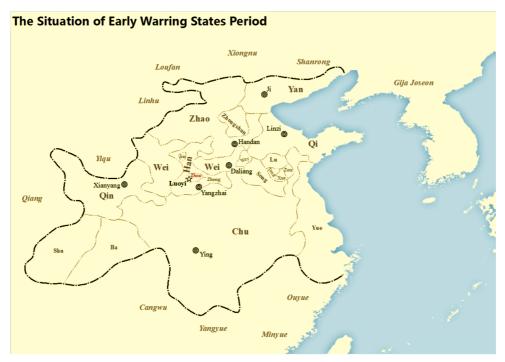


Figure 1.11: Map of the early Warring States period of China (Wikipedia Commons, 2017)

#### 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<sup>11</sup>. As a result, these historical documents only offered sources of inspiration and imagination for the story, landscape, setting, and environment of my creative musical

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.

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<sup>11</sup> 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

output<sup>12</sup>. 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 (Yuestyled round bell) and goudiao 句鑵 (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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> 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).

## **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<sup>13</sup> 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> 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.

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

Table 2.1: 25 goudiao unearthed from southern Jiangsu province

Year	Qty.	Location	Notes
1827	13	Wukang Shan Late Spring and Autumn Period (Yue, 2002,	
			491)
			Yue vassal state (Dong, 2010, 106)
1929	11	Shaoxing	porcelain goudiaos (Dong, 2010, 240)
1977	2	Shangxing	Late Spring and Autumn Period (Li, 1994,
		Chengguan	119)
		Goutoushan, Wu vassal state (Dong, 2010, 80)	
		Shaoxing	
1983	12	Haiyanchang Porcelain goudiaos	
		Changchuanba	Warring States Period (Yue, 2002, 491)
		Huangjiashan	

Table 2.2: 38 goudiaos unearthed from northern Zhejiang province

Year	Qty.	Location	Notes
1979	1	Yicheng	Unknown (Dong, 2010, 240)
		Leijiapo	
1984	2	Guangji	Late Spring and Autumn Period (Li, 1994, 120)
		-	Early Spring Autumn (Yue, 2002, 491)

Table 2.3: 3 goudiaos unearthed from Hubei province

Year	Qty.	Location	Notes	
1986	1 North		Also discovered a wooden mallet alongside (Dong,	
		Changsha	2010, 240)	
		Hehuachi		

Table 2.4: 1 goudiaos unearthed from Hunan province

Year	Qty.	Location	Notes
1980	1	Duchang	Warring States period (Zhou, 1989)
		County	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

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 <sup>14</sup>, 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).

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Ma referred to "the initial stage" as "the early stage".



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 Figure 2.5).

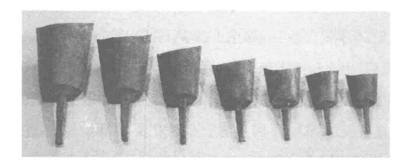


Figure 2.3: Wujin Yancheng *Goudiao* – an example of *goudiao* in the second stage (Ma, 2019, 136)



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 *zun* 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<sup>15</sup> (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

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> One such inscription can be found on the Qici *Goudiao*. The inscription found on the Qici *Goudiao* states, "正 初吉丁亥,其次择其吉金铸句鑵,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).

instrument facing upwards (Dong, 2010, 241; Xu, 1994, 40). On the contrary, Fang Jianjun<sup>16</sup>, 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.

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).

create better acoustics by isolating the vibrating body from the handle (rang, 1994, 3).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> 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

Stage	Period	Goudiao	Size (Yue, 2002, 491)	Number of goudiaos in a set
1 <sup>st</sup>	Early Spring and Autumn Period	Qing Yang Goudiao		4 (Ma, 2019, 284)
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mid Spring and	Wu Jin Yan Cheng Goudiao	Shortest: 17.1 cm	7 (Ma, 2019, 284)
	Autumn Period		Tallest: 34.8 cm	
		Gao Chun Song Xi Goudiao		8 (Ma, 2019, 284)
		Guang De Goudiao		9 (Yue, 2002, 491)
		Gaochun Qingshan Goudiao	Shortest: 30 cm	2 (Yue, 2002, 491)
			Tallest: 39 cm	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Late Spring and	Wukangshan Goudiao	Shortest: 28.3 cm	13 (Yue, 2002, 491)
	Autumn Period		Tallest: 51.4 cm	
4 <sup>th</sup>	Warring States Period	Yu hang Dalu Shimadou <i>Goudiao</i>		7 (Yue, 2002, 491)
		Haiyanchang Changchuanba Huangjiashan	Tallest: 45 cm	12 (Yue, 2002, 491)
		Changxing Bizishan <i>Goudiao</i>		8 (Yue, 2002, 491)
		Wuxi Hongshan Yuemu Goudiao		29 (Yue, 2002, 491)
		Wuxi Hongshan Yuemu <i>Goudiao</i>		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 匜. 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<sup>17</sup>, 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*.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup>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.

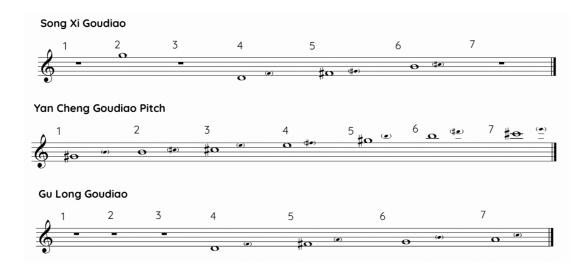


Figure 2.6: The closest standard pitches produced by Songxi, Yancheng and Gulong *Goudiao* sets (compiled by Jiang, from Xu, 2004, 46 and Sui, 2019, 220-222)

#### 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<sup>18</sup>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> 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.

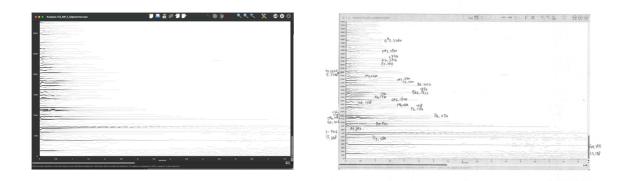


Figure 2.7: Spectral data of C3 in Spear, along with my analysis

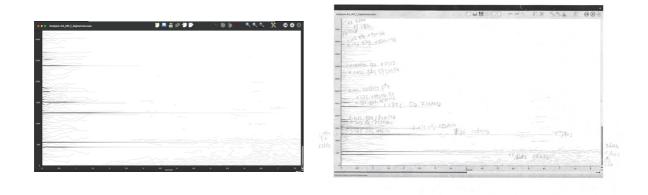


Figure 2.8: Spectral data of A4 in Spear, along with my analysis

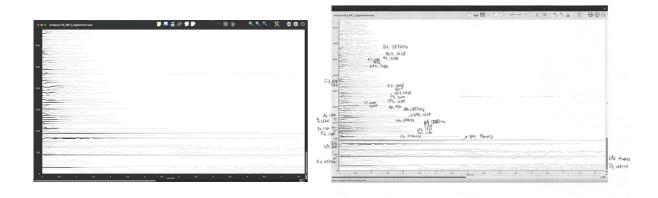


Figure 2.9: Spectral data of D3 in Spear, along with my analysis

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

In terms of duration and intensity, the 12<sup>th</sup> or minor 12<sup>th</sup> 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, 2023,14-16). 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 quasi-improvisation 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<sup>19</sup>. 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.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Exploring these sonic similarities falls beyond the primary scope of my study.

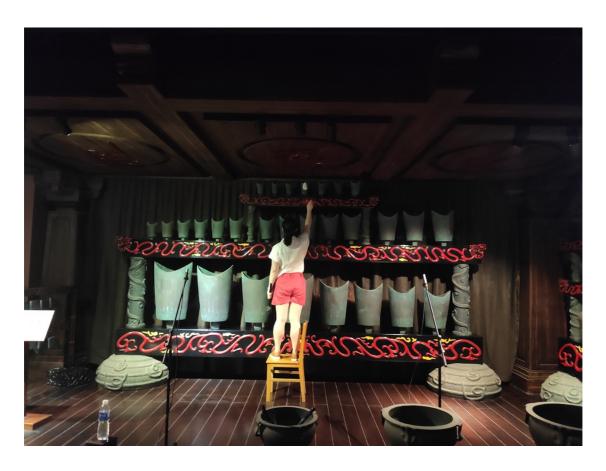


Figure 3.1: I played the set of goudiao replica at the Museum of Chinese

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).

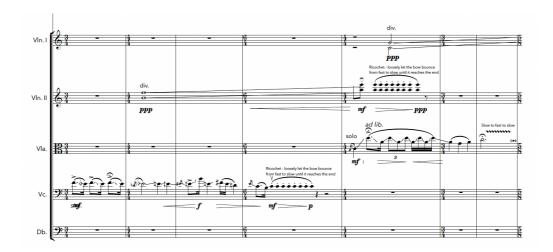


Figure 3.2: Bars 181-186 of the string section in Yuejue

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 Figure 3.3.



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*.

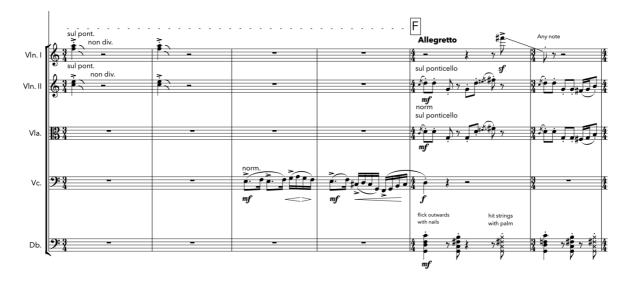


Figure 3.4: Bars 78-83 of Yuejue

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).

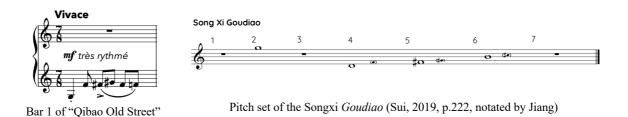


Figure 3.7: Pitches for the accompaniment gesture are derived from the pitches of the Songxi Goudiaos pitch set

Pitches for the main melody on the right hand also come from the pitchest 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 D, F#, 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



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<sup>th</sup> goudiao and F, the side pitch of the 4th 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 Wuyu. 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 C3 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.



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

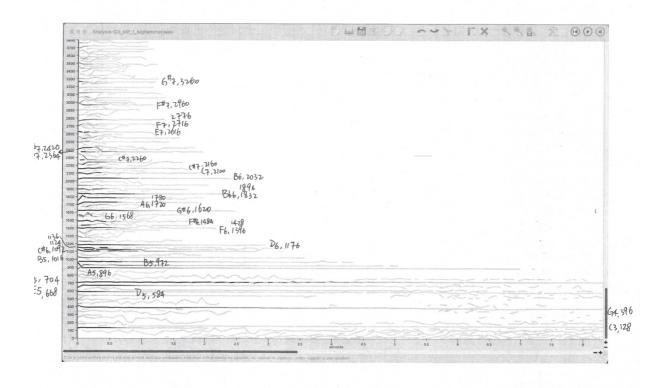


Figure 3.14: Spectral Profile of C3 pitched *goudiao* at the Museum of Chinese National Music

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.

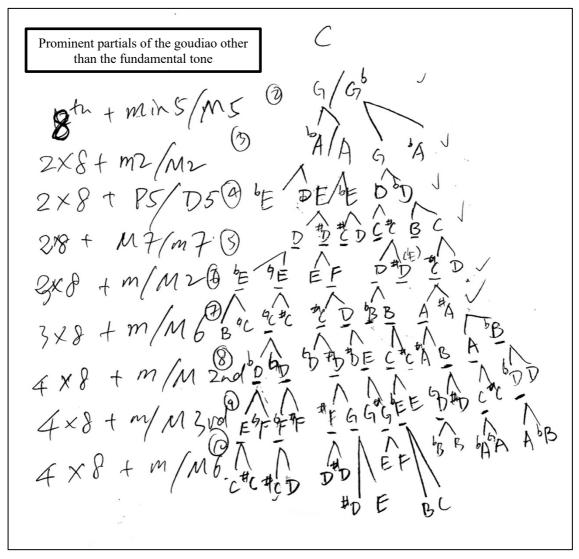


Figure 3.15: Notes during the Compositional Process illustrating the method used for "Lingzhao Road"

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.

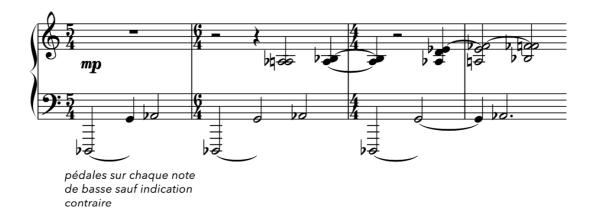


Figure 3.16: Bars 1-4 of "Lingzhao Road"

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 "8". 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 *Wuyu* 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 (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).



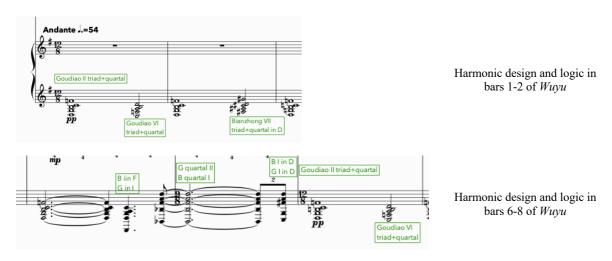
Figure 3.18: Pitch set from the Zenghouyi *Bianzhong* at the same register of the Gulong *Goudiao* 

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<sup>20</sup>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> 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.



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<sup>21</sup>.

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> 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).

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.

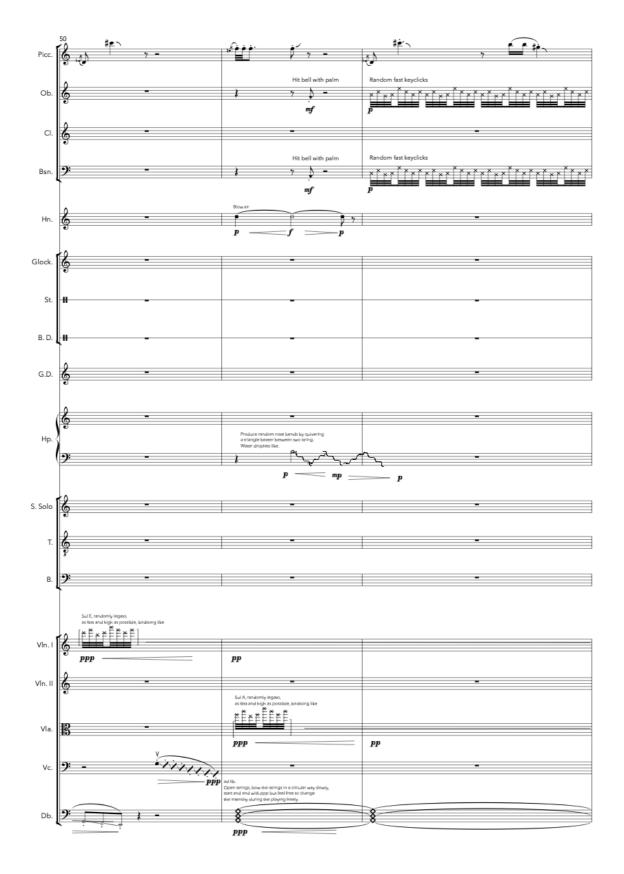


Figure 3.22: Bars 50-52 of Yuejue

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*<sup>22</sup>, This song, starting with the line "The sun shines bright (nee'ay dzoh dzoh 日曜間)", 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<sup>23</sup>. 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 *Wuyu*. 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.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup>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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> 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.



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)



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 2nd 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).

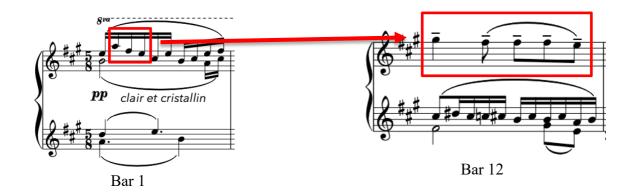


Figure 3.28: The second idea in Liantang Old Town is derived from a segment of the main idea

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 long-awaited 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<sup>24</sup>. 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 ever-existing.

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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> 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.



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 semi-improvised 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<sup>th</sup> 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 semi-improvisational 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)

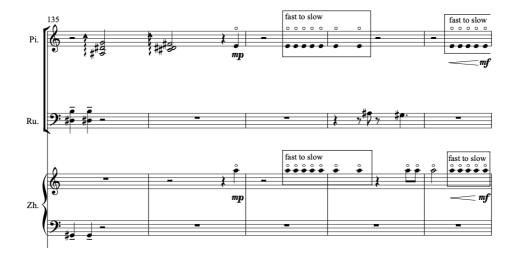


Figure 3.33: Parts of bars 135-139 of As Goudiao Calls Upon Me

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<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 句鑵 – 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 21st 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.

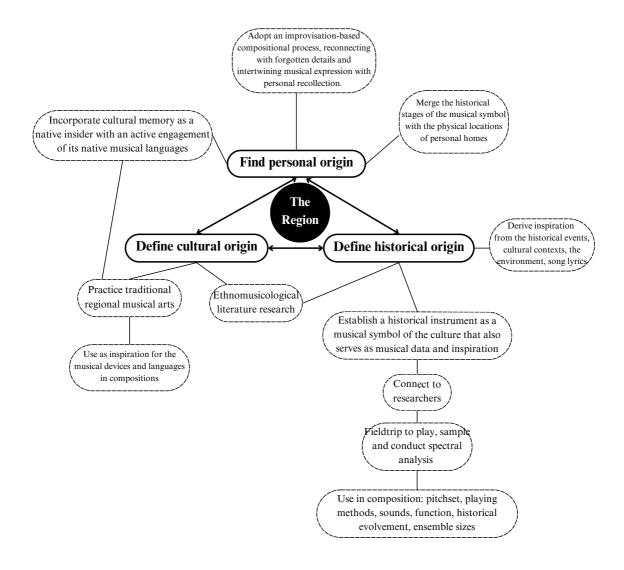


Figure C.1: Model of my approach in creating music that reflects the voice of my own culture while bringing history into the present

#### 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

Tuesday, 5 April 2022

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.

I 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
		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)

- 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

- 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 <a href="here">here</a>.
- 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

Ben Perche

Chloe Chung

Gahyun Lee

Austin O'Toole

Shengbo Zhao

Oliver Harris

Percussions Liz Cheung & Jolin Jiang

Goudiao Jolin Jiang
Harp Bianca Beng
Soprano Solo Jolin Jiang
SATB Choir 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

Violin I James Parbery

Wendy Kong Catherine J Alex Patterson

Violin II Alex Patterson
Beverly Kwan

Viola

Thomas Talmacs

Isabel Taussig Talmacs
Cello Alexendra Boyling

Double BassHarry YoungRecording EngineerConan TranMixing EngineerJolin Jiang

#### Shanghai Streets

Liantang Old TownJolin JiangQibao Old StreetJolin JiangSinan RoadPavle CajicLingzhao RoadJolin Jiang

#### As Goudiao Calls Upon Me

Pipa Shurui Liang
Zhongruan Jolin Jiang
Guzheng Julia Ousiyu Luo
Erhu June Yiqing Wu
Zhonghu Liz Cheung
Violin James Parbery
Viola Jolin Jiang

Cello Alexandra Boyling Double Bass Harry Young

Appendices Appendices

## Embracing Goudiao 句鑃 and the Land of Wuyue 吳越: 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

2023

### 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:
Date:

## **Table of Contents**

Composition	Page
Wuyu	5
Yuejue	40
Shanghai Streets	109
Liantang Old Town	113
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-tWJqKZE7h9a?dl=0

# Wu · Yu

吴·欤

By Zhongyu Jiang

for

Choir and Chamber Orchestra

#### **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

Flute

Oboe

Clarinet in Bb

Bassoon

Horn in F

Goudiao (samples played on the midi keyboard)

Harp

Choir: SATB

Violin I

Violin 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 宮 秋	Autumn arrives the parasol-tree palace
Woo wung zoew 吴 王 愁	The King of Wu, his sorrows run deep.
Nee'ey Dzaw dzaw 日 昭 昭,	The sun shines bright,
Tzin yee sih 侵 以 施,	Slowly descending its celestial path.
Yü dzih jee foo loo dzih tzee 与 子 期 甫 芦 之 碕.	Let us await the sunset, and meet by the reed-lined riverbank.
loo dzong zen 芦 中 人	Dweller among the reeds,
Chee fee jee'ong zih hoo	Are you not but a wanderer in the realms of hardship and unravelling?

#### WU.YU

### 吴·欤

Jolin Jiang





































 $<sup>^{\</sup>star}$ The duration of a quaver in 7/8 equals to the duration of a note in the quaver-triplet in 3/4.

















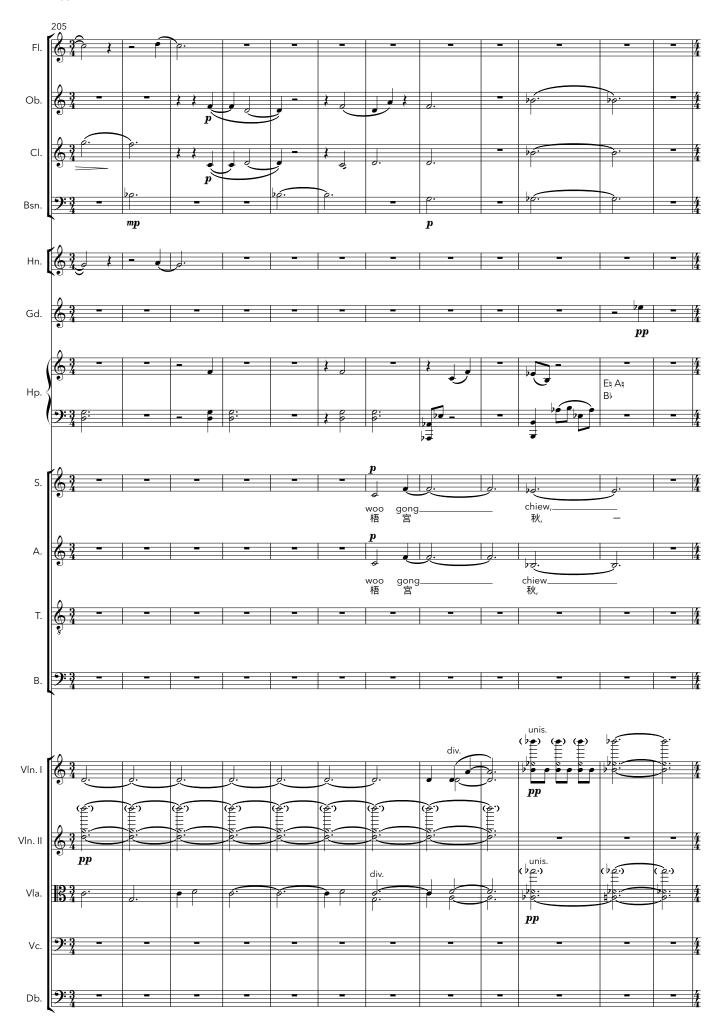














# Yue · Jue

越·绝

By Zhongyu Jiang

for

Choir and Chamber Orchestra

## **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 跞 躁 摧 长 恧, Swiftly march forth, leaving behind the shame of old,

draw jee yü shoo

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

擢 戟 驭 殳,

swoh lee boo shee'ung.

所 离 不 降,

In the face of adversity, we shall not surrender,

Yee shie who wung chee soo

以 泄 我 王 气 苏。

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

Sahn jü'in yee fay shee'ung shee

三 军 一飞 降 兮,

From celestial realms, three armies descend,

Soo'oh shee'ung jee'ay tsoo

所 向 皆 殂。

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

Yee sh pahn sih shee

一 士 判 死 兮,

A lone soldier, determined, slays the foe,

Uh dung bye foo

而 当 百 夫。

Unyielding, not even hundreds can impede their flow.

Dow yoe yoe duh shee 道 祐 有 德 兮,

Divine favour graces the virtuous king's reign,

Woo dzoo zih tu 吴 卒 自 屠。

The enemy Wu's army is self-defeating.

Shü'ey woh wung shee'oh ch 雪 我 王 宿 耻, Washing away my king's shame of the old days,

Way djen bah du 威 振 八 都。 The power of the gods echoes afar, shaking the very essence of every land and star.

jü'in woo nahn gung shee 军 伍 难 更 兮,

The soldiers, unwavering in their fighting spirit,

Sh roo pee choo 势 如 貔 貙。

Strike fierce as mythical creatures pi and chu, their merit.

Woo woo 鸣 鸣

Wo Hoo! Wo Hoo!

Hunghungguhnooleeshee行行各努力兮,

With unyielding valor, they march forth,

Yü. hoo. Yü hoo 於. 乎, 於. 乎 Wo Hoo! Wo Hoo!

Hoo'ay shee'ung huh soo

翔

П

翕 苏。

#### **SOLO SOPRANO**

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

Single-mindedly preying upon feeble white shrimps,

Bay tong shin tzuh

心

恻。

悲 痛

Huh jü jee'ung hoo Why have they come to this riverbank, this lakeside, to 居 feast without end? 何 江 湖? Hoo'ay foo shee'ung yung Back and forth, wandering, soaring high, 徊 复 翔 飏, Chü foo fahn They left, then returned. 去 复 返! Υü hoo Oh! 於 乎。 Sh sh jü'in chü jee'ah, First, my beloved husband inexplicably vanished, 始 事 君 去 家, Djong woh ming jü'in du. Then I was forced to journey to the capital of Wu. 终 我 命 君 都。 Yü huh shing Why was I made 遇 何 幸 Lee goo'oh chü woo to forsake my homeland for distant Wu? 玉 离 吴。 去 Clad in coarse garments, reduced to a maid, Chee'ay yee huh way bee 褐 为 婢, 妻 衣 While my husband, stripped of his crown, became a Foo chü mee'ahn way noo servant. 夫 去 冕 为奴。 Soo'ay yow yow shee nahn jee Years, distant and far. Oh, how difficult they are. 岁 遥遥兮难极。

Sorrow, pain, heart's lament.

Chung chee'ahn jee'ay foo ying,

肠 千 结 服膺,

Interwined, a thousand knots,

Yü hoo wung sh.

 Hurts so much that I forgot to eat.

Yü'ahn woh shun shee roo nee'ow

恳我身兮如鸟,

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

Ow shee'ung jee'ow yee

翮 翔 矫 翼。

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

Chü woh gu'oh shin yow

去 我 国 心 摇,

My heart yearns for my distant ancestral homeland,

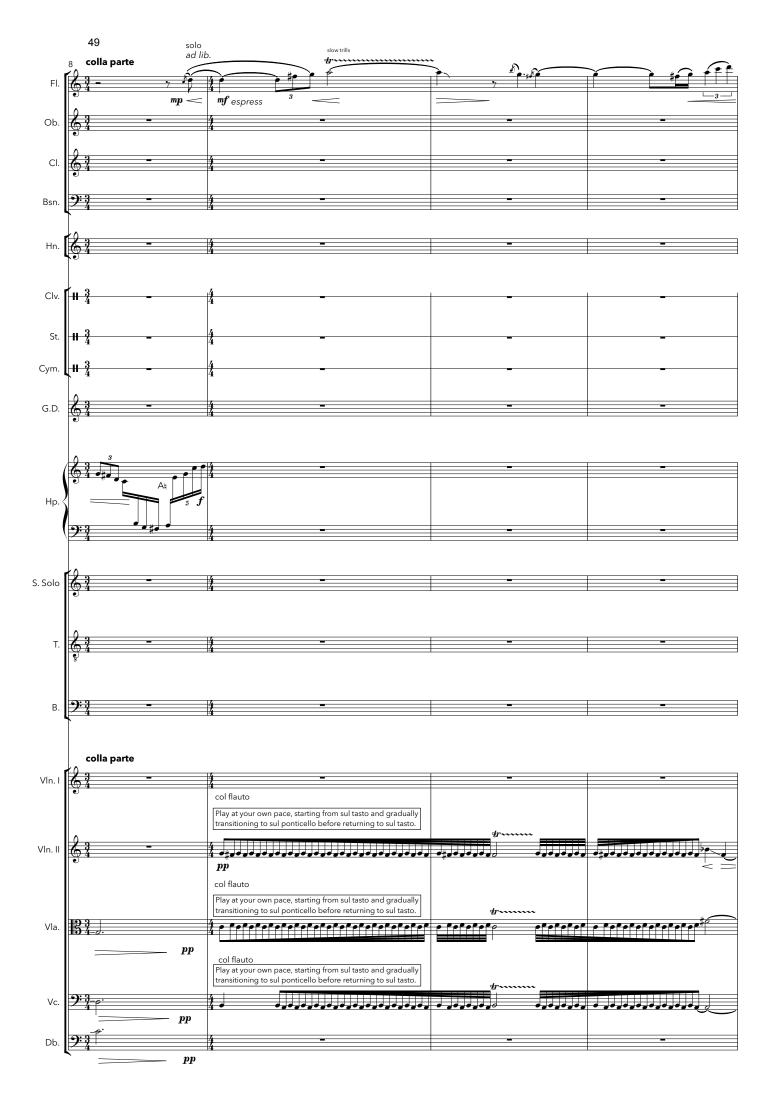
Fun wahn shay dj

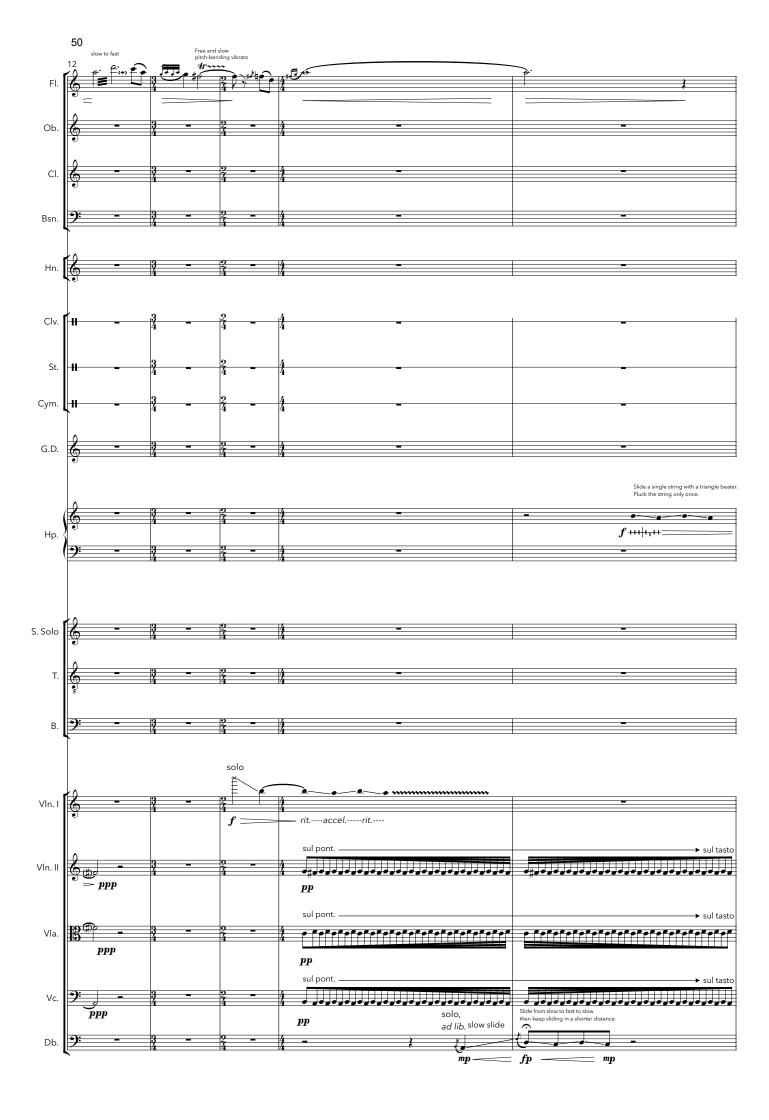
愤 惋 谁知!

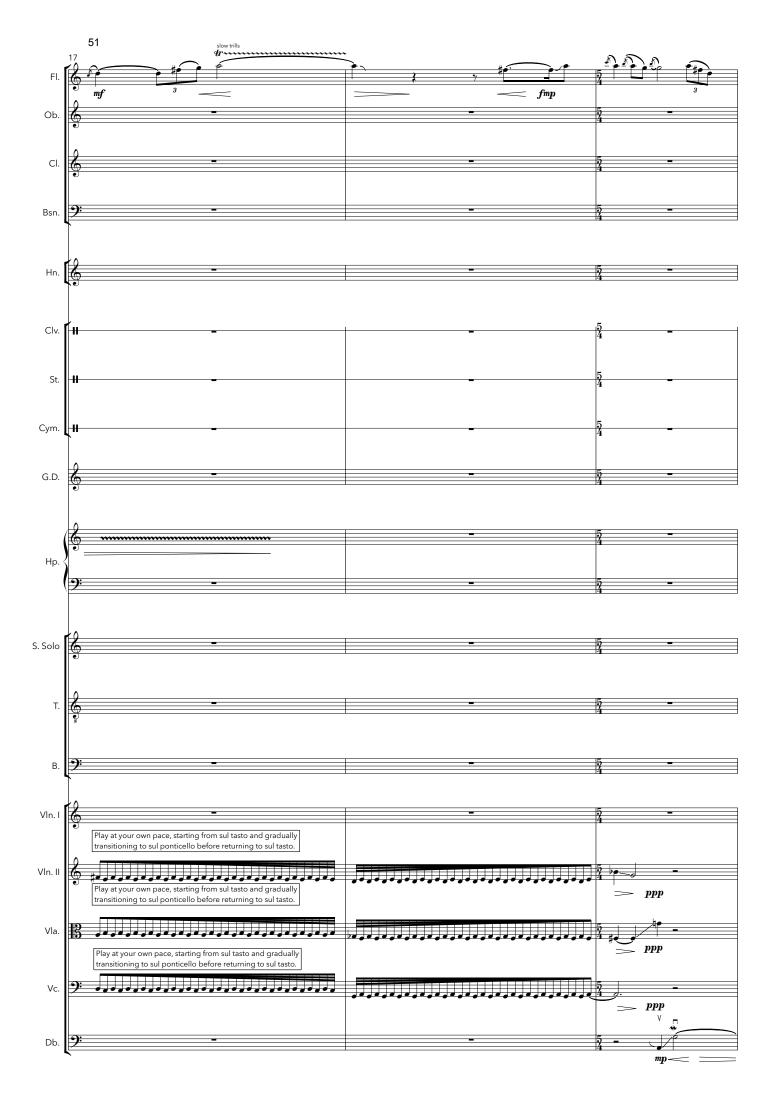
Overflowing with sorrow, fury, and poignant resentment. Who can truly fathom the depth of my emotions?

Jolin Jiang















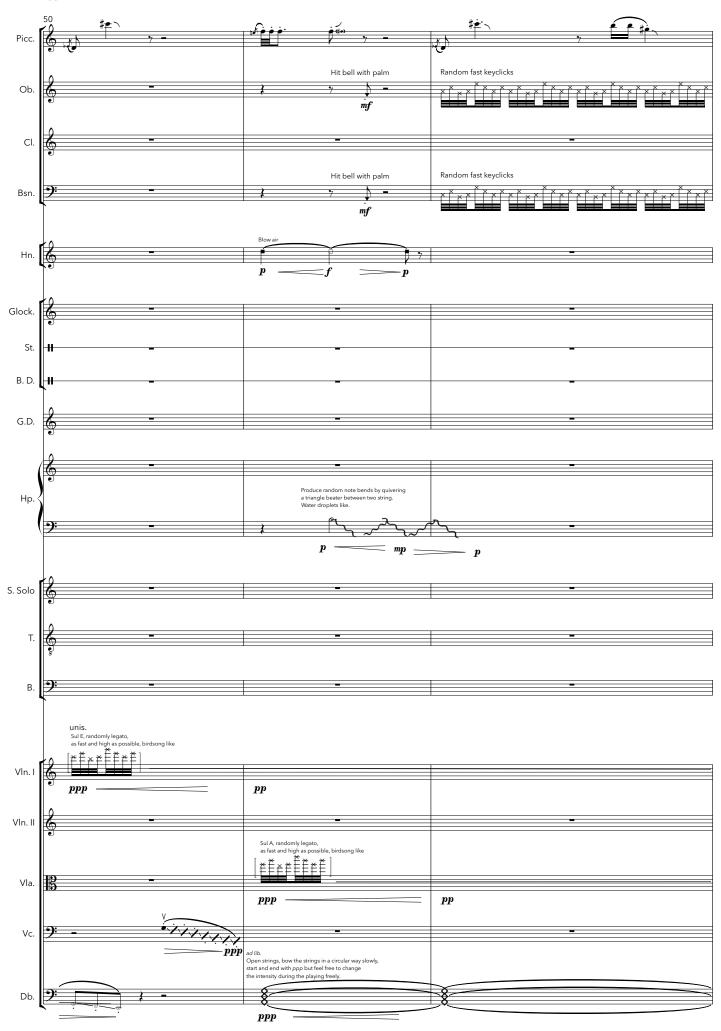


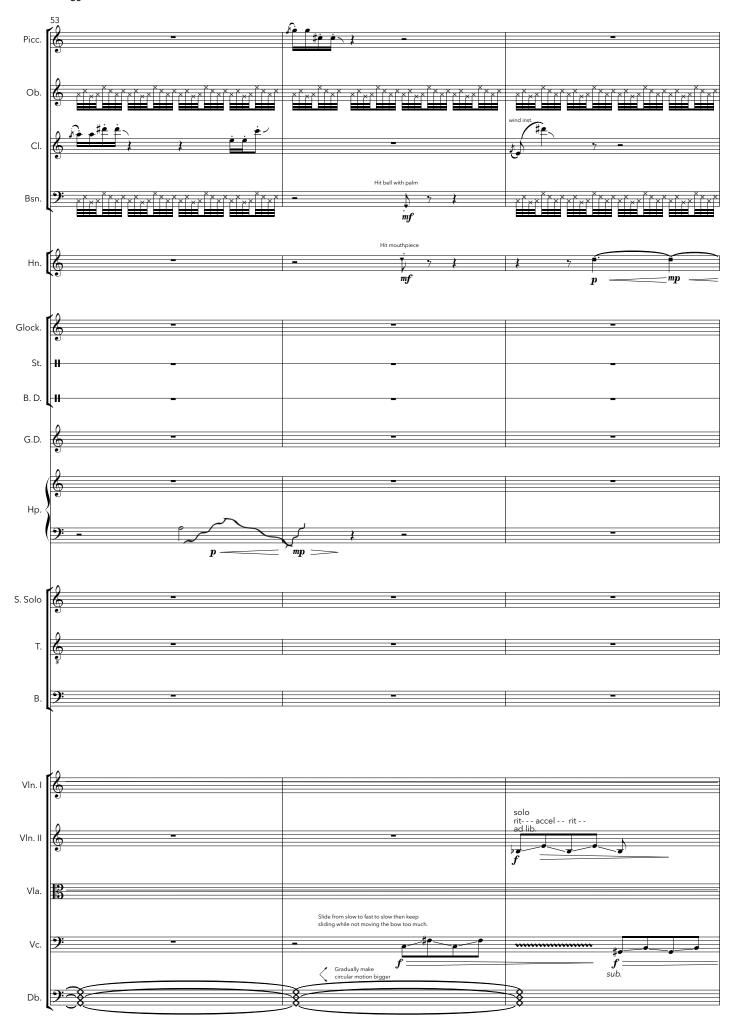


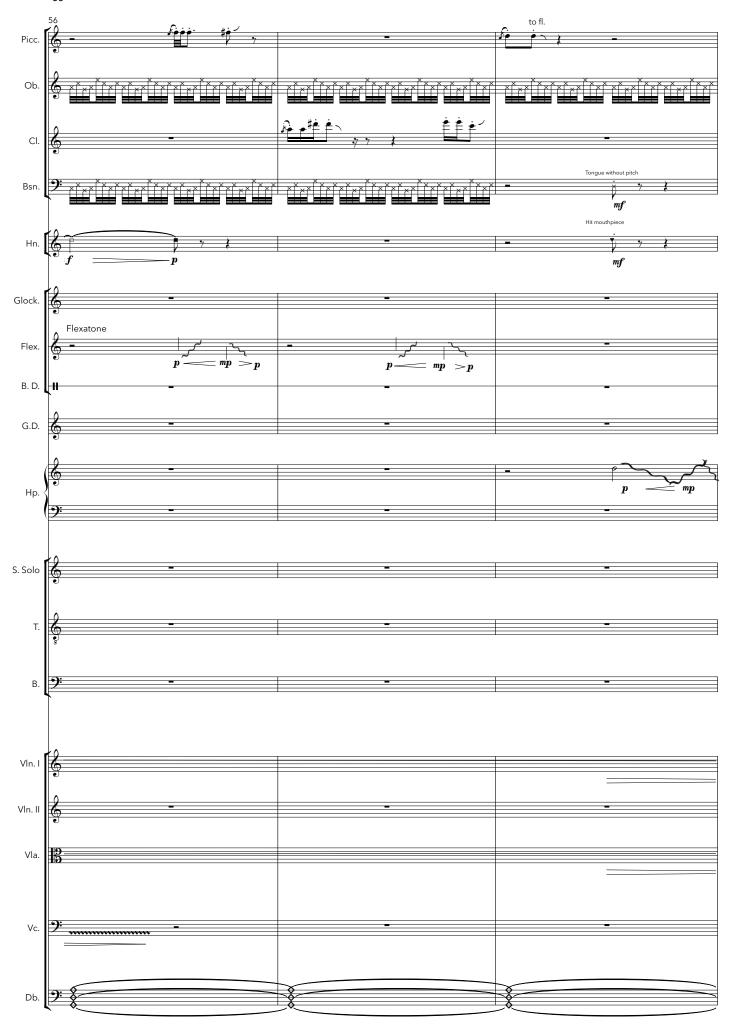
















































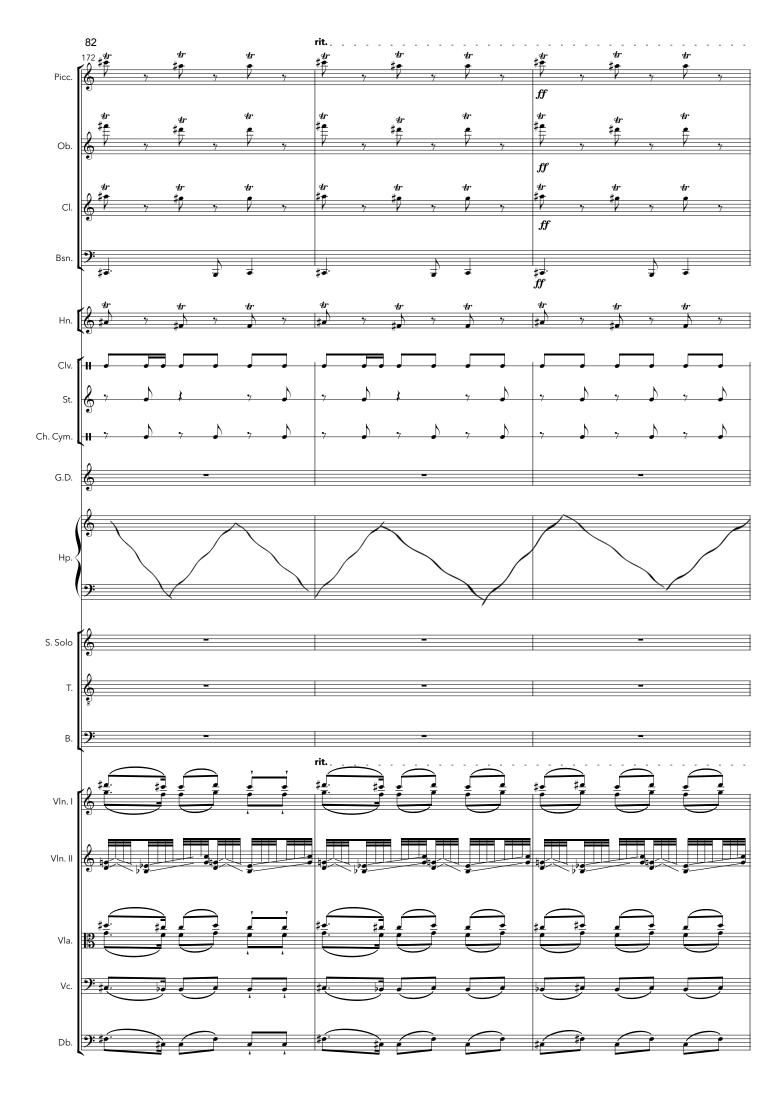


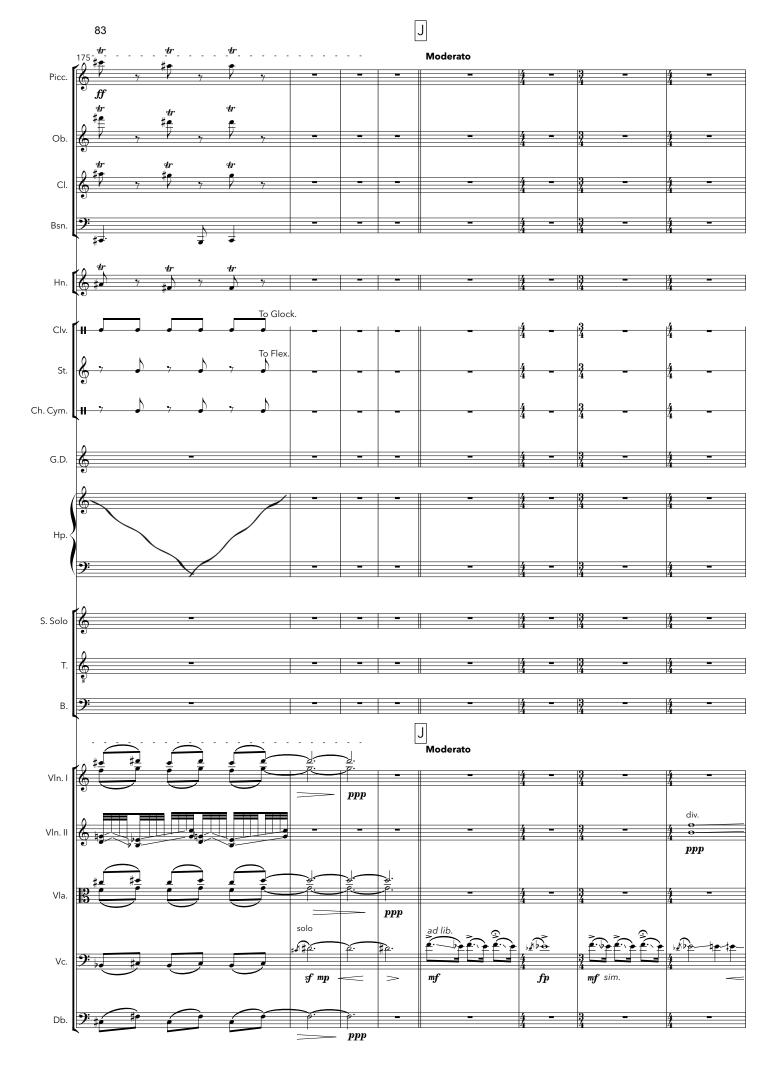




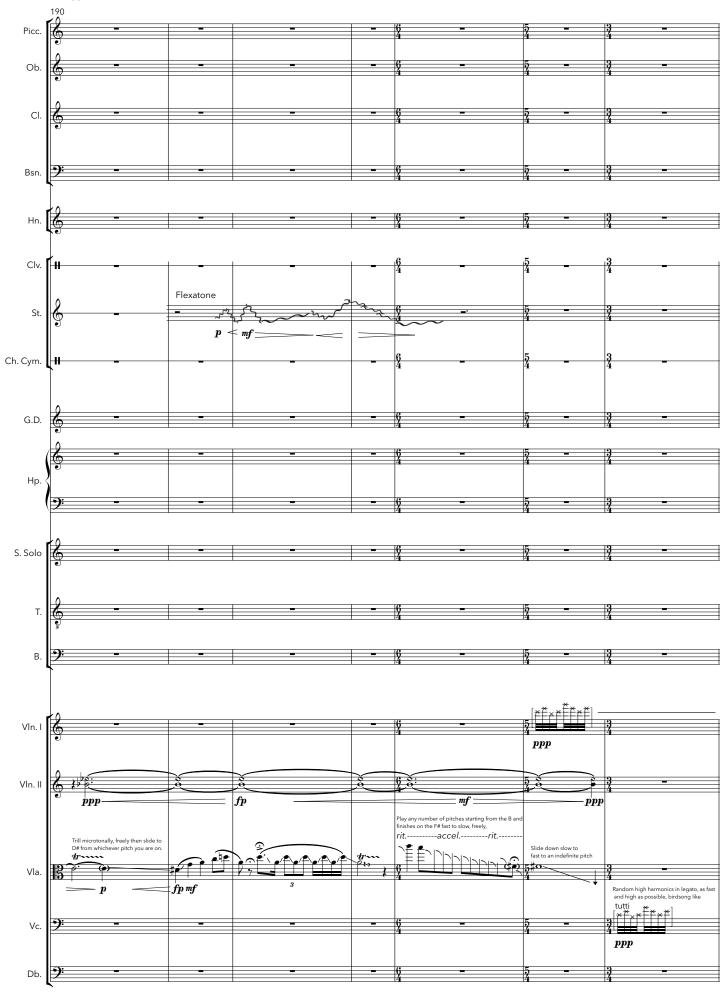


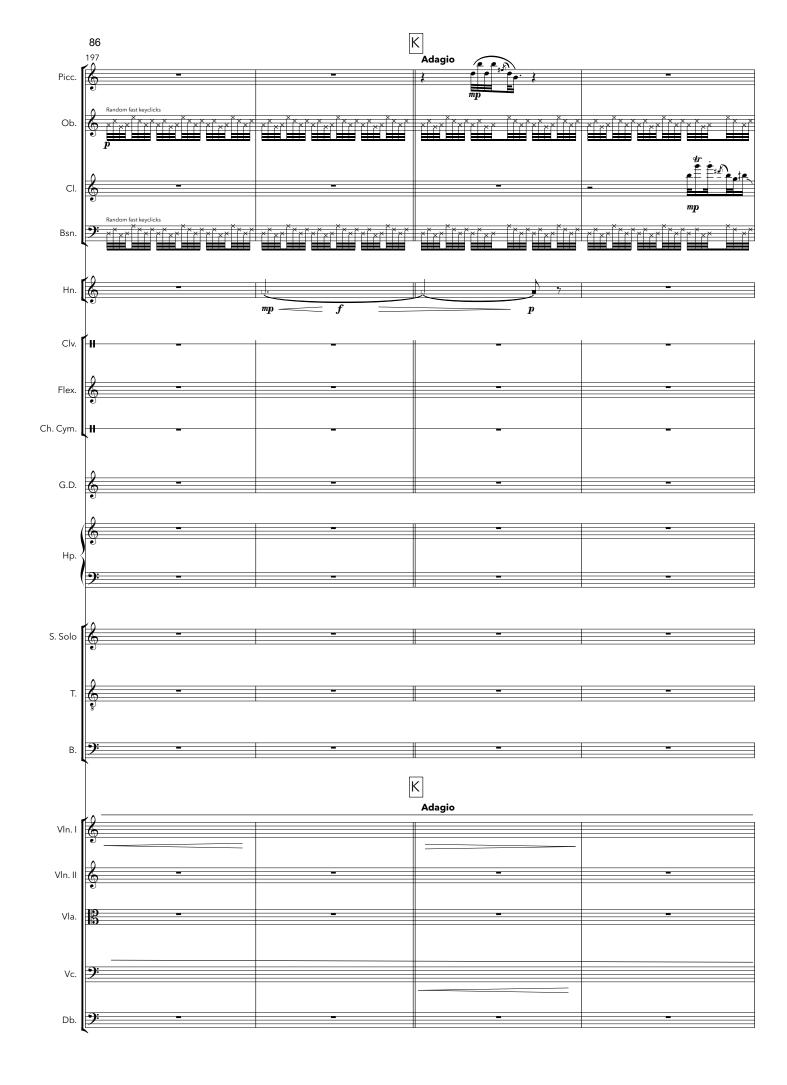


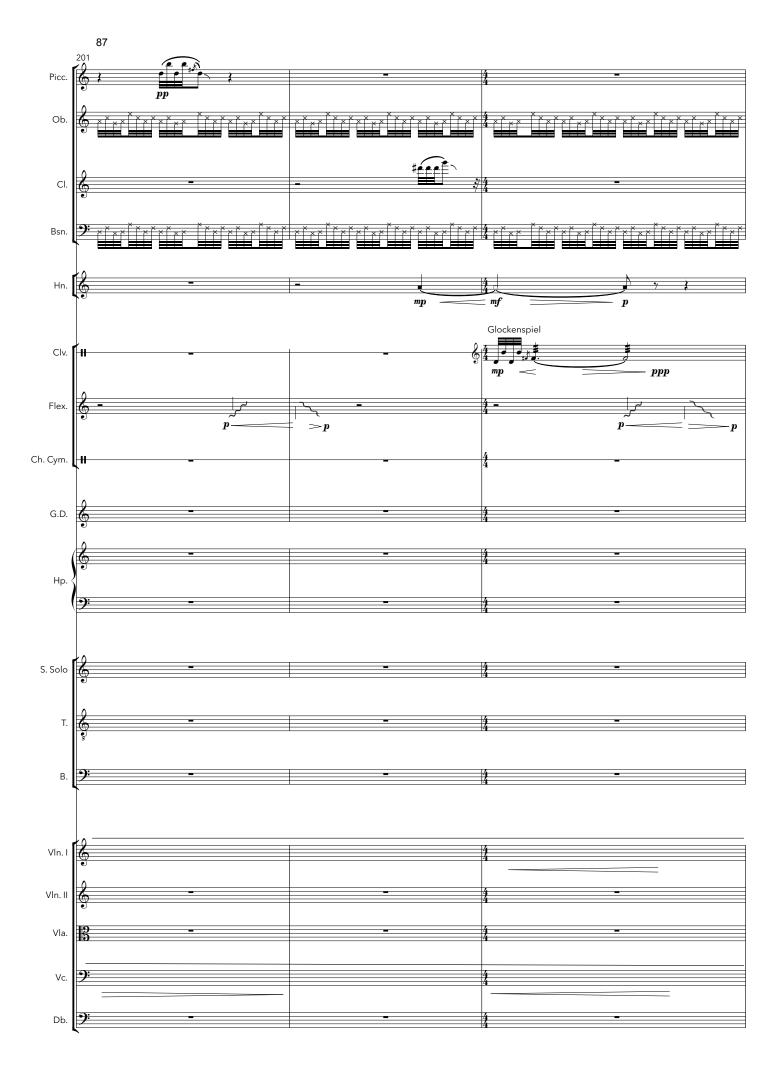


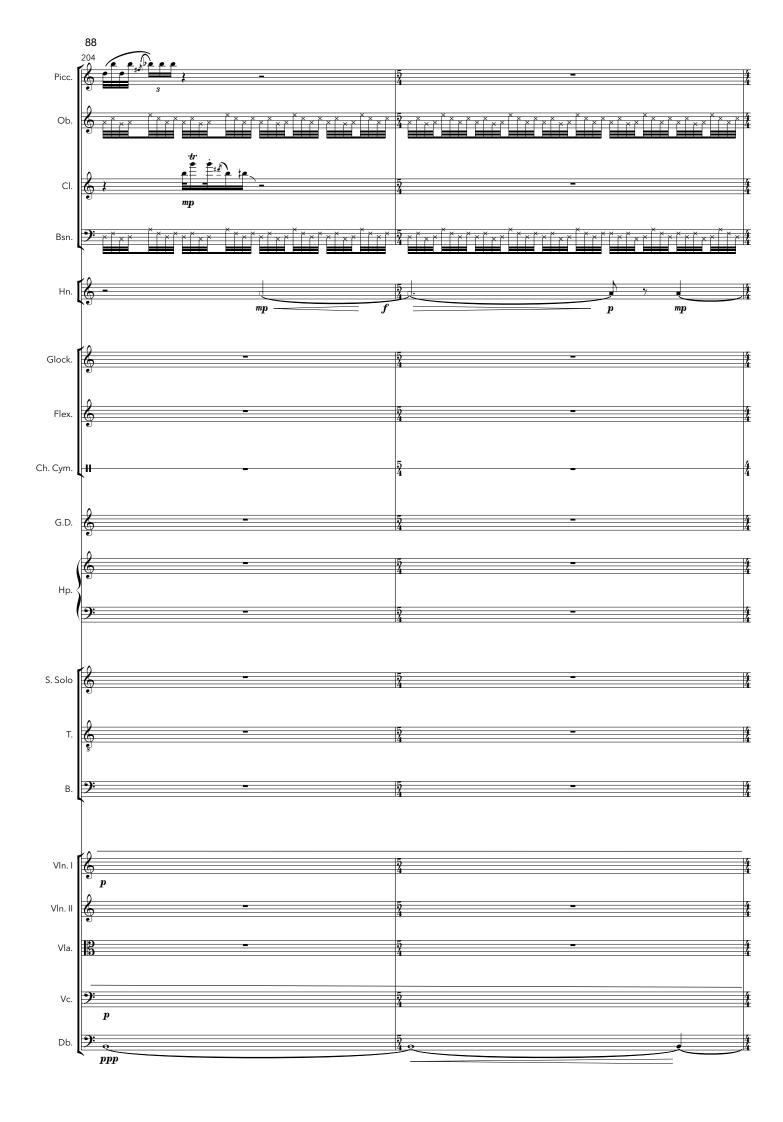
















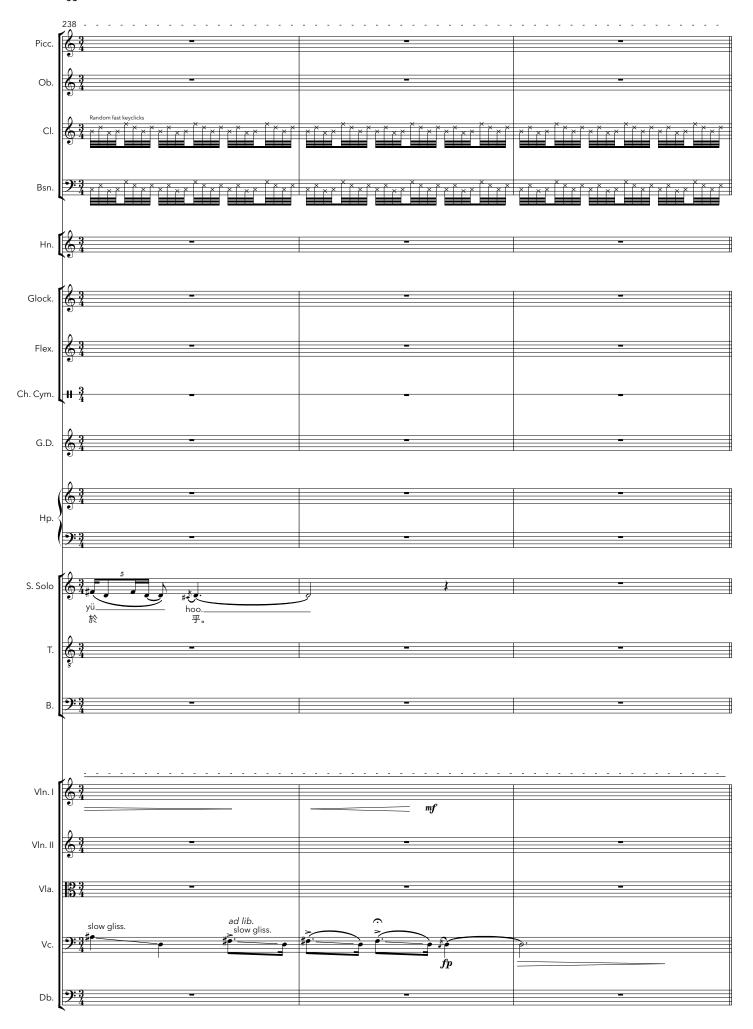




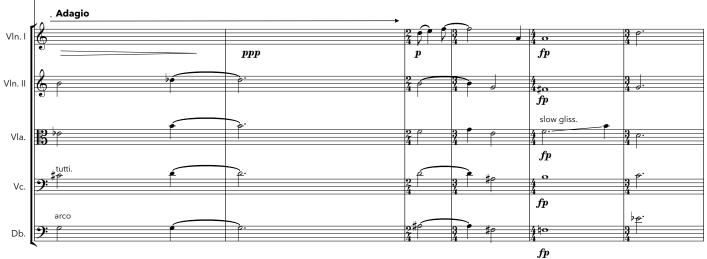




















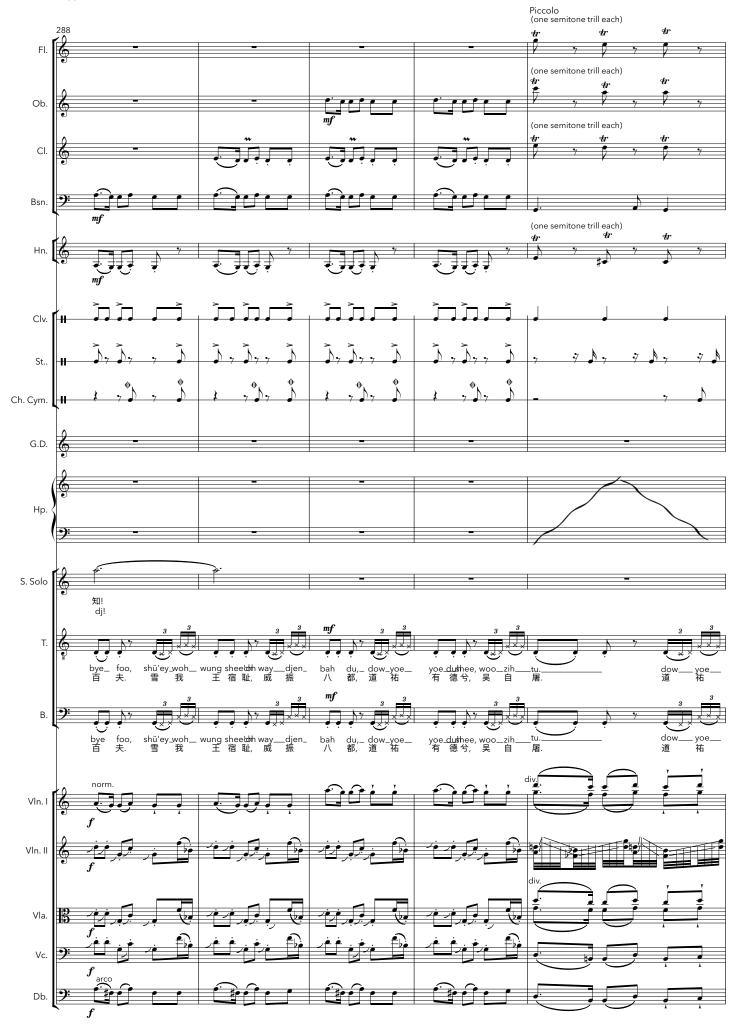


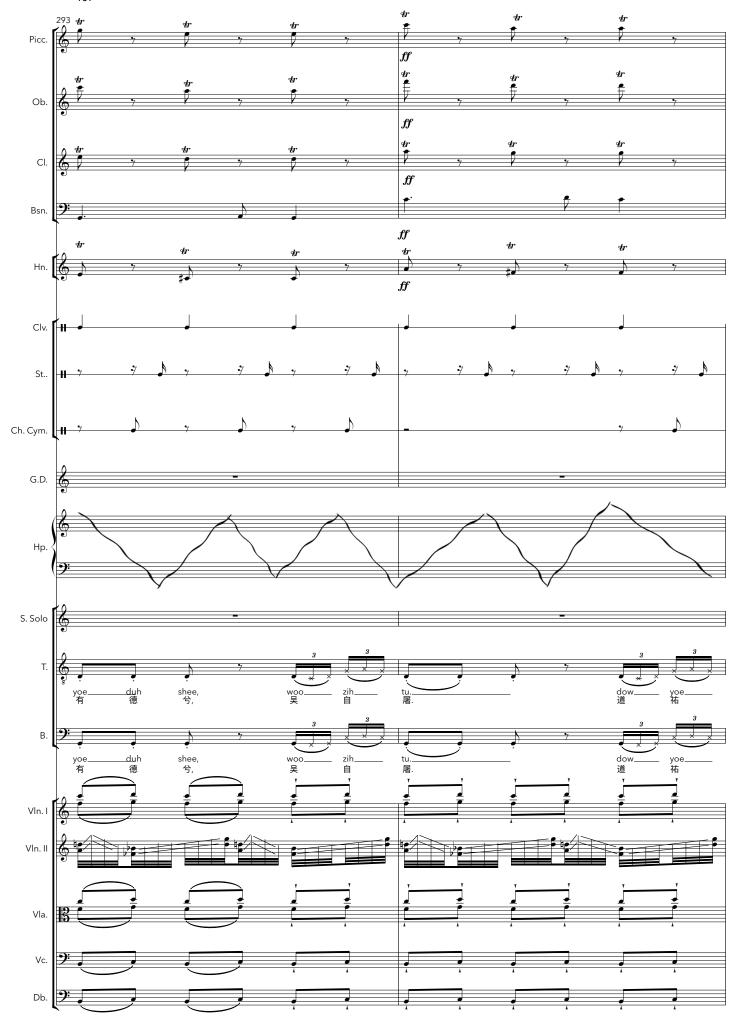


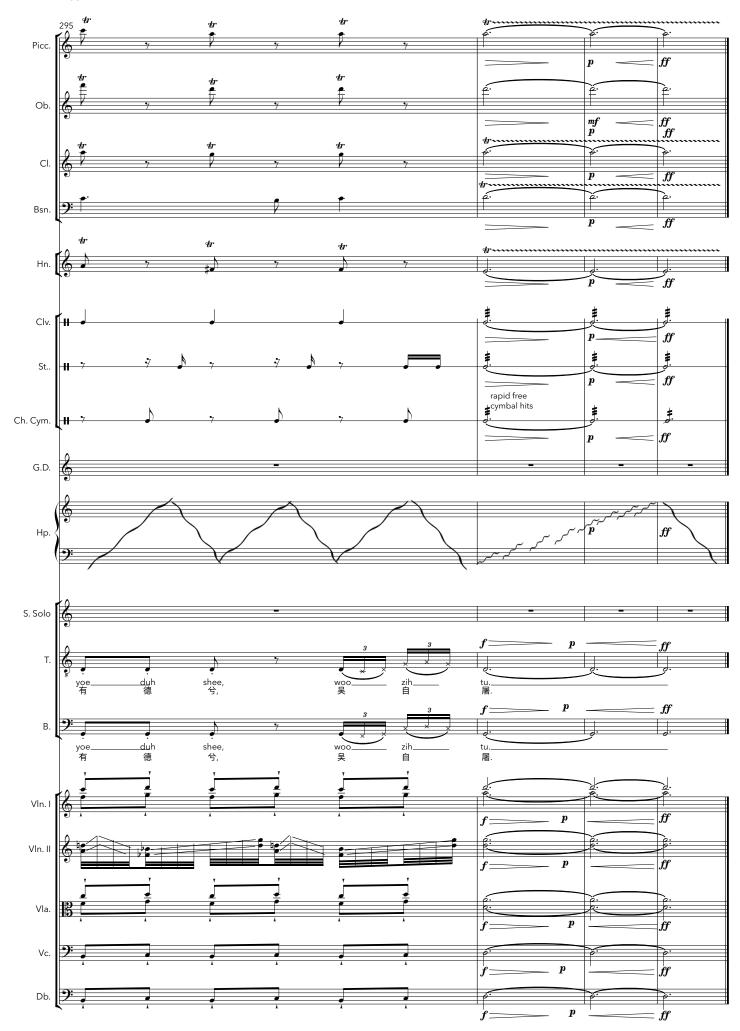












# **Shanghai Streets**

- 1. Liantang Old Town
- 2. Qibao Old Town
- 3. Sinan Road
- 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 (960-1279). 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-rises-filled 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.

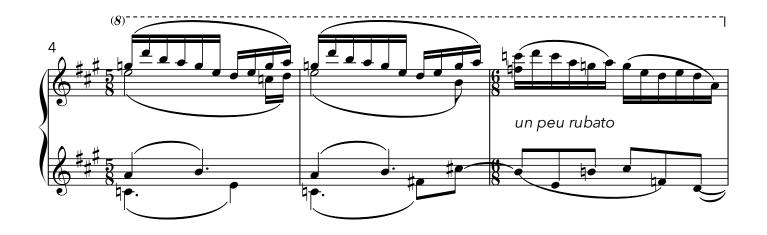
Repeat the segment any number of times at your discretion.

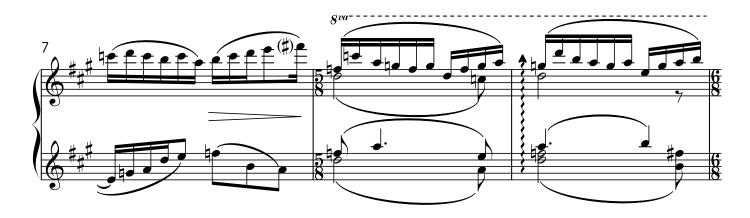
# **Liantang Old Town**

Adagio (ca J.=54)

Series Clair et cristallin

un peu rubato

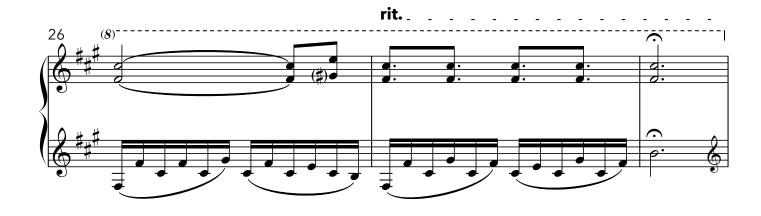


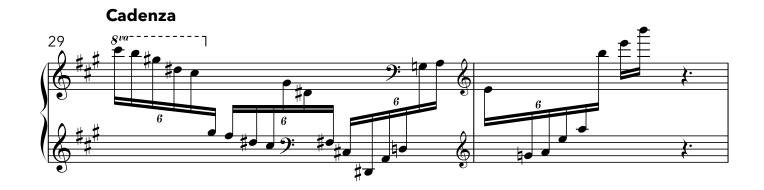


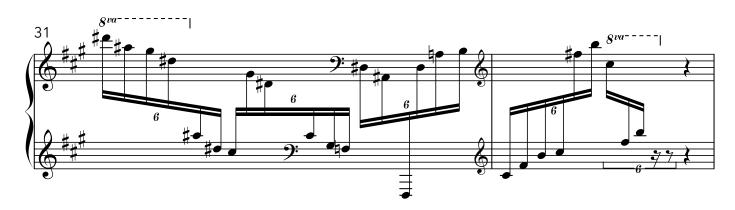
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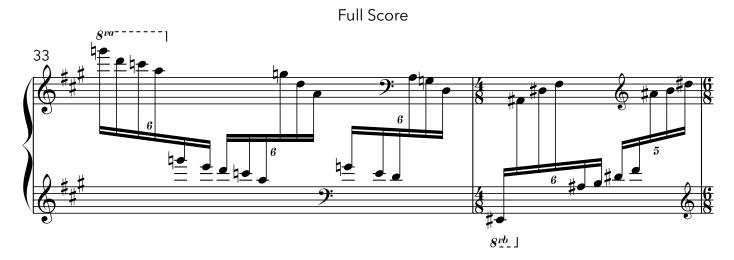


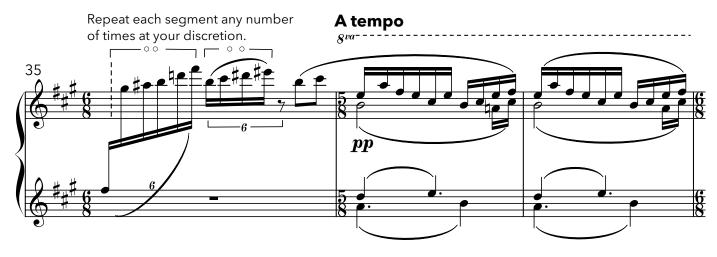


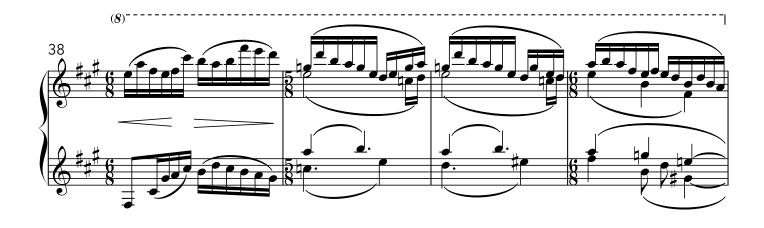




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## **Qibao Old Street**

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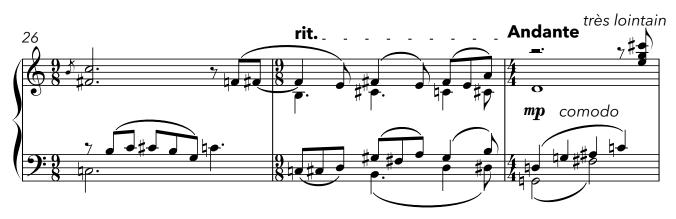


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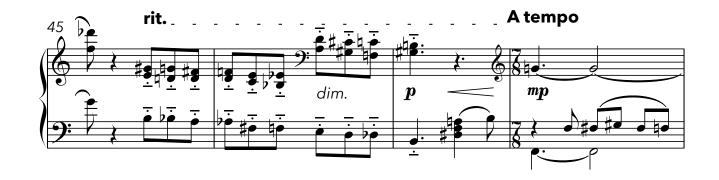




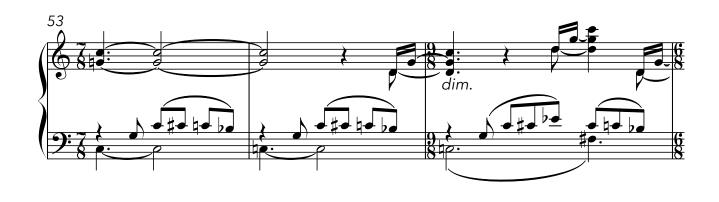


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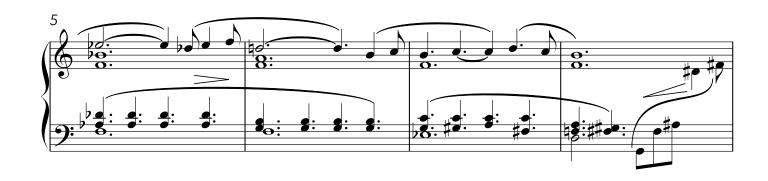


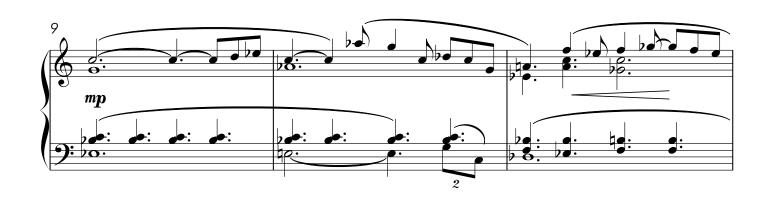
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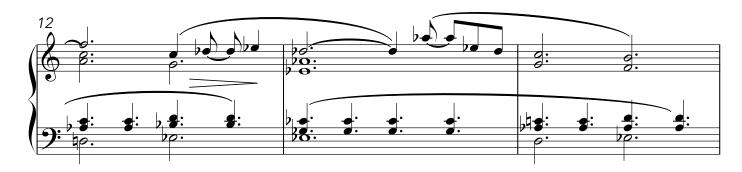
### **Sinan Road**

Jolin Jiang

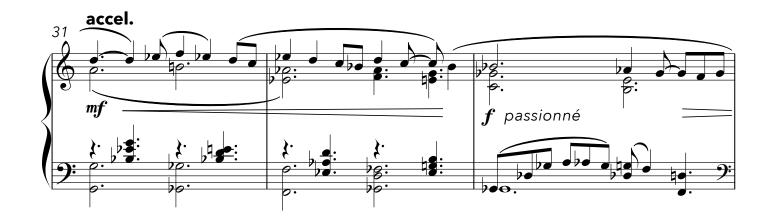


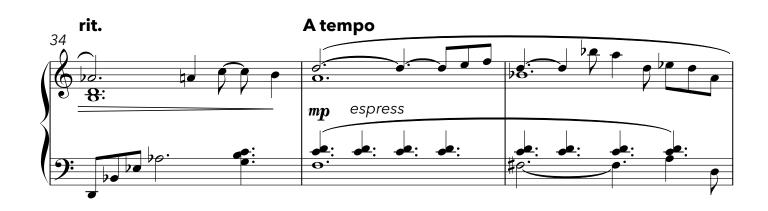


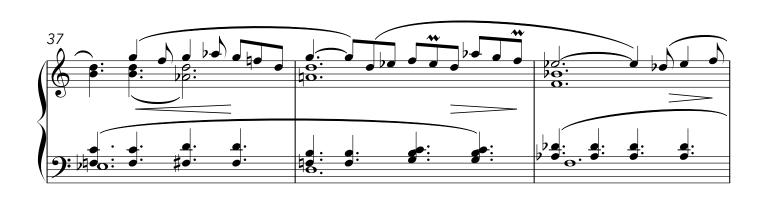








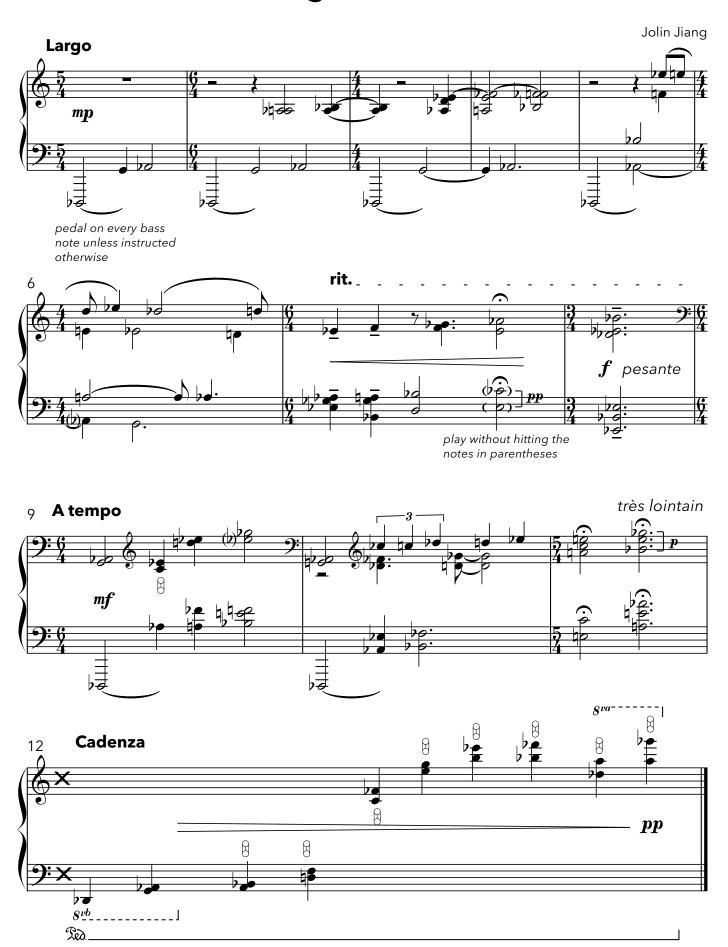






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## **Lingzhao Road**



# As Goudiao Calls Upon Me

By Zhongyu Jiang

for

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

Dedicated to

Prof. Zhu Guowei

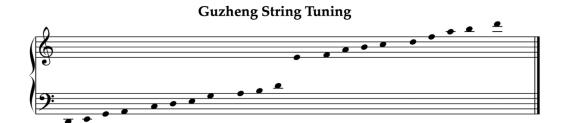
朱国伟教授

### **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

#### **Instructions**

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

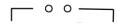
This section depicts me playing the *goudiao* at the Museum of Chinese National Music. The music aims to represent some key characteristics of the *goudiao's* spectral profile that I analysed after the trip. Each instrument plays a fundamental pitch or a significant overtone relative to the fundamental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



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.

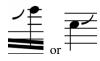


The jiaoxian effect on the pipa: Firstly, push the string on the left towards the right using the index finger on the left hand. Position the string underneath one or several strings on the right side. Secondly, use the other fingers on the left hand to pull one or multiple strings on the right side 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.

**───**Kouyao

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





- 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.

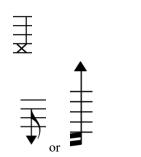


The *zhai* effect on the pipa: Place the thumb on one string and pluck the lower side with the index and middle fingers. The resulting sound has a distinctive character, resembling the sound of striking a wooden fish.

#### pressure scratch tone



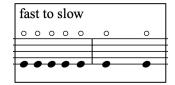
Put more pressure on the bow against the string when bowing to produce a sound effect similar to scratching on a surface



#### 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**

Jolin Jiang



































































































