The Princeton University Peking Opera Immersion Program Workshop Presentation

“The Fountain” 饮水思源

The Drunken Consort: Icy Ai, Edelyn Lau, and Chao-Hui Jenny Liu
The Cosmic Blade: Wendy Heller, Bonnie Ko
The Story of the Jade Bracelet (Kunqu): Joyce Chen
The Legend of the White Snake: Joyce Chen
The Red-Maned Horse: Shuwen Cao
The Golden Stage: Todd Reichart

The Program in East Asian Studies and the Music Department is delighted to present “The Fountain,” a workshop Presentation showcasing the accomplishments of Princeton students, faculty, and staff participating in the 2022 Peking Opera Immersion Program on Thursday September 22, 2022, in Taplin Auditorium. After a brief introduction to Princeton’s Peking Opera Immersion Program, we will present selected scenes that the students learned during an intensive two-week remote study period, in which Princeton faculty, students, and staff had the rare opportunity to study the art of Peking Opera remotely with some of the leading performers from the Shanghai Peking Opera Company. Please learn more about this extraordinary art and applaud the accomplishments of our students!

A Musical Note--For fans of Peking Opera, the sounds of recitation (shūbān 数版) accompanying the clapper is a standard for the clown role. Here it is used to great effect by Todd Reichart in The Golden Stage. Xipi 西平 is one of the most popular tunes for Peking operas and is used across many different operas. Percussionists, wielding both clapper and drum, is the director of Peking Opera’s musical bands. The bands are divided into two groups, the military wuchang 武場 and the domestic wenchang 文場. The military band is dominated by percussions whereas strings dominate the domestic band. Leading musicians from each group, in effect, lead the performance. The drummer sets the pace for the opera and the two-string jinghu closely accompanies the singer’s mood, tone, and key.

*All excerpts below were translated by students of the Peking Opera Program, edited by Edelyn Lau and Xin Zou. Vocabulary: Xipi 西平, shūbān 数版, Siping 四平

The Drunken Consort (Excerpt) 贵妃醉酒 选段

Translated by Sheryl Chow

[In Siping air]
The icy Moon begins to rise and glimmer above this island.
I see the Jade Rabbit.
The Jade Rabbit rises early in the east again.
As the icy Moon departs from the island,
The earth and sky become exceptionally bright.
The silvery Moon is Boating in the sky
As if Chang’e has left the Moon Palace.
I am like Chang’e leaving the Moon Palace.

【四平调】
海岛冰轮初转腾
But what fell down was a torn swath of silk on which were written words in blood.
Only when I unfolded the cloth and read the words on it,
Did I learn that you were still suffering in our lousy dwelling.
So, rushing night and day, I came back as soon as possible
So that we as husband and wife could reunite.
If you don’t believe me, please count the years,
It has already been 18 years since I left.

【西皮导板】
薛平贵。
提起当年泪不干。
【原板】
夫妻们在寒窑度日熬煎。
自从过了红鬃战，
唐王驾崩前讨官。
官拜我岳父将相府，
你的父王抱本参。
自从盘古立地天，【接流水】
哪有岳父把娇妻带，
西凉国造反了，
为丈夫倒做了先行官。
两军阵前遇杜老太，
她将我挟入了马雕鞍。
多蒙那老王示忠孝，
反将公主配良缘。
西凉的老王把驾驾，
众文武陪我坐银安。
那一日驾坐在银安殿，
宾鸿大塞口吐人言。
手持金刀银弹打，
打下满半幅血罗衫。
展开罗衫从头看，
才知道寒窑受苦的王宝钏。
不分早夜往回转，
为的是夫妻们两团圆。
三姐不值福鸳鸯，
连来带去十八年。

The Story of the Jade Hairpin 《玉簪記》选段

Translated by Joyce Chen

The Moonlight cloud lightly reveals beauty
Sorrowfully listening to the cricket sounds in the empty room.
The melancholy of Autumn is greeted by the west wind.
The fallen leaf shocked the dream.

【念“数板”】
做官好，做官妙。
做官头戴乌纱帽。
与祖增光耀。
坟地立着旗杆千百，
家里照着门告条。
有朝一日任官好，
我也挂带人抬的轿。
前头帘儿后头有，
高头也有个三尺高。
这个造化可真不小，
乐得我拍手哈哈笑。
一蹬儿踢底儿掉，
扑腾腾吓了我一大跳。
他们在外头跑，我在里头跑。
跑来跑去我的两脚磨破泡。
这个梦我才惊醒了，
可笑！可笑！

PLAYERS:

Icye Ai ‘25: Math major
Shuwen Cao: Bibliographer, East Asian Library
Joyce Chen: Ph.D. candidate in Music and the Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program in Humanities
Wendy Heller: Scheide Professor of Music History
Paize Keulemans: Professor of Chinese Literature
Bonnie Ko: Ph.D. student in Music
Edelyn Lau ‘22: East Asian Studies major
Chao-Hui Jenny Liu, Ph.D.: Coordinator of the East Asian Studies Program and Director of the Princeton Peking Opera Program.
Todd Reichart: Visual designer and webmaster in the Department of Chemistry.

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