

television shows. The grandson of the first Chinese Consul-General to Hawaii, Mr. Cheng was born and educated in China in the classical and modern schools. He is a faculty member of the China Institute of New York.

THE MUSICIANS

TSUAN-NIEN CHANG 張敏念 flute, san-hsien (three-stringed instrument, plucked), sheng (mouth organ), erh-hu.

YI-HAN KAO 高一涵 erh-hu (two-stringed instrument, bowed), san-hsien.

JOSEPHINE CHANG 張珏 yang-ch'in (butterfly harp).

THOMAS K. Y. AI 艾國賢 bell, drum, cymbals, gong, block.

The ensemble has played at China House in New York and is very popular with cultural and educational groups. Members of the group have appeared as guest artists at the Chinese Opera performances at the Fashion Institute, and have performed in Chinese programs at Carnegie Hall and Judson Hall.

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Cover Photo of Stephen C. Cheng with Tsuan-Nien Chang, flute; Yi-han Kao, erh-hu; Josephine Chang, yang-ch'in; and Thomas K. Y. Ai, drum and cymbals by *Leonard Hecklin*.

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MONITOR PRESENTS

FLOWER DRUM AND OTHER CHINESE FOLK SONGS

STEREO

MCD-7142

SUNG BY
**STEPHEN
CHENG**



A MONITOR INTERNATIONAL COMPACT DISC

FLOWER DRUM AND OTHER CHINESE FOLK SONGS

SUNG BY
STEPHEN C. CHENG

* * * * *

Folk songs from the major areas of China are included on this record. Many types of songs are represented: love songs, humorous songs, drinking songs, lullabies, work songs, shepherds' songs, children's songs and philosophical songs. All of the songs are sung in Mandarin except for those otherwise indicated. It should be noted that the songs here are not confined to the pentatonic scale.

* * * * *

Musical accompaniments arranged by
STEPHEN C. CHENG

1. A) **NARCISSUS 水仙花**
Kwangtung Province, South China
Sung in Mandarin and in Cantonese
Beautiful Narcissus come into your home and mine.
May the Emperor rule well and the people be happy!
Everyone sings the song of peace.
- B) **WAGON DRIVER'S SERENADE 馬車夫之歌**
Sinkiang, Northwest China
Ta-pan City's roads are sturdy and smooth.
Watermelons round and sweet, so are the girls
Their pigtails long, their eyes really beautiful.
Say, if you want to get married don't marry someone else
Do marry me. Bring a million dollar dowry, and your little sister too!
Jump into your wagon and come to me quickly.
2. **SWALLOW 燕子**
Sinkiang Province, Northwest China
Oh, swallow! Listen to me sing my swallow song!
Oh, swallow! Gay, warm, and lively!
Your smile is like the stars twinkling.
Your eyebrows curved, eyes bright, neck smooth, hair long

You are my girl.
Oh, swallow! Don't forget your promise and change your heart.
I am yours, you are mine, Oh, swallow, Ah!

3. **FLOWER DRUM SONG 風陽花鼓**
Anhui Province, East China (some sources claim that the 2nd verse came from North China.)
Feng-yang was once a rich town, but misfortunes befell us

So we have to beg around with the drum.
With gong and drum we'll sing a song.
Sad is my fate:
My husband is good-for-nothing except beating his drum
Ai-yah! Sad is my fate!
My wife has nothing outstanding but her feet--
More than one foot long! Ai-yah!

4. **PICKING TEA LEAVES AND CHASING BUTTERFLIES--(Instrumental) 採茶撲蝶**
Foukien Province, South China
(sheng, yang-ch'in, and erh-hu)

5. **TWO LULLABIES**

- A) **PURPLE BAMBOO 紫竹調**

Origin Unknown
One straight purple bamboo
For my precious one to make a flute
Put the flute to your lips,
Your lips to the flute.
The flute blows out new melodies
My little precious one
Yu-ti-yu-ti you've learned it now!

- B) **CANTONESE LULLABY 廣東催眠曲**

Kwangtung Province, South China
Sung in Cantonese
This song tells of the simple bed-time chat between mother and child. The mother asks the child to describe the sounds heard through the night; the child imitates the sounds made by mosquitoes, cats, dogs, and roosters which are in turn imitated by the mother.

6. A) **SONG OF THE HOE (Farmer's Song) 鋤頭歌**

Kiangsu Province, Southeast China
With hoe I dig out the wild weeds --
Let sprouts grow.
Yi-yah-hey!
Yi-yahu-hey!

- B) **SU-WU TENDING THE SHEEP 蘇武牧羊**
Origin Unknown

According to historical tradition in 100 B.C. Su-wu, an envoy from the Han Dynasty, spent 19 years tending sheep as a hostage of the Huns. The song describes his loyalty and unbroken spirit in the face of hardship.

Su-wu staying in the foreign land without breaking his loyalty;
Snow blanketing the earth and icy sky,
Suffering 19 years.
Snow to quench my thirst,
Rank meat to stave my hunger,
Tending sheep on the northern border;
My heart belongs to the Han Dynasty.
I cannot return home without my standard.
Undergoing the severest of hardships,
My heart is as strong as iron and rock.
Sitting at night in the wilds
I heat the Huns' horns and my heart aches.

In the blink of an eye the North wind blows
And the wild geese are flying to the Han gate.
Down there my white-haired mother waits and my wife stays alone;
At midnight we dream of each other.
Though the seas dry up and the rocks decay,
My honor will never be humiliated.
Let the Huns tremble and pay respect to the Han!

7. **MONGOLIAN SHEPHERD'S SONG 蒙古牧歌**

Mongolia
Stationed with the army outside the Great Wall,
I see delightful sights--tall grass, strong horses--
Mongolian boys and girls tending the cows and sheep.
By the side of the Yellow River and Yin Mountain,
The brave ones ride their horses across the ridge.

Feeling lonely I look at the sunset.
The camels walk with ding-dong bells.
The ding-dong sounds make me feel lonelier.
Camels dragging their legs lazily along

The road seems longer.
The sky is pale, the wild plain deserted.
The brave ones ride their horses down the cliff.

8. **TWO DRINKING SONGS**

- A) **ONE CUP OF WINE 一杯酒**

Sinkiang Province, Northwest China
Lift up your cup of fragrant fine wine.
A toast to our fortune and happy life.
Pei-pi-lai-ah!

- B) **TEN CUPS OF WINE 十杯酒**

Shantung Province, Northeast China
Have a drink!
Laugh and have fun!
The new girl, Little Lily, can sing and fiddle..
Ai-yoh!

9. A) **AH-LEE MOUNTAIN MAIDEN 阿里山的姑娘**

Taiwan
Mountain green, river blue.
Ah-Lee mountain maiden, beautiful as river.
Ah-Lee mountain youth, strong as mountain!
Never separated, just as river going around mountain,
On and on.

- B) **MOONLIGHT BRIGHT 月光光**

Kwangtung Province, South China
Sung in Cantonese
Moonlight bright shining through the window.
I see godfather coming to marry godmother.
Godfather has a gilded chair.
Godmother has an ivory bed.
A gold cloth has cleaned the bed and
A silver cloth the tea tray.
The neighbors come to hurry them--
There are ten chests and nine trunks
Oh! What a beautiful wedding!

10. A) **HUNG-TSAI GIRL 紅彩綠妹**

Suiyuan Province, East China
Sweetheart Hung-t'ai
Such a beauty such delicate lips,
Ng-yai-hai-yo!

Surrounded by blossoming plum flowers
In the spring we are happily united.
Now, under the full autumn moon,
The thought of her brings tears to my eyes.

- B) **MENG-CHIANG'S SORROW 孟姜女**

Kiangsu Province, East China
In Chinese folklore Meng Chiang's story has been popular for 2,000 years. She was parted from her

husband when he was conscripted to build the Great Wall of China. Through the four seasons she grieved for him, and then set out herself on the long hard journey north. On reaching the Great Wall she learned of his death. Whereupon gathering his bones, she leapt with them into the river. This version has four verses telling of her sorrow in the four seasons. On this recording Mr. Cheng sings two verses -- Spring and Autumn.

Springtime is here, gay lanterns lit at every door,
Reunited every family rejoices at home.
But Meng-chiang's husband is far, far away
Building the Great Wall.

Autumn is here, chrysanthemums are in full bloom,
The wine cups are full
But Meng-chiang does not want to drink
Without her husband, single and alone.

11. **LOOKING AT MY SECRET LOVE 瞧情郎**
(Instrumental)
Northeast China
(yang-ch'in, flute, erh-hu)

12. A) **DRAGON IN THE SKY 雨不灑花花不紅**
Yunnan Province, Southwest China
He, dragon in the sky; she flower on earth.
If the dragon doesn't lift his head, there will be no rain,
The flower will fade.

High on the hill is a locust tree;
She pulls down a branch to watch for his coming.
Mother asks, "What are you watching?"
"I just want to see when the blossoms will come out."

- B) **LITTLE YELLOW ORIOLE 小黃鸝**
Mandarin version of a Mongolian folk song.
Little yellow oriole, do you realize each embroidered riding boot has two flowers?
You and I each have four flowers.
Together we'll have eight!

13. A) **LITTLE YOUTHFUL BIRD 青春小鳥**
Sinkiang Province, Northwest China
The sun sets today, to rise again tomorrow;
Flowers fade this year, to blossom again tomorrow;

But my beautiful little youthful bird has flown away never to return.

- B) **CONTENTED FISHERMAN 老漁翁**
Sung to an ancient melody.
Verse by Cheng Pan-ch'iao (1693-1765)
The old fisherman holds his rod near the cliff in the bay;
In his light boat he sails leaving his worries behind.
The sea gulls fly above the light waves,
Afar the reeds are swaying in the chill of the day.
He sings his song as the sun sets.
The wavelets swing with gold,
Lifting his head, he sees the moon rising on the eastern hill.

14. **ALL RED THE RIVER 滿江紅**
This song has become a great favorite in Chinese folk music repertory. Written to the traditional tune, *Man-chiang-bung*, the lyric is a soliloquy by General Yoh-fei. His loyalty and bravery in attempting to save his country from the invading Tartars in 1126 A.D. has been highly esteemed through the centuries.

1. My hair enraged shoots up my hat.
I lift my head and roar to the sky --
Feelings swell my breast.
I must not wait idle
Till my head is white and grieve in vain.
2. My emperor's shame un-redeemed,
When will my sorrow end?
Wait, my warriors will crush my enemies;
We will restore our country's glorious past.

Program notes prepared by **STEPHEN C. CHENG**

STEPHEN CHUNTAO CHENG 程復濤 is a graduate of Columbia University and was a recipient of an honorary scholarship while studying for his Master's degree at Juilliard. He has studied singing in New York with the late Hardesty Johnson, Prof. Harry R. Wilson, and Alexander Kipnis. Mr. Cheng received enthusiastic commendations from the press on his debut song recital in New York, and critical acclaim for his performances in the Broadway productions of "The World of Suzie Wong" and "Harold." As an actor-singer, he has been featured in many leading

FLOWER DRUM and other CHINESE FOLK SONGS

Sung by **STEPHEN C. CHENG**

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- | | |
|---|------|
| 1. (A) NARCISSUS | 1:50 |
| (B) WAGON DRIVER'S SERENADE | 1:20 |
| 2. SWALLOW | 1:45 |
| 3. FLOWER DRUM SONG | 2:37 |
| 4. PICKING TEA LEAVES AND CHASING BUTTERFLIES | 2:37 |
| (Instrumental: sheng, yang-ch'in, erh-hu) | |
| 5. TWO LULLABIES | |
| (A) PURPLE BAMBOO | 1:58 |
| (B) CANTONESE LULLABY | 1:30 |
| 6. (A) SONG OF THE HOE (FARMER'S SONG) | :47 |
| (B) SU-WU TENDING THE SHEEP | 2:06 |
| 7. MONGOLIAN SHEPHERD'S SONG | 1:50 |
| 8. TWO DRINKING SONGS | |
| (A) ONE CUP OF WINE | 1:10 |
| (B) TEN CUPS OF WINE | 1:20 |
| 9. (A) AH-LEE MOUNTAIN MAIDEN | 1:50 |
| (B) MOONLIGHT BRIGHT | 1:30 |
| 10. (A) HUNG-TSAI GIRL | 1:15 |
| (B) MENG-CHIANG'S SORROW | 1:45 |
| 11. LOOKING AT MY SECRET LOVE | 2:45 |
| (Instrumental: yang-ch'in, flute, erh-hu) | |
| 12. (A) DRAGON IN THE SKY | 2:00 |
| (B) LITTLE YELLOW ORIOLE | 1:30 |
| 13. (A) LITTLE YOUTHFUL BIRD | 1:30 |
| (B) CONTENTED FISHERMAN | 1:46 |
| 14. ALL RED THE RIVER | 2:05 |

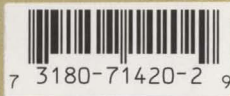
The Musicians: Tsuan-Nien Chang: flute, san hsien, sheng, erh-hu / Yi-Han Kao: erh-hu, san hsien / Josephine Chang: yang-eh'in / Thomas K.Y. Ai: bell, drum, cymbals, gong, block.

All arrangements by Stephen C. Cheng / Monitor Recordings Inc. (ASCAP)



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FLOWER DRUM
and other **CHINESE FOLK SONGS**
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