

A recital of music for the classical Chinese instruments by Tsun-Yuen Lui

October 27, 1972

A recital of music for the classical Chinese instruments, the pipa and the chin, by Tsun-Yuen Tui has been scheduled for Friday, November 3, as the first concert in a series of non-western music to be performed at the University of California, San Diego.

The concert, which is free and open to the public, will be held at 8:30 p.m., in the Recital Hall, Bldg. 409 on the Matthews Campus. The program includes songs with such light topics as snow in the sunny spring, flying flowers talking with emerald green grass, moonlight over a spring river, and a drunken fisherman with four tokens of happiness.

The pipa, which has a history dating back to 500 A.D., has its origin in Central Asia and was first introduced to China by way of Turkistan in the period of the six dynasties. It has four strings strung over frets made of ivory and bamboo. The pearshape shell is made of teak wood and the sounding board of wutung wood. It has a range of four and one-half octaves with chromatic and quarter-tone intervals, and is played by using one's fingernails.

The chin has a history as old as China itself. Without the flair and virtuosity of the pipa, the chin is fragile and delicate in tone and is especially adept in evoking mood. It has seven strings strung over a slab of wutung wood. The player uses the fingers of both hands to stop and pluck the strings which produces a wide range of tonal effects.

Tsun-Yuen Lui was born of a music family in Soochow, China. At the age of ten, he took up the study of the pipa and the chin with the foremost masters in China. He has written original pieces for the chin and played in recitals and broadcasts in Hong Kong before he settled in the United States.

In Brazil, he was presented on television at a performance by the Brazilian Ministry of Education and also participated in the 1S58 Sao Paolo Music Festival in a recital of Chinese classical music.

In 1959 he played in the Carnegie Recital Hall, New York, and in subsequent concerts at various universities throughout the country. He has also performed throughout the world. Since 1961, Lui has been the head of Chinese music at the Institute of Ethnomusicology, UCLA.

Also open to the public as part of studies in non-western music is a class by Mr. Robert Brown, held every Friday at 3 p.m. in the Recital Hall, Bldg. 409, Matthews Campus, UCSD.

Brown, a member of the music faculty at the California Institute of the Arts in Valencia, California, has studied music of India and Bali, and has made numerous recordings of Indian and oriental music.

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