

China Beat

(Introduction to the Concert by Liu Sola)

Chinese traditional percussion music is played by a group of musicians, and the complicated rhythms are made by well-coordinated collaboration between the players. The form of traditional Chinese percussion music has many similarities with African percussion music forms. These similarities explain why traditional Chinese percussion music still continues to use ancient tribal cultural forms. The more people are involved in a percussion performance, the more sound energy can be produced. This special music language can make the connection between the universe and living beings more direct and palpable. These traditional rhythms have been loved by the public historically, but how to make today's young pop music lovers pay attention to the tradition? I hope that through my new percussion composition concert, and our ensemble's unique performance style, these traditional Chinese rhythms can attract the ears of today's young people in a new fashion.

Traditional Chinese percussion music is lively, and its subject-matter is always related to animal life. For generations, many percussion masters have re-arranged and composed new works based on the ancient rhythms. Contemporary percussionists such as An Zhishun and Li Zhengui have been an important source of inspiration for my new composition 『China Beat』.

Besides my new work--and in order to thank and show respect to our teacher Mr. Li Zhengui, the most important member of our ensemble—we have invited Mr. Li to take the lead in performing 『Golden Pheasant Out of the Mountains』, a traditional piece scored & re-arranged by Li Zhengui himself.

We have specially invited the internationally renowned Danish percussionist Gert Mortensen to participate in this concert. He is a master of many percussion styles, and excels at performing Chinese traditional percussion pieces. He has performed my work and collaborated with our ensemble in the past. Many thanks to Beijing International Music Festival for giving us the opportunity to work with him again.
