

**Illinois State University  
Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts  
School of Music**

**Graduate Lecture Recital**  
**LinTing Tina Tseng, *violin***  
**Lu Witzig, *piano***

**This recital is in partial fulfillment of the  
graduation requirements for the degree,  
Master of Music in String Pedagogy.**

**Kemp Recital Hall  
April 12, 2026  
Sunday Evening  
8:00 p.m.**

**This is the one hundred and fifty-fourth program of the 2025-2026 season.**

# Program

Please silence all electronics for the duration of the concert. Thank you.

The song of Taiwan	Tyzen Hsiao (1938-2015)
Nocturne in G	Tyzen Hsiao
Meditation	Tyzen Hsiao
Beng Chhun Hong( <i>Longing for the Spring Breeze</i> )	YuHsien Teng (1906-1944) arranged by Tyzen Hsiao
Love Song	Shih Hsu (1919-1980) arranged by Tyzen Hsiao
Fantasy Heng-Chhun Melody	Tyzen Hsiao
I love Taiwan	Tyzen Hsiao

# **Program Notes**

## **Biography of Tyzen Hsiao**

Tyzen Hsiao (1938–2015) was a renowned Taiwanese composer, pianist, and conductor born in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. He began studying piano with his mother at the age of five and continued to pursue a career in music throughout his life. While studying at the Department of Music at National Taiwan Normal University, his musical talent was recognized by the composer Hsu Tsang-Houei, who encouraged him to pursue composition career. This experience marked the beginning of Hsiao's music composition career.

In 1976, Hsiao moved to the United States, where he began composing works based on Taiwanese folk songs and gradually gained recognition. In order to further improve his composition technique, he studied at California State University with Dr. B.K. Kim in 1986. During this period, Hsiao developed a distinctive compositional style that combines Taiwanese folk elements with Western classical music techniques.

In 1992, Hsiao returned to Taiwan and became one of the most influential composers in Taiwanese classical music. His works received numerous honors, including the Taiwan National Art Prize in 2004 and the National Cultural Award in 2009. Hsiao passed away in 2015 at the age of seventy-seven in Los Angeles, California.

## **The Song of Taiwan**

The Song of Taiwan was composed in 1971. During this period, Tyzen Hsiao had not yet moved to the United States. He studied music composition techniques with the German composer Thomas Christian David, who was living in Taiwan for teaching music. Hsiao also collaborated with many Taiwanese musical organizations, and composed works that incorporate with local characteristics for musicians in Taiwan.

“The Song of Taiwan” is in ABA ternary form. The first section is in A minor with the mode Yu of the pentatonic scale, and the melody is full of power and energy. Section B is a lyrical section, also using the Yu mode of the pentatonic scale. The lyrical phrases are similar to those found in Taiwanese songs. The section A prime return to the main theme and ends on a broad and brilliant phrase.

### **Nocturne in G**

Nocturne in G was composed in 1980, during a period when Tyzen Hsiao was actively composing in Los Angeles, United States. The violin solo Nocturne in G is a highly expressive work that combines a strong Western Romantic style and distinctive Eastern musical colors.

The piece is in ABA ternary form. In the first section, the music presents the bright and lyrical character in G major. The section B is in e minor, also introduces mode Jue of the pentatonic scale, highlighting elements of traditional Han Taiwanese musical style.

In the section A prime, the romantic G major melody returns. Rapid note passages, double stops, and chords are used to increase the musical tension and enrich the texture of the piece.

### **Meditation**

In 1973, Tyzen Hsiao was invited to teach at National Taiwan Normal University. During this period, his focus in composition gradually shifted from primarily vocal works to instrumental compositions. Meditation was composed in 1975 and was inspired by a quiet evening when Tyzen Hsiao stood by the sea, feeling the gentle breeze and deeply sensing delicate atmosphere in his hometown, Kaohsiung.

## **Bang Chhun Hong (Longing for the Spring Breeze)**

Bang Chhun Hong (Longing for the Spring Breeze) was a Taiwanese song composed during the Japanese colonial period. The lyrics were written by poet Lim Chhiu Lee, with music composed by Yu Hsien Deng, and the song was released on vinyl by the Columbia Record Company.

The song describes a young woman waiting alone under a streetlight at night, hoping to see the young man she admires pass by. Her emotions reflect a mixture of shyness, anticipation, and nervousness.

Tyzen Hsiao later arranged this composed folk song into a violin solo version.

In his arrangement, the key is changed to the introspective key of E-flat major, and techniques such as double stops and ornamentation are added, thereby transforming the simple and straightforward melody into a more romantic and expressive work.

### **Lyrics of Bang Chhun Hong**

獨夜無伴守燈 清風對面吹

At night waiting alone under a dim lamp, with the spring breeze blowing on my  
cheeks,

十七八歲未出嫁 看著少年家

I am unmarried maiden of seventeen going on eighteen, see a young man

果然標緻面肉白 誰家人子弟

I see he has a handsome face and a pale complexion; I wonder which family he  
is from?

想要問伊驚歹勢 心內彈琵琶

Wanting to ask him yet fearing embarrassment, my heart flutters as if it were a  
pipa being

想要郎君作尪婿 意愛在心裡

Wishing him to be the groom of mine, with love inside my heart.

等待何時君來採青春花開

Waiting, wondering when my man might come to gather my blooming flowers  
of youth.

聽見外面有人來 開門該看覓

Suddenly I hear someone outside, and I open the door to see,

月娘笑阮憨大獸 被風騙不知

The moon laughs at my foolishness, for I did not realize it was just the wind.

### **Love song**

The melody of “Love Song” by Tyzen Hsiao originally derives from “Song of New Taiwan Construction,” composed in 1946 by Shih Hsu. In the same year, the lyricist Chih-Feng Cheng rewrote the lyrics, and the piece was republished under the title “Night in Nandu,” which later became the most well-known version in Taiwan.

In 1960, the melody appeared again in the Hong Kong film “Air Hostess”, where the lyrics were changed once more and the song was retitled “Taiwanese Tune.” In 1983, Hsiao arranged this melody as a violin solo and renamed the work “Love Song.”

Notably, the melody later became widely recognized throughout Chinese communities. During the 1950s and 1960s, it was adapted by the Chinese Communist Party into a patriotic song titled “I Love My Taiwan Island.” Subsequently, the renowned Chinese composer Gang Chen arranged the melody into a virtuosic violin solo version entitled

“I Love the Motherland’s Taiwan.” In the early 1970s, the melody was also adapted in Hong Kong into a Cantonese popular song titled “Old Love Is Like a Dream.”

## **Fantasy Heng-Chhun Melody**

The Dreamy Heng-Chun Tune was composed in 1973. Tyzen Hsiao used the “Heng-Chun Tune” (Pingpu melody) from the Heng-Chun region as the melodic inspiration for this piece. The Heng-Chun Tune is a traditional folk melody native to the Heng-Chun area. Its appealing melody led to adaptations with lyrics, including versions used as farming songs, “San-siang Wu-nai”, and “Ching-keh-á-sau”.

The piece is structured in ABA ternary form. In the section A, the composer develops the melody of the Heng-Chun Tune into a rich and ornate composition. The section B moves into allegro tempo, with vibrant melodic and rhythmic motives full of vitality. The section A prime return to the Heng-Chun Tune, concluding the piece with a dreamy and romantic melody.

## **I love Taiwan**

I Love Taiwan was composed in 1987 as a Taiwanese song, with lyrics by Yang-min Lin and music by Tyzen Hsiao. In 1988, the piece was arranged into violin solo version.

This work was created during a period when Taiwan was gradually transitioning from a more closed society to a freer and more open one. Yang min Lin observed the complaints and dissatisfaction of many Taiwanese people toward the social turmoil at that time, he wrote the lyrics in Taiwanese language to encourage a spirit of love and pride for Taiwan.

## **Lyrics of I love Taiwan**

咱若愛祖先 請你嚟通嫌台灣 土地雖然有卡隘

阿爸的汗 阿母的血 沃落鄉土滿四界

If we love our ancestors,

we must not despise Taiwan.

Though the land may be small and narrow,

Father's sweat and Mother's blood

have nourished this soil,

filling every corner of our homeland.

咱若愛子孫 請你嘸通嫌台灣 也有田園也有山

果籽的甜 五穀的香 乎咱後代吃未空

If we love our children,

we must not despise Taiwan.

There are fields and gardens, there are mountains too.

The sweetness of fruit and the fragrance of grains

will provide for all the generations.

咱若愛故鄉 請你嘸通嫌台灣 雖然討趁無輕鬆

認真打拼 前途有望 咱的幸福未輸人

If we love our hometown,

we must not despise Taiwan.

Although life may not be easy,

if we work hard with sincerity,

our future is full of hope,

and our happiness will not fall short of others'.