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English Translations of 900 Selected
Chinese Musical Terms

中国音乐术语 选译 *900* 条

张伯瑜 译著



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前 言

随着社会的发展，社会各行各业对英文的需求越来越多，要求也越来越高，大大促进了英文在中国的普及。在音乐领域，英文的重要性也日显突出，即便是音乐会节目单也常常附有英文翻译，国际音乐交流中英语也是必不可少的工具。

在音乐学术界，无论是中国学者在把自己的科研成果翻译成英文时，还是西方学者在研究中国音乐时，都必须涉及中国音乐术语的翻译问题。长期以来，很多学者、音乐家等对此进行了大量的实践，无论从学术上，还是在实际的应用中，把大量的中国音乐术语译成了英文。本书即是在此基础上的又一个实践，意图把常用的中国传统音乐术语翻译成英文，以利于中国音乐的传播。

本书共翻译了 900 余条中国音乐专用术语，翻译中有三个问题需要说明：一是此书中的条目仅是字面层次上的翻译，没有进一步的解释，所以不是词条；二是在翻译中对中文原意的理解直接影响到翻译的准确性，有些术语中文的含义并不十分清楚，一词多义的情况很多，本书中的翻译只是作者个人的理解；三是英文语言表述的正确性和完美性也很难说是高水平的。所以，此工作仅仅是一个开始，有错误之处还望读者指正。

张伯瑜

Preface

The English language is becoming more and more important in Chinese contemporary life, and the English speaking and reading ability of Chinese people has improved considerably over the last ten years. In various social activities, English always functions as an important role for communication. Within the musical world, English has become extremely important not only during international events but also in concert program notes.

In music academic circles, when a Chinese scholar attends an international conference or a Western scholar does a research on Chinese music, they both need to translate Chinese musical terms into English. Many scholars both from China and other countries have already put in a great deal of effort in this respect. This book is merely a continuation of that work based on their previous achievements.

More than 900 Chinese musical terms have been translated in this book. However, there are several points that this author would like to ask the readers to bear in mind in distinguishing the book from music dictionaries. First, the translations of the terms in this book are mainly literal (word-by-word) translations, and unlike typical dictionary entries, background descriptions are not included. At the same time, some of the original Chinese terms lack clear meanings or sometimes have more than one meaning. The translations here are just this author's understanding from their original intent. In addition, since English is the author's second language, some of terms might not be given an optimal translation.

Zhang Boyu

I. 中国朝代年表

Chinese Dynasties

夏 Xia kingdom	2000 B.C. to 1520 B.C.
商 Shang "Yin" kingdom	1520 B.C. to 1030 B.C.
周 Zhou dynasty "Feudal Age"	1030 B.C. to 221 B.C.
西周 Early Zhou period	1030 B.C. to 722 B.C.
春秋 Chun Qiu period	722 B.C. to 480 B.C.
战国 Warring States period	480 B.C. to 221 B.C.
秦 Qin dynasty -- First Unification	221 B.C. to 207 B.C.
汉 Han dynasty	202 B.C. to 220
西汉 Earlier or Western	202 B.C. to 9
新 Xin interregnum	9 to 23
东汉 Later or Eastern	25 to 220
三国 Three Kingdoms period -- First Partitions	221 to 265

II

晋 Jin dynasty --Second	265 to 420
Unification	
西晋 Western	265 to 317
东晋 Eastern	317 to 420
南北朝 Northern and Southern	420 to 581
dynasties --Second	
Partition	
隋 Sui dynasty --Third	581 to 618
Unification	
唐 Tang dynasty	618 to 906
五代 Wu Dai "Five Dynasty	907 to 960
period" --Third Partition	
宋 Song dynasty --Fourth	960 to 1279
Unification	
北宋 Northern Song	960 to 1127
南宋 Southern Song	1127 to 1279
元 Yuan dynasty	1206 to 1368
明 Ming dynasty	1368 to 1644
清 Qing dynasty	1644 to 1911
民国 R.O.C.	1912 to 1949
中华人民共和国 P. R.C.	1949

II. 中国现代汉语拼音的发音规律

Romanization of Chinese sounds follows the
phonetic system of the Chinese modern
dictionary published in P. R.C.

元音 Vowels

a, like *a* in father

ai, like *eye*

an, like *an* in can

ang, like *on*

ao, like *ow* in how

e, like *ear* in earth

ei, like *ey* in money, grey

en, like *en* in lens, ten

eng, like *ung* in flung

i, like *ee* in tree

辅音 Consonants

b, like *b* in book

ch, like *ch* in much, chair

d, like *d* in drum

f, like *f* in farm

g, like *g* in gap

h, like *h* in harm

j, like *j* in jail

k, like *k* in kick

l, like *l* in English

m, like *m* in mother

IV

in, like *in*

ing, like *in* thing

o, like *aw* in paw

ong, like *ong* in bong

ou, like *oe* in joe

u, like *oo* in too

ui, like *ui* in ruin

uo, like *u* in English as pure

u, like *ü* in German as Mchen

n, like *n* in notation

p, like *p* in people

q, like *ch* in chill

r, like *r* in Russia

s, like *s* in structure

sh, like *sh* in English

t, like *t* in type

w, like *v* in valid

x, like *si* in Sibelius

y, like *y* in yes

z, like *ts* in bets

zh, like *G* in German

III. 说 明

Notes

在A类(曲名)中,每个条目后面括号中的字词表示的是该乐曲属于哪类乐种或由什么乐器来演奏。

The words in brackets after each item in A refers to genres or instruments the pieces are played with.

在C类(书谱和记谱法)中,每个条目后面括号中的字词表示的是该书目是哪个朝代的。

The dynasty in bracket after each item in C refers to the period the book was written in.

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A. 曲 名

Titles of Musical Pieces

1. Ba-gen Lu-chai-hua 拔根芦柴花 Picking bulrush (Folk song)
2. Ba Jun-ma 八骏马 Eight fine horses (Fujian Nan-yin ensemble)
3. Ba-sheng Gan-zhou 八声甘州 Eight voices of Gan-zhou (Labelled piece)
4. Ba-wang Xie-jia 霸王卸甲 The Warlord takes off his armour (Pipa)
5. Ba-yue Gui-hua Bian-di-kai 八月桂花遍地开 Fragrant blossoms in August (Folk song)
6. Bai-hua Yuan 百花园 The garden with a hundred flowers (Shi-fan Gu)
7. Bai-niao Chao-feng 百鸟朝凤 A hundred birds singing in

the morning (Suona)

8. Bing-zhong Yin 病中吟 Reciting while ill, to express disappointment at the social situation during the beginning of the 20th century, while the composer lived. (Erhu)
9. Bu-bu Gao 步步高 Stepping higher and higher (Guangdong Yin-yue ensemble)
10. Bu-bu Jiao 步步娇 Gracefully walking step by step (Labelled piece)
11. Cao-yuan Xiao Jie-mei 草原小姐妹 Little sisters of the grasslands (Pipa)
12. Chang-cheng Sui-xiang Qu 长城随想曲 The Great Wall capriccio (Erhu)
13. Chang-chui 长锤 Long hammer (Percussion music of Beijing Opera). The title indicates a special kind of rhythmic pattern.
14. Chang-hen Ge 长恨歌 Everlasting lament
15. Chang-men Yuan 长门怨 Sorrow at chang men (Qin)
16. Chao Tian-zi 朝天子 Paying respects to the emperor (Labelled piece)
17. Chao-yuan Ling 朝元令 Song of the founding emperor

- (Labelled piece). This is a direct translation of the Chinese title. The original meaning has already been lost.
18. Che-diao Zuo-yue Quan-tao 尺调坐乐全套 A complete suite of sitting music in the key of *che*, the second degree of Chinese musical scale (Xi'an Gu-yue)
 19. Che-zi Kai-men 尺字开门 "The opening gate" played in the key of *che-zi*, the second degree in the Chinese musical scale (Labelled piece of Gu-chui Yue)
 20. Chong-tou 冲头 Pounding heads (Percussion of Beijing Opera). The title indicates that the percussion section is abrupt yet emotionally powerful.
 21. Chu-shui Lian 出水莲 Floating lotus (Zheng, Chaozhou Xian-shi)
 22. Chun-jiang Hua-yue Ye 春江花月夜 A flowery moonlit night on the Spring River (Pipa)
 23. Da Kai-men 大开门 Opening the big gate (Labelled piece of Gu-chui Yue). "Da" means "big"; "Kai" means "open"; and "men" means "door". This piece is very popular in northeast China and is mainly played by wind instruments.
 24. Da-lang Tao-sha 大浪淘沙 Big waves washing the sand

- (Pipa)
25. Da Yuan-men 大辕门 The brilliant gate of the official palace (Zhedong Luogu ensemble). The title indicates a celebratory atmosphere.
26. Dao Ba-ban 倒八板 Upside-down “eight beats” (Traditional music)
27. De-sheng Ling 得胜令 Song of victory (Zhedong Luogu ensemble)
28. Deng-yue Jiao-hui 灯月交辉 The flashing and sparkling of lights and the moon (Pipa)
29. Dian-jiang Chun 点绛唇 Putting on red lipstick (Labelled piece). This is a direct translation of the Chinese title. The original meaning has already been lost. See “Chao-yuan Ling”.
30. Dong-hai Yu-ge 东海渔歌 Fishing song of the eastern sea (Instrumental ensemble)
31. Dou-ye Huang 豆叶黄 Bean leaves start to become yellow (Labelled piece)
32. Duan-zheng Hao 端正好 Proper and good (Labelled piece). This is a direct translation of the Chinese title. The original meaning has already been lost. See “Chao-yuan

Ling”.

33. Dui-hua 对花 Questions and Answers about flowers
(Folk song)

34. E-ma Yao-ling 饿马摇铃 Hungry horses shaking their
bells (Guangdong Yin-yue ensemble)

35. Er-quan Ying-yue 二泉映月 The Moon reflected in the
second spring (Erhu)

36. Fang Feng-zheng 放风筝 Flying a kite (Folk song)

37. Fang-lü 放驴 Herding donkeys (Hebei Chui-ge, Guanzi)

38. Fang-ma Shan-ge 放马山歌 A mountain song sung
while herding horses (Folk song)

39. Fei-hua Dian-cui 飞花点翠 A snow flurry freshens all
(Pipa)

40. Fen-die Er 粉蝶儿 A pink butterfly (Labelled piece)

41. Feng-ru Song 风入松 Wind blowing pines (Labelled
piece)

42. Gao-shan Liu-shui 高山流水 High mountains and flow-
ing streams (Qin)

43. Ge You-mai 割莜麦 Oats harvest (Folk song)
44. Guan-shan Yue 关山月 The moon of Guan-shan (Qin)
45. Guang-ling San 广陵散 The story of Guang-ling (Qin)
46. Gui-zhi Xiang 桂枝香 Fragrance of sweet-scented
osmanthus (Labelled piece)
47. Gun-xiu Qiu 滚绣球 Rolling an embroidered ball
(Labelled piece)
48. Gusu Xing 姑苏行 Travelling to Gusu (Dizi)
49. Hai-qing Ge 海青歌 The song of the eagle (Labelled
piece)
50. Hai-qing Na Tian-e 海青拿天鹅 The eagle catching the
swan (Pipa)
51. Han-gong Qiu-yue 汉宫秋月 Autumn moon over the
Han palace (Pipa)
52. Han-tian Lei 旱天雷 Thunder in a rainless sky
(Guangdong Yin-yue ensemble)
53. Han-ya Xi-shui 寒鸦戏水 Winter ravens flying over
water (Zheng)
54. Hu-die Shuang-fei 蝴蝶双飞 Butterflies flying in pairs
(Guangdong Yin-yue ensemble)