

紅 RED CHAMBER 腔

Secrets of the Chinese Court, Passions of the West

Sssss...Red Chamber is hot, steamy hot! Whether it is fast and furious stringband music, the sultry beauty of Imperial Court classics, or cutting edge contemporary creations, Red Chamber's fiery passion embodies every note.

La fougue de Red Chamber vous envoûtera! Qu'il s'agisse de musique d'orchestre à cordes rapide et endiablée, de la beauté rigide de classiques de la Cour impériale ou de créations des plus contemporaines, la passion ardente de Red Chamber fait corps avec chaque note.

RED CHAMBER CD
available at
www.asza.com

Red Chamber straddles traditional and contemporary, whether it be ancient Chinese court music, Chinese string band music, bluegrass, or jazz fusion. These virtuosic performers set the stage on fire with hot licks, power and passion!

Red Chamber takes its inspiration from the traditional Chinese "Plucked String" repertoire that is seldom if ever heard in the west. Featuring only plucked strings, **Red Chamber** creates a unique sound while performing a repertoire that spans centuries, including transcriptions from the Tang Dynasty (618-907), to modern compositions. **Red Chamber** is exploring other genres of plucked string music like Bluegrass, jazz, and a host of other folk traditions.

Red Chamber is an exciting ensemble of masterful musicians bringing a new sound on ancient instruments to the international concert stage.

Red Chamber conjugue le traditionnel et le contemporain, passant d'une musique chinoise ancestrale pour ensemble à cordes rarement entendue en Occident, au bluegrass ou au jazz fusion. Ses artistes embrasent littéralement la scène par leurs riffs fougueux, d'une virtuosité puissante et passionnée!

Red Chamber tire son inspiration du répertoire chinois traditionnel d'instruments à « cordes pincées » rarement, voire jamais, entendus en Occident. En utilisant seulement des instruments à cordes pincées, il propose un son inédit tout en jouant un répertoire qui couvre plusieurs siècles, allant des transcriptions de musique de la dynastie Tang (618-907) à des compositions modernes. L'ensemble explore aussi d'autres styles musicaux pour instruments à cordes pincées, comme le bluegrass, le jazz et une gamme d'autres traditions folkloriques.

Sur la scène, **Red Chamber** est un groupe de musiciennes accomplies qui tirent des sonorités nouvelles de leurs instruments anciens.



HMR3 Productions

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Mei Han is recognized internationally as one of the leading virtuosi and authorities on the Chinese zheng (zither). The Montreal Gazette called her “The Zheng Master” and the Calgary Herald referred to her as a “virtuoso of the first order”. Han has performed and lectured on Chinese music worldwide; recorded two Juno nominated CDs; and created a large repertoire of new music, contemporary chamber music, free improv, and world music for the zheng. She has performed with Orchestras in China and Canada, and been the subject of national TV and radio specials in Australia, Great Britain, The Netherlands, Germany, Japan, Singapore and others.

Guilian Liu is one of the world’s premiere pipa (lute) masters. Liu graduated from the Central Conservatory of Music, Beijing and was the first prize-winner of the Chinese National Instrumental Music Competition in 1989. Liu has performed in Europe, Asia and North America. Her superb expressiveness and impeccable techniques were praised by renowned conductors Herbert von Karajan and Seiji Ozawa. She was featured performing in the Oscar winning documentary From Mao to Mozart - Isaac Stern in China (1979). Liu was the Director of the Shanghai Pipa Society before moving to Canada.

Zhimin Yu is a versatile ruan (lute) virtuoso. Yu was a principle player at the prestigious Chinese National Broadcast Orchestra, Beijing, with which toured to numerous countries. Since immigrating to Canada in 1989, she has become one of the most sought Chinese musicians in Vancouver and has performed with the Vancouver Chinese Ensemble, the Silk Road Ensemble, and many other cross cultural projects. Yu is also a gifted composer, actively writing for a wide variety of Chinese and Western ensembles. Yu has single handedly redefined the ruan repertoire, bringing it into the 21st century.

Geling Jiang is an award-winning multi-instrumentalist, who started her professional training at age of 10. After graduated from Wu Han musical Conservatory, she became a member of the Chime Bell Ensemble of Hubei province for 20 years, with which she recorded numerous radio broadcasts, TV programs, and films; and performed tours to the United States, Japan and Singapore. Trained initially as a sanxian (three-string fretless lute) player, she also regularly plays the zheng, pipa and ruan.



Hear Red Chamber: www.asza.com/RedChamberCD.shtml

See Red Chamber in Concert on You Tube:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=otRkLZy_sl0
www.youtube.com/watch?v=7LALgWz0xc0
www.youtube.com/watch?v=26a3LXoLKH4

Red Chamber’s Webpage:
www.mei-han.com/redchamber.shtml

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QUOTES

Chinese music has never been so exciting and scintillating, with passion power, and sheer energy!
- Moors Magazine, Holland

The most remarkable collaboration: the Chinese strings of Red Chamber with traditional Indian percussion.
- New Straits Times, Malaysia

Top instrumentalists with an adventurous approach to music that includes a mix of Chinese music with American bluegrass and Eastern European sounds.
- World Music Central.com

These virtuosic performers set the stage on fire with hot licks, power and passion!
- CBC Radio, Canada

Red Chamber's musicians red-hot sexy, red-hot accomplished!
- Georgia Straight, Canada

Red Chamber's gutsy work on zheng, pipa, ruan, and san hsien proved revelatory for many.
Cross-cultural fusion doesn't get any better!
- Georgia Straight, Canada

Red Chamber offers a truly eclectic East-West fusion ranging from Chinese classical to, yes, bluegrass!
- The Province, Canada

Passion and intensity keep the listener riveted, eagerly anticipating every note as the music unfolds with elegance and poise. An eclectic musical experience of the highest quality.
- Wholenote, Canada

Tour de Force! Equally at home inside and outside the wall of tradition, giving disparate material a unity of sound and purpose. The rules are clearly theirs to break.
- Mack Hagood, Far Eastern Audio Review.com

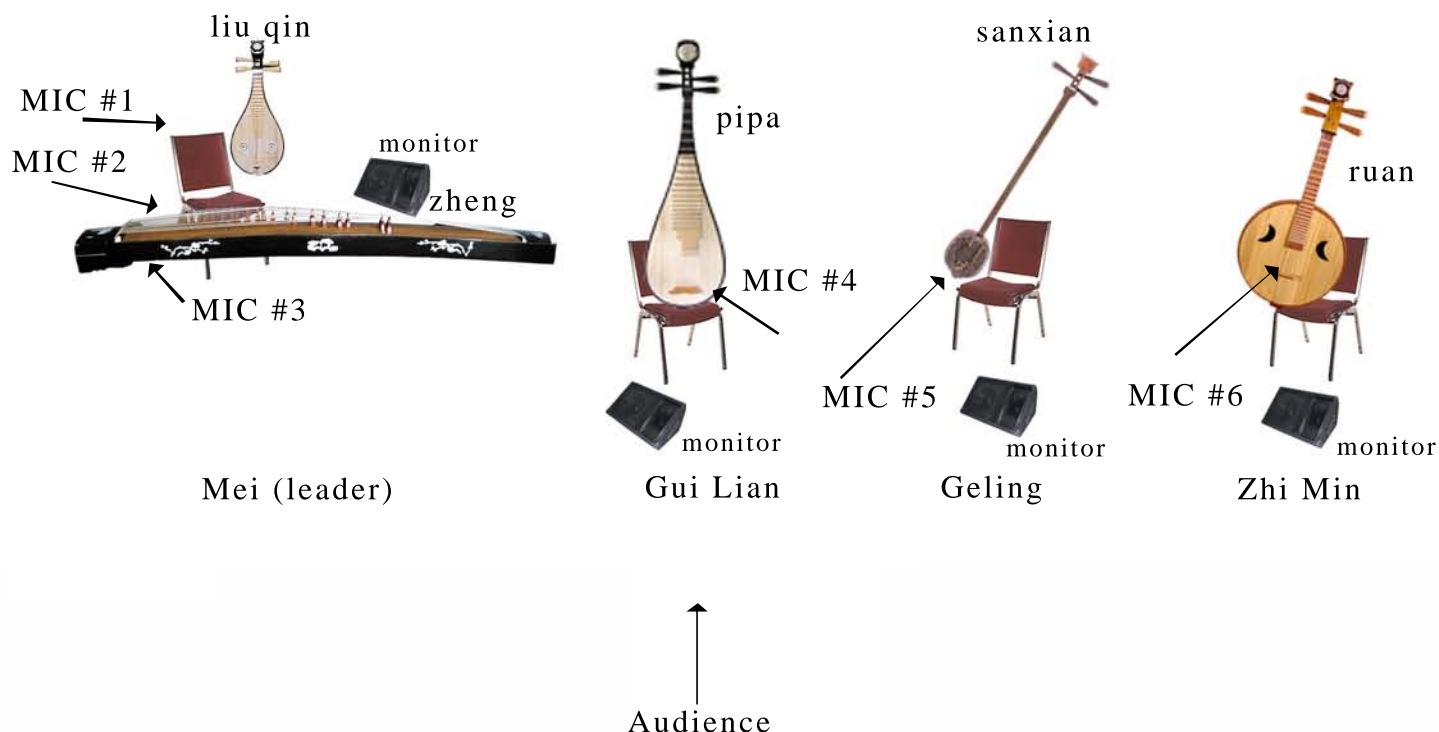
Their fluid rapport keeps all options open, leaving the listener with the idea that the music can go anywhere at any moment..
- Point of Departure.com





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Tech

- 4 armless chairs
- all mics on boom
- condensor mics preferred
- Mic #2 + #3 C1000 if condensor not available
- Mic #2, roll off top and high mids, boost bass and low mids, use low boom stand if available
- four monitors on separate channels if available

Instruments

Liu qin - small tear drop lute, treat like mandolin

Zheng - Chinese zither, should have full balanced bass and treble between the two mics, DO NOT make too twangy or sharp, bass end should be prominent.

Pipa - large tear drop lute, has a natural sharp attack, do not make too bright or boxy

Sanxian - Chinese banjo, treat like a banjo

Ruan - Chinese moon guitar, treat like a guitar