Cataloging Standard and Translating
Unification of Chinese Musical Compositions

Challenges and Solutions

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Options of Chinese Music Sources

中文樂譜的選擇
what kinds of music sources are appropriate to be uploaded to RISM’s database?

What exists?

Where it can be found?

In Chinese language regions, we have lots of manuscripts and scores of early music in history, but only very few are preserved by ourselves.
The earliest extant Chinese score: the handwritten copy of the Qin piece *Solitary Orchid* from the Tang dynasty (618 to 907). It's preserved in the Tokyo National Museum in Japan now.
The staff of *Solitary Orchid*
2

Contemporary Musical Compositions in the Chinese Language Region

當代華人音樂創作
Music compositions in the early years in China

- The first string quartet *Serenade* of China by Hsiao Yiumei (who was Graduated from University of Music and Theatre Leipzig (1916))

- The first violin solo piece *Difficult Road* by LI Siguang

- The first orchestra piece *In Memoriam* by HUANG Tzu
Collecting Projects on Chinese Music Resources

Shanghai Conservatory of Music
Near 80 Chinese composers’ manuscripts, about 1,000 works

Taiwan Music Institute
25,000 pages of printed scores and manuscripts of Taiwan Musicians

Hong Kong Central Library
9,000 music manuscripts, scores and other music materials of Hong Kong musicians
How to Standardize the specification for Chinese Musical Resources
Translations from Chinese to English

Composer’s Name

Title of the Work

Chinese Traditional Instruments
A Piece Has Both Chinese and English Titles

Dance among the Coconut Groves 《椰林舞曲》

Named by Hong Kong composer Ng, Tai-kong

Ng, Tai-kong

【verified】

椰林舞曲
Other title: Dance among the coconut groves

Work information

Source description

Title on source: 《椰林舞曲》
Material: 1 score: 35 p.

Dance among the Coconut Groves 《椰林舞曲》

Named by Hong Kong composer Ng, Tai-kong
### Integration to the Cataloging fields related to the titles in Muscat

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Works with both Chinese and English titles</th>
<th>Works with Chinese titles only, but having authoritative translated English titles</th>
<th>Works with Chinese titles only</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Example:</strong> 《椰林舞曲》</td>
<td><strong>Example:</strong> 《緣》</td>
<td><strong>Example:</strong> 《胡笳十八拍》</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Standardized title (240):</strong> 椰林舞曲</td>
<td><strong>Standardized title (240):</strong> 縁</td>
<td><strong>Standardized title (240):</strong> 胡笳十八拍</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Additional title (730):</strong> Dance among the coconut groves</td>
<td><strong>Additional title (730):</strong> Chance Encounter; yuan</td>
<td><strong>Additional title (730):</strong> 胡笳十八拍</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>General Note (500):</strong> English title “Chance encounter” from the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra edition of “緣” (register number MC00002298) at HK-HKcl</td>
<td><strong>General Note (500):</strong> “hú jiā shí bā pāi ” (the romanization of Chinese title 胡笳十八拍) provided by HK-HKcl</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Integration to the Cataloging fields related to the titles in Muscat

Works with Chinese titles only, but having authoritative translated English titles

Example: 《缘》

**Standardized title (240):** 緣

**Additional title (730):** Chance Encounter; yuán

**General Note (500):** English title “Chance encounter” from the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra edition of “締” (register number MC00002298) at HK-HKcl

"yuán" (the romanization of Chinese title 緣) provided by HK-HKcl.

Works with Chinese titles only

Example: 《胡笳十八拍》

**Standardized title (240):** 胡笳十八拍

**Additional title (730):** hú jiā shí bā pāi

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Integration to the Cataloging fields related to the titles in Muscat

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How to Unify Chinese Traditional Instruments in Translation

同義異名的問題：以民族樂器為例
In the Chinese Language Regions, we all speak mandarin, but it doesn’t mean we share the same culture with each other.
The Western orchestral music was introduced into Asia from 1920s

After students studying abroad returned to China, they brought back the knowledge of western classical music

Chinese composers began to compose orchestral pieces based on western music structure but using Chinese instruments.
Families of Musical Instruments

Difficulties

- Traditional Chinese music is heterophony
- Pitch range is relatively narrow
- No families of musical instruments

How to Solve

- borrowing western instruments
- inventing new instruments
Forms and names are not unified: Chinese transverse flutes – Di (笛)

Haidi = A kind of Di?

**Pitch register**
- Bangdi, Qudi, Xindi
- 棹笛，曲笛，新笛

**Size**
- Zhongdi, Dadi
- 中笛，大笛

**Membrane**
- Short-membrane flute
- Long-membrane flute
- 短膜笛
- 长膜笛

No. Haidi is A type of suona...
An Instrument with various names: Chinese fiddle instruments

Erhu = Nanhu (in northern area of China)

Gaohu = Yuehu (in Cantonese music)
Standardized Rules for Unifying Chinese Instrument’s names in translation

• The RISM-CLR tried to build a concordance for the translation of Chinese instruments During 2016-2017.

→ the result was not satisfying.

• The performers, conductors, and composers are more familiar with contemporary Chinese orchestral music than us.

• In 2018, Shanghai Conservatory of Music held a forum with the participation from composers, performers, musicologists and administrative staffs who work in Chinese orchestra from China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Singapore.
Bilingual Chart of Common Chinese Instrument Names

- The leading person and orchestra:
  YAN hui chang (閻惠昌) and the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra

Committee for the Standardization of Chinese Musical Instruments 'Abbreviation

A reference for Chinese orchestras
### Bilingual Chart of Common Chinese Instrument Names

#### 1. 吹管乐器 Wind Instruments

##### 1.1. 笛 Di family

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chinese</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Abbr.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>笛</td>
<td>Di</td>
<td>Di</td>
<td>Transverse flute</td>
<td>Any type of Di (details unavailable) 任何笛 (缺乏细节) Same meaning as Dizi 笛子, Zhudi 竹笛</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>小笛</td>
<td>Xiaodi</td>
<td>XD</td>
<td>Piccolo membranated transverse flute</td>
<td>Mostly referring to the keys of small B♭ and above 多指小 B♭ 调以上的笛</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>楼笛</td>
<td>Bangdi</td>
<td>BD</td>
<td>High-range membranated transverse flute</td>
<td>Mostly referring to the keys of small F-A 多指小 F-A 调的笛 Same meaning as Duanmodi 短膜笛, Changmodi 高音笛</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>曲笛</td>
<td>Qudi</td>
<td>QD</td>
<td>Mid-range membranated transverse flute</td>
<td>Mostly referring to the keys of big B♭-E 多指大 B♭-E 调的笛 Same meaning as Changmodi 长膜笛, Zhongyindi 中音笛</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>大笛</td>
<td>Dadi</td>
<td>DD</td>
<td>Low-range membranated transverse flute</td>
<td>Mostly referring to the keys of big A and below 多指大 A 调以下的笛 Includes Beidadi 倍大笛, Diyindi 低音笛, Hengxiao 横箫, Wanguandi 弯管笛</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conclusion
• The working progress of RISM-CLR
  ➢ Assisting the preservation of documentation among music institutions in Greater China
  ➢ cataloging the data to RISM
  ➢ Promoting the idea: *What exists and where the manuscripts can be found.*

• The efforts of us
  ➢ 2015 - how to collect, preserve and study Chinese composers’ manuscripts.
  ➢ 2017 - the methods to build an archive for Chinese music literature.
  ➢ 2018 - propose solutions to the problems we have encountered and try to solve them.
THANK YOU