



## *Saxophone & Suona*

### **Lecture-Recital**

Presented by Eric Zheng

Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 7:00PM  
László Z. Bitó '60 Conservatory Building

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#### **Abstract:**

Can learning the suona change the way saxophone is performed?

This recital explores the saxophone's ability to blend with traditional Chinese music through my personal study of the *suona* under the tutelage of virtuoso, Yazhi Guo. The impetus for this project stems from my interest in identity and music. As such, I will journey from the music of Chinese “New Wave” composers to *Ci* songs from the Song Dynasty, to Asian-American Jazz. Amidst all this music, how does one discover identity in the vast Asian diaspora? To begin to answer this question, I apply Levin and Suzukei’s (2018) timbre-centric listening of Tuvan throat singing as a culturally specific listening practice to explore the saxophone’s ability to achieve the same timbral mimesis as the *suona*. Then, through interlocution with Yazhi Guo and scholarship on transnationalism (Zheng 2010), I aim to expand my musical awareness by studying the *suona* and arranging traditional folk songs—offering a new way for saxophone to be performed. By decentering normative models of saxophone-playing and the spaces in which they are performed, I hope to solidify the instrument’s place as a vehicle for self-determination.

**Concerto No. 1 for Alto Saxophone and Piano**

Yiu-Kwong Chung (b.1956)

Bat-Erdene Batbileg, piano

**山乡春 - Mountain Countryside**

白承德曲

Beitong Liu, erhu

Xi Lu, Pipa

**Variations on *chuida* (吹打)**

Eric Zheng

1. Lady Liuqing 柳青娘

2. Panning for Gold 淘金令

**扬州慢 - YangZhou Man**

Jiang Kui 姜夔 (1551-1221)

arr. Eric Zheng

Beitong Liu, erhu

Xi Lu, Pipa

**金蛇狂舞 - Dance of the Golden Snake**

Nie Er (1912-1935)

arr. Eric Zheng

Beitong Liu, erhu

Xi Lu, Pipa

Brian Reynolds, Drums

Ben Halle, Bass

Program Notes and Bios:

