

## The Chinese Piano Solo *Ping Hu Qiu Yue* (Autumn Moon over the Calm Lake):

a Piano Solo Adapted by Chen Peixun

### LE SOLO DE PIANO CHINOIS *PING HU QIU YUE* ( LA LUNE D'AUTOMNE AU-DESSUS DU LAC TRANQUILLE) :

UN SOLO DE PIANO ADAPTE PAR CHEN PEIXUN

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**Abstract:** This thesis introduces the origin and culture source of the Chinese piano solo *Ping Hu Qiu Yue* (Autumn Moon over the Calm Lake). It analyzes the beauty and charm brought by this solo, compares the differences between Chinese traditional music and western music. It also supplies the detailed requirements in playing this piano solo, hoping to help piano students and teachers.

**Key words:** *Ping Hu Qiu Yue*; beauty and charm; Chinese traditional music; requirements

**Résumé:** Cette thèse présente l'origine et la source culturelle du solo de piano chinois *Ping Hu Qiu Yue* (La lune d'automne au-dessus du lac tranquille). Elle analyse la beauté et le charme apportée par ce solo, en comparant les différences entre la musique traditionnelle chinoise et la musique occidentale. Elle fournit également des exigences détaillées en jouant ce solo de piano, dans l'espoir d'aider les élèves de et des enseignants de piano.

**Mots-Clés:** *Ping Hu Qiu Yue*; beauté et charme; musique chinoise traditionnelle; exigences

People's music publishing house published the piano score *five piano pieces* in 1981. It was adapted according to the traditional Chinese composition. In its catalog, *Ping Hu Qiu Yue* is a piano piece adapted from "yue qu" by the famous composer Chen Peixun. According to the existing data, the so called "yue qu" was in fact the representative work of a Guang Dong musician Mr. Lv Wencheng. It's also called *Zui Tai Ping*, which was very popular in the Guangdong opera.

Beautiful lakes and autumn moon made people imagine. With the moonlight, all mountains, water

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and buildings were wearing veils, making here like a fairyland. In 1930s, Mr. Lv Wencheng traveled the West Lake in Hangzhou on the Mid-Autumn Festival. The beautiful scenery moved him. So he created the great piano piece to describe the beauty of West Lake. The lively melody of it expressed people's wish for good life and peace, and their love for nature. It's one of the best melodies among Chinese instrumental works. The musician mixed the folk music in Zhe Jiang province and the musical style of Guang Dong province, used gaohu as its main instrument, and used a lot of playing skills. Now it can be played by various instruments such as gaohu, dongxiao, dizi, guzheng, pipa, piano, erhu and so on..

In the 1970s, composer Chen Peixun transcribed this "Cantonese operatic song" into a piano solo. Though it borrowed a lot of traditional instrument (such as Gu zheng, Gao Hu and flute) playing techniques, its original form remained as our traditional music tone-- five tones was frequently used. It not only showed the Cantonese music style with its fluent melody, frequent changes of pitches and freely changed rhythm but also bore the unique flavor of China southern music. With its distinct theme emphasized through the composition and based on the main note, it also embraced many changes, making it much more penetrating.

During the transcription, Mr. Chen adopted a lot of pianism which will be seen in the performance and enriched the techniques of piano playing as well. For example, the use of arpeggio and the use of grace notes.

Although the composition is short, it is concise and exquisite. Its structure is not clear-cut, but it proceeds in perfect transition with proper mood. It is important to make good use of soft pedal in the performance. In another word, it is the good use of soft pedal that makes the composition better express itself. When playing the Chinese instrumental music, you are not only required to master the basic skills but also show the unique style of this nation. The difference between Chinese music and Western music lies in that the former puts much focuses on the harmonious integrity of music, environment and mood while the latter prefers to create beauty of fluent melody with its chorus and chords. However, you might lose the Chinese flavor if you paid much attention to this integrity and expressed it with exaggeration. The balance is the most important thing.

This piano solo "Autumn Moon over the Calm Lake" (Ping Hu Qiu Yue) requires perfect feel of piano key touch, flexible control of soft pedal as well as brilliant imitation of traditional instrument playing techniques. It is not just a piece of emotional music. It also requires you to perform with rational operation and control. It expresses player's appreciation of the beautiful scenery and delivers the cultural meaning and historical significance. Every time when the solo ends, the ending sound makes people feel relaxed and calmed down , falling into deep thinking. Most brilliant music usually arouses pondering and profound thinking. As to piano performance, we should express our ideas and feelings with its notes meanwhile we should deliver the cultural differences. Only in this way can we reach the peak of piano playing and piano culture.