Medley of Cantonese Opera Tunes
Four traditional Cantonese opera tunes played as instrumental interludes or as background music for the actors are arranged in a medley with a refrain.

Chinese Opera Demonstration
A demonstration of stylized acting for male and female roles consisting of prescribed hand gestures, posturing, and body movements.

Cantonese Opera: The Jade Bracelet
A young man woos a village maiden in a scene filled with charm and humor. Frustrated by the girl’s coquettish and coy behavior, the suitor leaves behind a jade bracelet as an offering of marriage.

Xie Peng: Wai Wah Law; Yuk Geuw: Cindy Huang

Intermission

Birds in the Forest
Nature comes alive through playful imitation. The bright timbre of the gaohu and the use of ornamental slurs and portamenti techniques reflect the Cantonese style.

Melody of the Purple Bamboo
This arrangement borrows musical material from Huju, a local opera of the Shanghai area. It represents the silky texture and flowing melodic style of music from south of the Yangzi River.

Beijing Opera Tunes
The xipi and erhuang tunes from jingju, or Beijing Opera, suggest the vocal performance and musical progression of this northern style opera.

Song of Henan
The erhu has a voice-like timbre reinforced by the frequent use of slurs and portamenti. Borrowing folk and yuju opera tunes from Henan province, this composition invokes the local speech and operatic singing to create a playful tableau of folk life.

Wang Guowei, erhu; Susan Cheng, yangqin

Cantonese Aria: Qingwen Mends a Cape
This is a vignette from A Dream of Red Mansions, one of the masterpieces of Chinese literature from the Qing dynasty. The ailing Qing Wen, devoted maid to the novel’s principal character Bao Yu, feverishly works through the night to mend his torn cape in time for an important family gathering.

Qingwen: Cindy Huang

Rising Joy
An upbeat, festive mood is imparted by this popular Cantonese tune.

Sponsored by the W. Ford Schumann ’50 Performing Arts Endowment

Sunday, November 16, 2008
3:00 P.M.
Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall
Williamstown, Massachusetts

Please turn off or mute cell phones.
No photography or recording is permitted.
Music From China performs Chinese classical and folk music as well as new music by living composers to audiences across the U.S. and internationally. Established in 1984, the ensemble has appeared at the Library of Congress, Boston Early Music Festival, 92nd Street Y, Freer Gallery of Art, Smithsonian Folklife Festival, with the Avison Ensemble in England and BBC broadcast, Dionysia Festival in Rome, Eastman School of Music, Chautauqua Institution, Metropolitan Museum of Art, as well as colleges and universities including Princeton, Duke, Pittsburgh, Yale, Wisconsin, Indiana, Bucknell, Colgate, Vermont, Middlebury, Wesleyan, Vassar, Rhode Island, Lafayette, and St. Bonaventure. Music From China commissions and produces a series of annual concerts premiering works by established and emerging composers and is recipient of a Chamber Music America/ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming. Other Music From China programs consist of the Xiang Yue—Songs of Folk Life community concert series, Cantonese opera productions, touring and residencies, music commissioning, the annual Music From China International Composition Competition, arts in education, music instruction, and training the Music From China Youth Orchestra and the Wesleyan University Chinese Music Ensemble. Website: http://www.musicfromchina.org

Musicians
Wang Guowei erhu, jinghu, zhonghu
Tien-jou Wang gaohu, zhonghu
Susan Cheng yangqin
Yingying Cao sanxian, ruan
Chunyi Chen houguan
Foo Lau percussion

Instruments
Erhu 2-stringed, spiked fiddle of medium to high register. A snakeskin-covers the resonator and the horsehair of the bow passes between the strings
Gaohu 2-stringed fiddle of high register, principal instrument in Cantonese music
Zhonghu 2-stringed fiddle of medium register
Jinghu 2-string fiddle of high register, principal instrument in Beijing opera
Yangqin Hammered dulcimer
Zhongruan Medium-size round bodied plucked string instrument with a straight neck
Sanxian Long-necked, fretless lute with snakeskin covered resonator
Houguan Double-reeded bamboo pipe used in Cantonese music

Upcoming Events:
11/18: Piano Master Class: Adam Neiman, Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall, 4:15 p.m.
11/19: MIDWEEKMUSIC, Thompson Memorial Chapel, 12:15 p.m.
11/19: Russell Sherman Bosendorfer Concert, Chapin Hall, 8:00 p.m.
11/20: Piano Master Class: Russell Sherman, Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall, 12:00 p.m.
11/21: Berkshire Symphony Orchestra, Chapin Hall, 8:00 p.m.
Pre-Concert Talk, Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall, 7:15 p.m.
11/22: Williams Percussion Ensemble, Chapin Hall, 8:00 p.m.
11/23: Student Recital: Pergolesi’s Stabat Mater, St. John’s Episcopal Church, 4:00 p.m.
12/3: MIDWEEKMUSIC, Chapin Hall, 12:15 p.m.