

Introduction

The libretto of Jonathan Stalling's "Sinophonic English" opera *Yíngēlishī* 吟歌丽诗 (*Chanted Songs, Beautiful Poetry*) is entirely written in Chinese, which can stand alone as a sequence of Chinese poems, yet when the words are sung aloud, they also impart English meanings. For example, the vocalist will sing a line like 普利私 佛给浮谜 "vast private profits, Buddha offers impermanent mysteries" which is pronounced "pǔlìsī fógěifú mí" or "Please forgive me" with a Mandarin Chinese accent. Understood as Chinese, one encounters a range of philosophically melancholic lyrics fused into ancient folk rhythms and harmonies, but on the English side, the audience will hear a tragic narrative unfolding as an English phrasebook relating a story of a tourist who travels to America only to become lost in a foreign land and language. Regardless of which language one chooses, Miao Yichen's haunting vocals transfigure and transcend both to reveal the beautiful poetry (丽诗) within the chanted songs (吟歌) of *Yíngēlishī* (sinophonic English).

节目简介

来自美国俄克拉荷马大学的诗人兼教师——石江山 (Jonathan Stalling) 先生的“中国调式英语”歌剧《吟歌丽诗》，其剧本全文由中文写成，以中文的角度看，是一系列意境朦胧的中文组诗，然而当它们被大声咏唱的时候，它们也传达了英文的含义。譬如，当我们的歌手吟唱歌词“普利私 佛给浮谜”（意为：芸芸众生本性趋利，岂不知世间五光十色的欲望都是佛祖展现给人们的暂时的谜题）时，这句歌词本身的汉语拼音是“pǔlìsī fógěifú mí”，却也可以被看作是用普通话语调朗诵的英语“Please forgive me”。当把它当作中文来理解的时候，您会感受到一段诗歌般忧郁的哲思与熟悉的民歌旋律和谐地融为一体；然而，如果您把它当作英文来听，呈现在您耳中的戏剧性叙述则又会演变成为一本“旅行常用英语手册”，讲述着一个不擅英语的游客迷失在陌生国度的悲剧故事。不过，不论您选择站在中文还是英文的角度来欣赏，歌手缪以琛令人难以忘怀的多变声线将把“中国调式英语”的特质吟歌成丽诗。

I don't understand what you are saying (我不明白你在说什么)
'ái dòngtè 'àndesǐtánde wō tè yǒu 'ér sāi yíng .

挨冻特

安得死

贪得卧愿

由得塞鹰

suffering from the cold

Where can I find my death

Where is a grave for my sins

Let the eagles on the frontier decide

I am a foreigner I don't know English (我是一个外国人，我不会说英语)

'àimù 'è fó rùn nà, 'ái dòng tè nòu yīnggēlishì

爱慕扼佛

润那爱

冻恣耨

英歌丽世

Your reverence strangles Buddha

Dampen love

Anxiously plowing in the cold

heroic songs of a beautiful world

Yīngēlishī bends Chinese into English, while the second section (entitled “Evolving from Embryo and Changing the Bones” “**夺胎换骨**”) moves in the opposite direction by transforming English into Chinese. By translating classical Chinese poetry into monosyllabic, metered, rhymed, and tonalized English, Stalling has created English poems that can be sung to the tunes of the originals (whether chanted, sung, or recited).

客 舍 青 青 柳 色 新
kè shè qīng qīng lǐn sè xīn
guèst inn greēn greēn wil lòw sheēn

Perhaps we cannot translate sounds (as even the same sounds feel different to each of us) but here we can begin to build new structures of poeisis that enable us to feel toward other ways of hearing (and feeling) poetry.

Program:

Prelude:

“I want to tell you a story” Jonathan Stalling

I. Basic English Phrases: Vocalist, Composer and Guqin: Yuan Jinlu

- A. Greetings: 问候
- B. Gratitude: 感谢
- C. Apologies: 道歉

II. Traveling, 旅行 : Vocalist, Rearrangement and Guqin: Miao Yichen

i. In the Airport, 在机场

《蝴蝶泉边》 “By the Butterfly Spring”

ii. On the Plane 在飞机上

- A. 《婚誓》 “Wedding Oath”
- B. 《小河淌水》 “Flowing Creek”

iii. Customs, 海关

- A. 《夫妻双双把家还》 “The Couple Returns Home Together”
- B. 《凤阳花鼓》 “Feng Yang Flower Drum”

iiiv. Telephone, 电话:

- A. 《彩云追月》 “Clouds Chasing the Moon”
- B. 《平湖秋月》 ”The Autumn Moon on a Calm Lake”

v. Tragedy Strikes, 当悲剧触击

《雷峰塔·断桥【山坡羊】》 “Leifeng Pagoda·The Broken Bridge 'Shanpo Yang' ”

vi. Police Station, 警局:

- A. 《嘎达梅林》 ”Gada Meilin”
- B. 《牧歌》 “Pastoral”

Epilogue:

“The Sounds of Songs Leaving the World”

Vocalist, Rearrangement and Guitar: Miao Yichen

《阳关三叠》 ”Three Refrains on the Yang Pass Theme”

Evolving from Embryo and Changing the Bones: Translating the Sonorous

1. “Night Thoughts” by Li Bai. Chanting by Miao Yichen
2. “Seeing Off a Friend” by Li Bai. Chanting by Miao Yichen
3. “Spring Snow” by Han Yu. Chanting by Miao Yichen
4. “Night Crow Calls” by Li Yu. Chanting by Miao Yichen

5. “Sky Pure Sand” by Ma Zhiyuan. Chanting by Miao Yichen

6. “Patterned Zither” by Li Shangyin. Chanting by Miao Yichen

节目单

序曲：“我要为你讲个故事” 石江山

第一幕 “日常英语”

A. “问候” 古琴演奏及人声咏唱：袁晋鹿 原创曲目 时长：2分钟

B. “感谢” 古琴演奏及人声咏唱：袁晋鹿 原创曲目 时长：2分钟

C. “道歉” 古琴演奏及人声咏唱：袁晋鹿 原创曲目 时长：2分钟

第二幕 “旅行”

A. “在机场” 古筝演奏：纳颖 张释月 人声咏唱：缪以琛

曲目改编自云南民歌《蝴蝶泉边》 时长：5分钟

B. “在飞机上” 古筝演奏：纳颖 张释月 人声咏唱：缪以琛

曲目改编自电影《芦笙恋歌》插曲《婚誓》 时长：5分钟

曲目改编自云南民歌《小河淌水》 时长：5分钟

C. “在海关” 古筝演奏：纳颖 张释月 人声咏唱：缪以琛

曲目改编自黄梅戏唱段《夫妻双双把家还》

曲目改编自安徽民歌《凤阳花鼓》 时长：5分钟

D. “电话” 古筝演奏：纳颖 张释月 人声咏唱：缪以琛

曲目改编自任光作品《彩云追月》

曲目改编自吕文成作品《平湖秋月》

E. “当悲剧触击” 古筝演奏：纳颖 张释月 人声咏唱：缪以琛

曲目改编自昆曲唱段《雷峰塔·断桥【山坡羊】》

E. “公安局” 古筝演奏：纳颖 张释月 人声咏唱：缪以琛

曲目改编自蒙古族民歌《嘎达梅林》

曲目改编自沙汉昆作品《牧歌》

第三幕 “音歌离世”

“音歌离世” 吉他演奏及人声咏唱：缪以琛 时长：5分钟

曲目改编自古琴琴歌《阳关三叠》

第四幕 “夺胎换骨” 中国古诗词双语吟诵

1. 《静夜思》 李白 人声咏唱：缪以琛
2. 《送友人》 李白 人声咏唱：缪以琛
3. 《春雪》 韩愈 人声咏唱：缪以琛
4. 《乌夜啼》 李煜 人声咏唱：缪以琛
5. 《天净沙》 马致远 人声咏唱：缪以琛
6. 《锦瑟》 李商隐 人声咏唱：缪以琛

People:

Li Sen, Producer

Jonathan stalling, Writer and Director

Miao Yichen, Musical selection, arrangements, instrumentalist and vocalist

Yuan Jinlu, Original Guqin score and vocals.

Li Jiakuan, Musical selection, arrangements, director assistant

Naying and Zhang Shiyue, Guzheng players

Zheng ding, Video and Sound and Editing

Wang Hao, Stage Management
Chris Hollen, Sound and Composer.

演职员表:

总制片人: 李森

作者/导演: 石江山

演唱/编曲/器乐演奏: 缪以琛

古琴演奏/编曲: 袁晋鹿

导演助理: 李佳璇

古筝演奏: 纳颖, 张释月

录音剪辑: 郑鼎

舞台监督: 王浩

音效/编曲: Chris Hollen

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