

STAR GUITARIST XUEFEI YANG PRESENTS SKETCHES OF CHINA, A PERSONAL JOURNEY INTO TWO MILLENNIA OF STUNNING CHINESE MUSIC



GLOBAL DIGITAL RELEASE DATE: AUGUST 7TH

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Acclaimed Chinese guitarist **Xuefei Yang** releases a new double-album - **Sketches of China** - featuring a unique collection of works ranging from the Han Dynasty (206BC-220AD) to the 21st Century, many of which are world premiere recordings. For this album, Xuefei has sought out and arranged poignantly beautiful traditional melodies, commissioned new works from leading Chinese composers and collaborated with colleagues who are the musical superstars in her native land. The first single from the album, *A Lovely Rose* arranged by Renchang Fu, is available to buy and stream now.

The album pairs orchestral works (Renchang Fu conducting the Xiamen Philharmonic Orchestra) with duets featuring traditional Chinese instruments (Weiliang Zhang on xiao and Sha Yuan on guzheng), in addition to solo guitar tracks. Through this album, Xuefei aims to share the rich sound world of Chinese classical music with audiences all over the world.

Xuefei Yang commented:

"Music from my homeland occupies a very special place in my heart. I am thrilled to share this music with new listeners, many of whom will be hearing these delightful pieces for the first time. Presenting to the world this aspect of China's long and deep culture is a dream come true. I hope this album will bring a fresh perspective on Chinese music, an insight into Chinese culture, and open a door to new repertoire for guitar."

Xuefei Yang enjoys an international career that has taken her to the most renowned concert halls of the world and seen her perform with other leading artists including Sir James Galway, Ian Bostridge, Rosalind Plowright, Sumi Jo, Heath Quartet and Elias String Quartet.

In addition to her wide repertoire, throughout her career she has also been engaged in another, even more personal journey: a journey into the musical heritage of her homeland, a musical

treasure trove hardly known in the West.

This is Xuefei's third release on the Decca label by Universal Music China. Her two previous solo albums *Heartstrings* and *Colours of Brazil* gathered multiple accolades.

Link to single: <https://VA.lnk.to/Fei1singleMB>

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NOTE TO EDITORS

Track listings

Xuefei Yang *guitar*

Weiliang Zhang *xiao*

Sha Yuan *guzheng*

Renchang Fu *conductor*

Xiamen Philharmonic Orchestra

Disc 1

- 1 A Lovely Rose (可爱的一朵玫瑰花) - arr. Renchang Fu (1970 -) [with orchestra]
- 2 Flower Drum (花鼓) - Wei Qu (1917 – 2002), arr. Xuefei Yang
- 3 A Moonlit Night on the Spring River (春江花月夜) - Chinese traditional, arr. Xuefei Yang
- 4 Silver Clouds Chasing the Moon (彩云追月) - Guang Ren (1900 – 1941), arr. Xuefei Yang
- 5 Hujia (胡笳) - arr. Weiliang Zhang (1957 -) [duet with xiao]
- 6 White Snow in the Spring Sunlight (阳春白雪) - Chinese traditional, arr. Xuefei Yang
- 7 Yao Dance (瑶族舞曲) - Tieshan Liu (1923 -) and Yuan Mao (1926 -), arr. Xuefei Yang
- 8 Everlasting Longing (长相思) - arr. Sha Yuan (1977 -) [duet with guzheng]
- 9 Three Variations on Plum Blossom (梅花三弄) - Chinese traditional, arr. Xuefei Yang
- 10 Fisherman's Song by Moonlight (新渔舟唱晚) - arr. Sha Yuan and Xuefei Yang [duet with guzheng]

Disc 2

- 1 Sword Dance (剑器) - Changjun Xu (1957 -), arr. Xuefei Yang
- 2 Camel Bells Along The Silk Road (丝路驼铃) - Yong Ning (1949 -), arr. Xuefei Yang

3 Shuo Chang (说唱) - Yi Chen (1953 -)

4 Three Folk Songs (三首民谣) - Wen-Chung Chou (1923-2019), arr. Kenneth Kwan and Xuefei Yang

5 Dreams of Gulangyu Island (梦中的鼓浪屿) - Renchang Fu [with orchestra]

6~12 Seven Desires (七个愿望) - Tan Dun (1957 -)

13 The Moon Represents My Heart (月亮代表我的心) - Qingxi Weng (1936 - 2013), arr. Roland Dyens (1953 - 2016)

Xuefei Yang

Xuefei Yang was born in Beijing in 1977 and fell in love with the guitar at the age of seven. A musical pioneer, she was the first ever guitarist to enter a Chinese music school and the first to graduate with a bachelor's degree. Her fame in her native country was such that, while still a schoolgirl, she toured Europe, the Far East and Australia, playing for the composer Joaquin Rodrigo and for the internationally renowned guitarist John Williams. He was so impressed with the young Xuefei's playing that he donated two of his own instruments to her school, at a time when Western guitars were a rarity in China. Further study at London's Royal Academy of Music followed and she graduated with distinction in 2002, additionally clinching the much sought-after Principal's prize.

Signed by the leading musical agency Askonas Holt in 2003, UK-based Xuefei became the first internationally recognised Chinese guitarist on the world stage. In 2006 Xuefei signed a recording deal with EMI Classics (now Warner Classics), appearing on releases with Ian Bostridge, Sir Antonio Pappano and the Barcelona Symphony Orchestra, in addition to a string of solo releases. Xuefei is currently signed to Universal Music China who have facilitated her diverse artistry and supported her to reach a wider audience.

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