

**Performing Chinese Contemporary Art Song:
A Portfolio of Recordings and Exegesis**

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NOTE:

4 CDs containing 'Recorded Performances' are included with the print copy of the thesis held in the University of Adelaide Library.

The CDs must be listened to in the Library.

Abstract

This performance-based research project surveys Chinese contemporary art song from 1976 to the present, as represented in the work of four composers: Shi Guangnan (1940–1990), Lu Zaiyi (b. 1943), Shang Deyi (b. 1932), and Zheng Qiufeng (b. 1931). The songs, which are grouped into five categories according to their content – patriotic, nature, narrative, love and friendship – are documented, analysed and performed. A particular focus is placed on the interpretation and performance of musical elements that cannot be captured in notation, for example the use of certain vocal ornaments to emulate the four tones of Chinese pronunciation.

The submission comprises four CD recordings and a 15,000-word exegesis. A short English commentary is delivered before each song on the CDs so that the listener is able to grasp its content. The interpretation of the songs is informed by consultations and interviews with the composers still living. The recordings provide guidance in the interpretation of this repertoire, and an enhanced understanding of the operatic style at the heart of Chinese art song. The study fills a gap in the knowledge of Chinese contemporary art song theory and practice.

Declaration

I certify that this work contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made in the text. In addition, I certify that no part of this work will, in the future, be used in a submission for any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution without the prior approval of the University of Adelaide and where applicable, any partner institution responsible for the joint-award of this degree.

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Adelaide, Australia

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