

V. - VII. Famous Kunju Opera Titles[®]



A A C D E H O O R R S S S T T

-----Key-----

AT THE CROSSROADS



A A B C E E F H H L M N O O P S S T

-----Key-----

THE PEACHBLOSSOMFAN

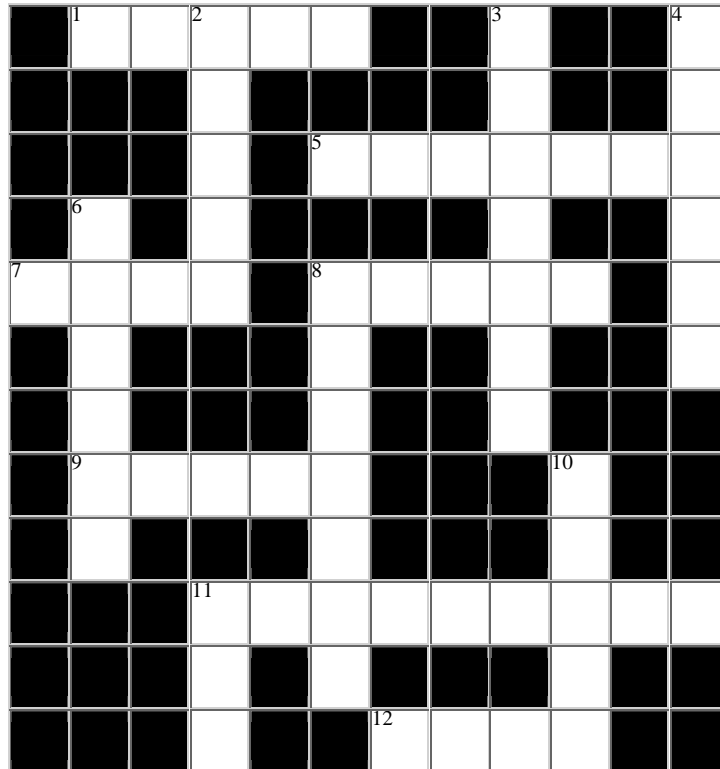


A A D E E H I K L N S T W Y

-----Key-----

LADY WHITESNAKE

IV. Kunju Crossword Puzzle[©]



Across:

- 1 refined opera style of the SUZHOU region
- 5 province of the CHUAN QI opera
- 7 melody instrument for the KUNJU
- 8 patterns of folk songs, which act as a basis for the KUNJU
- 9 improvisation style on the basis of the QUPAI patterns; opposite of BAN style
- 11 vocal choir, which accompanies the solo singers instead of instruments
- 12 dynasty, in which the KUNJU was developed

Down:

- 2 south drama of the SONG dynasty, peaceful, melodic character, basing on singing
- 3 coming from the south; peaceful and lyrical, sad, melancholic mood
- 4 slow metre, 4/4 bar, one heavy and three light beats, used in ERHUANG for dramatical expression
- 6 number notation of the KUNJU melodies
- 8 important style of the chinese opera based on melodies and arias; the two main forms are GAOQIANG and KUNJU
- 10 opera of the province HUNAN
- 11 wooden plates, used for the rhythmical accentuation; in KUNJU three are used



III. The Peony Pavilion - Episode One: The Interrupted Dream[©]

The story is set in the later (1)_____ Dynasty (960-1279).

A handsome and ambitious young (2)_____, Liu Mengmei, despite his talent, cannot find a position in the (3)_____. One day, he dreams he has entered a (4)_____ where a beautiful girl greets him and says, "Darling Liu, I will bring you love and (5)_____." He changes his name to "Dream-of-Plum" in hopes that it will also (6)_____ his fate.

Chen Zuiliang, an ever poorer scholar, finally finds luck when Du Bao, Prefect of Nan'an, appoints him tutor to his sixteen-year-old daughter, Du Liniang. He will teach her (7)_____ so that she can be a perfect wife for her future husband.

Du Liniang is (8)_____ with her lessons. Her maid, Spring Fragrance, reports to her that she has found a beautiful (9)_____ and at the first opportunity Du Liniang visits it secretly with Spring Fragrance. Awakened by the beauty of nature and her sexual desire, she has an (10)_____ dream: a young handsome (11)_____ suddenly appears and carries her into the Peony Pavilion. They make (12)_____ love. The dream is interrupted by her (13)_____, and Du Liniang is left feeling disconsolate.

bored change classical poetry erotic garden garden government
man mother passionate scholar Song success

-----Key-----


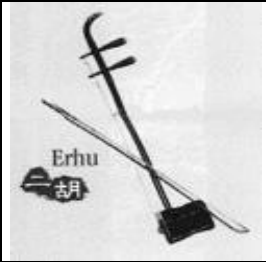
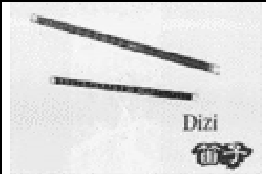

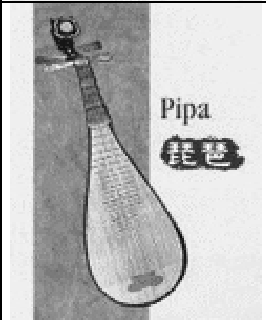
Episode One: The Interrupted Dream

The story is set in the later Song Dynasty (960-1279).

A handsome and ambitious young scholar, Liu Mengmei, despite his talent, cannot find a position in the government. One day, he dreams he has entered a garden where a beautiful girl greets him and says, "Darling Liu, I will bring you love and success." He changes his name to "Dream-of-Plum" in hopes that it will also change his fate.

Chen Zuiliang, an ever poorer scholar, finally finds luck when Du Bao, Prefect of Nan'an, appoints him tutor to his sixteen-year-old daughter, Du Liniang. He will teach her classical poetry so that she can be a perfect wife for her future husband.

Du Liniang is bored with her lessons. Her maid, Spring Fragrance, reports to her that she has found a beautiful garden and at the first opportunity Du Liniang visits it secretly with Spring Fragrance. Awakened by the beauty of nature and her sexual desire, she has an erotic dream: a young handsome man suddenly appears and carries her into the Peony Pavilion. They make passionate love. The dream is interrupted by her mother, and Du Liniang is left feeling disconsolate.

Suona	 A photograph of a suona, a traditional Chinese double-reed woodwind instrument with a long, slender body and a flared bell. The word 'Suona' and its Chinese characters are printed on the image.	A	
Er Hu	 A photograph of an erhu, a traditional Chinese two-stringed bowed instrument. It consists of a long neck with two pegs and a square soundboard. The word 'Erhu' and its Chinese characters are printed on the image.	B	
Dizi	 A photograph of a dizi, a traditional Chinese flute. It is a long, slender instrument with finger holes and a diaphragm. The word 'Dizi' and its Chinese characters are printed on the image.	C	
Sheng	 A photograph of a sheng, a traditional Chinese mouth organ. It has a vertical frame with multiple reeds. The word 'Sheng' and its Chinese characters are printed on the image.	D	
Pi Pa	 A photograph of a pipa, a traditional Chinese four-stringed lute. It has a pear-shaped body and a fretless neck. The word 'Pipa' and its Chinese characters are printed on the image.	E	

-----Schlüssel-----

1. (a) (b) (c)
2. (b) (d) (e)
3. (c) (d)
4. (a) (d)
5. (b)
6. (b) (c) (d) (e)

They are models concerning the melody, the rhythm, the speed as well as the form. Basically there are two main styles: The soft pentatonic southern style, called nanqu for lyrical pieces and the stronger, heptatonic northern style, beiqu, for parts full of action. Especially the bamboo flute di zi is the main instruments, playing melismatic passages, which are rhythmically accentuated through percussion instruments. The wooden clappers of the kun opera consist of three equally sized wooden pieces. Two of them are bound together, whilst the third is only connected to the others on one end; turning of the hand creates an effect like on castagnettes. (translated according to the article: Dahmer/Wehner: Die Musik der Kun Oper. München 1998)



Kunju Puzzle - Stage, Lyrics, Music

1. What are the characteristics of the stage?
 - a) elaborate symbolism and stylized form
 - b) performers express complex actions and settings with the simplest means
 - c) often only a table and two chairs
 - d) a lot of things and furniture on the stage
 - e) an elaborated lightshow
2. What does the term Chuanqi mean?
 - a) drama created or rewritten by scholars after the great Han Dynasty
 - b) short novels of the Song Dynasty
 - c) short novels of the Tan Dynasty
 - d) drama created or rewritten by scholars after the great Song Dynasty play Pipa Ji
 - e) local opera style of Sichuan
3. Where are the melodies of the Kun operas from? They are:
 - a) new songs, composed by musicians
 - b) instrumental melodies are changed to vocal songs
 - c) preexisting, established melodies
 - d) traditional melodies
4. What is the difference between southern and northern qupaiti-style?
 - a) Southern style uses a five-tone scale
 - b) Southern style uses a seven-tone scale
 - c) Northern style uses five-tone scale
 - d) Northern style uses seven-tone scale
5. How is the musical structure of Kunju called?
 - a) Banqiangti, melodies, which have a structure of seven to ten words per verse
 - b) Qupaiti, marked by a close union of word and melody
6. What are the main music instruments used in Kunju?



II. Kunju Puzzle - Stage, Lyrics, Music[©]

Zhou Ming is the music director and also forms part of the 12-member ensemble and who also plays the flute.

He was trained at the Shanghai School of Traditional Opera and studied with the masters of Kunju music and is regarded as the leading Kunju flute player in China.

Speaking to Zhou Ming (ZM), I first asked him to tell me more about Kunqu music:

ZM: "Kunqu actually started in this place called Kunshan, about 400 years ago. And it essentially started off as a folk song, some kind of folksong. And the basic format is in a form of qu pai, which, to put it simply, each qu pai means a different song."

Talking about Kunqu Opera, I mean, Kunqu music itself, there is a stage where it declined and other musical genres came up. Now, how did it survive for such a long time

ZM: "So, actually Kunqu music is the oldest form of music in China and it is also different from just the general, common kind of folk opera or folk music that is used in opera. So, I believe that it is essentially the most essential form of Chinese music that is used in Chinese opera. And so, although it has been in decline for a very long time, as you have said, but it has always been... The music and the lyrics are always been preserved because there are always people like us - a small minority of people like us - who are very passionate and who believe that this is something that should be preserved and we are dedicated to preserving it. And that is why, up until today, although, you know, the situation may not sound very good, but it is still very well preserved."

Let's talk about the orchestra - how many people are in the orchestra and maybe you can touch a bit on the instruments, I mean, how different are the instruments used in Kunqu opera and let's say, maybe, Beijing opera?

ZM: "Essentially, the basic difference is that one basic difference is that Kunqu is more musical - there is more musicality as compared to Jingju, or Beijing Opera. Essentially, you just need three to four basic instruments in Beijing Opera because it is more about rhythm rather than about the song, about qu pai that we talked about earlier on. So, the music is more systematic, you have a fuller system of music for Kunqu. And in every segment, you are looking at a new segment of music and all this music comes from the folk music in China. So, it takes its source from Chinese music. So, you have all kinds of instruments for Kunqu Opera. For example, of course, you have got the drums - the various drums, and also you have the di zi, pi pa, sheng, er-hu, yang qing et cetera. And also, it depends on how complicated or how long the show is. If it is a shorter piece, you may just have five to six pieces of musical instruments. And if it is a bigger piece, may be 20 to 30, but if it is a very complicated piece, you can have up to 50 persons orchestra. So, we are developing along this line - meaning we see how complicated the piece is, the music will go according to, you know, the complexity of the piece."

Additional explanation: The musical frame of kunju consists of so called qupai; these are short formulas of melodies, based on ancient folk tunes.

Dieser Test bezieht sich auf die Online- und Offline-Version des Seminarmoduls zum Thema KUNJU - KUN-Opera. Er soll dazu beitragen, die durchgearbeiteten Websites für die Erinnerung zu strukturieren. Die Lösung soll selbstverantwortlich benutzt werden. Die bearbeiteten Tests können dem Portfolio beigelegt werden. Aus Gründen der Einbindung in das Web-Projekt EthnoMusicScape erscheint der Test in englischer Sprache.

KUNJU - TEST + Lösungen[®]

I. Kunju Puzzle - History

1. In which historical periods was the Kun Opera created and developed?
2. Which are famous historical plays?
3. Which types of opera troupes existed?
4. What were the main purposes of opera performances?
5. Who has developed and created the lyrics of this opera style?

-----Key-----

1. In the Ming Dynasty
In the 14th century
600 years ago
2. The Palace of Eternal Youth
The Peony Pavilion
The Tale of Washing Silk
3. the public, professional company
the private troupe supported by wealthy patrons
4. religious observances
festival presentations
events of the people's lives
5. Wei Liangfu
Hong Sheng
Tang Xianzu