

Liu Fang - Pipa
Harris Becker - Guitar

Église St-Alphonse, Stornoway
July 28, 2013
4pm

Julia Florida
Serenata Española

Agustín Barrios (1885 - 1944)
Joaquin Malats (1872 - 1912)

Fugue in A minor BWV 1000

J.S. Bach (1685 - 1750)

Passing Through

Hayley Savage (b. 1975) *

Cadiz
Asturias

Isaac Albeniz (1860 - 1909)

* Written for Harris Becker

Intermission

In Praise of Li Bai

classical tradition

Princess Zhao Jun

Hua Yenjün or A-Bing (1893-1950)

Spring Rain

Zhu Yi and Wen Bo

Dragon boat festival

Lin Shcheng

Pentatonic Sketches for Pipa & Guitar

Michael Frassetto (b. 1948)

1. The Warrior Comes Home

2. Sea Dream

3. The Pony on the Mountain

(World Premiere)

Liu Fang - Pipa

1. **In Praise of Li Bai** (classical tradition) Li Bai (known also as Li Po, 701 – 762) has been regarded as one of the greatest poets in the history of China. This solo piece is a traditional repertoire of Wenqu civil style (as contrast to Wuqu martial style).

2. **Princess Zhao Jun** (Hua Yenjun, also known as A-Bing 1893-1950): Abing lived in one of most miserable times in China's history. He was a Taoist monk when he was young, and later on he became a street musician, and he was blind when he was 30. He was a genius musician and composer, but only 6 of over hundreds of his compositions were recorded before he was died. Being a street musician and blind, and living a miserable life during the time of war, Abing has much complaint in his music, but never lost hope. His music reflects his longing for a bright future and better world. In this piece is the story of the Princess Zhao Jun (around 50BC) of the Han Dynasty who left her country to marry a "barbarian" King for political reasons.

3. **Spring Rain** (Zhu Yi and Wen Bo): Composed in the 1980's, the basic theme of this piece is derived from a traditional ballad from Southeast China. It is a very lyrical piece, technically very demanding, vividly describing the experience of a rain storm and a refreshed mood.

4. **Dragon boat festival** (Lin Shcheng): The dragon boat festival is traditionally on the 5th day of the 5th month according to Chinese calendar (lunar calendar) which is one of the most important festivals in China. It is said that the origin of this festival is related to the father of Chinese poetry, Qu Yuan (around 300 BC) who was a minister of the emperor Chu in southern China. He was very intelligent and loved his country and people, and did a lot of good deeds for them. The emperor appreciated and trusted him very much. But the other officers became very jealous, and told the emperor: "Qu yuan wanted himself to become the emperor. Look the whole country knows only Qu Yuan, where is the position of your majesty?" The similar thing was told by several court officers once and again, and the emperor gradually took as true. He finally banned Qiu Yuan to a remote place on the Biluo River. He lived with the local people harmoniously, but he was very depressed to see the country was decaying and overwhelmed by corruption everywhere. Then finally the Chu became weak and was invaded by the emperor Chin's army, and finally the state Chu clasped in chaos while people were suffering. Qu Yuan couldn't do anything, and out of despair, he threw himself into the Biluo River. The local people got the news and ran quickly to the river to find his body. They threw rice wrapped in bamboo leaves into the river to feed the fish in the hope that they wouldn't eat Qu Yuan's body. They took their fishing boat up and down the river to find him. From this tragic event came the dragon boat festival to memorialize this great poet. This has been a continued tradition till today. The traditional food on this day is "zhongzi" made of sticky rice rapped in bamboo leave and boiled for long time. The dragon boat racing is held on this day on rivers or lakes. This pipa solo piece is composed based on three folk melodies, with each symbolizing one team, using typical pipa techniques vividly describing the dragon boat competition during the festival.