

Music in China

by Frederick Lau

Instructional Manual

by C. Victor Fung

<u>Code</u>	<u>Level</u>
AA	All Ages
E	Elementary school (particularly grades 3-6)
S	Secondary (middle/high school)
C/U	Collegiate/University classes (including music and nonmusic majors)

Preface

AA

Page xiv

Earliest Evidence of Chinese Music

Frederick Lau writes, “Archaeological discoveries and written records confirm that Chinese music has a long history of at least seven thousand years.” What could these archaeological discoveries and written records be? Individually, students may wish to use one or more of the following sources to find an example of archaeological discoveries and written records:

- The Internet
- History books
- History teacher

Individual students can bring their evidence back to class and share with each other. Based on the collective evidence, they can reconstruct the musical lives of Chinese people seven thousand years ago, using storytelling, essay, or drama. Consider these questions:

- How long is seven thousand years in relation to the history of the country where the students reside?
- What is the nature of the evidence (e.g., painting, writing, artifact)?
- How important was music to the Chinese people seven thousand years ago?
- What was the role of music in people’s lives then?
- What materials were used to make musical instruments?

S, C/U

Pages xiv-xv

Trace the Origin of Your Favorite Type of Music

Many types of Chinese music came from outside of China throughout its history. Ask students to identify their favorite type of music, then trace its historical development and determine whether its source is from within the country in which the students reside or outside the country. Consider these topics in tracing the development of the music:

- Musical instruments (e.g., origins and modifications)
 - Musical systems (e.g., tuning, tonality, harmony, rhythm)
 - Musicians (e.g., whether they were traveling)
 - Musical repertoire
-