



# Asian Piano Music for Intermediate Learners

*Dr Charisse Baldoria*

*Associate Professor of Piano*

*Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania*

# Program

China: He Luting, *Shepherd Boy Piccolo*

China: Shi Fu, *Silk Headscarf Dance*

Philippines: Christine Muyco, *Gangsa Toppaya*

Korea/USA: Nahre Sol, *Cocou Waltz*

Philippines/USA: Charisse Baldoria, *Boat Song*

*Overview of other countries, compositions*

1200 Kilometers

1200 Miles

INDONESIA

EST. TIMOR

# How did the piano arrive in Asia?



# China



# China

1839-1949: Century of humiliation



PUTTING HIS 'FOOT DOWN.

(to the Powers).—Gentlemen, you may cut up this map as much as you like; but remember that I 'm here to stay, and I won't divide me up into spheres of influence!

Credit: Pughe, J. S., *Puck*, 1899 (Library of Congress)

➤ 1920s Shanghai: conservatory, orchestra, concerts, Jewish and Russian refugees

# HE Luting (1903-99): 牧童短笛

## *Shepherd Boy's Piccolo or Cowherd's Flute (1934)*

- Legendary composer, inspired by Chinese folk melodies
- China's first 8K panoramic movie: an opera movie about his life
- Studied, taught in, directed Shanghai Conservatory
- Music: 2-part pentatonic melody, fast middle section with pentatonic runs
- Focus on: good phrasing, fingering



Credit: <https://lujuba.cc/en/137317.html>

Listen: [Lang Lang \(DG\)](#), [young Yuja Wang](#)  
Score: [pianorarescores.com](http://pianorarescores.com)

A map of China showing its provincial boundaries. The Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region is highlighted in a solid red color. Other regions are shown in light yellow, and the surrounding landmasses are in light grey. The sea is light blue. There are two text boxes overlaid on the map: one in the top left and one in the lower left.

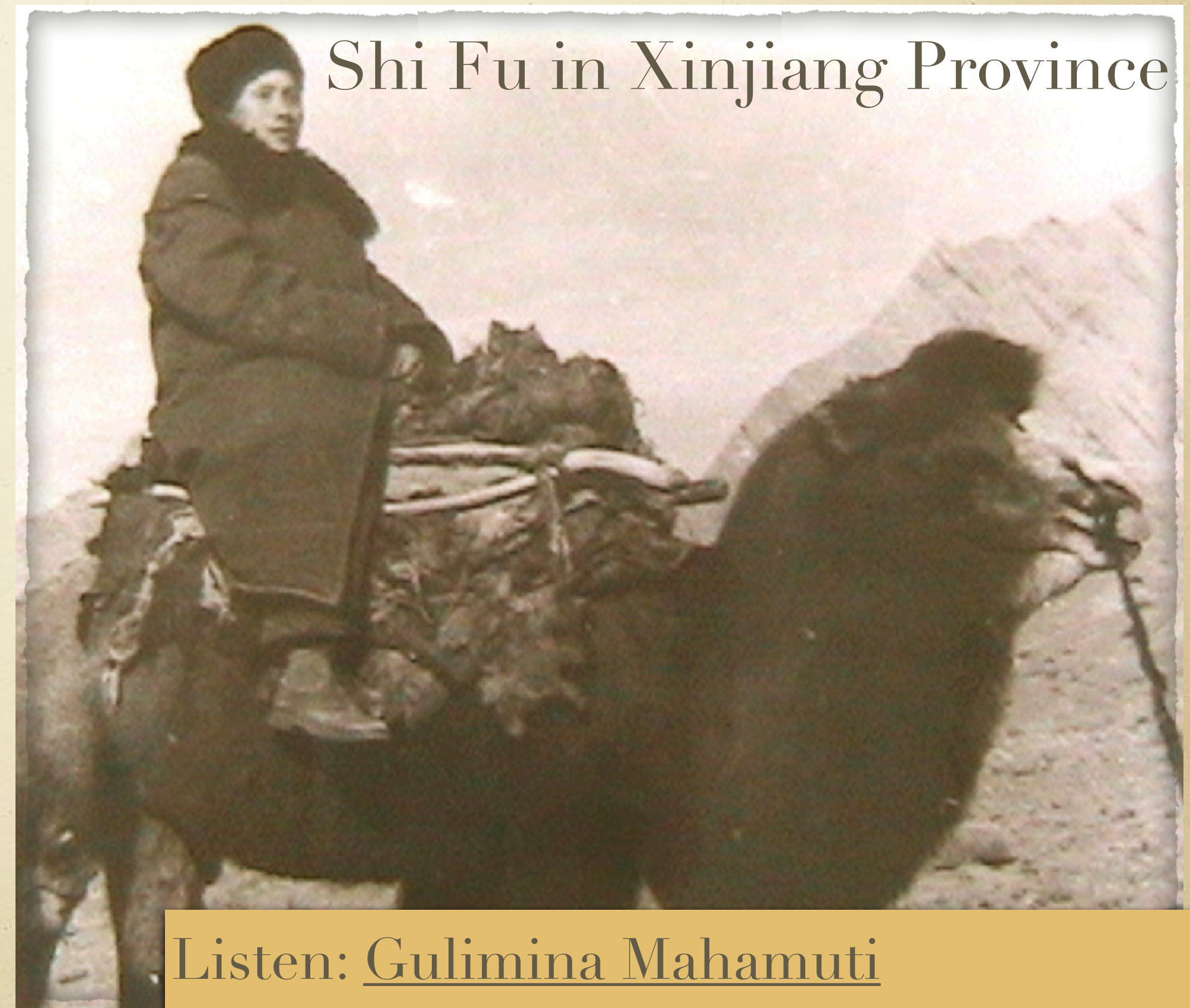
China

Xinjiang Uygur  
Autonomous  
Region

Uyghur: Turkic ethnic  
minority in China

# SHI Fu (1929-2007): *Silk Headscarf Dance* or *Gauze Kerchief Dance* (1982)

- Shi Fu collected 2000 folk songs from Xinjiang while in the army (1950); wrote ballets, operas, symphonies, piano works, etc.
- From Xinjiang Suite No. 3, based on *sanam* (a Uyghur dance)
- Music: LH dance rhythm, melody derived from Persian-Arabic mode *maqām hijāz*

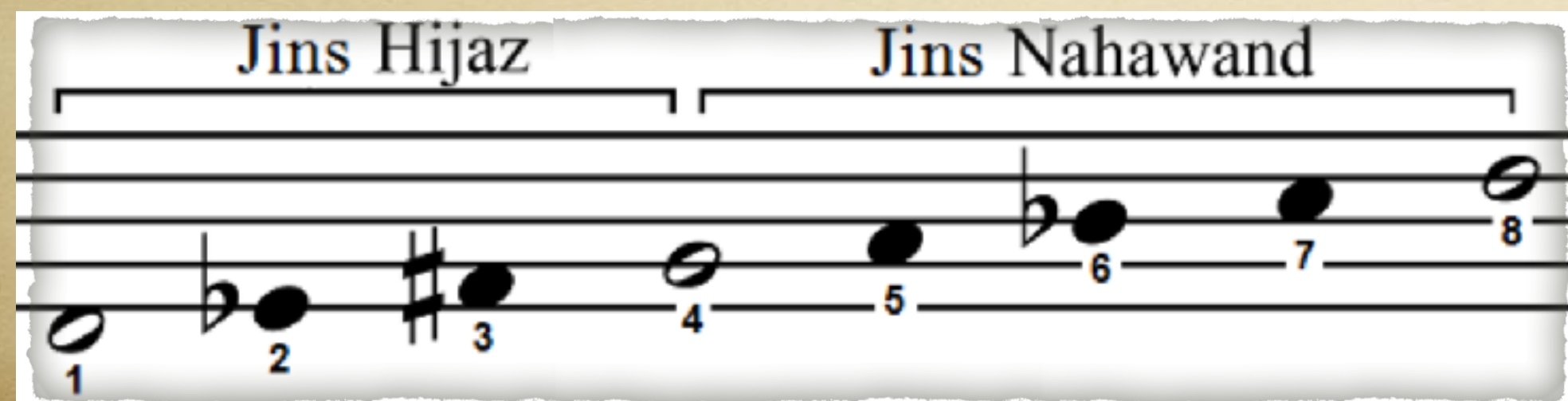


Listen: [Gulimina Mahamuti](#)  
Score: [Amazon](#), [ILL \(Interlibrary Loan\)](#)



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# Other Chinese Composers

- Chinese Piano Pieces (Anthology) - includes *Buffalo Boy's Flute*
- Album: Popular Chinese Pieces (arr. Jianzhong Wang; Sheung Tsz Ma, piano)
- Jianzhong Wang's piano works (ILL)
- Album: Dragon Songs (Lang Lang, piano)

# Philippines

- 1581-82: Pipe organ, polyphonic male choir
- 1590: First academy of music
- 1606: Organ building
- 1816: Construction of bamboo organ of Las Piñas begins



Organ built in the early 1700s, San Agustin Church, Manila

1565-1898: Spanish colony  
1898-1945: American colony



Music in Spanish style  
Newer music inspired by indigenous influences

Christine MUYCO (b. 1965):

*Gangsa Toppaya* (1998)



- Also an ethnomusicologist, teaches at Univ. of the Philippines (UP), Master's at Univ. of British Columbia, Ph.D. from UP
- From *Tugtug-Likha-Tugtug (Play-Create-Play)* - modern, graphic notation, improv, Philippine influences
- *Gangsa* (flat gongs) from Northern Philippines played with hands (*toppaya*)
- Staggered entrances, sound thickens and builds up, repetition, improv

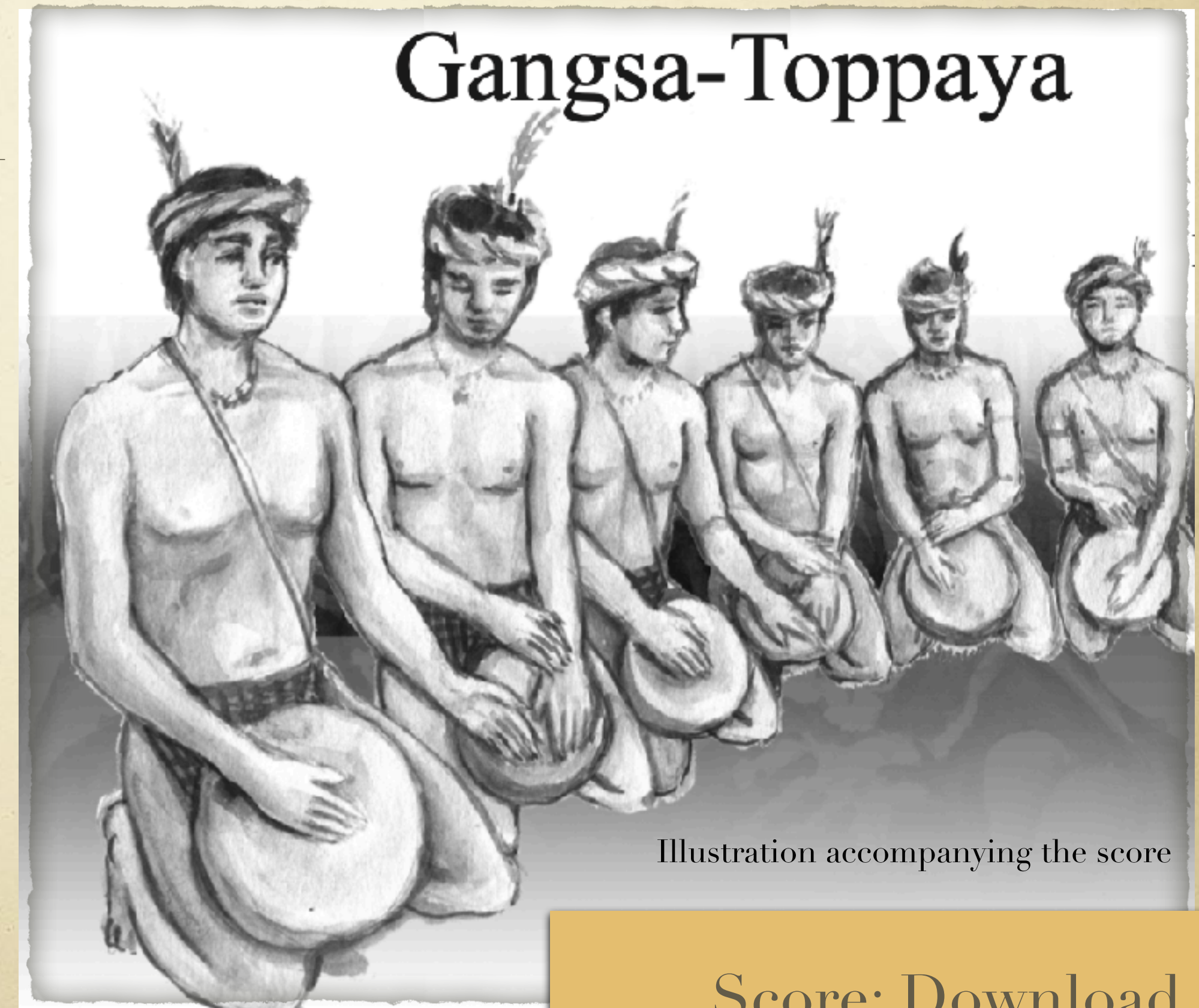


Illustration accompanying the score

Score: [Download](#)

# Other Filipino Composers

➤ Augusto Espino:

➤ *The Suite* for Piano Solo (based on folk songs) and other pieces: [ILL](#), [Listen](#)

➤ *Pieces for Children (Mga Tugtuging Pambata)* - forthcoming in 2022

➤ [Lucrecia Kasilag](#), Nicanor Abelardo, Lucio San Pedro, Rosendo Santos, Bernardino Custodio, Antonio Molina, Francisco Buencamino

➤ [National Music Competitions for Young Artists commissioned works anthology \(ILL\)](#)

➤ Advanced level: Ramon P. Santos

Philippine classical music (1870s onwards) playlist

# Korea

- 1885: first reed organs for worship
- 1900: first piano
- 1910: Japan annexes Korea, inf. music education
- 1950s: piano manufacturing in Korea
- Piano-playing grew with the economy





# Nahre Sol (b. 1991): *Cocou Waltz* (2020)

- YouTuber, b. Alice Gi-Young Hwang, piano degrees from Juilliard, Glenn Gould School, studied in Paris
- Inspired by here analysis of Chopin's Mazurka Op. 59 No. 1 (see [video](#))
- Inf. by Western forms and harmony, jazz, minimalism



Listen: [Alice in Wonderland album](#)  
Score: [Download](#)

# Other Korean Composers

- Young Jo Lee, *Five Korean Legends*: [Listen](#)
- More on advanced-level composers:
  - *Piano Works By Isang Yun, Young Jo Lee And U Zong Choe*  
(dissertation by Song E. Kim)
  - *Korean Women Composers and their Music* (book by John Robison)
  - *Pa-Mun: Ripples on Water (Piano Music from Korea)* - Klara Min,  
piano



# Charisse Baldoria (b. 1976): *Boat Song* (2020)

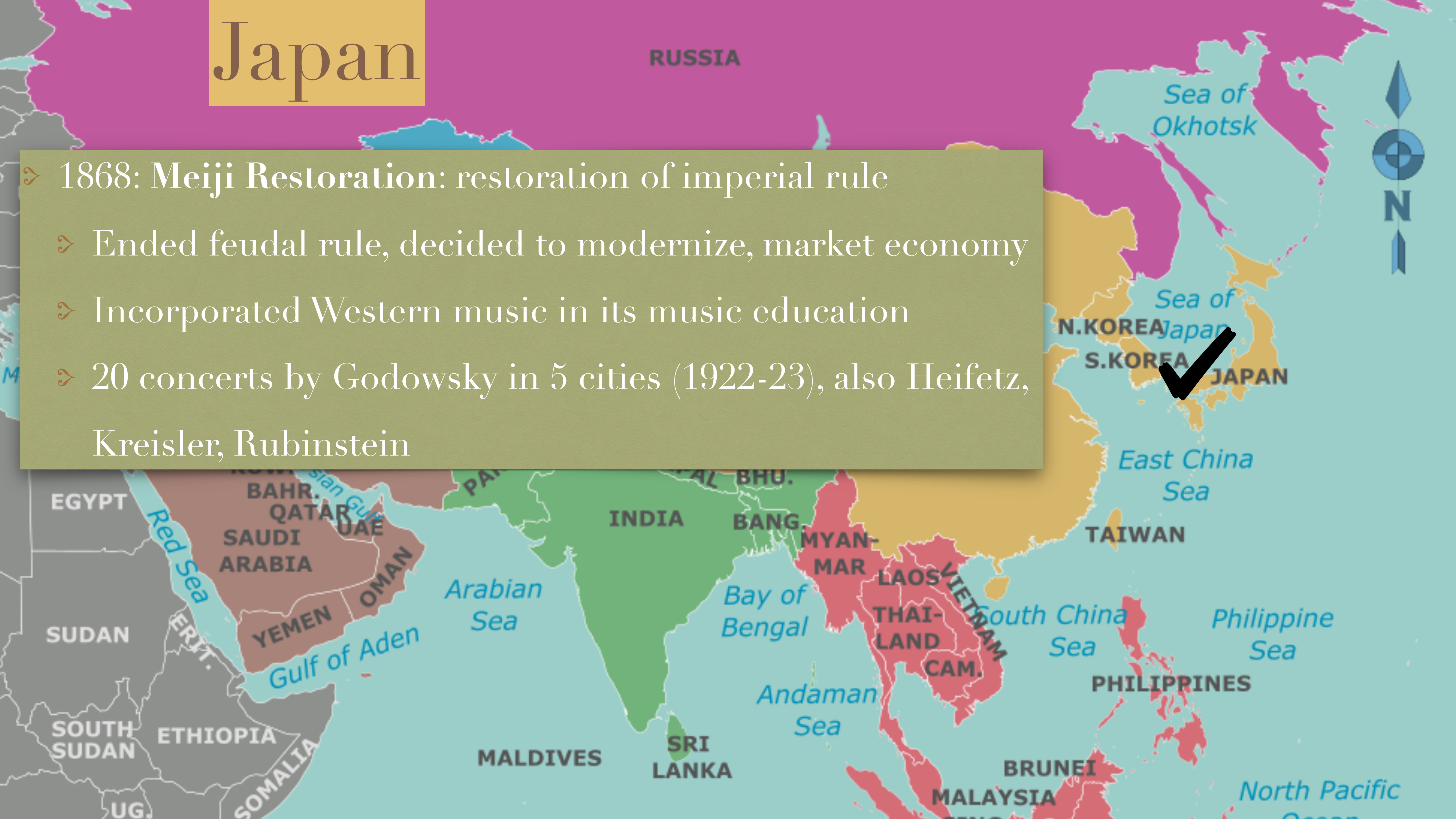
- Philippine-born pianist, composer
- An improvisation inspired by Bartók's *Boating* (from *Mikrokosmos*)
- Quartal harmonies in LH, pentatonic melody: can be a basis for an improv exercise for the student
- Part of a set called *Songs without Words*



Listen: [Concert livestream](#), album forthcoming  
Score: [Download](#)

# Japan

- 1868: Meiji Restoration: restoration of imperial rule
- Ended feudal rule, decided to modernize, market economy
- Incorporated Western music in its music education
- 20 concerts by Godowsky in 5 cities (1922-23), also Heifetz, Kreisler, Rubinstein



# Japanese Composers

- Takashi Yoshimatsu, *Pleiades Dances*: [ILL](#), [SheetMusicPlus](#), [Listen](#)
- Yoshinao Nakada, *Japanese Festival*: [ILL](#), [SheetMusicPlus](#), [Listen](#)
- Akira Yuyama, *Confections: A Piano Sweet*: [ILL](#), [Amazon](#)
- Hikaru Hayashi
- [\*Album of piano pieces for children by Japanese contemporary composers\*](#)

# Asia and the Piano: Further Explorations

## Indonesia

- Sinta Wullur, *Bali in Blue*
- Ananda Sukarlan (insp. by folk melodies)
- Michael Asmara (avant-garde)

## Malaysia

- Chee-Hwa TAN, *A Child's Garden of Verses*
- Free hand. Anthology I: 21st Century  
Malaysian Piano Works

## Hong Kong

- Austin Yip, Piano Works



# Asia and the Piano: Further Explorations

## Singapore

- Ho Chee Kong
- Zechariah Goh
- Diana Soh-Hudry

## Cambodia

- Chinary Ung, *Seven Mirrors* - [ILL](#), [SheetMusicPlus](#), [Listen](#)



# Asia and the Piano: Further Explorations

## Vietnam

- French, Russian influences
- Lecture-recital by Temple U DMA student Nam Hoang Nguyen on 20th-Century Vietnamese Piano Music

## Myanmar

- Burmese piano (*sandaya*) - simulates indigenous music and techniques

## India

- Reena Ismail: Piano works info





Thank you!

Charisse Baldoria

[CharisseBaldoria.com](http://CharisseBaldoria.com)

[cbaldori@bloomu.edu](mailto:cbaldori@bloomu.edu)