

Silk
Road
MUSIC
丝绸之路中乐团

CHINA Speaks Your Language

Presented by
Silk Road Music
www.silkroadmusic.ca



This show was created with the generous support of Prologue to the Performing Arts

Graphic design by EyeSoar Graphics; text writing by Crawford Killian.

China Speaks Your Language!

Performed by The Silk Road Duo: Qiu Xia He and Andre Thibault



Program Description:

Recent research suggests that the Chinese explorers of the 15th century voyaged not only to India and Africa, but around the world to the Americas. Whether true or not, this controversial theory has inspired a worldwide journey of musical exploration by the *Silk Road Duo*. In an adventurous encounter of musical traditions, *Qiu Xia He* and *Andre Thibault* show that China does indeed speak your language.

"*China Speaks Your Language*" is a music performance that will introduce audiences to different cultures through the experience, discoveries, and travels of the Silk Road Duo: *Qiu Xia He* accompanied by multi-instrumentalist *Andre Thibault*. The pipa, a Chinese lute with a wide range of expression, will be the focal point.

This husband-and-wife team is well equipped for their cultural voyage. Both have lived passionately as professional musicians. Their common bond and love of music have taken them on tours all over the world with award-winning groups like *Silk Road Music*, *ASZA*, *Cordes en Folie* and *Jou Tou*. They have performed from Montreal to London, from South Africa to Malaysia, from British Columbia to Hawaii. In 2004, they were featured with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra at the Orpheum to welcome His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

"*China Speaks Your Language*" will surround the Chinese pipa with many world instruments, such as the flamenco guitar from Spain and the oud and bouzouki, lutes from the Middle East and Greece. Percussion instruments include pandeiro and sourdo from Brazil; musical bow and mbira from Africa;

bendir from Morocco; kanjira tambourine and shanai from India; gongs and wood percussions from Asia; and hulusi and bawu flutes from China's Yunnan province.

Music performed:

Chinese Classical & Folk
Middle Eastern Folk

French and Celtic Music
Spanish Flamenco

Indian Folk
African and Brazilian

South American
Original compositions

Note: A guest percussionist is available for touring.

"Vancouverites should be justly proud to have such innovative global artists working here."
—Tony Montague, *The Vancouver Courier*

About Silk Road Music

Silk Road Music's CDs, *Endless* and *Village Tales*, have twice won the West Coast Music award for Best World Music Album and *Endless* earned a 1999 Juno nomination for Best Global Album. Music lovers were amazed and delighted to find Chinese music so accessible, and to hear how eloquently Silk Road could express Western genres.

Silk Road's performance features traditional instrumental pieces, original compositions and Chinese folk songs, arranged for cross-cultural instrumentation, and performed in both English and Mandarin by duets from both cultures. All the presentations can be done in English, French and Mandarin Chinese. Audiences have found the result is a breathtaking work of beauty, virtuosity, and innovation.

The music is truly accessible to people of all cultures. In addition to its artistic strengths, Silk Road's music is also a remarkable window into Chinese culture. The 40-page Village Tales booklet contains sheet music for all the songs (with lyrics in both languages), Chinese pronunciation keys, and background on the instruments and songs. A teacher-designed study guide is also available for students, presenters and those who want to pursue their interest in Chinese culture or to share it with others.

Silk Road Music is one of the few Chinese touring ensembles in North America to have performed at all the major festivals in Canada. Its music has been featured on CBC's Asian music compilation, at the Philadelphia Museum, the Whitefish Theatre in Montana, the Seattle Asian Museum, BBC international recital in UK, Montreal Jazz Festival, Festival De Quebec, Kentucky Arts Center, and Charlotte, NC.

Throughout its travels, Silk Road Music has realized the potential of music as both the expression of a culture and a powerful link between cultures. Silk Road's audiences have gained a greater understanding for Chinese music, for the music of their own traditions, and for the energy that results when cultures eagerly try to learn from one another.

"I was most impressed by the manner in which they executed their performance. They catered to the needs and interests of the entire audience; they shared a part of themselves with the listeners; and they portrayed the importance of music in every society."
—Heather Yopp, *Charlotte, NC*

CONTACT

Qiu Xia He (chu sha her)
SILK ROAD Music Tel & Fax: (604)434-9316

e-mail: qxcloud@telus.net

website: www.silkroadmusic.ca

Qiu Xia He

Chinese pipa performer, composer and producer

Born in Baoji, China, Qiu Xia He (pronounced chu sha her) has had two notable careers in music: as a performer and teacher in China, and then as performer, composer, producer and teacher in Canada.

Neither career was entirely predictable. As a little girl hoping to learn the violin, Qiu Xia was told she would instead study the pipa, a Chinese lute. Showing early talent, she toured the country with the popular Bao ji Shaanxi Music and Dance Troupe. She both studied and taught the pipa at Xian Music Academy.

Given the opportunity to settle in Canada, Qiu Xia learned fluent English, made friends everywhere she went, and delighted audiences across the country and around the world. Qiu Xia has been a featured soloist with the Vancouver Symphony and the Glacier Symphony of Montana. She has performed with top musicians such as Brazilian virtuoso Celso Machado and Indian legend Trichy Sankaran. She has toured internationally with her own remarkable group, Silk Road Music, as well as with the renowned world-music groups ASZA and Jou Tou.

As a musical producer, Qiu Xia is the founder and musical director of "Enchanted Evenings," a series of summer concerts at the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Gardens in Vancouver. She has produced numerous concerts, musical events, and CDs. Her compositions include the sound tracks for films such as Tears of the Lotus and Darcy Island (both Leo nominees) and In Our Own Hand.

Qiu Xia has been an artist in residence with the Vancouver School Board, and a musician in the "Learning through the Arts" program of the Royal Conservatory of Canada. In both these roles, she teaches music appreciation to children in the schools.

"My music has a definite cross-cultural bent," she says. "It combines the traditional styles of the east, with new influences picked up in the west. I play Chinese music on Chinese instruments, but with western performance techniques gained from jazz, folk, and Celtic music. And I also use the pipa to play western music. I love to play with musicians from other cultural backgrounds, creating an entirely new sound."

Her own Silk Road Music CDs, *Endless* and *Village Tales*, capture this multicultural fusion by including songs from both Chinese and western traditions.

"I believe strongly in this new art," she says. "I want to bring the Chinese pipa into the new world where I now live, to introduce the richness of Chinese music to a new audience. I want to build a deeper understanding between east and west, and to develop a unique new language on this traditional instrument."

"My wife and I were enthralled with the virtuosity of the performers and by the beautiful fit of the lyrics to the Chinese rhythms... Thanks for a new experience."

— Ken Pinder, Vancouver



Andre Thibault

Guitarist, multi-instrumentalist, and vocalist

Andre Thibault is well respected in the acoustic music world. He is a brilliant guitarist, whose fiery rhythms and stunning technique result from a unique blend of Flamenco and Moorish traditions coloured with jazz, classical, and world music.

His virtuosity has led him to share the stage with famous musicians such as David Lindley, D'Gary, and Oscar Lopez. He has been an opening act for such stars as Strunz and Farah, Tuck and Patti, and Rachid Taha.

Raised in Montreal, Andre began his guitar studies at an early age. His interest in world music led him to study bouzouki and oud, lutes of the Arabic world. He is also skillful on flutes and percussion.

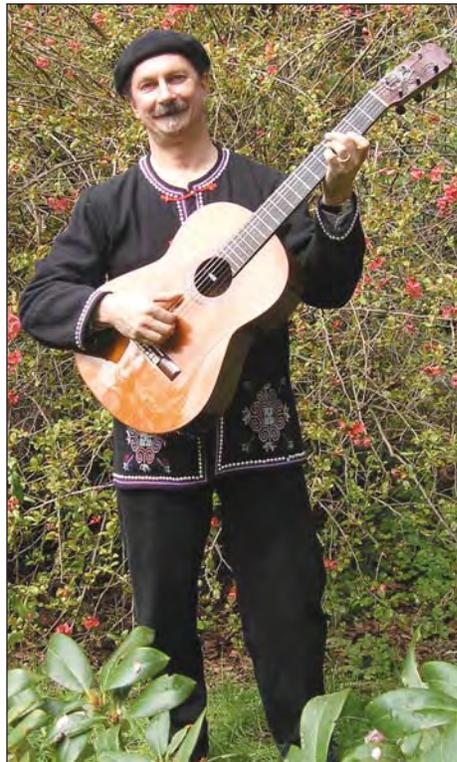
The noted musician Sal Ferreras says: "Andre is a voyageur whose quest for the spirit of Spanish, Arabic and Brazilian folklore is amply evident in the breadth of his work and the beauty of his interpretations. He can transport the listener from the Casbah to the Gypsy caves of Andalucia."

Redefining

Multicultural Music

Andre has been a key player on the west coast world-music scene for over 20 years. Through groups like ASZA, Cordes en Folie and now JouTou, he has helped to redefine—and energize—multicultural music. He also performs with Silk Road Music, where his many instruments add new sounds and colour to its Chinese-based repertoire. His recording *Samar* was nominated for a West Coast Award, and as a band member he has received several awards and nominations.

For Andre, "world music" is not just a phrase; besides North America, he has played all over the planet, from Malaysia to



India, Cuba, Colombia, Vietnam, Singapore, Thailand, Hawaii, and South Africa. His audiences have ranged from crowds at festivals and concerts to intimate groups in workshops and schools. Whatever the setting, he creates an instant rapport with his audiences through his love of music, his virtuosity, and his sense of humour.

Ancient sounds

Chinese sounds

Drum sounds, guitar sounds, other sounds

Loud, noisy, shrill like commotion

Then soft, little sounds

Beautiful like "Jasmine Flower"

Chinese and English

Written by Ms. Scalfani's 2nd Grade Poets
at H.O. Wheeler School, Burlington, Vermont

China Speaks Your Language!

Suggestions for Study Activities

A. Sailing the Seas in a Chinese "Junk"

The Chinese Junk

A junk is a wooden sailing vessel used in China and other countries of the Far East. The word "junk" comes from the Javanese word "djong," which became "junco" in Portuguese and "jonk" in Dutch.

The junk's bow (front) is broad and flat, and its stern (rear) is broad and high. Junks are used to transport goods on rivers and seas. Some people live on junks. Most junks have two or three masts (poles that hold the sails), but some have as many as five. The junk's sails are made of cotton cloth or matting. The sails have "battens," like rods, that stiffen the sails.

Junks can be very small, but the biggest junks of Admiral Zheng He's fleet were 146 meters (480 feet) long and 55 meters (180 feet) wide, with 9 masts!

Junk Exercises:

Measure your school's playing field. Would Admiral Zheng's biggest junk fit on your field?

Color the "junk" by following the names of parts of the ship shown on the junk coloring sheet.

Sailing in a Junk

How fast could a junk sail?

Knot is a unit of speed used for ships. One knot equals one nautical mile an hour. The international nautical mile equals exactly 1.852 kilometers, or 6,076.115 international feet, or 1.151 statute miles. A ship with a 20-knot speed can go 20 nautical miles in an hour.

In 1400, a Chinese junk could travel 100 nautical miles a day in the Indian Ocean. From Guangzhou, China to the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa, it is about 11,838 kilometers.

Sailing Question:

How many days are needed for the junk to make this trip without a stop? How many knots does it have to travel? How many statute miles is that? And how many international feet?

Anchoring

How did junks stay in one place?

An anchor is a heavy weight used to hold a ship or boat in place. A rope or chain is fastened to the anchor and tied to the ship. When the anchor is lowered, it generally catches on the sea bottom to keep the vessel in place. An anchor may be as simple as a rock tied to the end of a line. Most anchors are made of iron or steel.

Navigation

How did Chinese sailors know where they were, and where they were going?

They used the sun, moon, and stars. Sailors have known for thousands of years that the positions of the sun, moon, and planets change from night to night. We know that these movements are a result of the revolution of the moon about Earth

and the revolution of Earth and the other planets about the sun. Many civilizations used the stars as navigational aids. For example, the Chinese used the positions of the stars to guide them as they sailed from China to Africa through the Indian Ocean.

The Chinese also used the compass to tell directions. The simplest form of the compass is a magnetized needle mounted on a pivot so that it can turn freely. The needle aligns itself with the earth's magnetic field and points roughly toward the North Pole. The four cardinal points of the compass are north, east, south, and west. Midway between these points are northeast, southeast, southwest, and northwest, called the "intercardinal points." Chinese and Mediterranean navigators were probably the first to use magnetic compasses to guide their ships.

Compass Exercise:

Find a compass, cover your eyes, turn around a few times, and uncover your eyes. Then use only the compass to determine which direction you are facing.

The Chinese also measured their position by the equator and by longitude and latitude. The Equator is an imaginary circle around the middle of the earth, halfway between the North Pole and the South Pole.

Longitude is distance east or west on the earth's surface, measured in degrees from a certain meridian (line from the North to the South Pole). In modern times the meridian through Greenwich, England is used.

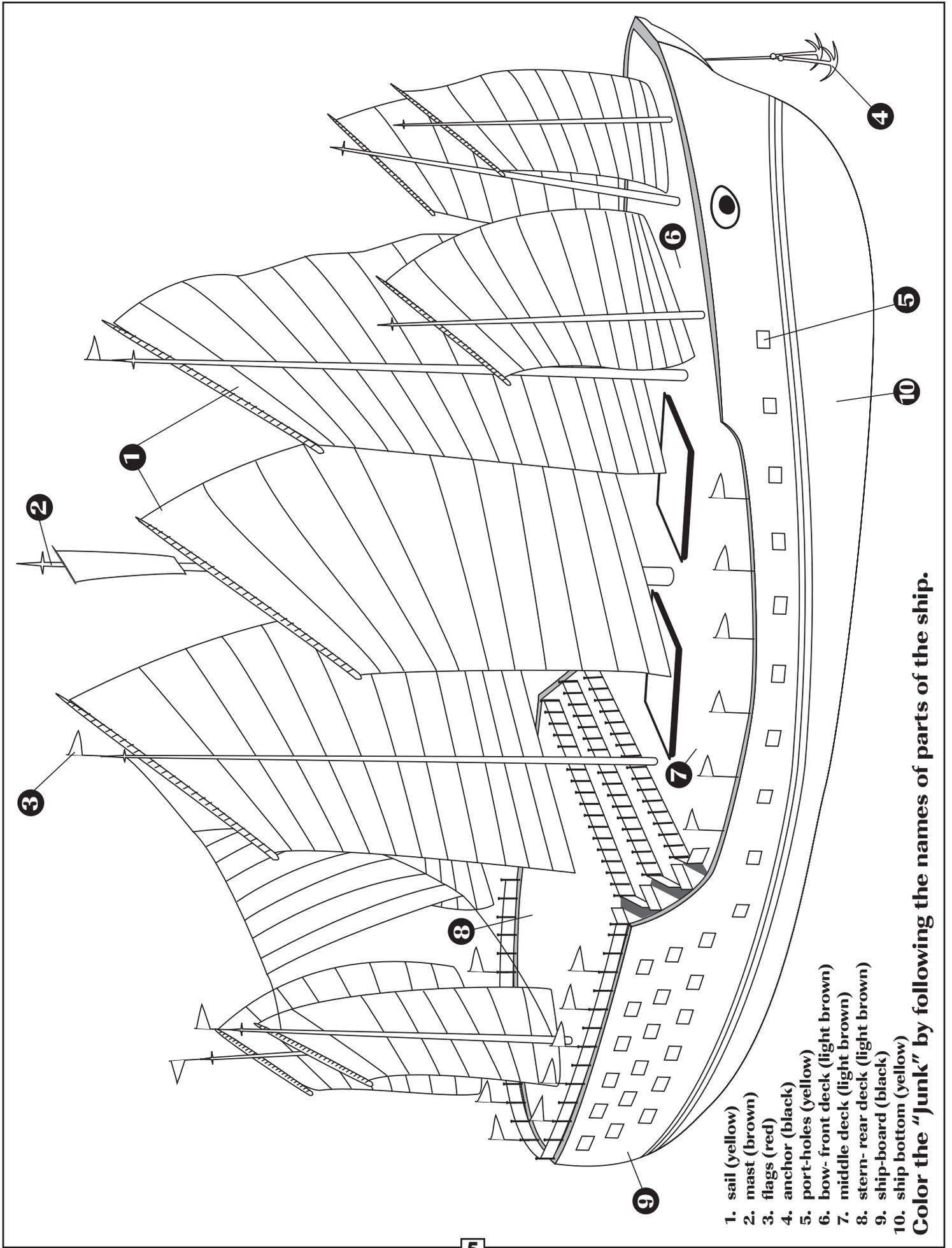
If one person on the equator travels directly north, and another person 69 miles (111 kilometers) west also travels directly north, their paths will meet at the North Pole. Each person will have traveled in the same direction along a different line of longitude. Lines of longitude run north and south along the surface of the earth. Mapmakers think of the earth as a huge globe that is divided into 360 equal slices. The lines between the slices on the outside of the globe are called meridians. Meridians are the main lines of longitude on maps.

Latitude is the distance north or south of the equator, measured in degrees. A degree of latitude is about 69 miles. Latitude describes the position of a point on the earth's surface in relation to the equator. Latitude is one of the two grid coordinates that can be used to locate any point on the earth. The other coordinate is longitude.

Longitude and Latitude Exercise:

Use a world map to determine the longitude and latitude of your parents' birthplace. Now see if your city or town is closer to England or China. Are you closer to the North Pole or to the equator?

continued...



1. sail (yellow)
2. mast (brown)
3. flags (red)
4. anchor (black)
5. port-holes (yellow)
6. bow- front deck (light brown)
7. middle deck (light brown)
8. stern- rear deck (light brown)
9. ship-board (black)
10. ship bottom (yellow)

Color the "junk" by following the names of parts of the ship.

A. Sailing the Seas...(continued)

Communicating at Sea

Before radios, it was very hard for ships at sea to communicate. Sailors would have to row from one ship to another. So they invented a new kind of "language" with flags.

The international Flag System has more than 40 flags. One flag stands for each letter of the alphabet, and pennants (triangular flags) stand for zero and the numerals 1 through 9. To send messages, sailors fly "hoists" (groups) of one to five flags that have code meanings or spell out words.

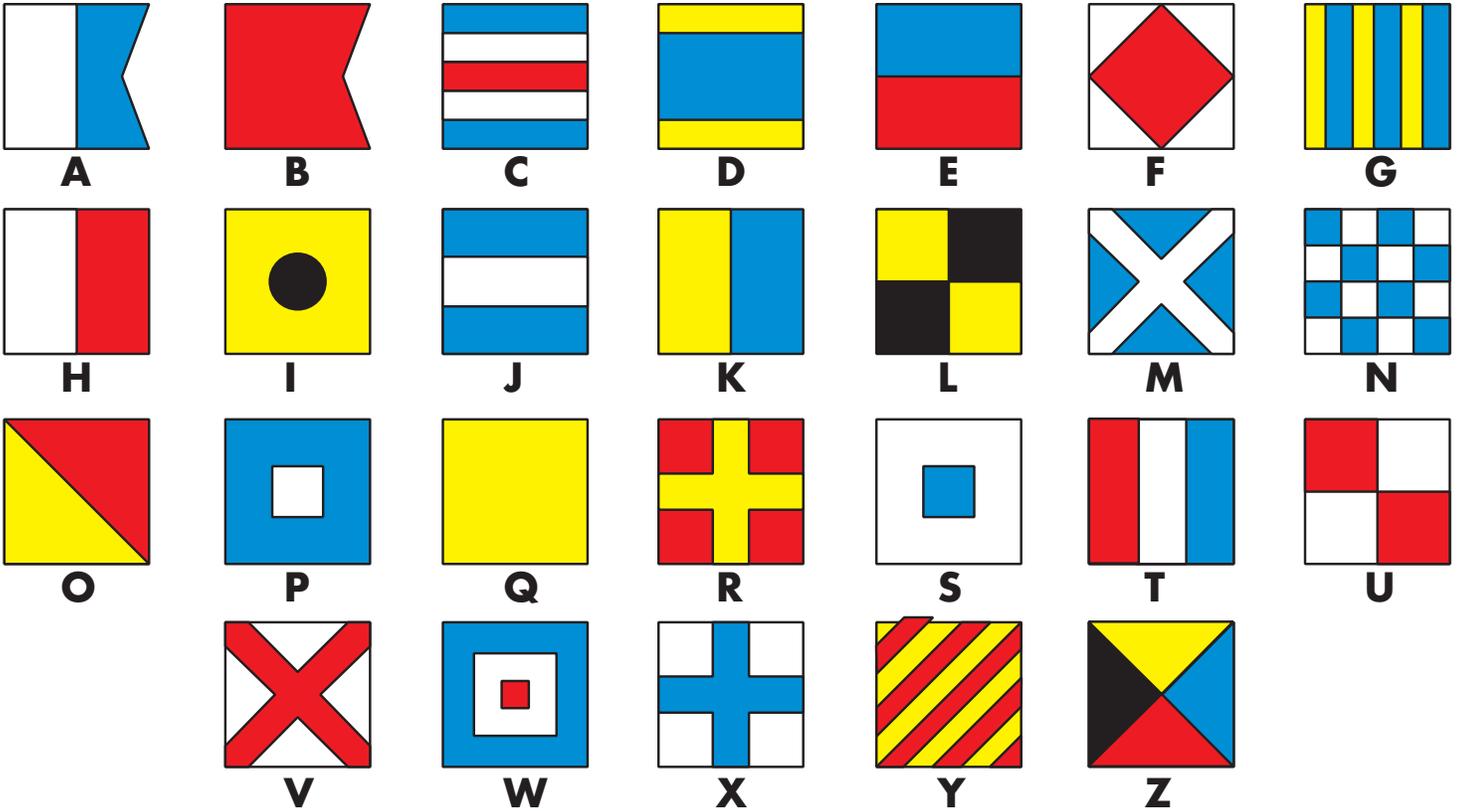
Sailors use certain flags from the international code for warnings or announcements. A ship in harbor that is about to sail

hoists the flag for the letter P, a flag once known as the "blue peter." A ship flies the D if it is having difficulty steering, and the O if it has lost someone overboard. Flags for the letters I and T together warn that the ship is on fire; and the signal MAA requests urgent medical advice.

Flag Exercise

Use the international flag code (below) as a guide to print the following message:

"Your first name", love, rumba



"Your first name"

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

l o v e , r u m b a

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B. Music Styles

Wen Qu

Chinese classical music. Wen means lyrical, and Qu means song.

Wu Qu

Chinese classical music. Wu means martial. Qu means song.

Rumba

There are many styles of this music, Flamenco Rumba is played in a 2-beat rhythm with Spanish guitar and some kind of drum like bongo, conga or cajon.

Samba

Samba originates from Brazil and was created in the poor districts of Rio de Janeiro. It uses many kinds of drums, tambourines, shakers and vocals to celebrate the Carnaval season.

Fisherman's song

A vocal style used by fishermen around the world to express their life on the water. Often used as a "call and response" for work requiring a rhythm from all parties such as paddling forward, or haulers pulling on ropes to draw a boat off the sandbar.

Reel

Traditional Celtic dance music with a 4/4 rhythm often played on instruments such as guitar, fiddle, flute and accordion.

Snake charming music

A folk music often found in India and North Africa. Usually performed in the markets to entertain visitors using a shanaii, a primitive oboe or flute-like instrument, along with some hand-drums and dancing. The idea is to hypnotize the snake with music and movement so he doesn't bite the performers or the audience.

Exercise:

Share with the class a music recording or video from home, friends or library which contains the style of the music in the list. Tell them where the music is from and what instruments they used in the song.

C. Instruments

The instruments used in the China Speaks Your Language Program are shown on the instruments page.

Exercise:

Describe how each of the instruments makes musical sounds. What materials are they made of? Which category do they belong to: string, wind, or percussion?

D. Countries the Chinese may have visited

Countries possibly visited by the Chinese include China, India, Ivory Coast, Brazil, Cuba and Canada.

Exercises:

What are the main languages spoken in those countries?

What is the capital city of these countries today?

What are the major religions from their traditions?

Are some of those cultures similar in their:

Language

Food

Clothing

Music

Natural resources

Weather & temperature

Superstitions

Write a story about travelling on the oceans 500 years ago. For example, imagine you are on a fishing boat or a canoe when a Chinese junk sails by. Or imagine you are a crew member, and write a short diary about finding a new land.

Additional study

For further study of the music, please go to:

www.silkroadmusic.ca

CDs available from the web site:

Chinese Folk Songs:

Village Tales CD and Study Guide

Chinese Music:

Endless

World Music on Guitars:

Sheik-It

Cookin at Constanza's

Samar

Global French Music:

Joutou

Latin Christmas Music:

Noel Tropical

Upcoming Pipa Music:

See the website

China Speaks Your Language!

Instruments used in the program



Birimbao (*bi, rim, baw*)
Afro-Brazilian musical bow



Luo (*lowa*)
Chinese Gong



Oud (*woud*)
Middle Eastern lute



Di zi (*di, tzi*)
Chinese bamboo flute



Rik (*rick*)
Tambourine



Shou gu (*show, goo*)
Chinese frame drum



Capachos (*ka, pa, chos*)
Venezuelan Maracas



Basket shakers
Central Africa



Pi pa (*pee, pah*)
Chinese lute



Mu yu (*moo, eu*)
Wooden tone block



Guitar
Flamenco



Bombarde
Medieval oboe