



100 Years  
of Great  
Performances

THE UNIVERSITY MUSICAL SOCIETY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

## Aspects of Peking Opera

Hu Hung-yen

*Assisted by*

CHANG TSUAN-NIEN and NG HAK-FAN

*ti-tzu (flute)      erh-hu (fiddle)      chin-hu (fiddle)*  
*hsiao (flute)      sheng (free reed mouth organ)*

TUESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 20, 1979, AT 8:30  
RACKHAM AUDITORIUM, ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

### P R O G R A M

Demonstration of Makeup

Demonstration of Dance Patterns and Movements  
HU HUNG-YEN

Song of Joy

A popular duet from Central and Southern China.

NG HAK-FAN, *ti-tzu*      CHANG TSUAN-NIEN, *erh-hu*

The Phoenix Terrace

Music played for joyous occasions.

CHANG TSUAN-NIEN, *chin-hu*      NG HAK-FAN, *hsiao*

The Flight of the Partridge

Traditional music one thousand years old played during the celebration of birthdays, weddings, and festivals.

CHANG TSUAN-NIEN, *sheng*      NG HAK-FAN, *ti-tzu*

Sword Dance

HU HUNG-YEN

NG HAK-FAN, *ti-tzu*      CHANG TSUAN-NIEN, *erh-hu*

Scene from "The Jade Bracelet"

HU HUNG-YEN

### I N T E R M I S S I O N

## Scarf Dance

HU HUNG-YEN

## The Little Cowherd

A cowherd flirts with a young girl.

NG HAK-FAN, *ti-tzu*      CHANG TSUAN-NIEN, *erh-hu*

## The Stillness of the Night—traditional Chinese Opera Music

This music is played for fighting scenes.

CHANG TSUAN-NIEN, *chin-hu*      NG HAK-FAN, *erh-hu*

## Soochow Song

A famous song from the kun-style opera popular in the Soochow region. The song describes the beautiful scenery of the area.

NG HAK-FAN, *ti-tzu*      CHANG TSUAN-NIEN, *sheng*

## Peeking at the Beloved

Instrumental music based on a song from Northeastern China.

CHANG TSUAN-NIEN, *erh-hu*      NG HAK-FAN, *ti-tzu*

## Pastoral Song

Shepherds play their instruments while tending cattle.

CHANG TSUAN-NIEN, *erh-hu*      NG HAK-FAN, *ti-tzu*

## Scene from "The Butterfly Dream"

HU HUNG-YEN

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## About the Artist

**Hu Hung-yen** is a professional Peking actress who trained at the Nanking Chinese Opera School and became a leading soloist of an opera company in Hong Kong. She is a highly skilled dancer, singer, acrobat, and mime, with a complete working knowledge of all styles of acting. At one time she led her own troupe in Hong Kong where she also ran a training school. Miss Hu has performed in the Philippines, Singapore, Indonesia, and in major cities of the United States following her emigration to this country in 1961. A production of "The Butterfly Dream," an opera which Miss Hu directed, had a successful run in New York several years ago. Today, she is the only professional Peking actress in the United States and, indeed, one of the very few left outside China.

Peking Opera originated between the eighth and tenth centuries. Its form as it is known today was developed during the reign of Emperor Chien Lung and reached its fullest development at the end of the 18th century. A mixture of drama, acrobatics, mime, and dance, its stories are derived from the historical events and classical novels of China. Only minimal props are used and virtually no scenery, thus the few objects that do appear on stage are used symbolically. To compensate for this simplicity, the actors wear elaborate headdresses, and the make-up and colorful costumes serve to identify the characters whom they portray. The two essential plots of Peking Opera are military and civil, the former expressing the concept of heroism and the latter, Confucian ideals. Hu Hung-yen performs both types of drama.

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## UNIVERSITY MUSICAL SOCIETY

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