

## BIO



Dr. Haiqiong Deng is a master player of the 21-string Chinese guzheng and a veteran practitioner of the 7-string guqin culture. She was the recipient of the 2021-2022 Florida Specific Cultural Project Grant, the 2018 Florida State University College of Music Research Fellow, the 2017 Florida Cultural Heritage Award, the 2017 Ruby Chao Yeh Award from the Association for Chinese Music Research, 2013 Florida Individual Artist Fellowship, 2012 the Master Artist of the Florida Folklife Apprenticeship Award, and the winner of the Outstanding Performance Prize at the 1995 Chinese National Zheng Competition in Shanghai.

In the last two decades, Dr. Deng has actively promoted traditional and new music in North America. She has performed and lectured in various venues, including universities, museums, folk festivals, and communities, introducing traditional Chinese music and culture. She has also premiered and recorded dozens of new compositions by composers from several countries at national and international contemporary music festivals and conferences. Her newest album, *Zheng Tu*, is a collection of contemporary zheng music composed by Dr. Chihchun Chi-sun Lee that Haiqiong premiered in the U.S. in the last two decades, released by Innova in January 2024.

Dr. Deng has expanded her musical expressions by exploring diverse world music traditions. She has learned classical Indian music with guru Nalini Vinayak since 2013. Nalini is the direct descendent of the Maihar Gharana, a school lineage traced back to Nalini's teacher, Pandit Janardan Mitta, the disciple of Pandit Ravi Shankar. Nalini's deep Carnatic classical Indian music upbringing and her mastering of Tabla have given her music a distinct style. Following the aural-oral traditional learning, Nalini patiently expounds the wonders of raga, intricate expressions, rhythmic variations, and improvisational art in this ancient musical tradition to Haiqiong. In 2014, they released *Stringing Echoes: Classical Indian Music by Sitar and Chinese Zheng*—a CD that, for the first time in history, combined Chinese zheng, Indian sitar, and tabla on classical Indian Music. Haiqiong has extended Nalini's teaching into their collaborated compositions—*Fa Xi: For Zheng, Indian Flute and Tabla* (2022), and *Guru: for Zheng and Tabla* (2020). Other world music-influenced pieces by Dr. Deng include *Layered Fantasy: for Indonesian Gamelan and Chinese Zheng* (2014) and *Kora* for Intercultural Band Omnimusica (2018).

Dr. Deng is the featured artist in the chapter on Chinese music in the widely used university textbook *World Music: Traditions and Transformations* (3rd edition, 2019 McGraw-Hill) by Michael B. Bakan, Professor and Head of Ethnomusicology and World Music at Florida State University. In addition to extensive coverage of her music, life, and career in the text itself, there are recordings of her performing guzheng in the textbook's accompanying CD released by Sony BMG Music Entertainment.

Dr. Deng received her Bachelor of Music in Guzheng Performance from the Shanghai Conservatory of Music (1997), Master of Arts in Arts Administration (2004) and Ethnomusicology (2006), and Ph.D. in Musicology (2020) from Florida State University. Dr. Deng has taught at Florida State University, University of South Florida, and Tallahassee Community College and directed the FSU Chinese Music Ensemble for seventeen years. Dr. Deng is a member of the national music honor society Pi Kappa Lambda, and she serves on the Executive Board of Directors of the Council on Culture & Arts (COCA) in Tallahassee, Florida. In 2021, Dr. Deng founded the Inner Space Music Academy (ISMA) to provide a live and virtual platform to cultivate mindful listening, nurture cultural understanding, and contribute to human wellbeing of people from all over the world.

## HIGHLIGHTS



### Awards

- ◆ The 2021-22 Specific Cultural Project Grant
- ◆ The 2017 Florida Cultural Heritage Award
- ◆ 2013 Florida Individual Artist Fellowship
- ◆ 2012 the Master Artist of the Florida Folklife Apprenticeship Award

### FEATURED ZHENG SOLOIST

- ◆ Singapore Symphony Orchestra
- ◆ Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra
- ◆ Music From China
- ◆ Duquesne University Symphony Orchestra
- ◆ University of South Florida Symphony Orchestra
- ◆ Third Angle New Music Ensemble
- ◆ Orchid Ensemble
- ◆ Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra
- ◆ Singapore City Orchestra
- ◆ Singapore Chinese Orchestra
- ◆ The McCormick Percussion Group
- ◆ *World Music: Traditions and Transformations* by Michael B. Bakan



### *Mission Statement*

As a performing artist and an educator, I aim to cultivate mindful listening, nurture cultural understanding, bridge diverse expressions, and contribute to human wellbeing.

## ARTIST RESIDENCY & GUEST ARTIST/SPEAKER

- ◆ UNIVERSITY OF HEIDELBERG, GERMANY
- ◆ Dartmouth College
- ◆ UCLA
- ◆ Artist Residence at Studio Channel Islands California
- ◆ BARD COLLEGE
- ◆ Chipola College
- ◆ Monticello Opera House
- ◆ Western Washington University
- ◆ West Virginia University
- ◆ University of Michigan
- ◆ 2021 Singapore Chinese Music Festival
- ◆ Penn State 2021 New-Music Festival and Symposium
- ◆ Hot Air Music Festival, San Francisco Conservatory
- ◆ Carnegie Hall
- ◆ Western Washington University
- ◆ UCLA Guqin Forum
- ◆ Middle Tennessee State University
- ◆ University of Denver
- ◆ Norton Museum of Art
- ◆ Harn Museum of Art
- ◆ Florida Folk Festival
- ◆ University of North Texas
- ◆ Wake Forest University
- ◆ Savannah State University
- ◆ Arab American Museum
- ◆ Michigan State University
- ◆ New England Conservatory
- ◆ Cummer Museum of Art and Garden
- ◆ Colorado College
- ◆ Nagoya Gifu Cultural Center, Japan
- ◆ Singapore Jubilee Hall
- ◆ Chinese Conservatory of Music





## Reviews

“We invite the community to take part in celebrating Ms. Deng’s contributions. Her dedication and life-long commitment to preserving and promoting Chinese culture and music has contributed deeply to Florida’s cultural heritage.”

—*Florida Secretary of the State, Ken Detzner*

“Haiqiong is a master of emotive control through her instrument, as demonstrated in the pastoral ‘Fishermen Singing at Dusk’ and the barely restrained ‘Tears of Empress Xiang.’ This is soul-cleansing music and a testament to the immediacy and relevancy of the zheng.

—*R4R, Reviews For Radio*

“[She] is in high demand because she is one of just a very few people who’s so proficient and so incredible to watch.”

—*Western State University, Dr. Felicia Youngblood*

“Haiqiong is a powerful and disciplined musician who is steeped in the thousands of years old tradition of the gu-zheng and Chinese classical and folk music. She is widely recognized as one of the world's foremost soloists of the gu-zheng.”

—*Carson Newman College, Dr. Richard Scruggs*

"Haiqiong ranks among the greatest musicians I've ever played with... She rises to every imaginable musical challenge and then creates and transcends new ones."

—*Florida State University, Dr. Michael Bakan*

“A music performer, scholar, and teacher!” —*Tallahassee Magazine*





## Concert/Lecture Program Sample

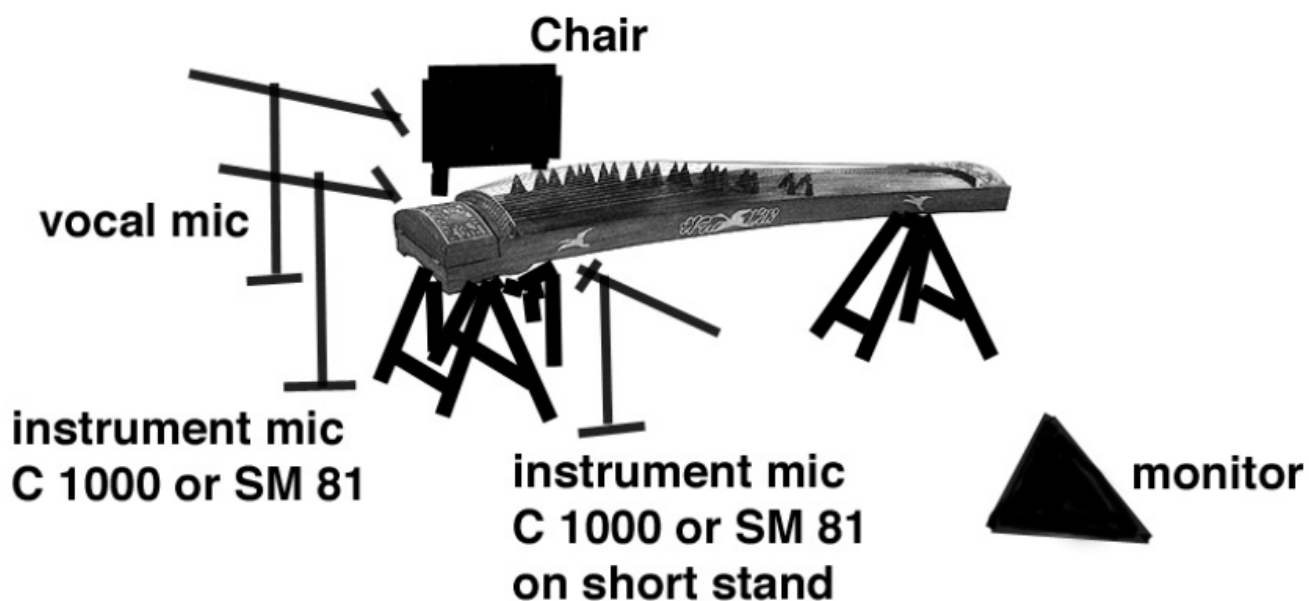
### *Mindfulness in Sound*

Experiencing Traditional Zheng & Qin Music with Dr. Haiqiong Deng

Music is one of the most dynamic mediums to deepen human understanding and nurture individual wellbeing. This lecture-recital aims to bring this aspect of listening and cultural knowledge to audiences by introducing two ancient Chinese musical instruments—the 21-string guzheng and the 7-string guqin—both contain a rich cultural and musical heritage. Dr. Deng will guide the audience to tap into their inner space and experience ancient Chinese music through an embodied listening experience.



## Stage Plot



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