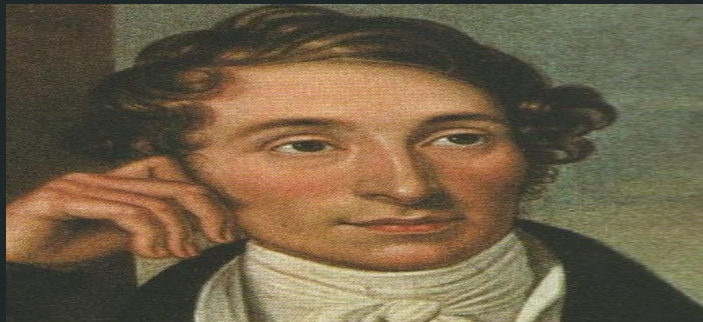


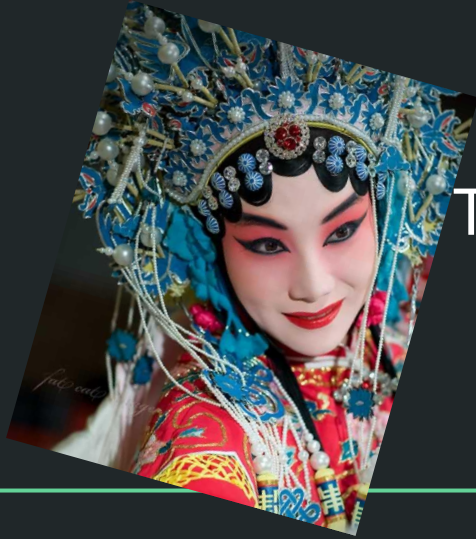
Classical Chinese opera



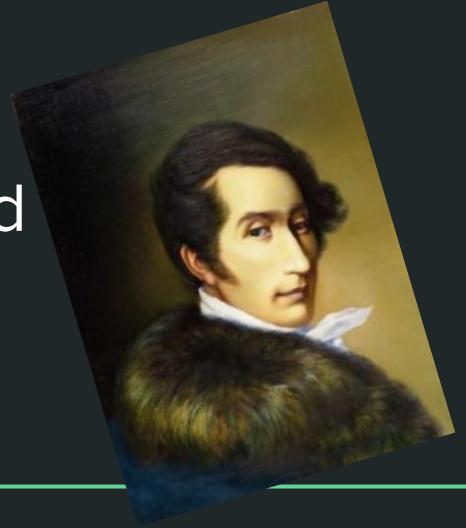
Carl Maria Von Weber



Chinese Opera and Weber's Turandot Opus 37



Chinese opera is a very
Intriguing part of history
That contains the beauty and
The essence of Chinese
Culture in all its majesty.



Weber's work of the Turandot Opus 37, he
Was commissioned to capture the raw beauty
Of the chinese opera and in turn called it
"Chinese Air"

China



Population: 1.357 billion people

Land size: 3.705 million mi²

Nationalities from: Mongolia, Xinjiang, Ningxia, Guangxi, Tibet, Yunnan, Guizhou, Qinghai or Sichuan, Gansu, Hubei, Hunan

China Cont'd



**Religions: Buddhism,
Confucianism, and
Taoism**

**Believe it or not
Confucianism
influenced chinese
traditional opera**

The Pecking Form

- *The Pecking: this opera contained a start with two main tunes called Xipi and it was followed by moods the rest of the way.*
 - * It would be split into two moods after*
 - *First being a mood of excitement such as happiness, anger or agitation,*
 - *The next step would be a subdued mood such as deep thought, sorrow, and melancholy.*
 - *The musicians would be placed on either a side of the stage or below the stage.*
 - *They would have two parts of the ensemble as well. The civil and the military.*
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zHPegoquV5I> start at 30 seconds



The Pecking Orchestra

The two-part orchestra

The civil: accompanies the singers

- a) Called the Wenchang
- b) Included instruments such as the jinghu, yueqin, and the pipa

The military: accompanied the dancers

- a) Also called the Wuchang
- b) Included percussion instruments such as the drums, wooden clappers, gongs, and cymbals

<http://www.pekingopera.eu/pekingopera-en.html>



Instruments: jinghu: lead



yueqin:



pipa



and percussion



Characters & Roles

Sheng (Male roles)

~Laosheng- old and gentle

~Xiaosheng-shrill voice

~Wusheng- the tough ones
who dealt with combat

Dan (Female roles)

- Laodan- old and wise
- Wudan- martial women
- Daomadan- young woman warriors
- Qingyi- elite and virtuous

Laosheng



Wudan

Characters & Roles Continued

Jing (Painted faces)

- ~ Male roles
- ~ Strong voices
- ~ 15 face types
- ~ 100 variations of face types
- ~ Ability to exaggerate gestures

Chou (Male clowns)

- The minor role
- Wenchou- civilians such as merchants
- Wuchou- minor military roles



Jing



Chou





Carl Maria von Weber

Weber was the first to use Chinese influenced music and to break away from traditional melodies such as composers like Bach had traditionally used.

DOB: November 18, 1786

DOD: June 5, 1826

Place of birth: Eutin, district capital of Holstein
Germany

He was a composer, conductor, and pianist.

Studied under: Johann Peter Heuschkel

Notable works: "The Power of Love and Wine" & "The
Silent Forest Maiden"

Turandot opus 37

* Playwright: Ferruccio

Busoni

* Originally in German

* Spoken dialect and in two

acts

* First performed september 20,

1809

* Originally composed in 1809

* In the romantic period

* Published 1818

Turandot opus 37

The Turando was about a chinese princess who would have her suitors beheaded unless they could solve her three riddles. This piece contains complex melodies that compliment eachother like domino effects throughout the piece.

let's take a listen to the piece

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-KxmzTgtQ5w>

Turandot continued

instruments:harp, cymbal, gong, bass drums, oboe, 2 flutes ect.

There is a shift from fast and upbeat music to something more calming and with a somber tone. During the piece he also includes instruments such as the pipa that is also seen in the pecking which brings us to the sought out comparison

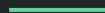
Secondary Comparison: Instrumentation

Instruments:

Harp to the Pipa

Gongs

Cymbals



Primary Comparison:

Music form

Structure:

Pieces starting with an excited mood which he chose to be happy.

This is followed by a subdued mood of deep sorrow.

Use of harmonic chords

Use of dialect

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