

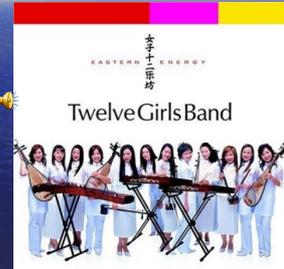
The Twelve Girls Band:

A World Music Sensation

By
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• "Freedom"

- The women's most popular hit song that is most recognized throughout the world.
- The hit song is from their western debut CD entitled "Eastern Energy."
- It was originally written by a Turkish composer.



Chinese Music History:

• Ancient Chinese Music:

- Characterized as being a lost art, however early texts refer to the importance of music during those times.
- The sounds of nature are believed to be mentioned in these texts through symbolic representations.
 - Nature:
 - Plays a dominant role in Chinese music throughout ancient and historical times
 - Songs have been created throughout these times as reflections of various elements found in nature
 - ✦ E.g. Twelve Girls Band: "Mountains and Rivers" and "The Great Valley"

Chinese Music History:

• Modern Chinese Music:

- The New Culture Movement (1919)
 - Eventually led to idea of music serving the country
 - Strict limitations placed upon musicians
 - Slogan at the time: "Art should serve politics"
- The Cultural Revolution (c. 1964-1977)
 - Completely halted the incorporation of Western styles in any aspect of Chinese Culture, including music

Chinese Music History:

• After the Revolution...

- Musicians were encouraged to:
 - "correctly understand the relationship between art and politics"
 - "sift through the past to bring forth the new"
 - "build on the traditional legacy of Chinese civilization"
 - "use foreign things to serve China"
 - ✦ (Tuohy 2001: 114)

The Twelve Girls Band

- Thirteen women: Only Twelve are on stage at the same time.
- Each woman was classically trained in China's top music schools and conservatories.
- Music characterized as being a mixture of traditional Chinese music and Western music.
- All music is performed using traditional Chinese instruments.

Twelve Girls Band Style:

- Influences:
 - Jazz, rock, pop, Celtic music, Turkish music and more!
- Traditions:
 - Portrayed through:
 - Use of various traditional Chinese instruments such as: Pipa (4-stringed lute with pear-shaped body) and the Erhu (2-stringed Chinese violin)
 - Performances of traditional Chinese songs such as “Alamuhan”

Pipa:



Erhu:



● “Alamuhan”

- Traditional song of the ethnic tribe Uighur from Northwestern China
- Alamuhan was a beautiful girl that was “not fat not thin, had eyebrows shaped like a crescent moon, waist as thin as a willow, mouth tiny and lovely”
- To meet her eyes one would experience pleasant thrill



Twelve Girls Band Style (cont.):

- Own Renditions of Western Songs:
 - “Only Time” by Enya
 - “New Classicism” recreation of Beethoven’s Fifth symphony
 - “Reel Around the Sun” from *Riverdance* composed by Bill Whelan
 - “Clocks” by Coldplay

(All the above songs are from Eastern Energy)

● “Clocks”

- Originally written by Coldplay (from Britain)
- Twelve Girls Band version of the British band’s hit song.
- Incorporates the beautiful sounds of the traditional Chinese instruments into the modern sounds of the original version of the song.



Those Opposed:

● He Zhanhao:

- Twentieth Century Chinese composer, who himself incorporated western techniques into a number of his compositions
- Believes “Chinese music composers need to respect their own cultural heritage instead of copying western styles (May Chan 2005: 5)”
- Composer of the famous Chinese classic, the “Butterfly Lovers’ Concerto”
 - He and a friend composed it, while in music school during the Cultural Revolution.
 - It did not become popular until after because it contained western techniques.

Conclusion:

- The Twelve Girls Band:
 - Have provided a new style that is approachable by a large variety of audiences
 - Have maintained their traditional techniques while incorporating western techniques into their music
 - Have become a World Music sensation.