

胡笳十八拍

Hujia Shibapai

18 Songs of a Nomad Flute

Yellow Bell Mode 黃鐘調 1 3 5 6 1 2 3

1, here notated C, should be sung as A or B flat
 Compare transcription by 王迪 Wang Di
 from 琴適 Qin Shi (1611), as printed in
 中國古代歌曲 Songs from Ancient China
 (Beijing, 1990), which makes 1 = f#

VII, p.31
 From 緣綺新聲 Luqi Xinsheng (1597), this is the earliest surviving melody set to the lyrics attributed to 蔡琰 Cai Yan, daughter of 蔡邕 Cai Yong. The lyrics are a first person verse narration of her abduction by Central Asian nomads ca. 193 CE, marriage to a Xiongnu prince, and return to China after being ransomed by Cao Cao in 206

1

slow and free

我生之初尚無爲；我在生之後漢祚衰。
 Wo sheng zhi chu shang wu wei; wo sheng zhi hou han zuo shuai.
 At my life's beginning / still in equilibrium; in my life's later / the Han (years) / (dynasty's) blessings withered.

10.0

9 *more rhythmic*

天不仁兮降亂離；地不仁兮使我逢此時。
 Tian bu ren xi jiang luan li; di bu ren xi shi wo feng ci shi.
 Heaven without mercy sent down confusion / separation; and earth without mercy caused me to come into / at this time.

10.0

17

干戈日尋兮道路危；民卒流忘兮共哀悲。
 Gan ge ri xun xi dao lu wei; min zu liu wang xi gong ai bei.
 Weapons were daily sought, roads were dangerous; people and soldiers fell into neglect, together wailing and grieving.

10.0 13.1 12.3

25

煙塵蔽野兮胡勇nomad soldiers 盛sheng; 志章/ will power 乖兮guai xi 乖兮guai xi 義節/ integrity hence 虧kui. failed.

Haze and dust hid a wilderness / in which nomad soldiers thrived; our / will power our was perverted, our / integrity hence failed.

12.3

7.9

對殊俗兮fei / not 我wo 宜yi; 遭惡zao / met evil 尊ru xi 尊ru xi 嘗告dang gao 誰shei? who?

As for the terribly vulgar / customs, (nomad) (they were) what I / considered proper; (but when I) abuse I could tell who?

10.0

rit slow

41

笳一會兮xi 琴一拍pai; 心憤怨兮xin fen yuan xi 無人wu ren 知zhi. knows.

Nomad flute for a while with the琴 in the first verse; (but my) heart's anger and resentment no one knows.

2

49 a tempo

戎羯逼我兮xi 爲室家jia; 將我行xiang 向天涯ya.天涯。

The nomads compelled me to marry their chief, and caused me to travel to the end of the world.

10.0

57 mm. 25-26

Clouds and mountains / endless layers
(seem to form) (and the)

萬重
(and the)

兮 /
return road is

歸路
return road is

遐；
distant;

疾風
/ ill winds

千里
for 1,000 miles

兮 /
(and the)

風揚
winds scatter

沙。
the sand

夕夕夕夕夕夕夕夕
夕夕夕夕夕夕夕夕

65

人多暴猛 犬如虺蛇； 控弦被甲 爭爲驕奢。
Ren duo bao meng xi ru hui she; kong xian pi jia xi wei jiao she.
People / mostly / cruel / fierce, and like vipers; they pull / strings / put on / armor for pride / and show.

5

5

7.9 7.6

74 mm. 41-48

rit. slow

兩拍 張弦兮 弦欲絕； 志摧心折兮 自悲嗟。
 Liang pai zhang xian xi xian yu jue; zhi cui xin zhe xi zi bei jie.
 In the second verse I stretch / strings (my qin) so that the / strings want to break; will repressed, heart broken, to myself in grief I sigh.

箏三戶 尚在原玉邊，在原勾邊，^外在原勾邊，^外在原勾邊。

3
82 *a tempo*
mm. 49-56

越 漢 國 兮 入 胡 城 ; 亡 家 失 身 兮 不 如 今 。
Yue Han guo xi ru hu cheng; wang jia shi shen xi bu ru wu sheng.
Passing beyond Han country I enter a nomad village; losing home / losing and the self is worse than being dead.

90

氈裘爲
Zhan qiu wei
Coarse garments for

裳兮
shang xi
clothing.

骨肉震驚;
gu rou zhen jing;
meat / shocking;
which is

羯羶爲
jie shan wei
rotten meat considered
flavorful:

味兮
wei xi
flavorful:

枉過
wang guo
/ damage
these

我情。
wo qing.
psyche.

4
115 *a tempo*

無日無夜兮不思我鄉土；稟氣含生兮莫過我最苦。
 Wu ri wu ye xi bu si wo xiang tu; bing qi han sheng xi mo guo wo zui ku.
 There is no day or night in which I do not think of my home land; / disposition to hold onto life cannot overcome my supreme bitterness.

苟日日兮四節然盡兮九盡兮十二月兮。

胡笳十八拍

Hujia Shibapai (1597), p. 5

A musical score for 'Strange Customs' (殊俗) in G major. The vocal line is in soprano range, with lyrics in Chinese and English. The piano accompaniment is in basso continuo range. The score includes a title page with the name of the piece and the date '1933'. The lyrics describe foreign customs and habits as difficult to adjust to.

A musical score for 'Xun si' (Thinking about Traveling). The score consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score includes a dynamic marking 'rit' (ritardando) and a tempo marking 'slow'. The lyrics are: '尋思涉歷兮多難 阻四拍成兮益悽楚。' Below the staff, there is Chinese calligraphy: '大三口当六句也,压六句也,弹药也,弹药也,弹药也,弹药也。' The page number '142' and measure numbers 'mm. 41-48' are at the top left.

150 *freely*

鴈 南 征 翎 慾 寄 邊 聲； 鶴 北 歸 翎 爲 得 漢 音。
 Yan nan zheng xi yu ji bian sheng; yan bei gui xi wei de Han yin.
 Geese southward go / , wishing to dwell / border among sounds; geese northward return in order to get Han melodies.

燕 - 南 征 翎 慾 寄 邊 聲； 鶴 北 歸 翎 爲 得 漢 音。
 燕 - 南 征 翎 慾 寄 邊 聲； 鶴 北 歸 翎 爲 得 漢 音。

166

攢 Cuan / wrinkled
眉 mei eyebrows
向 xiang facing
With (from age? anger?)

月 yue the moon,
兮 xi

撫 fu I play
雅 ya my elegant

琴 qin;
qin;

荀 洄 荀 壽 化 立 下 午 大 六 荀 茹 大 六,

胡笳十八拍

Hujia Shibapai (1597), p. 7

188

夜聞隆水兮聲鳴咽；朝見長城兮路杳漫。
Ye wen long shui xi sheng ming yan; zhao jian Chang Cheng xi lu miao man.
At night I hear dike water, the sounds slapping out loud; at dawn I see the Great Wall,
the road is dark and diffuse.

196

追思往日兮行
Zhui si wang ri xi xing
Recalling past days travelling "retinue"?

李難；
li nan; is hard;

追思往日兮行
zhui si wang ri xi xing
(repeat phrase).

南。
nan.

7.9

212 *a tempo*

日暮 風悲兮
Ri mu feng bei xi
The sun sets, the wind moans,

邊聲 四起；
bian sheng si qi;
border sounds / four / arise;

不知 愁心兮
bu zhi chou xin xi
/ not know / grieving heart,

說向 誰是？
shuo xiang shei shi?
/ speak to whom is?

from sides
they do my but I can of it

芍药芍药芍药立芍药，芍药芍药芍药立芍药。
5.6 6.2 6.4 6.2 6.4 6.4 5.6 6.2 6.4

220

原野 蕭條兮 烽戎萬里; 俗賤老弱兮 少壯爲美。
 Yuan ye xiao tiao xi feng rong wan li; su jian lao ruo xi shao chuang wei mei.
 In a wilderness / desolate, which is beacons provide light for 10,000 miles; here the custom / disregard old / weak: and youth / strength are / considered admirable.

烽火立，遙望羣山立。烽火立，遙望羣山立。

6.4 6.4 6.7

228

逐有水草兮 安家葺壘；牛羊滿野兮 聚如蜂蟻。
 Zhu you shui cao xi an jia qi lei; niu yang man ye xi ju ru feng yi.
 / pursue water / grass /; making home / rebuild ramparts; cattle / sheep fill the prairie, and swarming like bees and ants.

水草兮安家葺壘，牛羊滿野兮聚如蜂蟻。水草兮安家葺壘，牛羊滿野兮聚如蜂蟻。

5.6 6.2 6.4 5.6 5.9 5.6 5.9 5.9

236 rit. mm.65-6

草盡水竭兮 羊馬皆徒。
 Cao jin shui jie xi yang ma jie tu.
 / grass is finished / water exhausted, and the with their and / horses they all travel on.

草盡水竭兮 羊馬皆徒。草盡水竭兮 羊馬皆徒。

5.6 4.0 5.0 5.0

243 mm.41-48

七拍流恨兮 惡居此；七拍流恨兮 惡居於此。
 Qi pai liu hen xi wu ju ci; qi pai liu hen xi wu ju ci.
 / seventh verse I wander, alas! I hate living like this; (repeat phrase).居於此。

七拍流恨兮 惡居此；七拍流恨兮 惡居於此。

4.0 4.8 4.4 3.2

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Hujia Shibapai (1597), p. 9

8
251 continue freely

爲天有眼 兮何不見我獨漂流？ 爲神有靈兮何事處我天南海北頭？
 Wei tian you yan xi he bu jian wo du piao liu? Wei shen you ling xi he shi chu wo tian nan hai bei tou?
 /heaven has eyes why / not see my / solitary wandering? / divine has / spirit Since the an active why does it cause my wandering?

Since does it Since the an active

苟苟苟苟，巴巴。 大五頭，苟苟苟，巴巴。 大五頭，苟苟，巴巴。 大五頭，苟，巴巴。

267 mm. 41-48 *a tempo* rit. slow

製茲八拍兮擬俳憂；何知曲成兮
Zhi zi ba pai xi ni pai you; he zhi qu cheng xi
I made this eighth verse intending diversion; how / know / song was finished
could I that when the

心轉愁？
xin zhuan chou?
my heart / turn would melancholy?

大三度 尚六四 巳七五 六四 巳六四 巳九四 巳八四 巳十一四 巳十二四 巳十三四 巳十四四

4.0 4.8 4.4 3.2 大半

275

天 無 涯 穷 地 無 邊； 我 心 愁 穷 亦 復 然。
 Tian wu ya xi di wu bian; wo xin chou xi yi fu ran.
 Heaven has no edge, earth has no border; my heart is sad. and (this) is repetitive limitlessness.

5.6 5.6 5.6

苟 有 无 尾 穷 也， 穷 大 也 立 也。 也 穷 也。

283

人 生 梢 忽 爭 如 自 駒 之 過 隙；然 不 得 歡 樂 爭 當 我 之 盛 年。
Ren sheng shu hu xi ru bai ju zhi guo xi; ran bu de huan le xi dang wo zhi sheng nian.
Man's life / quick / sudden争 is and like a white colt's quick passing; and I have / not attained happiness / should be in what my prime of life.

中音 大樂 五 立 跳立 跳立 跳立 跳立 跳立 跳立

291

怨兮
yuan xi
Alas! Alas!

欲文天;
tian;
heaven:
I want to ask heaven;

蒼蒼兮
cang cang xi
is azure, is azure, no connection.

上無緣。
shang wu yuan.
above no connection.

6.2 5.6 4.6

303 mm.41-48

rit. slow

九拍懷情兮 誰與傳; 九拍懷情兮
Jiu pai huai qing xi shei yu chuan; *jiu pai huai qing xi*

The ninth verse's strong emotions : who will transmit ? / ? them (repeat phrase).

九拍懷情兮 誰與傳?
Jiu pai huai qing xi shei yu chuan?

大四七 三四 六四三 二三 五四一 一二 三三一

4.0 4.8 3.2

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Hujia Shibapai (1597), p. 11

10

311

城南 feng huo 不曾 mie; 疆场 jiang chang 征戰 zheng zhan 何時 shi 歇? Cheng nan beacons are never extinguished; on the frontier fields / fight the war : when will they desist?

Cheng nan feng huo bu ceng mie; jiang chang zheng zhan he shi xie?

The city's southside beacons are never extinguished; on the frontier fields / fight the war : when will they desist?

芍药四面屋等芭。 等芭四面四面等芭。

5.6 4.4 4.6

319

殺氣朝朝衝塞門； 胡風夜夜吹邊月。 Sha qi zhao zhao chong sai men; hu feng ye ye chui bian yue.

Violent tempers every day attack the border gates; nomad winds every night beneath the frontier moon.

大琴大瑟四面等芭。 大瑟四面四面等芭。 大琴四面等芭。

4.6 5.0 5.0 5.6 5.6 5.6 5.6 5.6

327

故鄉隔兮音塵絕； 哭無聲兮氣將咽。 Gu xiang ge xi yin chen jue; ku wu sheng xi qi jiang ye.

/ old homeland / separated, from its sonic pleasures cut off; my tears have no sound, my spirit about to be choked off.

中三口 上等芭 汗等芭 芭 汗等芭 汗等芭 立等芭

6.4 5.9 6.2 5.9 5.9 7.9 6.2 6.4 6.2 5.6 6.2 6.4

335

一 生 辛 苦 兮 緣 離 別； 十 拍 悲 聲 兮
My whole life has been bitter, destined for separation; the 10th verse has a mournful sound,

rit.

Yi sheng xin ku xi yuan li bie; shi pai bei sheng xi

大三笠 三口 大三笠 大三笠 立等芭 等芭 汗等芭 汗等芭 汗等芭 立等芭 等芭 汗等芭 等芭

6.2 6.4 6.2 5.6 5.6 7.3 7.0 5.9

11
348

我非貪生而惡死;不能捐身兮心有以。
Wo fei tan sheng er wu si; bu neng juan shen xi xin you yi.

大悲 沟 勾 勾 六 尾 穹 下 足 巴 亂, 大 慈 足 巴 勾 迂 遊 穹 七 四 芭 大 壮。

5.9 5.6 6.2

356

生 仍 冀 得 兮 彙 桑 梓； 死 當 埋 骨 兮 長 已 矣。
Sheng reng ji de xi gui sang zi; si dang mai gu xi chang yi yi.
 / living I still have hopes of going home (to my) mulberry /catalpa /; and trees once / dead then they will bury my bones forever it is all over.
 While

夕 洵 舞 海 莫 五 上 六 大 壤 立 七 下 四 五， 大 壤 尾 迸 舞 莫 五 六 上 六 大 壤 立 七 下 四 五。

7.6 5.9 6.4 6.2

胡笳十八拍

Hujia Shibapai (1597), p. 13

372

鞠之育之兮
不羞耻；
問之念之兮
生，
長邊鄙。
Rearing them, nourishing them,
I had no shame;
asking / reminding them,
they were born / growing up / border village.
and were in a

大七部 然达大上大卒大卒，
大五三切也大卒二大卒立下卒达大卒。
7.6 5.0 6.2 4.8 5.6 6.2 6.4

380

十有十一拍兮
因兹起；哀響纏綿兮
徹心髓。
The 11th
verse, relies on this
beginning; mournful sounds
are inextricable,
penetrating my heart's core.

漪漪也达立下大卒大卒，
大卒大卒也已。然大卒立然大卒也已。
7.6 7.9 6.2 6.4 7.9 7.9

12

389

東風應律兮
暖氣多；(知是)漢家天子兮
布陽和。
East winds follow rules
warm atmosphere / know predominates;
the Han family
heir
spread warmth.

大卒大卒也达立下大卒大卒也已。然大卒立然大卒也已。
7.6 7.9

397

羌胡踏舞兮
共謳歌；
兩國交歡兮
罷兵戈。
Nomads dance,
sing together;
the two countries'
happy relations
stop soldiers / fighting.

大卒大卒也达立下大卒大卒也已。然大卒立然大卒也已。
7.6

405
忽遇漢使兮稱近詔；遣千金兮贖妾身。
Hu yu Han shi xi cheng jin zhao; qian jin xi shu qie shen.
Suddenly / receive a Han envoy calling on us with an / message; imperial they have 1,000 pieces of / gold to ransom this humble woman.

(大)立下半壯苟送夕九向也，大步跨河与大半下九也也也。

429

不謂殘生兮，卻得旋歸；撫抱胡兒兮，泣下沾衣。
Bu wei can sheng xi, que de xuan gui; fu bao hu er xi, qi xia zhan yi.
I did not value much my useless life, but / achieve now as I am about to my return home, fondle and embrace my nomad sons, tears falling to soak my clothing.

4.6

胡笳十八拍

Hujia Shibapai (1597), p. 15

445

與我生死兮，逢此時；愁爲子兮，日無光輝。
Yu wo sheng si xi, feng ci shi; chou wei zi xi, ri wu guang hui.
/ with me / live and die; what happens now is so much for my sons that the sun has no brightness.

荀洵均寫三尾立三疋七三，范蜀均寫近疋五芳三疋。

3.2 2.6 3.2 4.4 4.4 4.6

453

焉 得 羽 翼 兮 將 汝 歸?
Yan de yu ji xi jiang ru gui?
How / get wings / in the future so that
汝 can I / return? I can

4.6 4.8 4.4 5.0

胡笳十八拍

Hujia Shibapai (1597), p. 17

497

夢中執手兮一喜一悲；覺後痛吾心兮無休歇時。
Meng zhong zhi shou xi yi xi yi bei; jue hou tong wu xin xi wu xiu xie shi.
In the dream we hold hands both happy and sad; after I awaken it pains my heart and I can get no rest (time).
中六 夕六 沟兮向西海兮，中六 夕六 沟兮向西海兮。
6.4 6.2 6.4 6.2
5.6 6.2 4.8 5.6 6.4

505 m.380-388

十有四拍兮涕淚交垂；河水東流兮心是思。
Shi you si pai xi ti lei jiao chui; he shui dong liu xi xin shi si.
In the 14th verse we weep mutual tears; river waters eastward flow my heart is in thought, in thought.
然大悲也下六音大音二三音下七音大音五音立色也。然大悲也下六音大音五音立色也。
7.0 6.7 7.3 7.9 7.3 6.4 7.9 7.9

15
513

十有五拍兮節調促；氣填胸兮誰識曲。
Shi you wu pai xi jie diao cu; qi tian xiong xi shei shi qu?
In the 15th verse the rhythm and melody are hurried; its spirit fills my breast, who knows such a song?
外五音下九音立也。外五音下九音立也。
外五音下九音立也。外五音下九音立也。

521

處窮廬兮偶如俗；願得歸來兮天從欲。
Chu qiong lu xi ou ru su; yuan de gui lai xi tian cong yu.
We lived in a poor hut looking very common; I hoped to attain my return home, and heaven followed my desire.
也向立也下五音沟兮，淘六音立也下五音也。
也向立也下五音沟兮，淘六音立也下五音也。

529

再還 漢國兮
Zai huan Han guo xi
Again returning to Han country
歡請es 心xin 足; zu;
huan pleases my heart enough;
心有懷 huai
my heart has cherishing.
兮愁 chou
my grief 轉 zhuan
turns 深。 shen.
deeper.

今三四 大胡笳上句也，大管勾(天)馬。三清大胡笳也。

537

日月無私兮
Ri yue wu si xi
The sun / moon / and have no bias / as they
曾不照臨；
ceng bu zhao lin;
already don't shine near here;
母子分離兮
mu zi fen li xi
mother / son and are separated,
意難任。
yi nan ren.
thoughts are hard to bear.

中三四 喜馬六胡琴三清，清音清音清音清音。

12.3 10.8 12.3

545

同天隔越兮
Tong tian ge yue xi
Under the same sky / separated thus but
如商參；
ru Shang Cen (Shen);
like Lucifer and Orion;
(two constellations which never meet)

①兮上大胡笳也清三清， 竹笛也

12.3

551 mm. 137-141 rit.

生死不相知兮
sheng si bu xiang zhi xi
In life and death not knowing each other,
何處尋？
he chu xun?
in what place can we search?

中九章三清三清下也

16

558 freely

Shi liu 拍兮思茫茫；我與兒兮各一
 In the 16th verse my thoughts are limitless; I and my sons are each in a / different ♫

色四句回四句，四句三三四句五句六。

566

Ri dong yue xi 從相望；不得相隨兮空斷腸。
 sun / east moon / west the in the and the in the from opposite / ends (at each other) look / ; they cannot follow / closely - each other great misery.

箇句箇句七色五句六，箇句箇句七色五句六。

574

Dui xuan cao xi 憂不忘记；彈鳴琴兮情何傷！
 For these day-lillies I cannot forget sorrow; when playing the qin how my feelings are in distress!

夕句七色五句六，夕句七色五句六。

582

Jin bie zi xi 歸故鄉；舊怨平兮新怨長。
 Now leaving my sons and returning to the old homeland, old laments diminish (but) new laments increase.

箇句七色五句六，箇六七色五句六。

泣 血
泣 xue
Weeping blood

仰 頭 兮
仰 tou xi
I raise my head

訴 蒼
訴 cang
and curse

蒼; cang;
heaven;

胡 爲
hu wei
nomads gave

生 我 兮
sheng wo xi
but only to suffer

獨 權 此 殘。
du li ci yang.
misfortune.

17
598

十 七 拍 禸 心 鼻 酸； 關 山 阻 隔 禸 行 路 難。
Shi qi pai xi xin bi suan; guan shan zu ge xi xing lu nan.
In the 17th verse my heart and nose are bitter; the mountain passes are a barrier, making travel difficult.

入漫
become
slow 太九立邑匱匱。邑匱匱，中三戶夕弓上匱匱王匱匱。
The lyrics continue with traditional Chinese characters below the staff.

A musical score page from a traditional Chinese opera score. The page number is 614. The title 'Sai Shang' is at the top. The lyrics are written in Chinese characters and Pinyin. The music consists of two staves of Western-style notation with Chinese characters as lyrics below them. The characters are written in a stylized, decorative font.

胡笳十八拍

Hujia Shibapai (1597), p. 21

622 風霜凜凜兮春夏寒；人馬饑虺兮筋力單。
feng shuang lin lin xi chun xia han; ren ma ji hui xi jin li dan.
wind / frost are chilling, spring / summer are cold; people / horses / hungry / tired, and are and their / muscular strength insufficient.

寫上九下勾畫，管絃。

A musical score page from a vocal score. The top staff shows a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a common time signature. The lyrics are written in Chinese characters above the notes, with Pinyin and English translations below. The bottom staff shows a bass clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. Below the staff, there are traditional Chinese characters representing the notes and rests of the musical phrase.

666

哀樂各隨人
Ai le ge sui ren
/ misery and joy / accords / people's
In expressing each with
心兮有變則通；胡與漢兮異域殊風。
xin xi you bian ze tong; Hu yu Han xi yi yu shu feng.
hearts: if these change then (their) music also; nomad and Han / different lands / differing customs.

巴也淘也淘也
七也三也池立苟同返，池也返也
26 23 23

685

六 合
Liu he
The universe,

雖
sui
although

廣
guang
it is vast,

兮
xi

受
shou
enduring

之
zhi
this

應
ying
it

不
bu
cannot

容
rong.
do.

箏 立，下宮花色化太七而三箏蓋畢。

胡笳操
終
Hujia
melody