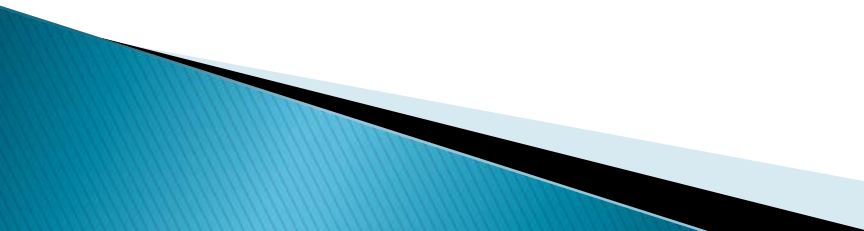


Exotic Melodies in Recollection, Repetition, and Retraction

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From *Turandot* to *The First Emperor*: Study Questions

- ▶ Why China? Is the Emperor a Hero?
 - ▶ How Come Chinese Artists Should Continue to Portray China as Primitive Using the Figure of a Cruel Princess?
 - ▶ Should we Label the Two Operas as “Orientalist” or Even “China Bashing”?
 - ▶ Do you Agree that Switching or “Exiled” to English Will Make China Better Received—if not, “Greater Again”?
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Mythological Discourses around *Turandot*

- ▶ Factological/Ideological/Mythological in the Age of “Post-truth”
- ▶ Sex/Sexuality/Love
- ▶ From Fable to Romance Opera and Halloween Suspense
- ▶ Count Carlo Gozzi (1720–1806), *La Turandotte* (1762) in *Fiabe Teatrali*
- ▶ *Turandot* in Weimer (1802), Adaptation by F. Schiller, Staged by Goethe
- ▶ *Turandot* in Cultural Translation: Weber, Busoni, and Zhang Yimou


The End of a Great Operatic Tradition

- ▶ Giacomo Puccini (1858–1924), grand master of realistic *verismo* (true to life)
- ▶ An Orientalist and Misogynist?
- ▶ Mimi in *La Boheme* (1896) vs. Minnie in *La fanciulla del west* (1910)
- ▶ *Madame Butterfly* (1904) and *Turandot* (1926, completed by Franco Alfano, based on Puccini's sketches)
- ▶ One of the Most Frequently Performed in the World of Opera

Make it Sound Chinese

- ▶ Gender, Class, and Race: Imperial Tutor Barack Changed to Chinese Slave Liu
 - ▶ Naming the Courtiers: Ping, Pang, Pong
 - ▶ Romance and Riddles
 - ▶ Penta vs. Polyphonic: System of Differentiation and Signification
 - ▶ *Mouli hua* motif and Chinese folksongs
 - ▶ Repetition with Difference: Prince Calaf's tactics of Appropriation
 - ▶ Love Conquers All—including China and Its Future
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Tan Dun's *The First Emperor*

- ▶ Tan Dun (born in Hunan; now living in NYC)
 - ▶ From *Nine Songs* (1989) to *Marco Polo* (1996), *Peony Pavilion* (1998), *Tea* (2002), and *First Emperor* (2006)
 - ▶ Libretto: Ha Jin and Tan Dun
 - ▶ Production: Zhang Yimou
 - ▶ Yin–Yang Master: Wu Hsing–kuo
 - ▶ Emperor: Placido Domingo
 - ▶ Theme: In Search of a National Hymn to Glorify the Unification of China
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Music Lessons: Highlights in Comparison

- ▶ Liu, “Escola” (Listen to me, My Lord) Verona (1983) vs. Valencia (2008, staged by Chen Kaige)
- ▶ Calaf, “Nessum dorma” (Nobody Sleeps) Verona (1983); Luciano Pavarotti vs. Paul Potts on Youtube
- ▶ Answering the Riddles
- ▶ Excerpts from *The First Emperor*: “Two Thousand Years Ago” (in Chinese) “Silence! Silence! Is This Music?” (in English)

Study Group Write-up

- ▶ 3–5 People as a Group
 - ▶ Discuss and Write up Your Answers to Study Questions
 - ▶ Read Aloud
 - ▶ Q&A
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