

Three Chinese Folk Songs

arranged for Oboe and Piano

1. A Horse Runs on the Mountain
2. Why Is the Flower So Red?
3. A Small Embroidered Bag

by James Fry

for Mark Hill

Notes: Three Chinese Folks Songs was first arranged for Qiong Fang, Shanghai Opera House soprano and specialist in combining Western and Chinese vocal methods. This expanded version for trumpet and piano incorporates melodic elaboration suitable for the trumpet. The accompaniment style of each song is suggested by the text, and the figuration is derived from the folksong melody.

1. “A Horse Runs on the Mountain” — The text paints an image of a horse running on a mountainside. A cloud rises in a column while the crescent moon illuminates the city below. A young man sets his eyes on a young woman. She is talented—and can take charge of the household! He yearns to court the one of his own choosing.

2. “Why Is the Flower So Red?” — This unusual song originates from far Western China, as is evident from the Middle Eastern characteristics of the melody. Why is the flower so red? Red is the fiery emblem of pure friendship and love. Why is the flower so fresh? Freshness is the symbol of youth.

3. “A Small Embroidered Bag” — A small embroidered bag is given as a token of love and commitment. As spring winds bend the poplar and willow tips and March blossoms appear in the peach orchard, a lover comes bringing a letter. He wants a small embroidered bag: “Embroider a boat and hoist the sail! Can you guess the meaning? Embroider a Mandarin duck perched on the riverside. You rely on me; I rely on you—together always.” She replies: “My lover is a young man and I am like an unfolding blossom. If you accept the small bag, my love, you must return early.”

Performance note: In “Why is the Flower So Red?” the ornaments—turns, mordents, appoggiaturas—are played in Baroque style. They may begin on or before the beat, depending on context.



Three Chinese Songs arranged for Oboe and Piano by James Fry is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>.

You are free to:

Share — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format

Adapt — remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially.

Under the following terms:

Attribution — You must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use.

1. A Horse Runs on the Mountain

Oboe

Andante ♩ = 63

4

legato

arr. James Fry

mf

7

11

mp

15

3

21

mf

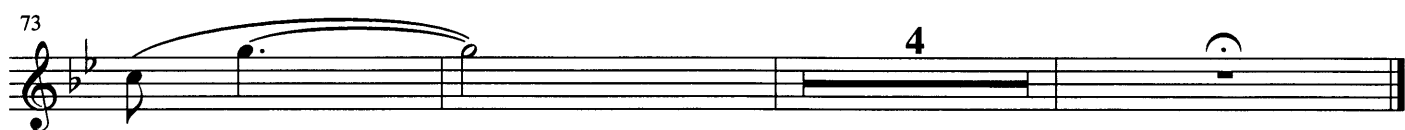
25

29

mp

33

3



2. Why Is the Flower So Red?

Adagio ♩ = 48

3

mp

7

mp

11

mf

15

19

piano

mf

24

3

28

mp

5

3

5

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked 'Adagio' with a quarter note equal to 48 beats. The time signature is 2/4. The score consists of seven staves of music. The first staff begins with a measure rest followed by a triplet of eighth notes, then continues with a series of eighth and quarter notes, some beamed together. The second staff starts with a half note, followed by eighth notes and a quarter note. The third staff features a half note, a quarter note, and a half note, with a crescendo hairpin. The fourth staff contains a series of eighth notes and quarter notes, with a crescendo hairpin. The fifth staff begins with a half note, followed by quarter notes and eighth notes, with a crescendo hairpin. The sixth staff starts with a half note, followed by quarter notes and eighth notes, with a crescendo hairpin. The seventh staff begins with a half note, followed by quarter notes and eighth notes, with a crescendo hairpin. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and dynamic markings.

31 *mp*

34 *mf*

39

43 *mf*

50 *f*

54

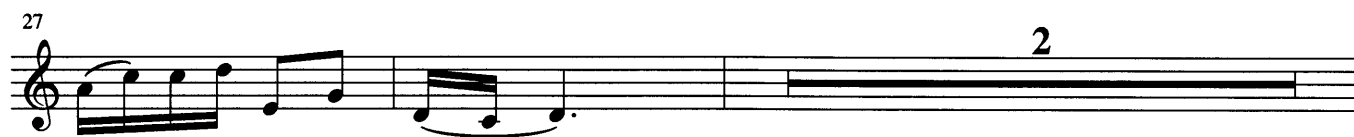
58

61 *f* 10

3. A Small Embroidered Bag

Andante ♩ = 56

piano



35

mp

Musical staff 35-38: Treble clef, 4/4 time. Measures 35-38. Measure 35: quarter note G4, quarter note A4. Measure 36: quarter note B4, quarter note C5. Measure 37: quarter note D5, quarter note E5. Measure 38: quarter note F5, quarter note G5. Dynamics: *mp*.

39

Musical staff 39-42: Treble clef, 4/4 time. Measures 39-42. Measure 39: quarter note G4, quarter note A4. Measure 40: quarter note B4, quarter note C5. Measure 41: quarter note D5, quarter note E5. Measure 42: quarter note F5, quarter note G5. Dynamics: *mp*.

43

3

mf

Musical staff 43-49: Treble clef, 4/4 time. Measures 43-49. Measure 43: quarter note G4, quarter note A4. Measure 44: quarter note B4, quarter note C5. Measure 45: quarter note D5, quarter note E5. Measure 46: quarter note F5, quarter note G5. Measure 47: quarter note A5, quarter note B5. Measure 48: quarter note C6, quarter note D6. Measure 49: quarter note E6, quarter note F6. Dynamics: *mf*.

50

Musical staff 50-54: Treble clef, 4/4 time. Measures 50-54. Measure 50: quarter note G4, quarter note A4. Measure 51: quarter note B4, quarter note C5. Measure 52: quarter note D5, quarter note E5. Measure 53: quarter note F5, quarter note G5. Measure 54: quarter note A5, quarter note B5. Dynamics: *mf*.

55

Musical staff 55-58: Treble clef, 4/4 time. Measures 55-58. Measure 55: quarter note G4, quarter note A4. Measure 56: quarter note B4, quarter note C5. Measure 57: quarter note D5, quarter note E5. Measure 58: quarter note F5, quarter note G5. Dynamics: *mf*.

59

Musical staff 59-62: Treble clef, 4/4 time. Measures 59-62. Measure 59: quarter note G4, quarter note A4. Measure 60: quarter note B4, quarter note C5. Measure 61: quarter note D5, quarter note E5. Measure 62: quarter note F5, quarter note G5. Dynamics: *mf*.

63

f

Musical staff 63-66: Treble clef, 4/4 time. Measures 63-66. Measure 63: quarter note G4, quarter note A4. Measure 64: quarter note B4, quarter note C5. Measure 65: quarter note D5, quarter note E5. Measure 66: quarter note F5, quarter note G5. Dynamics: *f*.

67

3

Musical staff 67-70: Treble clef, 4/4 time. Measures 67-70. Measure 67: quarter note G4, quarter note A4. Measure 68: quarter note B4, quarter note C5. Measure 69: quarter note D5, quarter note E5. Measure 70: quarter note F5, quarter note G5. Dynamics: *f*.

71

mf

4

Musical staff 71-74: Treble clef, 4/4 time. Measures 71-74. Measure 71: quarter note G4, quarter note A4. Measure 72: quarter note B4, quarter note C5. Measure 73: quarter note D5, quarter note E5. Measure 74: quarter note F5, quarter note G5. Dynamics: *mf*.