The Rivers Awards Composition Competition (RACC)

Designated Traditional Chinese Instruments Introduction

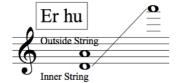
Erhu





Erhu

Erhu Performance Demonstration (by LU Yiwen)



The **Erhu** generally has two strings, namely the inner string and the outside string, with a bow between them. It is almost always tuned to the interval of a fifth and the treble clef is applied in Erhu music notation based on the actual pitch.

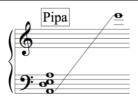
Pipa





Pipa and the artificial fingernails (right hand)

Pipa Performance Demonstration (by SHU Yin)



The strings of the **Pipa** are conventionally tuned to A-D-E-A. Players always wear the artificial fingernails for Pipa performance. The grand stave is applied in Pipa music notation based on the actual pitch.

Dizi - Bamboo Flute (including Xiao)



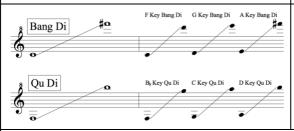
From top to bottom: Bangdi in G key, Qudi in D key, Xindi in G key and Xiao in G key





Dizi Performance Demonstration (By WANG Junkan)

Xiao Performance Demonstration (By WANG Junkan)





The **Dizi** is a traditional Chinese transverse flute usually made of bamboo. It has six finger-holes, one blowing hole and one membrane hole. The membrane has a great influence on the sound produced by the flute. Qudi and Bangdi are the most predominant among the many varieties of Chinese flute. To satisfy the needs of different music, professional players usually have a set of dizi, each in a different key and size, where the Bangdi in G key and the Qudi in D key are most commonly used. A low octave approach in treble staff is applied to Dizi music notation.

Xindi, that is, a flute without the membrane hole, features a lower sound, which, though similar to Dizi, is heavier and louder. The most typical of this kind is a Xindi in G key, pitched in the same range as the Xiao. The treble clef is applied in Xindi music notation based on the actual pitch. In practice, the Xindi is sometimes replaced by other instruments of similar range such as the Dadi.



The **Xiao** is a Chinese vertical end-blown flute. It is generally made of bamboo. More traditional xiao has six finger holes without the membrane hole, and features relatively low volume. Xiao is today most often pitched in the key of G, and the treble clef is applied in Xiao music notation based on the actual pitch.