古怨
Gu Yuan

Ancient Lament*

Ceshang mode 側商調 **7*b* 1 2 3 5 6** 1 ** Music and lyrics by 姜夔 Jiang Kui (c. 1155-1221)

1.***

日 暮 四 山 兮 煙 霧， 暗 前 溥。 將 維 舟 兮 無 所。
Ri mu si shan xi yan wu, an qian pu. Jiang wei zhou xi wu suo.
At sunset the surrounding hills are foggy, obscuring the bank ahead. (I am) about to tie up my boat, but am unable.

6

追 我 前 兮 不 逮。 懷 後 來 兮 何 處？ 履 回 顧。
Zhui wo qian xi bu dai. Huai hou lai xi he chu? Lyu hui gu.
I pursue my predecessors, but can't catch up. I long for those coming later, but where are they? I turn around and look back.

9.4

(1.a.) 泛聲 harmonic sounds

13

18

*For an historical and musical analysis, a somewhat different melodic reconstruction, and an annotated translation of the lyrics see L.E.R. Picken, "A Twelfth -Century Secular Chinese Song in Zither Tablature", Asia Major., Vol.16 (1971), pp.102-120. See also R.C. Pian, Sonq Dynasty Musical Sources and Their Interpretation. Harvard-Yenching, 1967.

** From standard tuning lower 3rd, 4th & 6th strings. *** I sing the lyrics only on the repeat; the score does not specify this.

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