

*Sounds of the Luhong Plateau* (revised into a three-movement trio, 2019)

Shuhua Zhu

*Above the Luhong Plateau* (1999)

*Song of the Luhong Plateau (Melodies of Yizu)* (2000)

*Harvest in the Luhong Plateau* (2002)

“This Clarinet Trio uses the folk music melodies of Yizu, one of Chinese minority peoples who dwell in Guizhou Province of southeast China. Music plays a major role in the Yizu people's life and their music style is unique among Chinese minorities.

The Luhong Plateau is the habitat of Yi Nationality in Guizhou Province, and the three evocative movements of the trio use folk songs and dance melodies of the Yi People. These pieces also depict the scenery of Luhong Plateau—white clouds drifting in the azure sky, the green bamboo dancing in the gentle breeze accompanied by the soothing rhythm of the creek; and echoing from the deep woods, sentimental melodies, sweetened with sorrow, touching and appealing. *Sounds of the Luhong Plateau* was composed for the Verdehr Trio, in residence at Michigan State University. In 2012 it won the First Prize Award in the Guizhou Province Sound of Miaoling Music Festival.”

—Shuhua Zhu

The world premiere of *Above the Luhong Plateau* was on January 20, 2000 at the Oklahoma City Community Theatre, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

The world premiere of *Song of the Luhong Plateau (Melodies of Yizu)* was on June 28, 2001 in the Verdehr Trio Summer Chamber Music Concert Series at the Wharton Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan.

The world premiere of *Harvest in the Luhong Plateau* was on February 23, 2003 in the Music Room, The Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C.

Shuhua Zhu graduated from Shengyang Conservatory of Music in 1957. Since then he has composed more than one thousand works, many of which have received various honors and prizes. The music for movie *Manluo Hua* was awarded a prize at the Swiss International Movie Festival in 1963 and also the Best Movie Prize at the Czechoslovakia Movie Festival. In 1986 at the Miaolin Festival Music Competition, *Past of Yelang*, a symphonic ballad, won the first prize for a symphonic composition, and *Xiang Yin* for piano solo won first prize for a piano composition. Zhu's compositions combine Western and Eastern musical styles as well as their compositional techniques and their different instruments.

Zhu is the chairman of the composition faculty at the Guizhou Song and Dance Troupe in Guizhou Province, China. He previously taught composition at the Guizhou Arts College and the Guizhou Normal University.