

MIN XIAO-FEN & JULIAN KYTASTY BOUNDLESS

PRODUCED BY JIM ANDERSON / RECORDED BY JIM ANDERSON & ULRIKE SCHWARZ

- 1 XI XI, CUO CUO (Wash & Rub) (*sanxian, bandura, voices & sound effects*) 4:15
- 2 TRAVEL MUSIC (*bandura and pipa*) 3:53
- 3 CRIMSON HORIZON (*pipa*) 5:13
- 4 SOLUNA (*pipa & bandura*) 5:23
- 5 HELIOPAUSE (*bandura*) 5:35
- 6 BALLAD ALLA TURCA (*bandura, pipa & voices*) 4:35
- 7 WILD GEESE (*bandura & ruan*) 2:33
- 8 ALTERKNIT (*pipa & bandura*) 2:07
- 9 UNDER ONE SKY (*ruan & bandura*) 4:05
- 10 SONIC TONIC (Dedicated to Derek Bailey) (*pipa & bandura*) 6:23
- 11 WILD GEESE, WHITE JASMINE* (*ruan & bandura*) 1:42

Original music by Min Xiao-Fen and Julian Kytasty

Min Xiao-Fen – *pipa, sanxian, ruan, sound effects & voice*

Julian Kytasty – *bandura & voice*

** Arranged by Min Xiao-Fen and Julian Kytasty*

TOTAL TIME: 44:47 MINUTES



PRODUCER'S NOTE: CAPTURED IN LIFELIKE DXD, THIS ALBUM BRIDGES THE SILK ROAD AND THE STEPPE. INTIMATE DUOS PAIR THE PERCUSSIVE PIPA, RUAN, AND SANXIAN WITH THE BANDURA'S SHIMMERING CASCADES. EVERY DELICATE HARMONIC IS PRESERVED, OFFERING A HIGH-DEFINITION DIALOGUE WHERE ANCIENT STRING TRADITIONS MEET IN A BREATHTAKING, SOULFUL, AND RICHLY SHARED NEW RESONANCE.—**JIM ANDERSON**

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Xi Xi, Cuo Cuo (Wash & Rub) by Min Xiao-Fen—For sanxian, bandura, voices and sound effects—The music reflects the little-known story of Chinese Americans in the Mississippi Delta, who lived there for over a century. In the segregated South, they ran laundries and grocery stores that served both Black and white communities, quietly bridging a divided world. Through the music, this bridge is continuous.

Travel Music by Julian Kytasty—For bandura and pipa—The music was originally an etude, later a solo concert piece and part of a theatrical score. On "Boundless" it becomes the starting point of a conversation between two musicians and two instruments. The bandura "Bondarivna" is certainly well traveled: crafted by a Ukrainian refugee in Shanghai in 1938, it was brought to Buenos Aires ten years later and became part of the story of bandura in South America. Since 1988 it has toured in the US and Canada and appeared on several of Julian Kytasty's earlier albums.

Crimson Horizon by Min Xiao-Fen—For pipa solo—This is my musical journey from Nanjing, China to New York City. Notes rise and fall like the changing sky, tracing memory, movement, and the horizon between past, present and future.

Soluna by Min Xiao-Fen—For pipa and bandura—"Soluna" evokes a dialogue between the sun and moon, weaving the spice of Uyghur sounds with the luminous timbres of pipa and bandura.

Heliopause by Julian Kytasty—For bandura solo—The music is inspired by the incredible journey of the two Voyager space probes into interstellar space. A few years ago, they crossed the outermost boundary of the solar system, the heliopause. Beyond this point, the sun no longer has any measurable physical influence and is just one star among many.

Ballad alla Turca by Julian Kytasty—For bandura and pipa—This piece is a Ukrainian version of a classic ballad subject. At a medieval Turkish slave market, a man buys a harem slave. He realizes, too late, that she is the sister he left behind when he left home to seek his fortune. "What strange times these are, when kin does not know kin."

Wild Geese by Julian Kytasty—For bandura and ruan—The music is based on a Ukrainian folk song melody I played for Min at our first working session. It immediately became part of "Boundless," eventually crystallizing into the two distinct versions heard on the album.

Alterknit by Min Xiao-Fen and Julian Kytasty—For pipa and bandura—In the spirit of the Knitting Factory in NYC, this improvisation treats melodies and textures as threads on a loom, exploring the interplay between instruments and creators.

Under One Sky by Min Xiao-Fen—For ruan and bandura—The music expresses my memory of performing in Ukraine in 1988 during a Chinese cultural exchange, featuring a visit to the Kyiv Monastery of the Caves. Nearly forty years later, that distant memory became reality when I met Julian in New York City and began to work with him. "Under One Sky" is a journey across time, borders, sound, genres and imagination.

Sonic Tonic (Directed to Derek Bailey) by Min Xiao-Fen and Julian Kytasty—For pipa, bandura and voices—This piece was inspired by the spirit of the downtown New York improvising scene - sharp, free and alive with Derek Bailey-tinged unpredictability.

Wild Geese, White Jasmine (arranged by Min Xiao-Fen and Julian Kytasty—For ruan and bandura— (A combination of a Ukrainian folk song and a Chinese folk song



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and all at Lincoln Center for presenting the first
performance of "Boundless."*



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Mastered at Anderson Audio New York, Studio 2 by Ulrike Schwarz / Recorded, mixed, and mastered
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