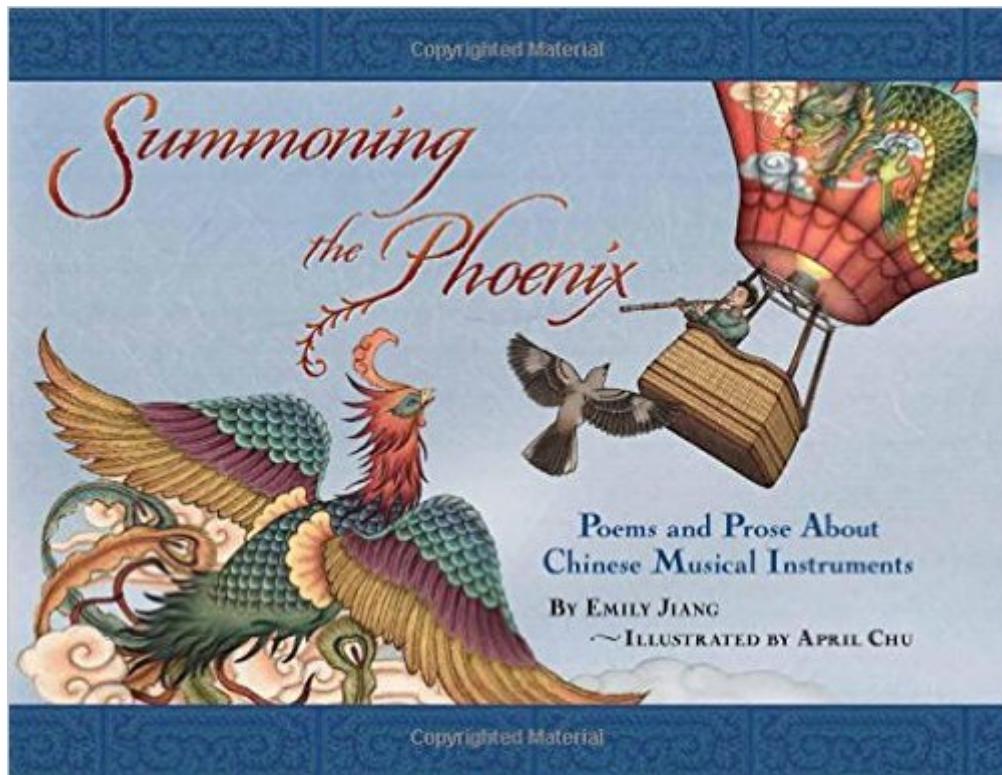


The book was found

# Summoning The Phoenix: Poems And Prose About Chinese Musical Instruments



## **Synopsis**

Every musician knows that learning to play an instrument has its challenges and its rewards. There's the embarrassing first day of rehearsal, but also the joy of making friends in the orchestra. There's dealing with slippery concert dress, or simply getting swept up in the music. The twelve children in this book are just like any other musicians practicing their instruments and preparing for a concert. But what sets these music lovers apart is that they all play traditional Chinese musical instruments in a Chinese orchestra. Including both flights of fancy and practical considerations, lively poems capture each child's musical experience with a different Chinese instrument, while sidebars provide more information about each one. Vivid illustrations depicting each fascinating instrument bring you along on this musical journey. And then you are invited to the grand finale!"

## **Book Information**

Hardcover: 32 pages

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Product Dimensions: 10.7 x 0.6 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (6 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #251,737 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > Instruments #1113 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry

Age Range: 6 - 11 years

Grade Level: 1 - 6

## **Customer Reviews**

My wife, who is an elementary school librarian, loves this book. It teaches kids on many levels. It's a great learning tool for music appreciation and an introduction to other cultures. It's very clever the way the author works in poetry, which the kids love. The art is stunning to look at, very imaginative and has wonderful movement, which makes the illustrations come alive. I'd definitely recommend this book.

Through its beautiful illustrations complementing the eloquent prose, Summoning the Phoenix

makes it fun for children to learn about ancient Chinese instruments. The artwork features multicultural characters, vibrant colors, along with elements of whimsy and fantasy to help bring to life the writing. I especially liked the immersive illustration of the woman playing the guzheng in the mountains, definitely a standout illustration. Descriptions in the sidebar delve more deeply into the instruments for more exploration. This is a fun and informative read with fantastic illustrations. I highly recommend it.

This book is great. Most people when they first see the book they think that it is just one single story. What they don't realize is that this book really has three stories in one. The first story is obviously the poems. But what Emily Jiang has really done is include a separate story for each instrument by giving the history of the instrument and where it came from. Being a history buff myself I think this is great. The third story are the illustrations. As you go through the book you can see that April Chu has created another story of the children playing the instruments and their journey towards the big performance. The illustrations in this book are both beautiful and amazing. The uniquely styled poems coupled with the history of the instruments make this book a joy to read for all ages.

This gorgeously illustrated transcultural children's book is deceptively complex from the broadly represented genders and ethnicities in the illustrations to the universality of music's broad reach across hemispheres and centuries. Each double-page spread focuses on one child musician and his or her musical experience and individual instrument. In few words and sparse but glowing illustrations this title describes 15 Chinese musical instruments ~ their history, pronunciation, and legends ~ and the children playing them in preparation for symphony performance.

This is a lovely book. As we learn about the history of 15 different traditional Chinese instruments, we're also treated to simple poems and beautiful illustrations of an ethnically diverse group of children playing them and then performing in a concert. For those interested in specific instruments, those featured in the book are the erhu, yangqin, dizi, sheng, xiao, suona, pipa, guzheng, ruan, muyu, paigu, luo, bo, nanbangzi, and banzi. Not all of the poems are specifically about the instruments, though they almost all mention a particular instrument; for example, the dizi poem is really about the first day of rehearsal, the suona poem is about playing with a friend, and the poem accompanying the history of the luo, bo, nanbangzi, and bangzi is about packing for a performance. The only reason we're giving four stars rather than five stars is because, while many of the poems are evocative, none are really memorable. But this highly-informative book covers a rare topic in

English-language picture books, and the illustrations are gorgeous.

Beautiful book. One of the only children's books out there on Chinese instruments.

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