

大明一統

Daming Yitong

Found in the Fengxuan Xuanpin (1539) and Yuwu Qinpu (1589) to distinctly different music accompaniment, both sources depict a musical rendition to a two-part lyric attributed to Liu Ji, the key advisor to Zhu Yuanzhang, the founder of the Ming Dynasty. The song exemplifies the ideal Confucian relationship between the Lord and his Subject, with the former providing magnamity and leadership, and reciprocated with honesty and loyal sincerity.

This rendition here is from the 1539 manuscript, which claims that the music was composed in style of solemn court sacrificial ritual music – which is fitting, as the lyrics are written in two pre-Qin Classical Chinese styles: the first section of 14 lines is written in four-character *Pianwen* couplet, followed by the second section with 9 lines written in *Saoti*, or *Li Sao* style from the *Lyrics of Chu*. The 1589 version lacks the final line and harmonic coda in comparison to this version.

This rendition converts the original *huiwei* notation into the contemporary *huifen* system, in addition to several adjustments made as corrections to logical pitches and positions.

The lyrics and its English translation is provided on the next page.

大明一統，聖壽萬年。	Hail, United Ming, may the emperor live myriad years!
有詔頒降，許人直言。	He decrees from above: people are allowed to speak frankly.
君量寬海，聖德光天。	The ruler's capacity is magnanimous, His sacred virtue brightening the firmament.
賞善罰惡，納諫任賢。	He rewards the good while punishing the bad, He accepts reprimands while rewarding the worthy.
崇儒鑒史，固國輕權。	Venerating Confucian thought and examining history, He strengthens the country with gentle power.
清心寡慾，益壽彌堅。	A pure heart with few desires, may he add years to his life full and strong.
踐祚念苦，欲民從輕。	He recalls his bitter and humble beginnings, and wishes to be lenient with common folk,
用度節儉，儲積豐盈。	When spending He is careful and frugal, accumulations bringing prosperity.
隄防邊塞，操練精兵。	Defending the frontier, drilling skilled soldiers,
明正綱紀，太平風聲。	Clear and just principles, spreading the clarion call of peace.
天長地久，海晏河清。	Heaven and earth will last forever, with seas calm and rivers clear.
兆民賴之，萬邦以貞。	The people have trust in Him, the nations rely to Him as example.
有德皇猷，無憂羽翼。	Having virtuous imperial wisdom, He does not distress his assistants.
百事具忠，直言諫勅。	In a hundred affairs we are devoted, giving our honest counsel.
居草茅以何酬分，瞻金門而難入。	What can one repay to Him from our thatched homes? We can gaze at the golden gates but it is hard to enter.
托情悃於絲桐分，聊申懷於雅趣。	So we bind our sincerity to silk and wood (of the qin); and expand our emotions with elegant taste.
鳳凰翔於霄漢分，覽德輝而斯寓。	The phoenixes soars in the Milky Way, and to His brilliant shining virtue reside here.
麒麟見於郊藪分，遭聖明而斯集。	Unicorns are seen in remote marshes, and upon meeting His sacred personage they collect there.
吁嗟吁嗟黼黻分，我曹何能及。	Alas! Alas! O ancient sacrificial dress: how can my rough rags compare?
懷九州而想君分，草莽俱同一。	We cherish the country and fondly think of His majesty, even people living in the wild think the same.
直言疏進忠義分，此心何絕期。	Having spoken honestly words to give advice with loyalty and righteousness, how could this heart forget you?
高山流水志在分，白雪陽春陶隱逸。	High Mountains and Flowing Streams: the aim is here; White Snow and Sunny Spring: pleased to hide in retirement.
大明一統號琴名，萬古千秋明聖治。	We call out with our qins to The Great Ming's United Realm, through all eternity is shall it hold its bright, sacred reign.
皇帝萬歲萬萬歲!	To the emperor: long life! Long long life!

大明一統 **Unity of the Great Ming**

From Fengxuan Xuanpin (1539)

Score by Juni Yeung


Standard Tuning

♩ = 42
(1)

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大明一統、聖壽萬年！有詔頒降、許人直言。

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君量寬海、聖德光天。賞善罰惡、納諫任賢。

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鶯 蜀。𪛗𪛗𪛗𪛗。鶯 蜀。𪛗𪛗立 𪛗𪛗。

崇儒鑒史、固國輕權。清心寡慾、益壽彌堅。

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鸞 鸞
踐祚念苦、欲民從輕。用度節儉、儲積豐盈。

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鼎 鼎 鼎 鼎 茫 茫 茫 茫 驚 驚 茫 茫 茫 茫
Dǐng Dǐng Dǐng Dǐng Máng Máng Máng Máng Jīng Jīng Máng Máng Máng Máng
隄防邊塞、操練精兵。明正綱紀、太平風聲。

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「𪛗𪛗 𪛗 𪛗 四 𪛗𪛗。𪛗 三 二 𪛗 𪛗𪛗。

麒麟(麒麟)見於郊藪兮、遭聖明而斯集。

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𪛗𪛗 𪛗 𪛗 六 四。𪛗 𪛗 五 𪛗𪛗。𪛗

吁嗟 吁嗟 黼黻兮、我曹何能及。

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𪛗 四 五 𪛗 四 𪛗𪛗。𪛗 𪛗 𪛗𪛗 𪛗𪛗。

懷九州而想君兮、草莽俱同一。

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𪛗 𪛗 𪛗𪛗 𪛗𪛗。𪛗 六 五 四 𪛗。𪛗 𪛗 𪛗𪛗 𪛗𪛗。𪛗 𪛗 𪛗𪛗 𪛗𪛗。

直言疏進忠義兮、此心何絕期。高山流水志在今、白雪陽春陶隱逸。

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𪛗 𪛗 𪛗𪛗 𪛗𪛗。𪛗 𪛗 𪛗𪛗 𪛗𪛗。𪛗 𪛗 𪛗𪛗 𪛗𪛗。𪛗 𪛗 𪛗𪛗 𪛗𪛗。

大明一統號琴名萬古 千秋明聖治。皇帝萬歲萬萬歲！

零。