

Variations on the Plum Blossom Melody

This is a classical composition that dates back to the Qin dynasty (4th century), and played traditionally in the *qin*, a board zither of seven strings from ancient China. I learned it from a musician at the Beijing Conservatorium during a concert tour of China in 1984, where he gave me a lesson on the *ti tzu*, a Chinese bamboo flute with membrane.

China

$\text{♩} = 90$

The musical score is written in a single system with nine staves. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat major), and a 4/4 time signature. A tempo marking of $\text{♩} = 90$ is placed above the first staff. The melody is composed of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some notes marked with a fermata. The piece concludes with a final cadence on the ninth staff.