

A Program Given by Mr. Chih-Feng Chi

at Bennington College, April 29, 1948

I. Introduction (to Chinese Opera)

II. Chinese Opera (in costume)

1. The private life of lady "Yang Kuei-Fei"

(The lady Yang Kuei-Fei was the court favorite of the illustrious Emperor - Ming Huang - of the T'ang Dynasty. The reign of that Emperor was from 713-756 A.D.)

2. A mad lady

(During the reign of the second Emperor of Chin Dynasty - about 3rd century B.C. - the powerful prime minister Chao Kao dominated the entire court taking advantage of the Emperor's youth, meanwhile plotting treason. There was, however, one upright official who would not be intimidated. The son of this official was the Chao Kao's son-in-law. Then it came to pass that Chao Kao succeeded in implicating the entire family of the upright official. The son alone escaped when a brave servant substituted himself to die for his master.

One day the young Emperor, passing Chao's mansion, spotted the supposed widow and was attracted by her beauty. In order to insinuate himself further with the Emperor, Chao gladly offered up his daughter in spite of her reluctance. Caught thus between the Emperor and her father, she finally made her last resort in feigning madness.

She is now before her father who has just been greatly put out by her nonsense and who is now standing aside ignoring all her antics.

III. Chinese musical instruments

IV. Discussion