# PLEASE REMOVE YOUR VEIL

Traditional Xinjiang Folk Song of China Arranged by Albert Wang

### INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor Score

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Cello

String Bass

#### PROGRAM NOTES

The Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region is located in Northwestern China and occupies an area equal to one-sixth of Chinese land. Xinjiang borders Russia, Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, Tajikistan, Pakistan, Mongolia, India, and Afghanistan. Historically, most Xinjiang traditional women wore veils, and presently, village women continue to wear them. The Xinjiang folk songs are combined with Asian, Indian, Arabic, Russian, and Middle Eastern elements. The music is as beautiful as Xinjiang's natural landscape and its diverse cultures. The lyrics of *Please Remove Your Veil* reflect the thoughts of the young Xinjiang men who are eagerly chasing the girls whose faces are hidden behind veils:

Please remove your veil

Let me have a look at your brow

Your brow is thin and long, like the half moon in the treetop

Please remove your veil

Let me have a look at your face

Your face is red and round, like the apple in the fall

Please remove your veil

Let me have a look at your eyes

our eyes are bright and shiny, like the flirtatious eyes being giving

#### Notes to the Conductor

Very beautiful, yet also thrilling to play, this piece, celebrating young love, is familiar to most Chinese people. This piece uses slides, syncopation, and augmented second intervals for an exotic musical mode. The rich harmony and Oriental influences offer a chance to imitate the traditional Oriental string instruments, such as the *eijieke*, a high-pitched, bowed instrument played like a vertical violin, or the *satar*, which sounds like a cello.



## Please Remove Your Veil



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