

CROCUS

for Solo Guzheng

Henry McPherson

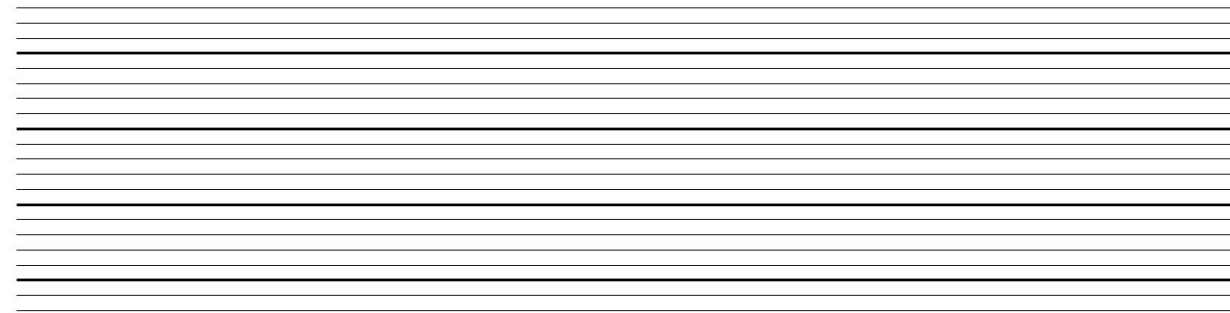
2018

for Liào Zǐlán

Graphic Tablature for Guzheng

The Staff

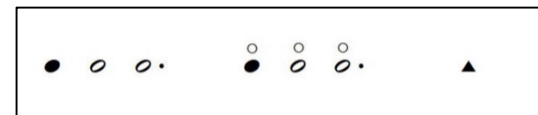
The staff consists of 21 lines, each representing a string on the Guzheng. Thicker lines represent the coloured strings present in each octave of the instrument, and act as points of reference for the player in reading the notation. The lines are laid out so that, looking at the page, the higher sounding strings are at the bottom, and the lower sounding strings are at the top. This directly parallels the view of the instrument from the position of the player, where the lower strings are further away, and the higher strings are closer to the body.



The notation is read from left to right, and can be used with any tuning system of the Guzheng. It is worth noting, however, that the thicker/coloured lines will of course vary in pitch with each tuning system. It is for this reason that I have not referred to them specifically as the “A” lines, or “D” lines, etc. However, when the instrument is tuned pentatonically, these lines correspond to the 4th degree of the scale.

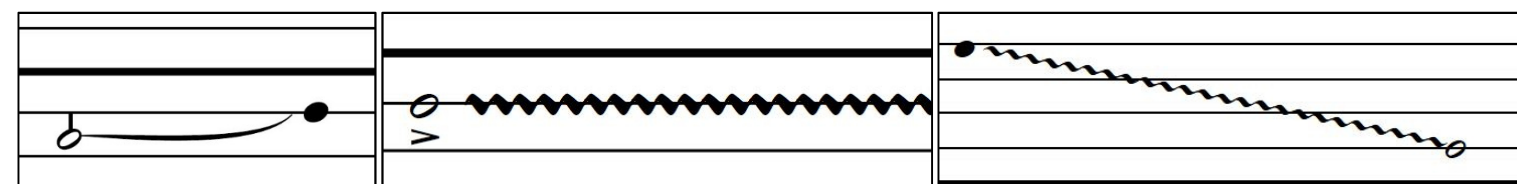
Noteheads and Graphics

Noteheads indicate which strings are to be plucked. Traditional noteheads are used for ordinary plucked notes, with harmonics indicated by a small circle above the given note. Notes plucked behind the bridges are indicated by a diamond notehead.



ordinary noteheads, harmonics, notes plucked behind the bridges

Pitch-bends, tremolandi, and glissandi are written with calligraphic notation. Pitch-bends should be read as a tone ordinarily, with a quarter-sharp symbol (♯) indicating a semi-tone bend, and a sharp symbol (#) indicating a bend of a minor-third. Tremolandi are indicated by a narrow wavy line on one string. Glissandi across strings are notated by long wavy lines spanning several strings.



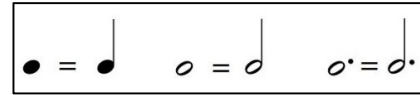
pitch bend (on one string)

tremolando (on one string)

glissando (across multiple strings)

Rhythm and Dynamics

Noteheads represent approximate rhythmic value throughout, and are notated as below:



Rhythm should also be treated as proportional, with the distance between the noteheads indicating their relative rhythmic value – ie, the farther apart the noteheads, the longer the duration between notes. The same applies to ornamentation and pitch bends – the longer the pitch-bend/glissando graphic, the longer the duration of the figure.

Dynamics are indicated above the staff.

Miscellaneous

Phrasing, fermatas, and articulations are notated using ordinary symbols. Chords are notated with noteheads arranged vertically in a column.

each year I learn
to pour myself into winter

at night
sparks gather beneath the snow

Crocus

Distant
• = c.90

pp

Musical score for the first system of 'Crocus'. It consists of five staves. The top staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The third staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The fourth staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The fifth staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The music features a melody in the second staff with a long slur over the first two measures, and a bass line in the fourth staff with a long slur over the first two measures. The dynamics are marked 'pp' at the beginning.

Slightly faster

, *p*

Musical score for the second system of 'Crocus'. It consists of five staves. The top staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The third staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The fourth staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The fifth staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The music features a melody in the second staff with a long slur over the first two measures, and a bass line in the fourth staff with a long slur over the first two measures. The dynamics are marked 'p' at the beginning.

Slightly faster

mf

p

mf

The first system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff contains a melodic line with several notes, some marked with a 'v' (accents), and is divided into three sections by a vertical bar line. The first section is marked *mf* and features a wide slur. The second section is marked *p* and also has a slur. The third section, starting after the bar line, is marked *mf* and includes a slur. The lower staff provides accompaniment with notes and rests, including a 'v' marking.

Slightly faster

mf

p

The second system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff contains a melodic line with notes and slurs, divided into three sections. The first section is marked *mf* and has a slur. The second section is marked *mf* and has a slur. The third section is marked *p* and has a slur. The lower staff provides accompaniment with notes and rests, including a 'v' marking.

mf

This system contains five staves of music. The top staff has three measures, each with a slur over two notes. The second staff has five measures with various note values and rests. The third staff has five measures with notes and rests. The fourth staff has five measures with notes and rests. The fifth staff has five measures with notes and rests, including a measure with a double bar line and a fermata-like symbol.

Faster, more energetic

f *mp* *f* *p*

This system contains five staves of music. The top staff has two measures with slurs over groups of notes. The second staff has two measures with slurs over groups of notes. The third staff has two measures with notes and rests, including a trill-like figure. The fourth staff has two measures with notes and rests, including a trill-like figure. The fifth staff has two measures with notes and rests.

mp

mf

f

p

mf

The first system of the musical score consists of three staves. The top staff contains several whole notes, some with a fermata. The middle staff features a melodic line with eighth notes and a section with a wavy, zigzag line. The bottom staff has a bass line with eighth notes and a long, sweeping slur. Dynamic markings *mp*, *mf*, *f*, *p*, and *mf* are placed above the staves, with lines indicating their duration. A 'V' marking is present at the start of the wavy line in the middle staff.

p

mf

f

mf

The second system of the musical score consists of three staves. The top staff has a long, sweeping slur over several whole notes. The middle staff contains a melodic line with eighth notes and a section with a wavy, zigzag line. The bottom staff has a bass line with eighth notes. Dynamic markings *p*, *mf*, *f*, and *mf* are placed above the staves, with lines indicating their duration. A 'V' marking is present at the start of the wavy line in the middle staff.

f *pp*

The first system of the musical score is divided into two sections by a vertical bar line. The left section is marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic and contains a melodic line with a long slur over a series of notes, some of which are marked with a fermata. The right section is marked with a pianissimo (*pp*) dynamic and features a similar melodic line with a slur, but it includes a prominent wavy line in the lower staff, possibly representing a tremolo or a specific performance technique. The notation is presented on a grand staff with multiple staves.

mf

The second system of the musical score is marked with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. It continues the melodic development from the first system, featuring a series of slurred phrases across the upper staves. A wavy line is present in the lower staff, consistent with the notation in the first system. The overall structure remains consistent with the grand staff format.

p ————— *pp*

The first system of the grand staff contains three phrases of notes with slurs. The first phrase starts on a whole note and moves up stepwise. The second phrase starts on a whole note and moves up stepwise. The third phrase starts on a whole note and moves up stepwise. The second system contains a continuous tremolo. The third system is empty.

Rit. —————> Very slow
(behind bridges) ————— ord.

The first system of the grand staff contains a phrase of notes with a slur. The second system contains a tremolo and a wavy line. The third system contains a tremolo.

————— *ppp*

Unauthorised photocopying, scanning, or redistribution (in full or in part)
of this printed music without the express permission of the Composer
(Henry McPherson) is strictly prohibited.

Enquiries should be directed to:
info@henrymcpherson.org.uk

More scores are available at
www.henrymcpherson.org.uk

@HenryDMcPherson
soundcloud.com/henry-mcpherson