



# **MUSIC OF CENTRAL ASIA**

**Kazakh Songs and Instrumental Tunes**

**Wesleyan Central Asian Music Ensemble**



**World Music Hall, Wesleyan University**

**December 8, 2023, 4pm**

# Program

<i>Kerbez qyz</i> (Graceful Girl), folk <i>küi</i>	<i>dombyras</i> , <i>qyl-qobyz</i> , <i>jetygen</i> , <i>temir ooz komuz</i>
<i>Arman</i> (Dream), <i>küi</i> by Kälek Qumaqaiuly	<i>jetygen</i>
<i>Saryn</i> (Shamanic Tune), attributed to Qorqyt	<i>qyl-qobyz</i>
<i>Jastar bii</i> (The Dance of the Youth), or <i>Bes töre</i> (Five Aristocrats), folk <i>küi</i>	<i>dombyras</i>
<i>Qara-ai közim</i> (My Black Eyes), folk song	<i>vocals</i> , <i>dombyra</i>
<i>Qorqyt</i> , <i>küi</i> attributed to Qorqyt	<i>qyl-qobyz</i>
<i>Aq Bayan</i> (White Bayan), folk song	<i>vocals</i> , <i>jetygen</i> , <i>saz-syrnai</i>
<i>Water Songs, Documented</i> , Emerson Jenisch	<i>saz-syrnai</i> , <i>hammered</i> <i>dulcimer</i> , <i>sounds of a river</i>
<i>Qara jorgha</i> (Black Pacer), folk dance	<i>dancer</i> , <i>vocals</i> , <i>dombyras</i> , <i>qyl-qobyz</i> , <i>jetygen</i> , <i>saz-syrnai</i> , <i>temir ooz komuz</i> , <i>asatayaq</i> , <i>danghyra</i>

## Wesleyan Central Asian Music Ensemble

Saida Daukeyeva, Director

Raushan Orazbaeva, Rüstem Nurkenov, and Zhaina Zharmukhametova, Instructors  
Tölegen Särsenbaev, Jolaushy Turdyghulov, Eljas Orynbasaruly, Azamat Baqiya,  
Baqytjan Dilmanov, Dastan Birimkulov, and Nurlanbek Nyshanov, Instrument Makers  
Aibek Baiymbetov, Teaching Assistant  
Raine Rosenblatt, Course Assistant

<i>Dombyra</i> (plucked lute) Batya Kline Charlie Kauffman Raine Rosenblatt	<i>Qyl-qobyz</i> (bowed lute) Kriti Williams	<i>Jetygen</i> (plucked zither) Eva Yang
<i>Saz-syrnai</i> (clay ocarina) Emerson Jenisch	<i>Asatayaq</i> (wand with bells) Sara Feili	<i>Danghyra</i> (frame drum) Sam Boston
<i>Temir ooz komuz</i> (Kyrgyz jaw harp) Aibek Baiymbetov	<i>Vocals</i> Hansini Bhasker Aibek Baiymbetov	

Featuring Five Ihza Marchiano, Visiting Assistant Professor of Dance

# Song Texts

## ***Qara-ai közim* (My Black Eyes), folk song**

*Auylым köship barady-ai belden asyp,  
Belden asqan bultpenen aralasyp-ai.  
Auylыng alys ketkende, beu qaraghym,  
Aq qaghazben jüerlik amandasyp-ai.*

### Refrain

*Qara-ai közim,  
Esingde me keshegi-ai,  
Aitqan sözim-ai.*

*Auylым köship barady-ai (y)lai kölge,  
Qyzyl beshpet jarasar qynai belge-ai.  
Auylыng alys ketkende, beu qaraghym,  
Köz jasyng(dy) köl qylyp jylai berme-ai.*

### Refrain

## ***Aq Bayan* (White Bayan),<sup>2</sup> folk song**

*Endi esen bol Bayannyng qalghan eli-ai,  
Sen de esen bol Arqanyng qongyr jeli-ai.  
Aq Bayan,  
Aq jüregim köpke ayan.*

My *auyl*<sup>1</sup> is migrating and has crossed  
a mountain ridge,  
Mingling with passing by clouds.  
When your *auyl* goes to a faraway [land],  
oh, my darling,  
Greet me with [letters written] on  
white paper and sent with travelers.

### Refrain

My black eyes,  
Do you remember  
The words I once told you?

My *auyl* is migrating to a muddy lake,  
The red jacket fits her waist snugly.  
When your *auyl* goes to a faraway [land],  
oh, my darling,  
Don't shed tears for the sake of  
appearance.

### Refrain

May you be well, the people of Bayan left  
behind,  
And may you, Arqa's<sup>3</sup> breezy wind, be well.  
White Bayan,  
My white heart<sup>4</sup> is known to many.

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<sup>1</sup> Nomadic community, migratory unit.

<sup>2</sup> Bayan is a lake in northern Kazakhstan. The descriptor "white" has connotations of beauty and superiority.

<sup>3</sup> Arqa, or Saryarqa, is an upland in central Kazakhstan comprising two Nature Reserves.

<sup>4</sup> A reference to Lake Bayan.

<i>Qaz qangqyldap jatatyn, qu syngqyldap-ai,</i>	Geese and swans are honking,
<i>Qumyq meruert aq qairan shalqar köli-ai.</i>	A pearl, a white boundless sacred lake.
<i>Aq Bayan,</i>	White Bayan,
<i>Aq jüregim köpke ayan.</i>	My white heart is known to many.

<i>Bayan köli ainadai möldir bulaq-ai,</i>	Lake Bayan is like a mirror, a clear spring.
<i>Jatatughyn sarqyryp, aghyn qulap-ai.</i>	The mouth is rumbling, the stream
	is rushing.
<i>Aq Bayan,</i>	White Bayan,
<i>Aq jüregim köpke ayan.</i>	My white heart is known to many.

***Qara jorgha* (Black Pacer), folk dance; song text by M. Turdaqyn and S. Qaliev**

<i>Qara jorgha bolmasa, biding säni keler me?</i>	Will be dancing good enough without <i>qara jorgha?</i>
<i>Qos etek köilek kimese qyzsyng säni keler me?</i>	Will a pretty girl look attractive without a beautiful gown?
<i>Qossyn barlyq beinege qan tarasyn denege!</i>	Let everyone dance, let our blood boil!
<i>Basyngyzdar shattanyp qara jorgha biine!</i>	Let us be joyful and happy, dancing <i>qara jorgha!</i>
<i>Al halaiyq bilengder bilengizder süigenmen.</i>	Let you, people, dance, dance with loved ones.
<i>Basyngyzdar shattanyp qara jorgha biine!</i>	Let us be joyful and happy, dancing <i>qara jorgha!</i>
<i>Bile bile jigitter janyp turghan ümitter.</i>	Dance, lads, dance, you are our hope.
<i>Shyqqanynsha toqtama mangdaiynghan</i>	Don't stop until you sweat off.
<i>tunyp ter.</i>	
<i>Qara jorgha bolmasa, biding säni keler me?</i>	Will be dancing good enough without <i>qara jorgha?</i>
<i>Qos etek köilek kimese qyzsyng säni keler me?</i>	Will a pretty girl look attractive without a beautiful gown?
<i>Qossyn barlyq beinege qan tarasyn denege!</i>	Let everyone dance, let our blood boil!
<i>Basyngyzdar shattanyp qara jorgha biine!</i>	Let us be joyful and happy, dancing <i>qara jorgha!</i>

## **Wesleyan Central Asian Music Ensemble**

Formed by Assistant Professor Saida Daukeyeva in Fall 2023, the Wesleyan Central Asian Music Ensemble is dedicated to the study and performance of music from a region at the crossroads of Eurasia that encompasses the post-Soviet states of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan. The ensemble aims to familiarize students with the social roles and cultural meanings of music among historically nomadic and sedentary peoples of Central Asia and to equip them with basic skills in singing and playing local musical instruments such as plucked and bowed lutes, a plucked zither, clay ocarinas, jaw harps, and percussion instruments. In addition to learning and playing traditional repertory from the region, students are encouraged to compose for and improvise on the Central Asian musical instruments.

### **Acknowledgements**

We thank the Music Department, Academic Affairs, Center for the Arts, and the Fries Center for Global Studies for supporting the initiative to establish the Central Asian Music Ensemble at Wesleyan University. Special thanks to Professor Ron Kuivila, Chair of the Music Department, for his enthusiastic encouragement of the ensemble project and his help at various stages in its development; to Esther Moran and Sandra Brough for their crucial administrative support; to Professor Jane Alden for her advice; and to Professor Nadya Potemkina for her helpful feedback on ensemble performances. We are grateful to Aaron Bittel and Jennifer Hadley for hosting the Central Asian Music Ensemble in the Olin Library, and to graphic designer John Elmore for creating the concert poster.

The development of the Central Asian Music Ensemble has been a collaborative project, and we thank the artisans in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan who made the instruments for the ensemble, and the Kazakh artists Raushan Orazbaeva, Rüstem Nurkenov, and Zhaina Zharmukhametova who visited the ensemble tutorial virtually to give lessons to students on the *qyl-qobyz*, *dombyra*, and *jetygen* respectively. Thanks also to Aibek Baiymbetov and Raine Rosenblatt, the Teaching and Course Assistants, for their excellent work in support of the ensemble.

