

Legends of Love from China



Corbett Auditorium, UC College Conservatory of Music
7:30 PM, January 20, 2007

Pre-concert talks with musicians, 6:30-7:00 PM, 3250 MEH, CCM

Presented by

The Greater Cincinnati Chinese Music Society

大辛城中國音樂協會

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The 2007 Chinese New Year Concert

Presented by GCCMS

The mission of the Greater Cincinnati Chinese Music Society (GCCMS) is to promote Chinese culture through music, arts, and education. Since it was founded in 1995, this non-profit organization has coordinated various music concerts and culture events in the greater Cincinnati areas including Dayton, Columbus, Ohio, and northern Kentucky.

We have consistently held concerts from 2001-2006. The purpose of these concerts is to introduce different Chinese musical styles such as Beijing Opera, Chinese folk songs, and traditional instrumental music, for example erhu, pipa, yangqin, and huqin. Besides presenting authentic Chinese music, our programs also bring in a cross-over musical style that fuses together Western and Eastern influences, such as a concerto for violin and pipa, or a duet for piano and zheng.

This year's concert will feature such legends of love from China as "Butterfly Lovers," "Dreams of the Red Chamber," and "Farewell My Concubine". Besides traditional Chinese instrument music, we introduce dancing and vocal songs to explore different performing styles into our program.

On behalf of GCCMS board members, I would like to thank all the performers, sponsors, volunteers, and audience members that have made this event possible.

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The Greater Cincinnati Chinese Music Society

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Program

Legends of Love From China

Executive Producer: A. J. Wang
Artistic Director: Weng, Lei
Stage Manager: Chung-Mei Chin
Emcee: Sylvia Lee

Part One

Moonlight over Spring River 春江花月夜

Cao, Yin – *Dancer*

Accompanied by Ke, Ming – *Pipa* & Cheng-Feng Hsieh – *Piano*

Butterfly Lovers 梁祝

Weng, Lei – *Piano*

Saejin Yoon – *Violin*

Dream of the Red Chamber 紅樓夢

Xu, Hangdong and Zheng, bei – *Dance* China New York

Jiang, Qi – *Choreographer*

Xie, Wenhui – *Composer*

Legend of Ban Hu, from China 板胡名家名曲

Shen, Cheng – *Ban Hu*

Hsieh, Cheng-Feng – *Piano*

Special Appearance

Guest Artist, Xin, Ti – *Piano*

“Paradise on Earth”, Magic of Mask 《人间好》舞蹈变脸

Cao, Yin – *Dancer*

Accompanied by Siddhartha Piano Quartet

Dance Fury

Michael Chertok – *Piano*

Jake Reed – *Drum*

*****Intermission*****

Part Two

CCM Philharmonia
Chen, Lin – *Conductor*

“Er Quan Ying Yue” 二泉映月
– String Orchestra

World Premier: Chinese Folk Song Concerto 民歌协奏曲

1, To Watch a Folk Drama

2, Flowing Creek

3, Dju Dju Dang Ah

Lin, Meng-chun – *Soprano*

Arranged by Xie, Wenhui

“Taiwan Suite”, Pipa Concerto 台湾组曲
Ke, Ming – *Pipa*

“Qin Qiang”, Ban Hu Concerto 秦腔
Shen, Cheng – *Ban Hu*

“Farewell My Concubine”, Jing Hu Concerto 夜深沉
Xie, Zhengang – *Jing Hu*

Chen, Lin

Conductor, CCM Philharmonia



Ms. Chen comes to CCM with an impressive resume that includes serving as the assistant to maestro Seiji Ozawa and conducting the Tokyo New Philharmonic, the China Youth Symphony Orchestra, Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra, Anhui Symphony Orchestra and the Hebei Symphony Orchestra.

Ms. Chen was the recipient of the prestigious Tanglewood Conducting Fellowship in 2002 and a three-time finalist in France's Besançon Conducting Competition. She has taught in the opera and conducting departments at Beijing's Central Conservatory of Music. Ms. Chen made her CCM conducting debut at the November 22 Chamber Orchestra concert with repertoire including Berlioz's *Nuits d'été*, Rossini's *Overture to The Barber of Seville*, and Mozart's *Symphony No. 40 in G Minor, K 550*.

Weng, Lei

*Artistic Director
Pianist, Butterfly Lovers*



Pianist Lei Weng has been hailed as “the exceptionally brilliant Chinese pianist.” Mr. Weng has won major national and international competitions, including the top prizes in the Isabel Scionti International Piano Competition and the Camerata Piano Competition, Silver Medal in the Wideman International Piano Competition. He is also a prize winner in the Grace Welsh International Piano Competition, the Kingsville International Competition and the TCU/Cliburn Piano Competition.

Mr. Weng has performed throughout North America and Asia, at such venues as Carnegie Hall, Steinways Hall, and the Austrian Culture Center in New York, Phillips Collection in Washington D.C., Meany Hall in Seattle, Ozawa Hall in Tanglewood, Washington Library Center in Chicago, Banff Center in Canada, and Beijing Music Hall. He has performed as a soloist with orchestras such as the Fort Worth Symphony, Shreveport Symphony, Camerata Symphony, NW Mahler

Festival Symphony, China National Symphony and Chorus, Beijing Symphony and Tianjin Symphony.

Lei Weng's performances have been critically acclaimed as "spirited and full of nuances" by The Cincinnati Post. The Herald Times calls him "colorful and flamboyant" and claims "there can be no doubt of his proficiency." China's Tianjin Daily remarks on Lei Weng's "profound and immense artistry" and Scott Cantrell, music critic from the Dallas Morning News exclaims: "Fabulous playing – really fresh, personal! I love the unpredictability, the willingness to take chances, not just to sound like someone else."

Jiang, Qi

Choreographer,

Dream of the Red Chamber

After graduating from the Yinchuan Dance School and Beijing Dance Academy in China, Mr. Jiang performed with the Yinchuan Song and Dance Ensemble, the Beijing National Song and Dance Ensemble, and the National Ballet of China. In 1980 Mr. Jiang was awarded the top prize in China's National Dance Competition, and he received the title of Première Artist from the Chinese Government in 1985.

After his arrival in the U.S., Mr. Jiang danced with the Joffrey Ballet Concert Group and Twyla Tharp Dancers in New York, then joined Ballet West in 1986 as a Soloist and was promoted to Principal Dancer in 1988.

Mr. Jiang has performed leading roles in many classic and contemporary works, including *Abdahl*, *Coppelia*,

The Nutcracker, *Sleeping Beauty*, and *The Dream*.

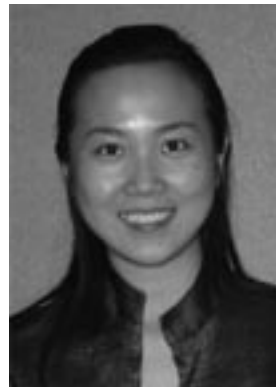
Mr. Jiang was Ballet Master of Ballet West from 1999 to 2001, and joined the College Conservatory of Music, University of Cincinnati Dance Division as an Assistant Professor and Artistic Director of Ballet in 2001; he was promoted to Associate Professor in 2005.

Mr. Jiang has served as a Dance Panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as having received an award from them for Artistic Excellence. He also served as an Adjudicator for the Ohio Choreography Competition and the Guangzhou Ballet Dancers' Competition.

In 2005, Jiang Qi was appointed Artistic Director of Dance China NY in New York City.

Xie, Wenhui

*Composer, Dream of the Red Chamber
and Chinese Folk Song Concerto*



Wenhui Xie is one of the emerging young composers from Beijing, China. Her works cover many genres,

including instrumental solos, art songs, choral, chamber, orchestral works, music for dance and film.

Wenhui's works were awarded prizes in several competitions and have been performed at concerts in China and the United States. Recently, at the request of the GCCMS, Wenhui arranged four Chinese folk songs for the CCM Orchestra. She composed music for the ballet *The Reverie of Baoyu*, choreographed by Jiang, Qi. This work was performed by the Dance China, NY in September 2006. Furthermore, Wenhui's works, *Pulsation of Life* for piano sextet and *Rondo, Bell* for piano solo, have been performed at the Music06 Festival in Cincinnati and at the International Summer School UPBEAT in Korcula, Croatia in July 2006. In addition, Wenhui's *Piano Concerto* was awarded a prize at the Vienna-Chinese New Year Concert, and *A Ballad of Lovesickness* for a cappella was awarded a prize at the Chicago Great Wall Composition Competition in early 2006.

She is pursuing a Masters Degree at the China Conservatory of Music and is currently an exchange student at the University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music. She is studying composition with professors Wanchun Shi, Joel Hoffman and Michael Fiday.

Cao, Yingi

Dancer, Moonlight over Spring, River and Magic of Mask

Founder of Ying Cao Dancing School in Duluth, Georgia, Ms. Ying Cao has been a performing artist, an instructor, and a choreographer for thirty years. A graduate from Sichuan Dancing School

in 1975, Ms. Cao was offered a teaching position in her Alma Mater in the same year. While working as an instructor, she received advanced training in the field of Chinese ethnic and folk dance, choreography, and pedagogy in dancing instruction at such institutions as Beijing Academy of Dancing, the Central College of Nationalities, and Beijing Normal College.

Yoon, SaeJin

Violinist, Butterfly Lovers

Saejin Yoon is a graduate of the Y-won school of Arts, Dance, Music and the Seoul Arts High School in Korea. She was a Gold Medalist in the Korean Times Music Competition and Winner of the Kyung Won University Music Competition. She gave a performance of the Glazunov Concerto at the Moon-ye theater in Korea.

In 1997, she moved to New York, where she attended the F. H. LaGuardia High School of Music and Art and Performing Arts, winning its concerto competition. While at LaGuardia, Saejin was an active chamber music performer and concertmaster for the LaGuardia Symphony. Saejin continued her music education at The Julliard School, as well as performing in numerous orchestra and chamber ensembles. She was a winner in the Lincoln Center Chamber Music Society Competition, and has given several solo and chamber performances at Alice Tully Hall in NY.

Currently studying at the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, Saejin has been the Concertmaster and principle chair of the Concert Orchestra and Philharmonia Orchestra at CCM

since 2003, is also active in chamber music performance. In 2005 she won the CCM Violin Concerto Competition and has given performance of Bruch Violin Concerto. Also, in 2006 Saejin performed Saint-Saens' piece with Miami Valley Symphony Orchestra.

Dance China NY

--Dream of the Red Chamber

Dance China NY (formerly known as the Chinese Folk Dance Company) is America's premier traditional Chinese dance company. The Manhattan-based Dance China NY is in residence at the New York Chinese Cultural Center in New York's Chinatown, founded in 1973. The Company dancers and musicians include internationally renowned artists from performance stages and academies throughout mainland China, Taiwan and the US.

Performing a vast and dynamic range of Chinese dance and Peking Opera styles, the Company transports audiences to a world of colorful myths, historical drama, and timeless beauty. DCNY's repertoire of traditional and contemporary folk and classical dances weaves a vibrant vision of China's ancient indigenous folk cultures across varied terrains of time and region - legend and reality. They evoke the haunting beauty and melancholy of imperial courtesans, recreate the rousing carnival rhythms of a harvest festival, and conjure up the dramatic beating of drums and clashing of swords on a distant battlefield. Noted for their powerful grace and contained elegance, Dance China NY performs regularly throughout the United States for audiences of all ages.

The Company has toured to hundreds of cities across 26 states bringing the movements and rhythms of China to communities large and small. Each year, the Company performs at over 500 events and reaches an audience of over 150,000 people. At the New York Chinese Cultural Center's community school of the arts, DCNY artists also teach Chinese dance and visual arts to over 300 students a year.

Xin, Ti

Pianist, Legend of Ban Hu



Born in 1986 in Changchun, China, Ti Xin began her piano studies at the age of five. She was admitted to the Elementary School of Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing at the age of 10. Two years later, Xin Ti was admitted to the Central Conservatory of Music - where she studied with Professors Du Taihang and Zhang Jin. Xin Ti demonstrated superb musical talent early at age seven, capturing first prizes in youth piano competitions held in Changchun and the Jilin province. As a teenager she continued to showcase her talent and was awarded a second prize in the Xinghai Cup Piano Competition in October 1998,

an honorable mention in the Asian Toyama Cup Piano Competition in October 2001 and third prize in the 65th Steinway Teenager Selection International Piano Competition in November 2001.

In 2002, Xin Ti held her solo concert at the Shen Yang Conservatory of Music and began a series of solo recitals in China. During the same year, she competed in the 4th International Tchaikovsky Competition for Young Musicians. In July 2003 and 2004, Xin Ti was invited to the Mount Royal Conservatory of Music's "Morningside Music Bridge" program to perform and the recordings from her performance have since been archived in the Conservatory's collection. China Central Television exclusively aired a program featuring one of Xin Ti's live performances in August 2003. The following month she made her appearance in South Korea, performing Mendelssohn D Major Concerto for Violin and Piano with the China Youth Chamber Orchestra.

In October 2004, Xin Ti put on an electrifying performance at the 9th World Piano Pedagogy Conference in Las Vegas. In January 2006, Xin Ti won the 2006 Gail Newby Concerto Competition in Lancaster, California and performed Grieg's Piano Concerto with the Antelope Valley Symphony Orchestra. She has taken master classes taught by world famous pianists such as Arie Vardi and Baessler Kalus.

Xin Ti resides in Los Angeles, California, where she studies with John Perry at the Colburn School of Performing Arts.

Shen, Cheng

Ban Hu Virtuoso



Renowned Banhu performer and the first banhu artist with an MA in China, Cheng Shen is a professor at Chinese Music Conservatory in Beijing and serves on four committees at the Chinese Musicians' Association. Professor Shen is the author of such academic theses as "Chinese String Instruments" and "On the Regional Styles and Techniques of Banhu." The best-known works among his musical compositions are "Sangzi, Native Place," "Lihua Hun, the Spirit of the Pear Blossom," and "Yingchuan, Welcoming Spring." His CD titles include "Yang Guifei, Lady Yang of the Tang Dynasty" and "Yeshenchen, the Deep, Dark Night."

Michael Chertok

Pianist, Dance Fury

Michael Chertock received bachelor and master of music degrees from CCM where he studied piano with Clifford Herzer, Robert Weirich, Frank Weinstock and James Tocco.

As an orchestral soloist, he has worked with James Conlon, Jaime Laredo, Keith Lockhart, Erich Kunzel and Andrew

Litton. Solo performances include the Philadelphia Orchestra, Boston Pops, l'Orchestre Symphonique du Montreal, Toronto Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, Naples Philharmonic, Detroit Symphony, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Chattanooga Symphony, Utah Symphony, Oregon Symphony, Indianapolis Symphony and the Dayton Philharmonic. He has presented recitals and made chamber appearances at the Linton Chamber Music Series, Mayor's 801 Plum Series, Steans Institute of the Ravinia Festival and Grand Tetons Music Festival.

For radio and TV, he has given recitals with Mark Oswald, Alyssa Park, Larry Combs, Eddie Daniels and Ricardo Morales-Matos. His recordings include Cinematic Piano, Chamber Music of Frank Proto, Palace of the Winds, Christmas at the Movies, Love at the Movies and CSO's Festival Prelude for Organ and Orchestra, on which he was the organ soloist.

Lin, Meng-Chun

Soprano,

Chinese Folk Song Concerto

Soprano Meng-Chun Lin, a native of Taiwan, is currently a Doctorate of Musical Arts student in the College-Conservatory of Music of the University of Cincinnati. She studies voice with Barbara Honn and coaches with Kenneth Griffiths. Her repertoire includes music from Baroque to Contemporary. She is especially interested in vocal chamber music.

Ms. Lin was invited to sing Jing in a new opera-musical "Some Sunny Night" in U.S and European premieres in September and November 2006.

She also won 2007 Marilyn Horne Foundation Masterclass Series, 2005 and 2006 Tanglewood Music Center Fellowship, 2004-07 Taiwan Ministry of Education Scholarship, the 2003 Rising Star of the Association of Vocalists in Taiwan, the 14th Chi-Mei Culture Foundation Scholarship 2002, and the Fourth Prize of the German Lieder Competition, Taipei 2001.

Siddhartha

Piano Quartet, Magic of Mask



Siddhartha Piano Quartet was founded at CCM in 2006 and begins its busy performance schedule for 2007 this month in Cincinnati. Its members have studied and performed in Boston, Cincinnati, New York, and Arizona and have been active at the Aspen Music Festival and School, in particular. Miao Li, violin and Dominic DeStefano, viola are both pursuing the Doctor of Musical Arts at CCM while Michael Ronstadt, cello and Lixia Li, piano are working towards the Master of Music degree. With individual performances across three continents, its members have also been invited to compete in several international competitions. They are excited to have one of their first performances together in celebration of the Chinese New Year.

Ke, Ming

Pipa Virtuoso



Ke, Ming, a renowned Pipa virtuoso, received her Bachelor of Music in Pipa performance at Nanjing Fine Arts College (China) in 1982, following which she joined the faculty of the college, serving ten years. During this period she performed frequently with the Nanjing Philharmonic Orchestra. Her formal debut came in 1985 in Nanjing in both Pipa and Zhong Ruan. Since then numerous recitals, orchestral appearances as well as university lecture recitals throughout China have followed.

Among her many prizes and awards are: First Prize for Pipa performance at the Jiangsu Music and Dance Festival of 1991; the Garden Prize of Art Cup: International Chinese instruments competition of 1989; and a significant Arts grant from the City of Cincinnati in 1995.

Ms. Ke has appeared as a soloist with orchestras such as the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, the Jiangsu Philharmonic Orchestra, the Nagoya

Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra. Her performances have been recorded on tape and CD, including a solo CD entitled “Dragon Boat”. Her solo appearances in Beijing, Barcelona, Madrid, and Chicago confirm her virtuoso status.

Xie, Zhengang

Jing Hu Virtuoso



Mr. Zhengang Xie, and Ms. Mei Hu, the husband and wife team, are listed among the musical elite in the Directory of Current Chinese Artists, 1998. They collaborated with leading Beijing Opera singers, and participate in the nation’s top-billing professional “Cheng” style. Mr. Xie was the featured principal fiddler of the “Cheng” style, Ms. Hu the principal Yue Qin player in many top Beijing Opera houses, including the Beijing Opera House, National Opera house, etc.

Mr. Zhengang Xie is not only the nation’s top Jing Hu player, but he also is an established Er Hu player. Ms. Hu also masters in Chinese Dulcimer. These two instruments are known as the main instruments of Traditional Chinese Music.

PROGRAM NOTES

Moonlight over Spring River

春江花月夜

The traditional music work 'Spring Moonlight on the Flowers by the River', which has a history of over one hundred years, has brought harmony and a sense of beauty to untold numbers of people. It would usher the audience into a world of dreams where the bright moon splashes silver light over the Yangtze River and the fragrance of spring blossom floats in the air, and put the audience/the listener in a happy mood as though he were looking at a graceful Oriental landscape painting.

Butterfly Lovers

梁山伯与祝英台

Concerto for the violin Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai, known outside China as the Butterfly Lovers, is programmatic music in one movement, based on the story of the love of a young man and a young girl. It was composed by two Chinese composers, Chen Gang and He Zhanhao. The music draws on Shaoxing Opera tunes. Its three sections recount three episodes characteristic of the story – love, protest and transfiguration. The story of Butterfly Lovers is:

A young woman named Zhu Yingtai from Zhejiang disguised herself as a man traveling to Hangzhou to study. During her journey, she met and joined Liang Shanbo, a schoolmate from Shaoxing in the same province. They studied together for three years, during which their relationship strengthened. When the two parted, Zhu offered to arrange for Liang to marry her 16 years old fictitious sister. When Liang traveled to Zhu's home, he discovered her true gender.

Although they were devoted and passionate about each other at that point, Zhu was already engaged with Ma

Wencai, a man her parents had arranged for her to be married to. Depressed, Liang died in office as a county magistrate. On the day Zhu was to be married to Ma, whirlwinds prevented the wedding procession from escorting Zhu beyond Liang's tomb. Zhu left the procession to pay her respects for Liang. Liang's tomb split apart, and Zhu dived into it to join him. A pair of butterflies emerged from the tomb and flew away.

Tonight's performance is for piano and violin duet, transcribed by Chen Gang and He Zhan Hao.

Dream of the Red Chamber

红楼梦

The novel The Dream of the Red Chamber is one of China's "four classic" treasures of literature. The duet reflects this great novel's emotional spirit.

In his old age, the central character, Baoyu, begins to understand Buddhist philosophy. Remembering his unfulfilled love for Daiyu, he realizes life is only a dream and our souls ultimately fade away...

Paradise on Earth, Magic of Mask

《人间好》舞蹈变脸

The dance portrays a graceful fairy whose features have been transformed by black magic. The fairy happens to come down to the human world, is so attracted to the beauty, love and happiness of human life that she decides to stay on earth instead of going back to the boring and secluded fairyland. The happy life on earth gradually restores beauty to her features.

"Mask change," a special theatrical technique unique to China's Sichuan opera, has evolved through numerous generations as a mysterious and

fascinating dramatic tradition. Ying Cao, a dancer from Sichuan province, has applied successfully the unique theatrical technique of “Mask change” to the art of dancing endowing a new artistic style to the dances she has designed.

被魔法改变了面容的公主来到人间，她被万紫千红的景色、民间纯朴的风俗和青年男女真挚的爱情所陶醉，人间的美好也使她渐渐地恢复了美丽的容貌。

变脸是中国川剧艺术的一种特技，世代相传，其之所以吸引人正是因为它的独特性和神秘性。在中国众多的剧种中，独有川剧才有此绝技。来自四川的舞蹈家曹英将川剧变脸绝技应用到舞蹈之中，使她编排的舞蹈呈现出新的艺术风格。

Chinese Folk Songs

民歌

“To Watch a Folk Drama” (from Jilin) is a song in a popular rural folk dance from Jilin in North China. It vividly describes a pretty young lady meticulously dressing up before going out to watch her favorite folk drama. The vivid description is dramatically enhanced by the ebullient melody and rhythm and the glissandi of the accompanying instruments

Flowing Creek (from Yunnan). “Flowing Creek” is a Yunnan folk song. The flowing creek in the song serves as an interesting metaphor for a girl’s endless longing for her lover. Folk songs like this one from Yunna Province usually have no invariable lyric, their rhythm is gentle and slow, and ad lib is the norm.

Dju Dju Dang Ah (from Taiwan). “Dju Dju Dang Ah” is originally a children’s song popular in Taiwan’s Yilan County and its neighboring areas. Sung in the Southern Fujian Dialect, the lyric depicts

the memorable scene of water dripping down from the ceiling of a tunnel with a train driving into it. The depiction of the scene becomes particularly fascinating with singers imitating the train chugging through the tunnel.

《小看戏》(东北民歌). 源自于东北秧歌, 是吉林民歌。主要描绘了一位青年女子的俊俏外貌和她看戏前的装扮活动。曲调热情、开朗, 节奏律动性强, 滑音的运用使得此曲颇具有戏剧效果。

《小河流水》(云南民歌)是一首云南汉族山歌。这类山歌大多无固定歌词, 以即兴演唱为主。歌曲节奏自由舒缓, 旋律具有回环起伏的特点。演唱者通过借景抒情, 表达出思念情郎的美好情感。

《丢丢铜仔》(台湾民歌)原是一首童谣, 流传于台湾宜兰一带。该曲用闽南语演唱。歌词简洁, 主要描写火车进山洞时山洞落水的情景。此曲运用人声来模仿火车过山洞时的奇妙声音, 颇具趣味性。

Deep into the Night --Farewell my Concubine

霸王别姬之夜深沉

Deep into the night, a famous Beijing Opera excerpt from the opera “Farewell My Concubine.” The story is set during the West Han Dynasty; General Han Hsien besieged The King of Chu Hsien Yu at Keh Shia. Han Hsien let his soldiers sing the songs of Hsiang Yu’s hometown. Listening to the familiar sound outside the camp, Hsiang Yu thought Han Hsien had captured his land and people. Yu Chi, the most favorite concubine of Hsiang Yu tried to please her master and ease his tension by doing a sword dance one last time, and killed herself afterward to show her loyalty.

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