

Background

The Chinese folk song “Rainbow Sister (Hong Cai Mei Mei)” originates from the Suiyuan Province (now the central area of Inner Mongolia) in China from the Han dynasty. The song tells of a young lad who travels far from his village, holding sweet memories of Rainbow Sister. “Rainbow” is most likely indicative of the colorful dress worn by young maidens in Mongolia. “Sister” reflects the Chinese custom of addressing elders as “uncles” and “aunties” and younger peers as “brothers” and “sisters.” The English lyrics in this arrangement explain how greatly the young lad misses the beautiful maiden, Rainbow Sister.

Throughout history, this song has seen many adaptations and changes. The most famous adaptations were from Wang Luobin, Zhu Fengbo, Teresa Teng, and Dao Lang. The Chinese songwriter Wang Luobin adapted the song into an anti-Japanese occupation anthem during World War II. Zhu Fengbo was a singer in the Shanghai Opera House that kept the traditions of Chinese folk culture alive even as Mao’s 1967 Cultural Revolution purged and eradicated much of the historical Chinese way of life. Teresa Teng was the Taiwanese superstar songstress who blended traditional Chinese musical styles with westernized musical styles and introduced Mandopop and Cantopop to popular music listeners during the 1970s and 1980s. Dao Lang is a contemporary male singer from Sichuan, China, who was voted best pop singer and artist in 2002 by the Beijing Music Society.

Pinyin Text:

Hong cai mei mei
Zhang de hao name
Ying tao xiao kou
Yi dian dian name
Heng hai hai yo

English Translation:

Little Rainbow Sister
Sings very well
Little cherry mouth
A little bit
(an exclamation of woe)

Mandarin Pronunciation:

*hawng chahee may may
chahng duh hahoo nah-muh
yeeng tahoo shyahoo kohoo
yee dyehn dyehn nah-muh
huhng hahee hahee yoh*

Please visit alfred.com to view a pronunciation video spoken by the arranger.

RAINBOW SISTER

(Hong Cai Mei Mei—Mandarin)

for T.T.B. voices and piano
with optional PianoTrax*

Traditional Chinese Folk Song
Arranged by JERRY LIM

Melancholic ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 69$)

PIANO

Melancholic ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 69$)

4 SOLO (or small group) **5**

Hong cai mei mei, heng hai hai yo!

Zhang de hao na-me, heng hai hai yo! Ying tao xiao kou,

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* Also available for S.S.A. (50218). PianoTrax 15 accompaniment CD available (49869). Visit alfred.com for digital scores and audio.

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10

rit.

(end solo)

heng hai hai yo! Yi dian dian na-me, heng hai hai yo!

rit.

Spirited (♩ = ca. 120)

TENOR I & II

BARITONE

Spirited (♩ = ca. 120)

mf

17

Hong car mei mei, heng hai hai yo!

mf

mf

TENOR II *only**mf*

Zhang de ___ hao na - me, heng hai hai yo!

TENOR I *only**mf*

Ying tao ___ xiao ___ kou, ___ heng hai ___ hai yo! ALL Yi dian dian na-me,

heng hai ___ hai yo!

27

Musical score for two voices (Soprano and Bass) and piano. The vocal parts are in G clef, and the piano part is in F clef. The key signature is one flat. Measure 27 starts with piano chords. The vocal line begins with "Rain - bow ____ Sis - ter, ____ heng hai hai yo!" Measure 28 continues the vocal line.

Rain - bow ____ Sis - ter, ____ heng hai hai yo!

Measure 29 starts with piano chords. The vocal line begins with "Oh, how I miss her, ____ heng hai hai yo!". Measure 30 continues the vocal line.

Oh, how I miss her, ____ heng hai hai yo!

Measure 31 starts with piano chords. The vocal line begins with "Bright as a cher - ry blos - som, ____ heng hai hai yo!". Measure 32 continues the vocal line.

Bright as a cher - ry blos - som, ____ heng hai hai yo!

Measure 33 starts with piano chords. The vocal line begins with "sub. p". Measure 34 continues the vocal line.

sub. p

33 *mf*

How I long for you, heng hai hai yo!

TENOR I only *mp*

Hong cai, hong cai mei mei, zhang de

hao, hao na - me. Ying tao

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40

xiao, xiao kou, — yi dian, — heng hai hai yo!

ALL

Heng hai hai, heng hai yo!

Trees bud in spring - time, — heng hai hai yo!

50219

47

Gold au - tumn moon shines, — heng hai hai yo!

49 *sub. p*

Still, love - ly Rain - bow Sis - ter, heng hai hai yo!

sub. p

51 *f*

How long for you, heng hai hai yo!

f

A large red diagonal watermark reading "Preview Only Legal Use Requires Purchase" is overlaid across the page.

53 TENOR I

Hong cai, hong cai mei mei, zhang de

TENOR II

Hong cai mei mei, heng hai hai yo! Zhang de hao na-me,

BARITONE

Hong cai mei mei, heng hai hai yo! Zhang de hao na-me,

56

hao, hao na-me Ying tao

heng hai hai yo! Ying tao xiao kou,

heng hai hai yo! Ying tao xiao kou,

58

rit.

xiao, xiao kou, yi dian, heng hai hai yo!

rit.

heng hai hai yo! Yi dian dian na-me, heng hai hai yo!

rit.

heng hai hai yo! Yi dian dian na-me, heng hai hai yo!

61 **Dramatically** ($\downarrow = \text{ca. } 69$)

sub. **p**

Ying tao xiao kou, heng hai hai yo!

sub. **p**

Ying tao xiao kou, heng hai hai yo!

sub. **p**

Ying tao xiao kou, heng hai hai yo!

Dramatically ($\downarrow = \text{ca. } 69$)

sub. **p**

Spirited (♩ = ca. 120)**63***sub. f*

Yi dian dian na - me, heng hai hai yo!

sub. f

Yi dian dian na - me, heng hai hai yo!

sub. f

Yi dian dian na - me, heng hai hai yo!

Spirited (♩ = ca. 120)

65*sub. mp**f*

Heng hai hai, heng hai hai, heng hai hai yo!

*sub. mp**f*

Heng hai hai, heng hai hai, heng hai hai yo!

*sub. mp**f*

Heng hai hai, heng hai hai, heng hai hai yo!

8va