

Guo Wenjing - Shu Dao Nan (Hard Are the Ways of Szechwan) (2007)

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1. *Shu Dao Nan* 23'17"

Guo Wenjing is one of China's most exciting young composers. A member of the legendary Class of '78, he works represent one of the most successful attempts at fusing a unique Chinese aesthetic with late 20th century western musical techniques and forms. His expressionistic cantata, *Shu Dao Nan* (Hard Are the Ways of Szechwan), a setting of Li Bai's famous poem, was one of Guo's earliest success. Dense orchestrations, melodies inspired by regional folk songs and a solo tenor, whose frequent flights into the highest tessitura (evoking the sounds of Chinese opera) combine to provide a truly thrilling musical experience.

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