

# A Traditional Chinese Song

*based on a poem by*

*Cáo Xuě Qín*

## Hóng Dòu Cí

*(Red Bean Song)*

Arranged for Guitar Quartet

by

Andrew Forrest

### *Red bean poem*

*Tears of longing still fall like love's red beans from my bleeding heart.*

*Forever blooming, spring willows and flowers fill the painted house.*

*After dusk, the wind and rain lash the screen*

*And break my troubled sleep.*

*I cannot forget new worries and old sorrows.*

*I cannot swallow the jade-like rice and golden wine;*

*My throat choked with tears.*

*I see my wan reflection in the ornate mirror.*

*My frowning brow.*

*I endure hours of darkness marked out by the water clock.*

*Ah! My sorrow is like the misty blue mountains,*

*It flows like the endless green river.*

*(and please do send me a better translation!)*

*In the event of a public performance,  
please include the arranger's name on the programme.*

<http://www.forrestguitarembles.co.uk>

# Hóng Dòu Cí

(Red Bean Song)

Arranged for Guitar Ensemble  
by Andrew Forrest

Molto espressivo, rubato ♩ = 56

The score is for a four-guitar ensemble in 4/4 time, key of D major. It begins with a tempo and mood instruction: 'Molto espressivo, rubato ♩ = 56'. The first system (measures 1-5) features four staves. Guitar 1 starts with a whole rest, then plays a melodic line starting at measure 3 with dynamics 'mp dolce'. Guitars 2 and 3 play accompaniment with dynamics 'p dolce' and include 'pizz.' (pizzicato) and 'nat.' (natural) markings. Guitar 4 provides a bass line with 'p dolce' dynamics. A circled '6' indicates the start of section A. Section A (measures 6-11) continues the melodic and accompaniment parts, with 'ten.' (tension) markings in measures 9-11 and a 'gliss.' (glissando) in measure 10. Section B (measures 12-15) features a melodic line in Guitar 1 and a bass line in Guitar 4. A dynamic change to 'p' (piano) occurs at measure 13. A 'mf' (mezzo-forte) dynamic is used for a melodic phrase in Guitar 3 starting at measure 13. The score concludes with a final chord in all guitars.

C

17

*mp* *cresc.* *f* *mp*  
*p* *cresc.* *f* *p*  
*p* *cresc.* *f* *p*  
*p* *cresc.* *f*

Meno mosso

22

*mp*  
*p*  
*p*  
*p*

rit. . . . Tempo primo

28

*pp* *mp* *ppp*  
*pp* *pizz.* *p* *nat.* *ppp*  
*pp* *pizz.* *p* *nat.* *ppp*  
*pp* *p* *ppp*

# Hóng Dòu Cí

(Red Bean Song)

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Molto espressivo, rubato ♩ = 56

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of seven staves of music, each with specific performance instructions and technical markings.

- Staff 1 (Measures 1-5):** Starts with a whole rest, followed by a half note G4. Then a series of eighth notes: A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4. Fingering: 4, 3, 2, 4, 3, 1, 4, 3, 1. Chord markings IX and V are present. Dynamics: *mp dolce*. Includes circled numbers 2 and 3.
- Staff 2 (Measures 6-10):** Labeled 'A'. Starts with a half note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4, quarter note F#4, quarter note E4, quarter note D4, quarter note C4. Fingering: 2, 1, 4, 3, 2, 0, 1, 3, 4, 1, 4, 2, 0, 1, 3, 3. Includes 'ten.' and 'gliss.' markings. Dynamics: *mp*. Includes circled numbers 2 and 1.
- Staff 3 (Measures 11-14):** Labeled 'IX'. Starts with a half note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4, quarter note F#4, quarter note E4, quarter note D4, quarter note C4. Fingering: 4, 3, 1, 3, 3, 2, 1, 3, 4, 1, 4, 3, 1, 3, 1, 3, 1. Dynamics: *mp*. Includes circled numbers 3 and 3.
- Staff 4 (Measures 15-20):** Labeled 'B'. Starts with a whole rest, followed by a half note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4, quarter note F#4, quarter note E4, quarter note D4, quarter note C4. Fingering: 4, 1, 3, 4, 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 3, 4, 1, 2. Dynamics: *mp*, *cresc.*, *mf*, *f*. Includes a circled number 2.
- Staff 5 (Measures 21-25):** Labeled 'C'. Starts with a half note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4, quarter note F#4, quarter note E4, quarter note D4, quarter note C4. Fingering: 1, 3, 4, 1, 4, 4, 1, 1, 1, 1, 4, 3, 2, 4, 3, 1, 4, 3, 1, 4, 3, 1, 141, 2. Dynamics: *mp*, *mp*. Includes circled number 2.
- Staff 6 (Measures 26-29):** Labeled 'VII'. Starts with a half note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4, quarter note F#4, quarter note E4, quarter note D4, quarter note C4. Fingering: 2, 4, 4, 1, 1, 1, 4, 4, 3. Dynamics: *pp*, *mp*. Includes 'Meno mosso', 'rit.', and 'Tempo primo' markings.
- Staff 7 (Measures 30-33):** Starts with a half note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4, quarter note F#4, quarter note E4, quarter note D4, quarter note C4. Fingering: 4, 3, 4, 3, 2, 1, 4, 3, 2, 1. Dynamics: *ppp*.

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II p dolce

5 nat. 1 4 4 II 0 1 2 4 4

9 ten. V 4 3 4 II

15 B p p cresc. mf

20 C f p p

25 Meno mosso rit. Tempo primo pizz. ppp p

30 nat. ppp

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*p dolce*

nat.

**A**

ten.

**B** en dehors

*mf* *p* *cresc.* *mf*

**C**

*f* *p* *p*

Meno mosso rit. . . . Tempo primo

*pp* *p*

nat.

*ppp*

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Molto espressivo, rubato ♩ = 56

⑥ = D  
*p dolce*

7 **A**  
4 3 ten. 1 3

12 **B**  
*p*

16 **C**  
*p cresc. mf f* 2

23 **Meno mosso**  
*p*

28 **rit.** **Tempo primo**  
*pp p ppp*