

# Sample Translation

## Arts and Culture

- See below for the original Chinese manuscript.
- **A native-speaker of English who has studied this field** proofreads the translated English.
- The quality of the translated manuscript is suitable for publication in an international journal.

### A Great Musician from our Home Town — Deng Yu Siang

At some point in time, *Longing for the Spring Breeze* became a favorite song, appearing on the radio, on the television, and even in concerts. Its prevalence was such that one heard the song all the time, and expatriates living abroad always sang this song ~~together~~ during gatherings to sooth their homesickness. It became a **ubiquitous** folk song ~~heard everywhere~~, even after the names of the song writer and lyric composer had faded.

In addition to *Longing for the Spring Breeze*, songs like *Flowers in a Rainy Night* and *Sorrow in a Moonlit Night* had the same reception.

What kind of magic do these songs have? This question may not find a widely agreed-upon answer. Perhaps it is the soul-stirring, confessional, hopeful, Taiwanese-style tunes awaiting a glimmer of light that move us!

In 1934, Deng Yu Siang impressed the Taiwanese music field with the piece *Longing for the Spring Breeze*. This beautiful **song, faithfully rendered in a Taiwanese style, moving, and true Taiwanese song** affected all listeners. **Its debut marked the appearance of a brilliant shining star in Taiwan's galaxy of musical talent** ~~With this debut, a genius and shining star appeared in Taiwan's music field.~~

**Once recorded and distributed** ~~This song was made into a record and sold by Columbia Records, Taiwan in Taipei,~~ **the song quickly spread across** ~~and spread immediately to every corner of the island.~~ **In recognition of this achievement,** Deng Yu Siang was offered the position of “exclusive composer” (similar to a basic composer) at Columbia Records. Needless to say, this young musician of only twenty-nine ~~gained~~ **benefitted from** a stable living environment **where he and could freely** concentrate on **developing his talent** ~~this music-writing.~~ Famous songs **followed consecutively, winning** ~~that won universal praise were completed one after another.~~ According to one of Deng Yu Siang's good friends, during these one to two years, he wrote no less than 200 songs; in other words, he wrote a new song every three to five days, a sure sign of his talent.

But good times don't last long—this is a common, ancient Chinese saying. Mr. Deng's

musical career confirms this, as ~~life of music proves true this saying, and~~ his good times were indeed too short. We can say that it wasn't that Mr. Deng's talent was limited, but the time he had was limited and troubled. To quote another ancient saying, time and luck do not come together!

1937, the gun shots on Marco Polo Bridge shattered the people's dreams of peace, and the Japanese army started a full scale war against China. In the Spring of 1940, Deng Yu Siang and his family left Taipei and moved to Cyong Ling, where he found a teaching post at a public school, once again returning to academia. His wife Jhong Yo Mei also became a teacher. With this they gave up the busy prosperity of Taipei City and lived a quiet country life together.

But the quiet life ~~could only afford temporary relief from troubled times, as nothing was set to remain~~ was only quiet by comparison. The times were still troubled, and the situation ~~was not~~ safe, stable or peaceful. Especially after the war in Europe began in 1939, and the Japanese ~~triggered~~ started the Pacific War in 1941, ~~in this state of world war,~~ how could it be ~~otherwise~~ life be peaceful?

After five years of a teaching life that seemed peaceful on the surface, Mr. Deng fell ill with a heart disorder. Due to a long period of insufficient resources, lack of nutrition and medication, and depression, his determination to overcome the illness seemed weakened, and he was only sick for a few days before he passed away. The date of ~~His~~ death, ~~on~~ June 11<sup>th</sup>, 1944, was little more than a year before Taiwan was restored. ~~Deng Yu Siang was only~~ He lived to be 39 years old.

Deng Yu Siang's tragedy is the tragedy of ~~the~~ Taiwanese people living under foreign ~~occupation~~ rule. Those dark times must have smothered so much talent, so many innocent lives, and the thought of this plight after so many years still causes pain in our hearts. Thankfully, Mr. Deng left us many beautiful melodies. A Western proverb goes, "Life is short, but art is eternal." Mr. Deng was not able to enjoy a long life, but his work will endure for eternity. His music brings us and our future generations endless beautiful expectations for the future. Hence, we can say that Mr. Deng has been immortalized. He is not only the pride of Longtan people, but also the pride of all Taiwanese.

## 我鄉出身的大音樂家—鄧雨賢

不曉得從什麼時候開始，這首「望春風」就成了人們最喜愛的歌曲之一，電台的廣播裡，電視機的螢光幕上，以至什麼演唱會之類，它成了無所不在，無時不在的歌聲，繚繞在人們耳畔與唇邊，旅居異國的遊子們，每有聚會時，也會不期而然地合唱起來，撩撥他們的思鄉之情，撫慰他們的遊子情懷。它甚至成了「民謠」，作曲者與作詞者都不再為人們所寄望，也不再為人所知悉，凡是我們鄉親足跡所到之處，莫不風行不輟。

不光是這首「望春風」而已，還有「雨夜花」「月夜愁」等歌曲，也有類似的情景。

這些歌曲，何以會有這種魔力呢？這個疑問，恐怕沒有人能說出一個可以使人人首肯的理由來。也許該是那種令人迴腸蕩氣，如慕如訴，卻又含著一抹憧憬，一線光明的充滿台灣情調的旋律，特別能夠敲動我們心絃的緣故吧！

一九三四年(民國廿三年)鄧雨賢以一曲「望春風」，震驚了台灣樂團。這是純粹台灣風格的曲子，那麼優美，那麼動人，聽者無不被敲動心絃。於是人們都認定，台灣樂壇終於出現了一顆彗星——一個不世出的天才。

這支曲子，由台北的「台灣哥倫比亞」唱片公司灌成唱片發售，傾刻間風行到島上每個角落，而雨賢先生也被禮聘到這家公司去當「專屬作曲家」(約略等於基本作曲家)。不用說，這位才廿九歲的年輕音樂家，從此有了安定的生活環境，可以專心一志從事他的作曲工作。於是，那些膾炙人口的名曲，一支支地寫成。根據雨賢先生生前一位好朋友的說法，在這以後的一年多約兩年之間，他所譜成的曲子不下二百首，換言之，他幾乎是三天五天的，便有一支新曲寫成。他的才華洋溢，由此亦可見一斑。

好景不常——這是一句我國自古被說慣了的話。雨賢先生的作曲生涯，也正應了這一句話，並且屬於他的好景好像還太短暫了。如今我們可以肯定，並不是雨賢先生的才華有限，在短短時間內就耗盡。其所以有一蹶不振的情況發生，實在是因為時間的動盪所造成的。如果我們再照我們古老的說法來說，那就是：「時運不濟」吧！

一九三七年，盧溝橋的一記槍聲，震碎了人們的昇平夢，日本軍閥悍然發動了侵華的全面戰爭。一九四〇年春，鄧雨賢先生舉家離開台北，搬到芎林，在那裡謀到了公學校教師的職位。他又一次回到教壇上來了。他的太太鍾有妹女士也同樣地當上了一名教師。從此他們摒絕台北的繁華，夫唱婦隨，過起鄉間寧謐的生活。

這裡是說寧謐的生活，祇不過是比較上的說法而已，實則時局動盪，根本就沒有給人們一個安居樂業的局面。尤其一九三九年歐戰爆發，四一年日閥更在太平洋上打起了「大東亞戰爭」，整個世界都被擲進戰火兵燹裡，又如何能有安定的日子呢？

表面上還算平靜的教師生活，雨賢先生才過五年光景，他不幸病倒了。是心臟病。長久以來，因物資極度缺乏而造成營養不良，加上藥品也奇缺，又有那心情的抑鬱，這些因素似乎使他減少了與病魔抗爭的毅力，臥病不過數日，他就含恨以歿。時在台灣光復前一年多的一九四四年六月十一日，得年僅三十九歲。

鄧雨賢的悲劇，正也是異族統治下台灣人民的悲劇。想起那段暗淡的歲月，扼殺了多少才華，多少無辜的生命，我們便會覺得，在過了許多星霜之後，心口猶有餘痛。所幸，雨賢先生為我們留下的幾支那麼好的曲子。西諺云：人生短暫，藝術無限。雨賢先生雖然未能克享天年，但他的作品卻可以永垂不朽。它們不但給我們，相信也會給我們的子子孫孫，帶來無盡的光明與憧憬。因此，我們可以說，雨賢先生是不朽的。他不但是我們龍潭人的驕傲，同時也是整個台灣人民的驕傲。