

# Twenty Selected Lyrics

Translated by D. C. Lau

女冠子 韋莊  
四月十七  
正是去年今日  
別君時  
忍淚佯低面  
含羞半斂眉  
不知魂已斷  
空有夢相隨  
除却天邊月  
沒人知

女冠子 韋莊

四月十七  
正是去年今日  
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To the Tune of *Nü kuan tzu*

The Seventeenth Day of the Fourth Month  
Was the very day a year ago  
When we said goodbye.  
Holding back my tears, I feigned looking down  
And in bashfulness I puckered my brows.

Little did I know that my soul was crippled  
And dreams would be left to follow you in vain.  
Apart from the moon on the edge of the sky  
No one knows of this.

Wei Chuang (826-910)

生查子 牛希濟  
 春山煙欲收  
 天淡稀星少  
 殘月臉邊明  
 別淚臨清曉  
 語已多  
 情未了  
 回首猶重道  
 記得綠羅裙  
 處處憐芳草

To the Tune of *Sheng-cha-tzu*

From the spring hills the mist was about to lift.  
 The sky was pale, the scattered stars were scanty.  
 The fading moon by her cheeks shone,  
 Parting tears at the break of dawn.

生查子 牛希濟

春山煙欲收  
 天淡稀星少  
 殘月臉邊明  
 別淚臨清曉

Much had been said  
 But love lingered on.  
 Turning round, she said yet once again,  
 'Remember my green silk skirt  
 And be kind to the sweet grass where you go.'

Niu Hsi-chi (died after 925)

語已多  
 情未了  
 回首猶重道  
 記得綠羅裙  
 處處憐芳草

清平樂 李煜

別來春半

觸目愁腸斷

砌下落梅如雪亂

拂了一身還滿

雁來音信無憑

路遙歸夢難成

離恨恰如春草

更行更遠還生

To the Tune of *Ch'ing-p'ing yüeh*

Spring is half gone since we parted.  
Wherever I turn the sight breaks my heart.  
Below the steps plum blossoms fall confusedly  
like snow.  
Brushing them off, I am covered all over again.

The migrant birds come but where is the sign of  
a message.  
The road is too long for homeward dreams to be  
dreamed.  
The grief of parting is just like grass in spring:  
The farther you go, the more it seems to grow.

Li Yü (937-978)

清平樂 李煜

別來春半

觸目愁腸斷

砌下落梅如雪亂

拂了一身還滿

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踏莎行 晏殊  
 小徑紅稀  
 芳郊綠遍  
 高臺樹色陰陰見  
 春風不解禁楊花  
 濛濛亂撲行人面  
 翠葉藏鶯  
 朱簾隔燕  
 鑪香靜逐游絲轉  
 一場愁夢酒醒時  
 斜陽卻照深深院

To the Tune of *T'a so hsing*

On the narrow path a touch of red,  
 In the fields an expanse of green,  
 By the tall tower the trees show a darkish hue.  
 The spring wind has not the sense to restrain the  
 willow catkins  
 Which rush wildly in a drizzle at the faces of  
 passers by.

The green leaves enfold the oriole,  
 The red blinds shut out the swallow.  
 The incense from the burner chases the gossamer  
 quietly around.

As I awake from a troubled dream, the wine  
 wearing off,  
 There goes the slanting sun shining on the inner  
 courtyard.

踏莎行 晏殊

小徑紅稀

芳郊綠遍

高臺樹色陰陰見

春風不解禁楊花

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鑪香靜逐游絲轉

一場愁夢酒醒時

斜陽却照深深院

Yen Shu (991-1055)

浪淘沙 歐陽修

把酒祝東風

且共從容

垂楊紫陌洛城東

總是當時攜手處

游遍芳叢

聚散苦匆匆

此恨無窮

今年花勝去年紅

可惜明年花更好

知與誰同

To the Tune of *Lang t'ao sha*

Raising my cup, I plead with the east wind  
To stay with us for yet a while longer.  
East of Loyang, the willows drooping, the fields  
purple,

There is no spot but we visited, hand in hand,  
Where flowers bloom in abundance.

Having met, we parted, only too soon.  
What would have been will never be.  
Flowers this year are redder than last.  
What a pity, flowers next year will be finer still  
But goodness knows who will share them with me.

Ou-yang Hsiu (1007-1072)

浪淘沙 歐陽修

把酒祝東風  
且共從容  
垂楊紫陌洛城東  
總是當時攜手處  
游遍芳叢

聚散苦匆匆  
此恨無窮  
今年花勝去年紅  
可惜明年花更好  
知與誰同

蝶戀花  
歐陽修

誰道閒情拋卻久  
每到春來惆悵還依舊  
日日花前常病酒  
不辭鏡裏朱顏瘦  
河畔青蕪堤上柳  
為問新愁何事年年有  
獨立小橋風滿袖  
平林新月人歸後

To the Tune of *Tieh lien hua*

Who says idle love has long been cast aside?  
Whenever spring comes round I am melancholy  
as ever.  
Day after day, overcome by wine among the  
flowers,  
I accept a youthful face haggard in the mirror.

蝶戀花

誰道閒情拋棄久  
每到春來惆悵還依舊  
日日花前常病酒  
不辭鏡裡朱顏瘦

Green grass by the river, willows on the bank,  
But why, I ask, is there new grief year after year?  
Alone I stand on the little bridge, the wind swelling  
my sleeves,  
After she is gone in the moonlight across the wood  
in the plain.

河畔青蕪堤上柳  
為問新愁何事年年有  
獨立小橋風滿袖  
平林新月人歸後

Ou-yang Hsiu

生查子  
去年元夜時  
花市燈如晝  
月上柳梢頭  
人約黃昏後  
今年元夜時  
月與花依舊  
不見去年人  
淚濕春衫袖

To the Tune of *Sheng-cha-tzu*

Last year on the Night of the Lanterns  
The flower market was bright as day.  
The moon climbed to the tip of the willow tree;  
I awaited my love at the hour of dusk.

生查子  
去年元夜時  
花市燈如晝  
月上柳梢頭  
人約黃昏後

This year on the Night of the Lanterns  
The moon and the flowers are as they were.  
My love from last year is nowhere to be seen;  
Tears drench the sleeves of my spring dress.

Ou-yang Hsiu

今年元夜時  
月與花依舊  
不見去年人  
淚濕春衫袖

## 采桑子

羣芳過後西湖好

狼籍殘紅

飛絮濛濛

垂柳闌干盡日風

笙歌散盡遊人去

始覺春空

垂下簾櫳

雙燕過來細雨中

To the Tune of *Ts'ai-sang tzu*

The West Lake is lovely when the blossoms are gone,  
 The ground littered with fallen red,  
 Catkins flying in a drizzle,  
 All day the wind blows on the railings by the drooping willows.

Only after the merry-making when the revellers are gone  
 Does one feel the emptiness of spring.  
 I lower the blinds on the window:  
 A pair of swallows come back in the fine rain.

Ou-yang Hsiu

采桑子

羣芳過後西湖好  
 狼籍殘紅  
 飛絮濛濛  
 垂柳闌干盡日風

笙歌散盡遊人去  
 始覺春空  
 垂下簾櫳  
 雙燕歸來細雨中

鷓鴣天 晏幾道  
 彩袖殷勤捧玉鍾  
 當年拚卻醉顏紅  
 舞低楊柳樓心月  
 歌盡桃花扇影風  
 從別後  
 憶相逢  
 幾回魂夢與君同  
 今宵賸把銀缸照  
 猶恐相逢是夢中

To the Tune of *Che-ku t'ien*

Embroidered sleeves never let my jade cup go dry.  
 Then was I willing to risk a face flushed with wine.  
 She danced till the moon sank below the Willow  
 Tower  
 And stilled the breeze coming off the Peach Fan by  
 her song.

Ever since we parted,  
 Thinking of our meeting,  
 How often has my soul shared with yours the same  
 dream!  
 Tonight I keep holding the silver lamp to you  
 For fear even now our meeting is but a dream.

Yen Chi-tao (?1030-?)

鷓鴣天 晏幾道

彩袖殷勤捧玉鍾  
 當年拚卻醉顏紅  
 舞低楊柳樓心月  
 歌盡桃花扇影風

從別後  
 憶相逢  
 幾回魂夢與君同  
 今宵賸把銀缸照  
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采桑子  
晏幾道

西樓月下當時見

淚粉偷勻

歌罷還顰

恨隔鑪煙看未真

別來樓外垂楊縷

幾換青春

倦客紅塵

長記樓中粉淚人

To the Tune of *Ts'ai-sang tzu*

The time we met under the moon in the West  
Lodge  
In stealth you powdered over your tears  
And you sang only to frown after your song.  
A pity I could not see you clearly across the  
incense!

采桑子

西樓月下當時見  
淚粉偷勻  
歌罷還顰  
恨隔鑪煙看未真

After we parted, the threads of the willow outside  
Have time and again renewed their fresh green,  
While the weary traveller in the mundane dust  
Can never forget the girl in the Lodge with the  
powdered tears.

Yen Chi-tao

別來樓外垂楊縷  
幾換青春  
倦客紅塵  
長記樓中粉淚人

臨江仙 蘇軾

夜飲東坡醒復醉

歸來鬢鬢三更

家童鼻息已雷鳴

敲門都不應

倚杖聽江聲

長恨此身非我有

何時忘却營營

夜闌風靜縠紋平

小舟從此逝

江海寄餘生

To the Tune of *Lin-chiang hsien*

On the East Hill I sobered up only to get drunk again.

When I returned it must have been the third watch. The servant boy was by then snoring like thunder. He never answered however hard I knocked.

Leaning on my staff I listened to the sound of the river.

I constantly regret not being my own master. When can I leave behind this life of care? The night spent, the wind drops and the ripples subside.

I will go away on a small boat never to return, Spending the rest of my days upon the seas.

Su Shih (1036-1101)

臨江仙 蘇軾

夜飲東坡醒復醉  
歸來鬢鬢三更  
家童鼻息已雷鳴  
敲門都不應  
倚杖聽江聲

長恨此身非我有  
何時忘却營營  
夜闌風靜縠紋平  
小舟從此逝  
江海寄餘生

浣溪沙  
蘇軾

山下蘭芽短浸溪

松間沙路淨無泥

蕭蕭暮雨子規啼

誰道人生無再少

門前溪水尚能西

休將白髮唱黃雞

To the Tune of *Huan hsi sha*

Below the hill the short orchid shoots soak in the stream,  
Amongst the pines the clean sandy path is unsullied,  
To the sound of rain drizzling at dusk, the cuckoo cries.

Who says for man youth never comes a second time?  
Even the stream by the door is able to make for the west<sup>1</sup>.  
Sing not with your white hair of the cock impatient for dawn.

Su Shih

浣溪沙

山下蘭芽短浸溪  
松間沙路淨無泥  
蕭蕭暮雨子規啼

誰道人生無再少  
門前溪水尚能西  
休將白髮唱黃雞

<sup>1</sup>It used to be the belief in China that in its nature water always flows east.

少年遊  
蘇軾

去年相送  
餘杭門外  
飛雪似楊花  
今年春盡  
楊花似雪  
猶不見還家

對酒捲簾邀明月  
風露透窗紗  
恰似姮娥憐雙燕  
分明照  
畫樑斜

To the Tune of *Shao-nien yu*

少年遊	Last year when I saw you off
去年相送	Outside the city gates,
餘杭門外	The fluttering snow was like willow catkins.
飛雪似楊花	This year spring has drawn to a close
今年春盡	And willow catkins are like snow.
楊花似雪	Still there is no sign of your return.
猶不見還家	
對酒捲簾邀明月	I roll up the blinds and ask the moon to share my
風露透窗紗	wine
恰似姮娥憐雙燕	And the wind and dew come through the window
分明照	gauze.
畫樑斜	It's as if the Moon Maiden, out of pity for the
	nesting birds,
	Lights up clearly
	The painted beam aslant.

Su Shih

蝶戀花  
 蘇軾  
 花褪殘紅青杏小  
 燕子飛時  
 綠水人家遶  
 枝上柳綿吹又少  
 天涯何處無芳草  
 牆裏秋千牆外道  
 牆外行人  
 牆裏佳人笑  
 笑漸不聞聲漸悄  
 多情卻被無情惱

To the Tune of *Tieh lien hua*

Flowers slip off their faded red and green apricots  
are small.

When the swallow takes to its wings

The green water round the homestead winds.

The catkins on the willow branches dwindle with  
each gust of wind.

Where to the ends of the earth is there no sweet  
grass?

Within the walls a swing, without a path;

Without the walls a wayfarer,

Within the laughter of a fair maid.

The laughter grows faint; the sound dies away.

One who cares is vexed by one who cares not.

Su Shih

蝶戀花

花褪殘紅青杏小

燕子飛時

綠水人家遶

枝上柳綿吹又少

天涯何處無芳草

牆裏秋千牆外道

牆外行人

牆裏佳人笑

笑漸不聞聲漸悄

多情卻被無情惱

如夢令 秦觀  
 遙夜沉沉如水  
 風緊驛亭深閉  
 夢破鼠窺燈  
 霜送曉寒侵被  
 無寐  
 無寐  
 門外馬嘶人起

To the Tune of *Ju meng ling*

The long night is deep like water.  
 The wind taut, the post station is firmly shut.  
 My dream cut short, a mouse peeps at the lamp.  
 The frost sends the morning chill through my  
 padded quilt.  
 No more sleep,  
 No more sleep,  
 Outside the horses neigh and men are up and  
 about.

如夢令 秦觀  
 遙夜沉沉如水  
 風緊驛亭深閉  
 夢破鼠窺燈  
 霜送曉寒侵被  
 無寐  
 無寐  
 門外馬嘶人起

Ch'in Kuan (1047-1100)

少年遊  
 并刀如水  
 吳鹽勝雪  
 纖指破新橙  
 錦幄初溫  
 獸香不斷  
 相對坐調笙  
 低聲問  
 向誰行宿  
 城上已三更  
 馬滑霜濃  
 不如休去  
 直是少人行

周邦彥

To the Tune of *Shao-nien yu*

少年遊 周邦彥

并刀如水  
 吳鹽勝雪  
 纖指破新橙  
 錦幄初溫  
 獸香不斷  
 相對坐調笙

低聲問  
 向誰行宿  
 城上已三更  
 馬滑霜濃  
 不如休去  
 直是少人行

The knife shimmers like water,  
 The salt is whiter than snow.  
 The slender fingers cut the new orange.  
 The curtains of brocade freshly warmed,  
 The incense from the burner rises unbroken.  
 Facing each other, they sit playing the pipes.

In a low voice she asks,  
 'Where are you putting up for the night?  
 The third watch has sounded on the city walls.  
 It's slippery for the horse on the thick frost.  
 I'd rather you didn't go.  
 The streets are all but deserted outside.'

Chou Pang-yen (1057-1121)

如夢令 李清照  
 常記溪亭日暮  
 沉醉不知歸路  
 興盡晚回舟  
 誤入藕花深處  
 爭渡  
 爭渡  
 驚起一灘鷗鷺

To the Tune of *Ju meng ling*

I often recall the pavilion by the stream at sunset.  
The thought of home never crossed my drunken  
mind.

The mood spent, I turned my boat as night fell  
And strayed into the depth of the lotus blossoms.  
A scramble for the jetty,  
A scramble for the jetty,  
Startled a flock of water birds on the sand.

如夢令 李清照

常記溪亭日暮  
 沉醉不知歸路  
 興盡晚回舟  
 誤入藕花深處  
 爭渡  
 爭渡  
 驚起一灘鷗鷺

Li Ch'ing-chao (1084-?)

如夢令  
 李清照  
 昨夜雨疏風驟  
 濃睡不消殘酒  
 試問捲簾人  
 卻道海棠依舊  
 知否  
 知否  
 應是綠肥紅瘦

To the Tune of *Ju meng ling*

Last night the rain was fitful and the wind abrupt.  
 A good sleep has not cleared my drunken head.  
 Asking her who is rolling up the blinds,  
 I am told the begonias are undisturbed.  
 'Don't you see?  
 Don't you see?  
 The green must have grown fat and the red gone  
 thin.'

如夢令

昨夜雨疏風驟  
 濃睡不消殘酒  
 試問捲簾人  
 却道海棠依舊  
 知否  
 知否  
 應是綠肥紅瘦

Li Ch'ing-chao

醜奴兒 辛棄疾

少年不識愁滋味

愛上層樓

愛上層樓

為賦新詞強說愁

而今識盡愁滋味

欲說還休

欲說還休

卻道天涼好箇秋

To the Tune of *Ch'ou nu erh*

In youth, not knowing what grief was about,  
I loved to seek a melancholy spot,  
I loved to seek a melancholy spot,  
And for a new song I would pretend to speak of  
grief.

And now, knowing what grief is all about,  
On the point of speaking, I hold back,  
On the point of speaking, I hold back,  
And say, instead, What a fine autumn, so very cool.

Hsin Ch'i-chi (1140-1207)

醜奴兒 辛棄疾  
少年不識愁滋味  
愛上層樓  
愛上層樓  
為賦新詞強說愁

而今識盡愁滋味  
欲說還休  
欲說還休  
却道天涼好箇秋

虞美人 蔣捷

少年聽雨歌樓上

紅燭昏羅帳

壯年聽雨客舟中

江闊雲低

斷雁叫西風

而今聽雨僧廬下

鬢已星星也

悲歡離合總無情

一任階前滴到明

To the Tune of *Yü mei-jen*

In youth I listened to the rain in houses of song,  
The red candle casting a shadow on the bed curtains.

In my prime I listened to the rain in sojourning  
boats,  
The river broad, the clouds low,  
A stray bird wailing in the west wind.

And now, I listen to the rain in a monk's hut,  
My hair long since bespeckled.  
Gaiety and sorrow, meetings and partings, all so  
unfeeling,  
I leave the rain to drip on the steps till dawn.

Chiang Chieh (fl. 13th c.)

虞美人 蔣捷

少年聽雨歌樓上

紅燭昏羅帳

壯年聽雨客舟中

江闊雲低

斷雁叫西風

而今聽雨僧廬下

鬢已星星也

悲歡離合總無情

一任階前滴到明