



Undergraduate assignment feedback form
(to be completed by marker)

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<i>Module Code: SICH3010</i> <i>Module title: An Outline of Chinese Studies</i>	<i>Student number: 2503135</i>
<i>For completion by marker:</i> <i>Comments:</i>	
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☒ I have not used AI in my assignment

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The Formation of Jiang Kui's *Ci* Style

Module code: SICH3010

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Date: March 3, 2026

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 2. Influence of the Times on Jiang's Style
 3. Influence of Life Experiences on Jiang's Style
 4. Conclusion
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Introduction



Jiang Kui 姜夔 (1155-1235)

- Formal name: Yao Zhang
- Alternative name: Baishi Daoren
- Born in Poyang, Raozhou (now part of Jiangxi Province)



Poyang,
Jiangxi province

Jiang Kui 姜夔 (1155-1235)

- Outstanding Poet, **composer of *ci***  a form of classical poetry conforming to a definite pattern
- Renowned Composer, ***guqin*** Player, and Music Theorist in the History of Chinese Literature and Music of the Southern Song dynasty
- One of the **ten greatest musicians in ancient China**
- Poetry, prose, calligraphy, and music are all masterfully executed: Another rare artistic all-rounder after Su Shi 蘇軾 (1037-1101)
- Achieved the highest accomplishments in **poetry, composition, and music**



Jiang Kui 姜夔 (1155-1235)

- Zhang Yan 張炎 (1248-c. 1320):
Jiang Kui's *ci* style was **ethereal**.

1. The era Jiang lives in
2. Jiang's personal life experiences



Zhang Yan



Jiang Kui

Influence of the Times on Jiang's *Ci* Style



The Times Jiang Lives In

1138:

- the **Jurchen attacked** on the domestication region of the Southern Song dynasty.
- Capital moved from today's Kaifeng, Henan to **Hangzhou, Zhejiang**.



Zhang Hong 張泓, 'Qianyi shidai yu rensheng dui jiangkui cifeng de yingxiang' 淺議時代與人生對姜夔詞風的影響, *Dazhong wenyi* 大眾文藝, (2010).

The Times Jiang Lives In

Southern Song dynasty:

- superior geographical environment
- economy revived
- rulers indulge in entertainment and failed to realize that settling in the south was not a sustainable solution



The Times Jiang Lives In



1. Jurchen intruders
2. paid Jurchen enormous amount of silver and other goods
3. heavy domestic taxes and corvee
4. Class contradictions
5. Peasant uprisings
6. rulers were content with the prevailing circumstances, indulging in pleasure

'ethereal'
ci style

The Treaty of Shaoxing
(*Shaoxing Heyi* 紹興和議)

Yangzhou Man 《揚州慢》

*On the left bank of the Huai is a famous city;
To the east of the bamboos, a beautiful place^b.
I unstrap the saddle for a brief halt at the first stage:
Through the spring wind for ten miles, all with crops and wheat green.
Since barbarian horses went spying on the Yangtze,
Abandoned ponds and lofty trees still detest talk of soldiers.
In the gradually yellowing dusk, a shrill horn blows coldly
In the desolate city.*

*Mr. Tu, the refined connoisseur,
Were he to return today, could not fail to be astonished.
The 'Cardamon-seed Tz'ŭ-maker' who dreamed of beauty at the Green
Tower^c would with difficulty express in verse his profound feelings.
The Bridge of the Twenty-four Flute-playing Beauties still stands.
The waves are unsettled in mood; the cold moon makes no sound.
I recall, beside the bridge, the crimson herb, year
By year — and wonder for whom it grew.*

(Trans. L. E. R. Picken)



Influence of social unrest on Jiang's *ci*

Facing empty city used to be flourished:

- ♦ No intense emotional outpouring
- ♦ Spoke with measured grace
- ♦ Feel his anguish through the soothing prose and serene imagery

Influence of Life Experiences on Jiang's *Ci* Style



Jiang Kui: a wandering life



At his 14th :

- Father passed away
- Lived with his elder sister for 17-18 years

1186:

- Traveled to Zhejiang at the invitation of Xiao Dezao 蕭德藻 (?-?)
- Get married
- Lived with the Xiao family at Huzhou for about 10 years

1197:

- Moved to Hangzhou
- Relying on close friends Zhang Jian 張鑑 (?-?) and Zhang Zi 張鎡 (1153-1235) for support for 10 years of destitution

After Zhang Jian's death:

- Became utterly destitute until his death in poverty and illness

- Aloof personality
- **ci style**: ethereal, clear, empty

Xinghua Tianying 《杏花天影》

Green willow-silk hangs sweeping Lovebird Creek.

I remember how the singing-girl, Peach-petal, once called for the ferry.

I too become sad-eyed in the spring wind.

Waiting to depart, I lean on the magnolia oars; again a brief halt.

On the road to Chin-ling, golden orioles sing and swallows dance.

Surely the tides know man's deepest sorrow.

Covering the river-banks are fragrant herbs, but I do not succeed in returning.

The sun sets; again I set the boat moving — towards what place?



(Trans. L. E. R. Picken)

Conclusion

- ♦ **Ethereal**
- ♦ Empty & clear
- ♦ Simple & elegant
- ♦ Restrained & faint

Thank you

