

Jin Wenyin

“Yundao Ge” (“Weeding Song”)

Style/Era: Asia/China, Taiwan, Singapore, Overseas Chinese

Genre: *Shan'ge*

“Yundao Ge” is a song from Jiangsu Province, East China. The excerpt that Jin sings is from a rice-weeding song. It combines moments during which Jin cries out, using syllables like “e-he-hei,” and those where he sings simple lyrics describing the task of weeding a rice paddy. Weeding was arduous but essential work during the hot summer months, and all present joined in the calls as they uprooted weeds. The leader improvised lyrics to help the workers forget the heat of the day and their weariness. Jin Wenyin sang alone when he recorded this song in 1987, but had he been singing while weeding, he would likely have developed a short story over several verses or started to challenge other singers within earshot to improvise riddle songs.

		Start	End
OPENING CALLS			
x	e hehe hehei	0:00	0:09
LINE 1			
x	Line 1 of the lyrics, musical phrase 1a. yingdao ei ... (If you're weeding, sing a weeding song, weeding ...)	0:09	0:19
x	Extension of the phrase by repeating a few words from line 1. yingdao ei (weeding. . .)	0:19	0:27
x	Further repetition. aya yingdao ei ...(weeding. . .)	0:27	0:34
LINE 2			
x	Line 2, phrase 1b. liang pang mei ...(With knees bent, squelching in the mud)	0:34	0:51
LINE 3			
x	Line 3, phrase 2a. ngei gwa ei ... (I see a six-foot plot, full of weeds)	0:51	1:01
LINE 4			
x	Line 4, phrase 2b. (1st time) se zi ... (my ten fingers hold six seedlings.)	1:01	1:12
OPENING CALLS			
x	Like the opening calls but leads to a repeat of line 4 and phrase 2b. ei hei hei	1:12	1:35