

This piece depicts a plum blossom struggling to survive in the bleak and frigid cold winter. The plum usually blossoms in mid-winter during January and February when all flowers die. The piece starts with a piano theme representing the peaceful start of the winter. The theme is followed by a motive played by the *erhu* representing the cold winter breeze. This is further intensified with a denser rhythm. The sad but beautiful *erhu* melody portrays the plum blossom standing alone in the cold trying its best to resist the ruthless wind. B Dorian is used to depict a sign of life of the plum in the deadly winter. However, this sign is shortly shattered as the wind completely destroys the plum blossom bringing the piece to its climax. The motive returns as the wind subsides, but without the appearance of the plum blossom. Finally, the last chord is left unresolved symbolising a faint hope of spring.