Alexander Merck is a student of the guqin under the guidance of Peiyou Chang. His musical journey began at the age of seven with piano, later expanding to trumpet and guitar at age 11. Alex pursued his passion for music by majoring in piano and music composition at the University of Georgia. After stepping away from music to pursue a career in cyber security, the birth of his child led him back to music through the meditative practice of shakuhachi. During this period, his exploration of Chinese literature introduced him to the guqin. Captivated by the instrument's history and expressive depth, Alex decided to dedicate himself to its study. He looks forward to many years of playing qin and collaborating with the wider guqin community.