

## About the work

“Yao shi ni xiang feifei, chao si mu xiang chao yne ni neng li suo ji zhi shi,  
ni jiang yongyuan dei bu dao ni suo yao xunmi de dangxi.

Wei shenme bu shi ziji xinjing shenning  
Zai ni ziji de xiao shan pang xun zhao pingjing.”

(Ricci)

“If you yearn for things outside yourself  
You will never obtain what you are seeking  
Why not put your own heart in order  
And find peace on your own hillside.”

The great Jesuit missionary Matteo Ricci spent 27 years in China and died in Beijing in 1610. In addition to theological writings, he also produced works in the fields of horology, hydraulics, optics, observational astronomy, surveying, music, geography and geometry, among other things.

After Ricci died, his fellow Jesuits published his journal. ***Quando il Fiume Giallo si acchiarrà (Frammenti ricciani)***, scored for alto voice, violin and cello includes texts from Ricci's journal/diary in (a) the original Italian (Italian-Ricci), (b) the translated Latin edition by Nicolas Trigault (Latin-Ricci/Trigault), (c) Trigault's own Latin and Portuguese commentary contribution in this journal translation (Latin-Trigault), and (d) from Ricci's Chinese writings. The texts are anchored by a musical ritornello that sets a central prayer from St. Ignatius' "Contemplation to obtain Love" from his *Spiritual Exercises*.

The work's title phrase ***Quando il Fiume Giallo si acchiarrà*** (When the Yellow River clears) is a quote of a quote (Ricci quoting a Chinese proverb). It gives the idea, that was very much Ricci's, that the conversion of China, and any conversion, is a rare, difficult, miraculous event--and still one that one has to pursue and to work for, in order to be ready when the opportunity eventually will arise.

-Ralf Yusuf Gawlick