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# FUNERAL MUSIC IN WENCHENG AND ITS TRANSNATIONAL APPLICATION IN THE CHINESE COMMUNITY OF MILAN

## Abstract

Chinese immigration in Italy has long been attracted public interest and often caused heated debates in the national press, especially for the way of doing business and for problems and disagreements between the Chinese settlements and the local population. Also, the scientific community has turned some attention to the phenomenon. In particular, the topic has been studied at least since the early nineties, when the presence of Chinese people has become clearly visible in Italian cities. In some cases, they have begun to modify the economic and social environment, especially in larger settlements, such as Prato, in the textile district, where the number of Chinese residents has exceeded the local population, and Milan, where an entire district in the center has become in fact a new Chinatown. The studies published so far are mainly about the sociological nature of the process based on quantitative analyzes, often commissioned by public authorities such as municipalities, provinces, or chambers of commerce. Moreover, there are more recently published journalistic reports that have actually explored this reality more deeply. Some documentary films have also been shot about this subject.

## Keywords

Chinese diaspora, qualitative study, Italy, funeral music, transnational application

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Francesco Serratore finished his PhD in Ethnomusicology at Sapienza University of Rome (Italy) carrying out a research on ‘Music and Transnational Identity in the Chinese Community of Milan’. He recently defended his PhD in Ethnomusicology after he was post graduate student at Shanghai Conservatory of Music (2016), Master degree in Musicology at University of Milan and Milan ‘Giuseppe Verdi’ Conservatory of Music (2014), Master degree in Clarinet at the Conservatory of Music of Nocera Terinese (2010), Serratore is a performer of wind instruments of Italian folk music. He conducted fieldwork in Wenzhou (China) and Calabria (Italy). Main research fields: Music, transnational connection and diaspora; Wenzhou folk music; Southern Italy double reed instruments.

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