

pillar. Its frame has three beams and five short pillars. The melon pillars are carved into pumpkins or papayas and they look very round and substantial, both powerful and beautiful, especially the carved lions on the top which seem to carry the beams on their shoulders. They look very true-to-life.

### III. The Ritual Objects and Musical Instruments of Taipei Confucius Temple

In contrast to Buddhist or Taoist temples, no idols are venerated at Confucius temples. Because the Confucian Analects clearly state that “the Master never talked of prodigies, feats of strength, disorders or spirits,” only tablets can be venerated in Confucius temples. The atmosphere of Confucius temples is respectful and solemn, which is in accord with the unyielding spirit of the Confucian culture. Although there are not many idols and sacrificial articles, there are quite a few ritual objects and musical instrument made in accordance with ancient designs. These instruments are used on September 28 every year, when worshipping Confucius. It’s a really breathtaking ceremony.

The *Yung* bell and *Chin* drum are placed beside the Yi Gate,

(54) The wooden structure of the Tsung Sheng Shrine is built in the “three beams and five melons” style. Note that all the melon pillars have long whiskers to wrap around the beam. On the top is a carving of a lion. This kind of frame combines excellent structural engineering with great artistic beauty.

(55) The idol niche of the Tsung Sheng Shrine accommodates the tablets of five generations of ancestors of Confucius.



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and the set of bells, set of chiming stones, *Te* bell and *Te* chiming stone are placed in the platform in front of the Ta Cheng Hall. The sounds of these instruments all have different pitches. There are also such ancient musical instruments as the *chu*, *yu*, *se*, Chinese lute, *pofu*, *tao* drum and *hsun* in front of the Ta Cheng Hall. The *Chu* is a kind of percussion instrument shaped like a hopper. Its upper part is wide and lower part narrow. The *Yu* is a wooden instrument that is carved in the shape of a tiger. There are irregular teeth on its back and it is sounded by brushing it. The *Pofu* is a small drum that one slaps with the hand to make a beat. The *Tao* drum is also a small drum with a handle under it. One holds the handle and shakes it so that strikers hit the drum and it reverberates. It is used to lead the music. The *Hsun* is an instrument that is made of clay, has a flat bottom and round body and is pointy on the top. There are holes on the surface, and one blows in the holes to play musical notes.

The set of bells is an instrument that is composed of 16 metal pieces hung in two rows. The thickness of the metal differs, and when one strikes them, they all give different pitches of sound. The set of chiming stones is an instrument that is composed of 16 curved stone slabs which are hung in two rows. One strikes them to make sounds. The pitches of the sound vary according to the size of the stone slabs.

There are many kinds of instruments used in sacrificial ceremonies, such as *lungkan*, lamps, censers, axes, large axes, fans, parasols, goblets, wine pitchers and discs. When worshipping Confucius, the uses of all these instruments have to be in

(56) The *Chu* is a musical instrument used in Confucius worshipping ceremonies. It looks like a hopper, with its upper part wide and lower part narrow. Striking it makes a sound.

(57) The *Chien* drum used in Confucius worshipping ceremonies.

(58) The *Te* chiming stone used in ceremonies worshipping Confucius.

(59) The *Te* bell used in ceremonies worshipping Confucius.



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coordination with music, and in the rites the boys holding these instruments have to stop every five steps when walking and show their respect at every movement. After all, worshipping Confucius is a big ceremony in our country: the whole thing has to be very impressive and solemn.

The Taipei Confucius Temple holds an impressive ceremony of worshipping Confucius every year on September 28. The mayor presides over it and the director of the Civil Affairs Bureau assists him. Everyone who takes part has to be in position before dawn and visitors who come to experience the solemn atmosphere of Chinese traditional Confucius worshipping ceremonies must be orderly. This is the most important annual occasion at the Taipei Confucius Temple.

(60) The Yu is a musical instrument used in ceremonies of worshipping Confucius. It is carved out of wood and looks like a tiger. It has teeth on its back. The small Pofu drum behind is sounded by hitting it with the hand.

(61) The set of bells is a musical instrument used in Confucius worshipping ceremonies. It is composed of sixteen bells, hung into two rows. The different sizes give the metals different pitches of sound.

(62) The set of chiming stones is a musical instrument used in ceremonies of worshipping Confucius. It is made of sixteen stones hung into two rows. The pitch of each stone varies according to its size.



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(63) During the Confucius ceremony, young boy dancers dance the six-fold formation in front of the Ta Cheng Hall.





# Taipei Confucius Temple

*Director/Hugh Cheng-Hsiou Lin*

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*Address/275 Ta Lung Street, Taipei, Taiwan R.O.C.*

*Author/Li Chien-lang*

*Translated by/Jonathan Barnard, Andrew Morton*

*Design/Lee Nan*

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