

TREASURES OF NATIONS: TRADITIONAL HUNGARIAN AND CHINESE INSTRUMENTS



Magyar Posta plans to issue a series of stamps over several years under the name "Treasures of Nations", which showcases the diversity of Hungarian-Chinese cultural and diplomatic relations. The subject of the first issue is "traditional Hungarian and Chinese instruments," which presents the Hungarian zither and the Chinese guzheng on a miniature sheet. The issue coincides with the Chinese Spring Festival celebrations in the People's Republic of China. Twenty thousand copies of the new stamp issue designed by Barnabás Baticz were produced by the Pénzjegynyomda Zrt. printing company. The new issue will be available at first day post offices and Filaposta in Hungary from 4 February 2026, but may also be ordered from Magyar Posta's online store.

The zither and the guzheng – both plucked, traditional string instruments – symbolise the musical traditions and cultural ties between the two countries.

The zither is one of the most widespread traditional Hungarian instruments, and it became known by its name used in Hungarian today, the *citera*, in the first half of the 19th century. It is played placed on a table or a stand, and the number of strings it has, usually 16 to 18, depends on the design of each instrument. The zither was part of the traditional music of Hungarian communities, and was often sounded at events involving communal work, as well as balls and weddings. Its frequent use can be attributed to the simplicity of its structure and design, as well as the fact that even children can easily learn to play the instrument. Accompaniment strings provide a continuous harmonic background to the main melody. Thanks to movements reviving folk music, the zither is still widely played today.

The *guzheng* is a popular Chinese wooden instrument that today has 21 strings, which were once made of silk. These are divided by movable bridges into two parts, allowing the instrument to produce higher and lower notes. Played on a stand, the guzheng is a traditional plucked string instrument. It is one of the ancient national instruments of the Han people, yet is widespread throughout China and remains popular today. Due to its wide range, beautiful and pleasant tone, rich playing technique, and powerful expressiveness, it is known as "the king of instruments" and "the piano of the East". It is one of China's unique and important national instruments. (Source: www.neprajz.hu/wikipedia)

The two different stamp designs in the miniature sheet, the commemorative first day cover and the postmark on the first day cover feature motifs of the Hungarian and Chinese instruments.

Order code:

2026010040011 (miniature sheet)

2026010060012 (FDC)

Issued on: 4 February 2026

Total face value: HUF

4,720 (On the date of issue, HUF 1,180 pays the postage of a non-priority letter up to 50 g, or postcard or picture postcard outside Europe.)

Printing technique: offset

Number of copies: 20,000

Perforated size of stamps: 25.2 x 25.2 mm

External imperforated size of miniature sheet: 100 x 70 mm

Paper type: White, wood-free, surface-treated, gummed stamp paper with optical whitener

Printed by
Pénzjegynyomda Zrt. (miniature sheet), Pátria Zrt. (FDC)

Source: China Cultural Centre, Museum of Ethnography

Designed by
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