# Table of Contents

**Author’s Note** iv  

**Chapter One: The Classical Chinese Language** 1  
- Classical Chinese in Historical Perspective  
  - The Basis for the Written Record: Chinese Characters  
  - The Sound Systems of Classical Chinese  
    - The Phonology of Middle Chinese  
    - The Sounds of Old Chinese  
  - Words in Classical Chinese (Morphology)  
  - The Syntax of Classical Chinese  
    - Topic-Comment  
    - Verb-Object  
    - Coordination  
    - Modification  
- Conclusions  

**Chapter Two: The Formal and Rhetorical Resources of Chinese Poetry** 19  
- The Formal Structures of Chinese Poetry  
  - The Line  
  - The Couplet  
  - The Quatrain Stanza and Octave Poem  
- Rhetorical Features of Chinese Poetic Language  
  - Rhetorical Tropes  
  - Ornamentation  
  - Allusion  
- Summary  

**Chapter Three: Origins of the Poetic Tradition** 42  
- *Shijing*: The Canon of Poetry  
  - The Origin of the *Shijing*  
  - The Structure of the *Canon of Poetry*  
  - The *Canon of Poetry* and the Development of the Poetic Tradition  
  - Selections from the *Canon of Poetry*  
- *Chu Ci*: the Lyrics of Chu  
  - *Li sào*: “Encountering Sorrow”  
  - The “Nine Songs”  
  - “Nine Pieces”  
  - “Nine Transformations”  
  - “The Fisherman”
Chapter Four: Poetry in the Han, Wei, and Jin Dynasties

Anonymous Poetry from the Music Bureau
Early Pentasyllabic Poetry
Poets of the Jian’an Reign Period
   Cao Cao
   Cho Zhi
   Wang Can
The Wei Dynasty
   Ruan Ji
The Western Jin
   Pan Yue
   Zuo Si
   Lu Ji
   Guo Pu
Appendix: Cao Pi, “A Discourse on Literature”

Chapter Five: The Maturing of Convention — The Poetry of the Northern and Southern Dynasties

North and South
   Tao Qian
   Xie Lingyun
   Bao Zhao
   Xie Tiao
Southern Folk Songs
   He Xun
   Xiao Gang
   Yu Jianwu
   Yu Xin
Appendix: Wang Xizhi, “Preface to the Orchid Pavilion Collection”

Chapter Six: Early and High Tang Poetry before Du Fu

   Wang Bo
   Song Zhiwen
   Chen Zi’ang
   Wang Zhihuan
   Meng Haoran
   Wang Wei
   Cui Hao
   Li Bai

Chapter Seven: Du Fu

Chapter Eight: Middle and Late Tang Poetry

   The Historical Context
   Bai Juyi
Han Yu
Meng Jiao
Jia Dao
Li He
Li Shangyin
Du Mu
Wen Tingyun

CHAPTER NINE: THE GROWTH OF A NEW POETIC FORM — THE SONG LYRIC 286

Introduction
Early Development
“Southern” Ci by Bai Juyi and Liu Yuxi
Wen Tingyun

Five Dynasties
Historical Context
“Among the Flowers”
The Southern Tang
Innovations during the Early Northern Song
Yan Shu
Zhang Xian
Liu Yong
Su Shi

CHAPTER TEN: CI IN THE TWELFTH AND THIRTEENTH CENTURIES 326

Introduction
Zhou Bangyan
Li Qingzhao
Xin Qiji
Jiang Kui
Wu Wenying
Zhang Yan

APPENDIX I: LIST OF POEMS 368

SUGGESTED READINGS 374