Taiwanese Opera + Finding Plum Blossom in the Snow

A: It’s now our turn to do cross talks.

B: Say, what is ‘cross talks’ exactly?

C: Cross talks is single as one, pair as two.

B: One is a lonely single, two are partners in pair.

C: So, cross talks by one person is a solo monologue. When it’s done by two people, it’s called a dialogue. So one that is done by more than two is called…

D: It’s called a farce.

B, C: (Facing D) It’s called let’s do cross talks.

C: Speaking, imitating, teasing, and singing are four essential skills for cross talks.

B: Speaking is the ability to talk the talk.

D: Imitating is the ability to impersonate other people.

B: Teasing is the ability to organize your materials and make the audience laugh out loud.

C: Singing is the ability to sing.

B: Then why don’t you sing us a tune!

C: Sure. Let me get my apprentice to do it. You, come here. Every one, listen up…

E: A lonely traveler in the foreign land, thinking about families during festive days; knowing on the distant highland were my brothers; planting cornel without me would never be the same.

D: Hold it right there! What was that weird tune you just sang?

B: I know. I know! That was… grandma’s tune!

C: What grandma’s tune?! Of course not, that was…

B: Not grandma’s tune? Then that must be grandpa’s tune!

E: Gee, that was the tune of Taiwanese opera, or what people often refer to as ‘Taiwanese opera.’

A (Reading rapidly like a news reporter): Taiwanese opera, originated in Yilan County, it also means folk songs or tunes. Ming-Hua Taiwanese Opera Band is the most famous band in Taiwan. It is also a form of Shuochang Art!

B: Speaking of which, I am going to ask my apprentices to sing us a tune. Come here guys, quick!

B: Ding-dong, ding-dong, ding-dong, ding-dong, ding-dong, ding-dong, ding-dong, ding-dong…

All: A snowy sunny day, fragrant blossom everywhere, riding donkey crossing the bridge, bells ring-a-ding-ding, ring-a-ding-ding, ring-a-ding-ding, ring-a-ding-ding… Ah…Ah…Ah… picking flowers and growing them in the pot, accompanying my studying of verses and music, enjoying the good time together!

A (Reading rapidly like a news reporter): This song was written by Huang Zi, a Chinese composer. The song describes the joyful good mood he had on a snowy day.

B: Ah…Ah…Ah…

ALL: Picking flowers and growing them in the pot, accompanying my studying of verses and music, enjoying the good time together!

C: That’s right. Cross talks is all about…

ALL: Mastering in speaking, imitating, teasing, AND singing!