



LISTEN TO ABING

Interactive Website Design

<https://youtu.be/r1p93SYKHRQ>

Listening to Abing is an interactive digital archive that explores the many identities constructed around Abing, the Wuxi folk musician whose surviving recordings have become deeply embedded in Chinese musical memory. Rather than presenting Abing as a fixed historical figure, the project allows visitors to encounter him through different periods, identities, instruments, and pieces of music. By selecting a version of Abing and listening to his surviving repertoire, visitors move from historical information toward a more personal encounter with the musician. The project asks how a person can gradually become a cultural memory—and what might be lost when an individual life is reduced to a single iconic image.

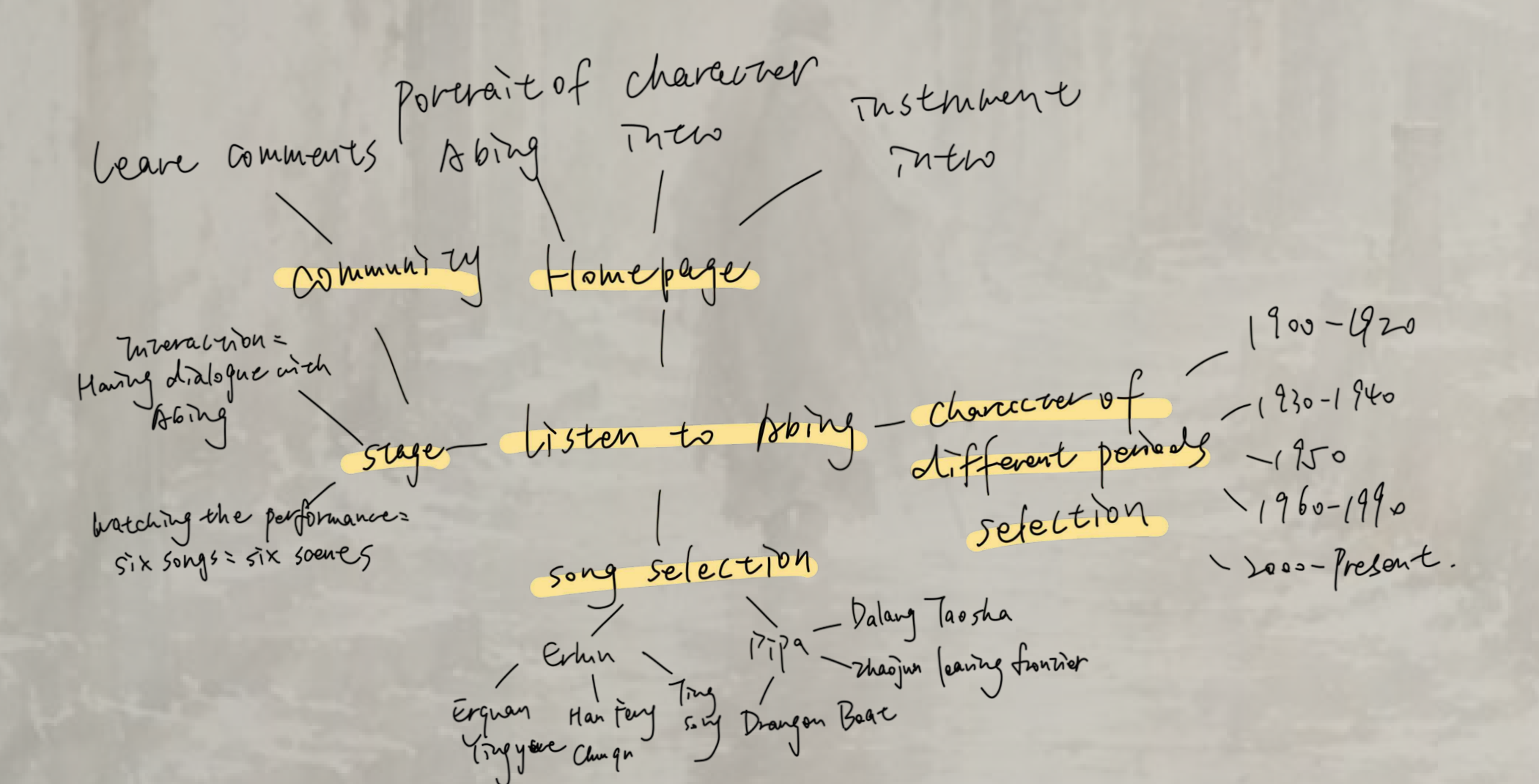
In this interactive archive, the user can listen to the music exhibition with Abing together, and you can talk with them simultaneously, asking the “AI model” Abing any questions. While listening to the music, you can shift between the stage and community page. At the community page, you can leave your comment and see others’ reviews.

INSPIRATION

The project is inspired by the distance between **Abing's real life** and the **simplified cultural image** that remains today. Throughout his life, he encountered many doubts since he contracted syphilis, leading people to ignore his great musician profile.



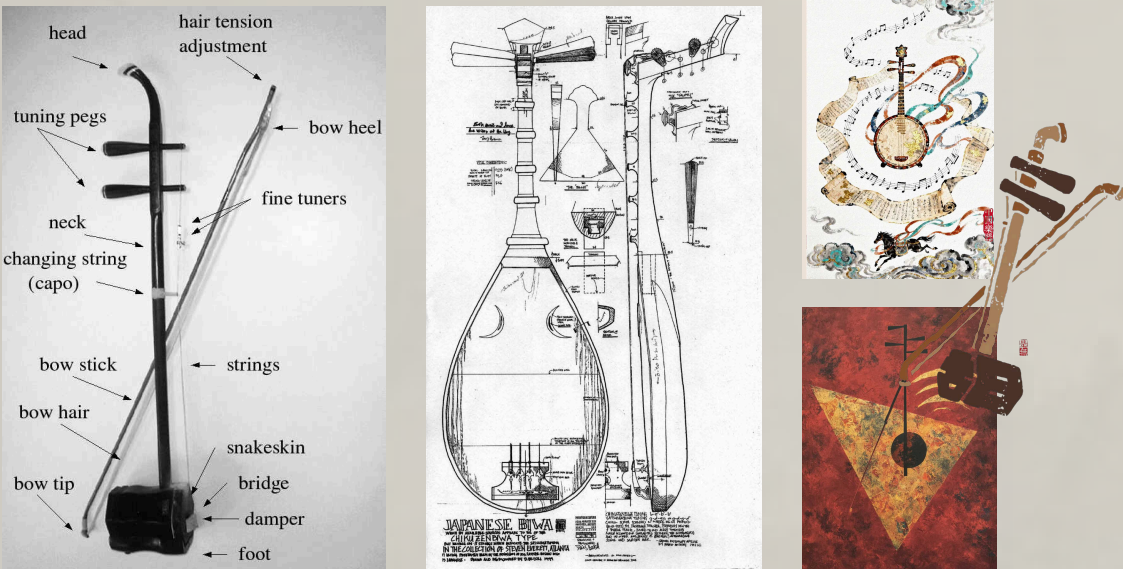
MINDMAP



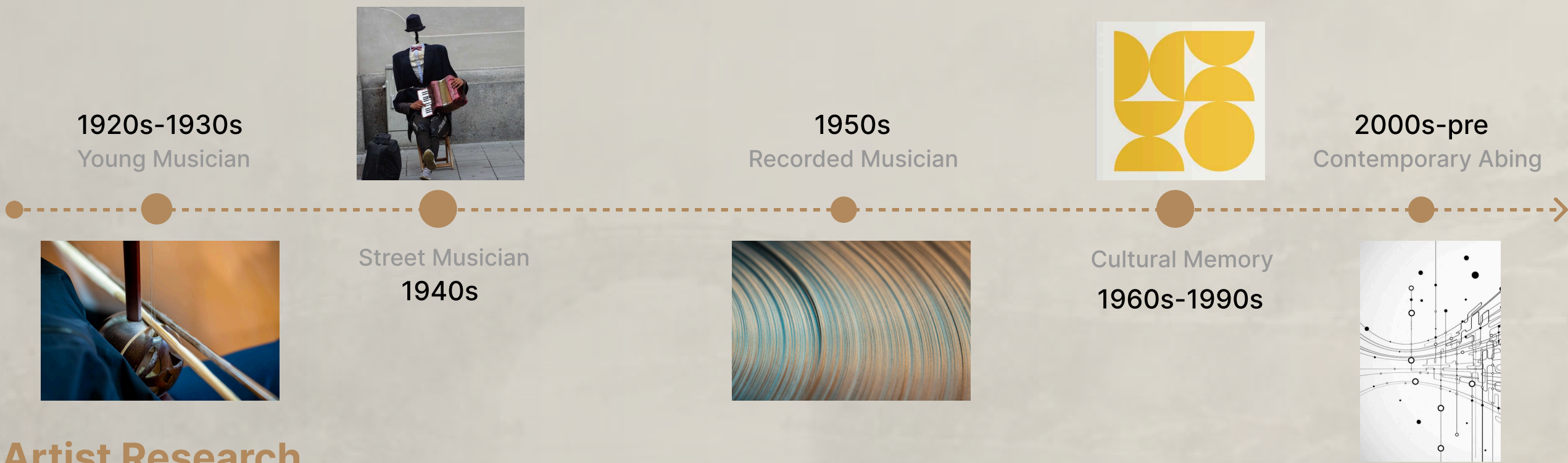
RESEARCH

Who Was Abing?

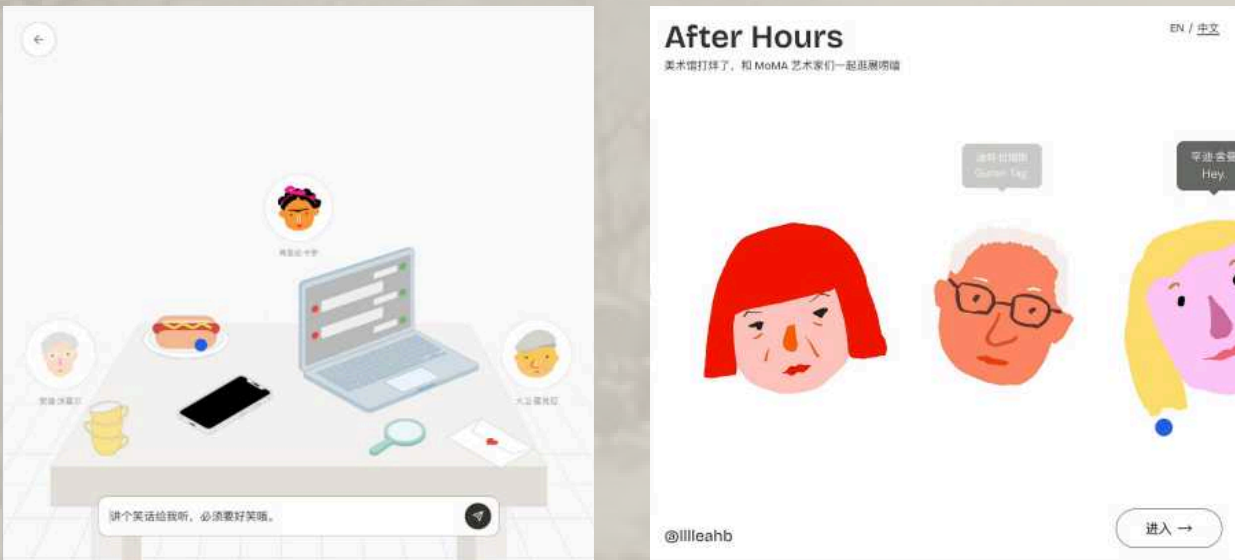
Abing (Hua Yanjun, 1893–1950), a Wuxi folk musician, Taoist, and blind street performer, renowned for his erhu and pipa music.



The Many Abings



Artist Research



Music & Style

Abing's music draws on Taoist music, Jiangnan folk tunes, local opera, silk-and-bamboo and percussion music.

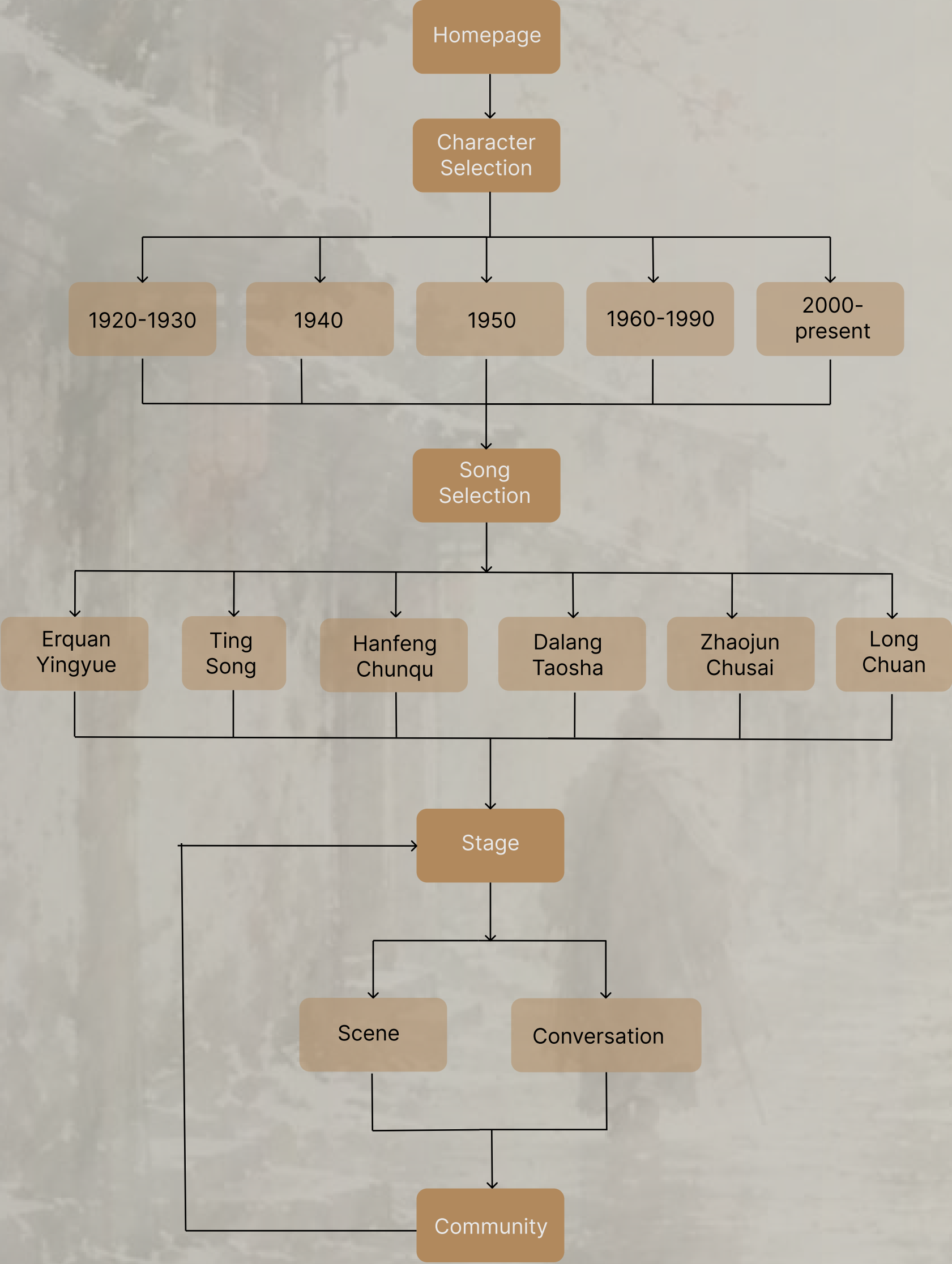


Reimagining the Archive

A Harvard artist built the interactive website

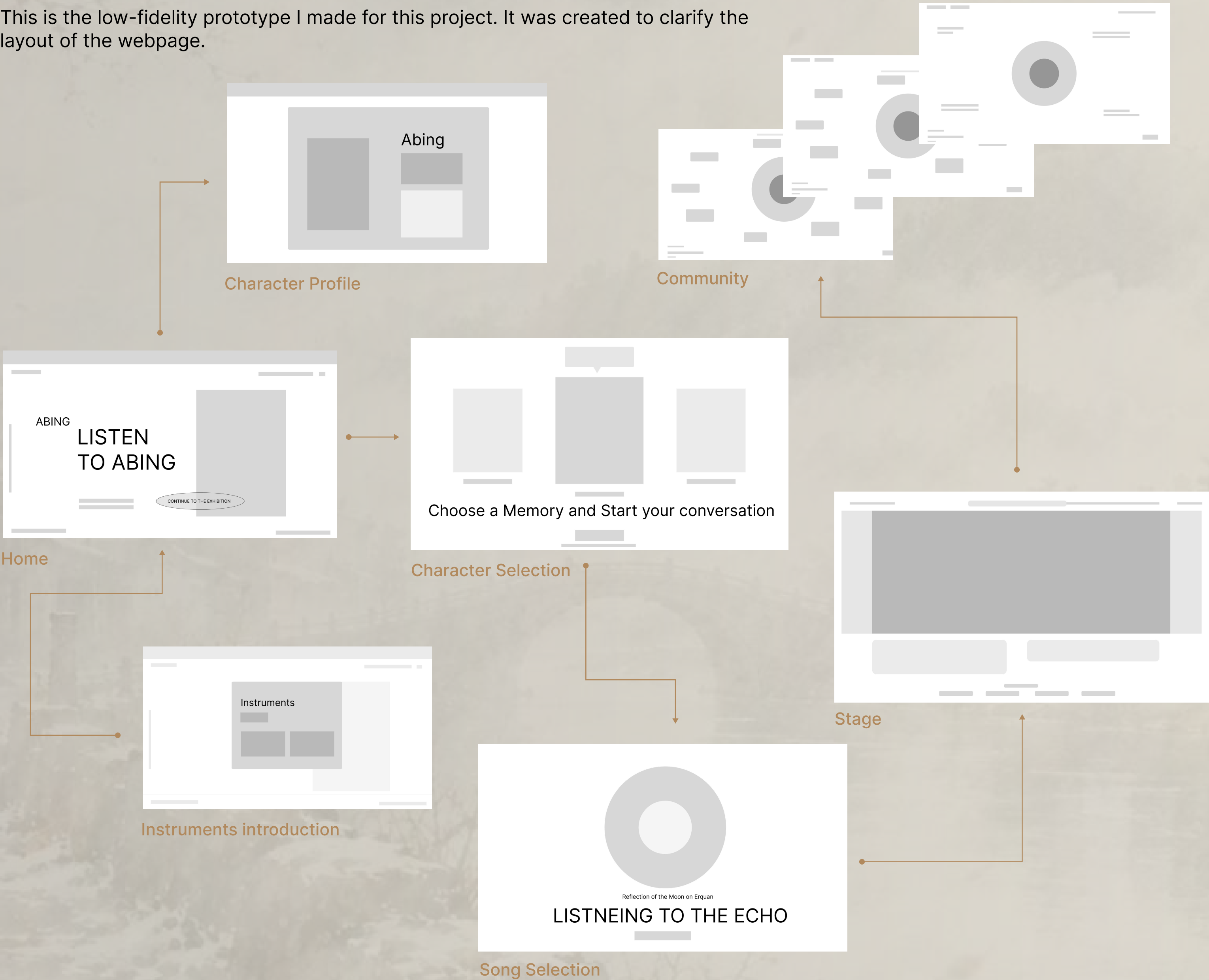
She made AI avatars of 14 contemporary artists, allowing visitors to virtually tour the exhibition and chat with them in real time.

FLOW



WIREFRAME

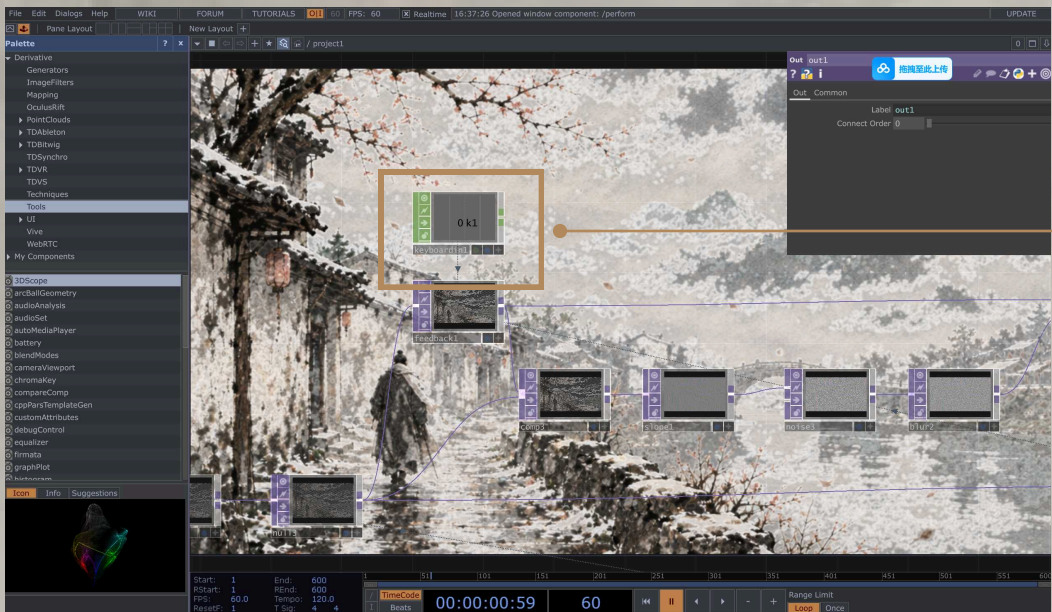
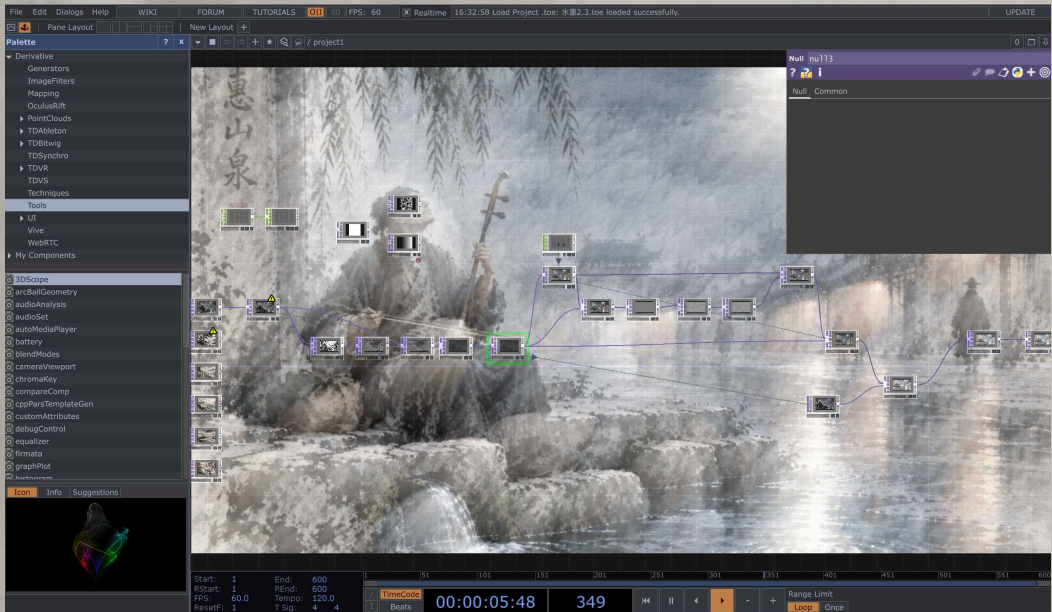
This is the low-fidelity prototype I made for this project. It was created to clarify the layout of the webpage.



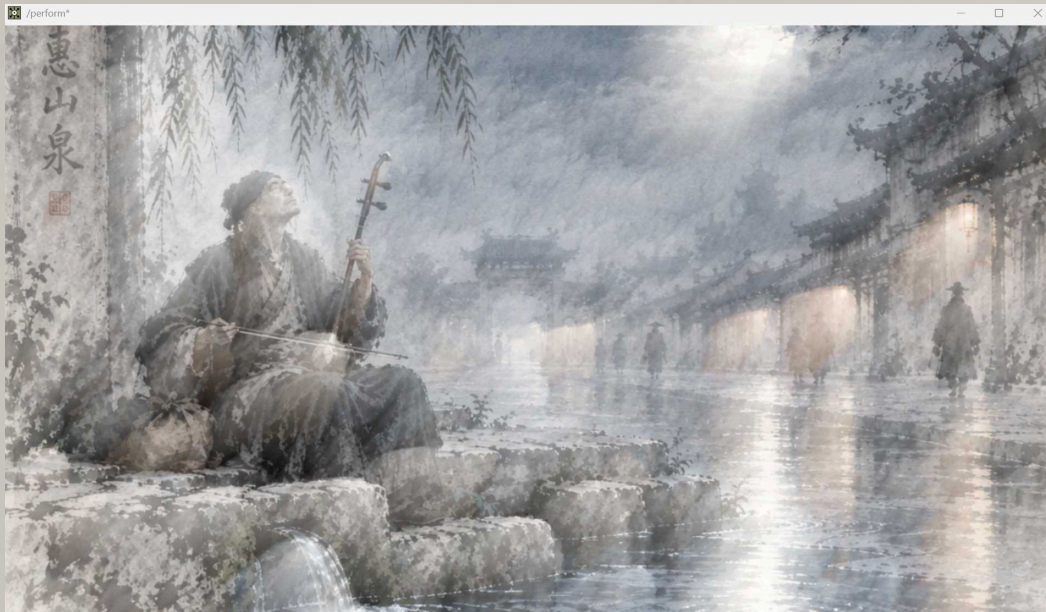
PROCESS

Touchdesigner Process

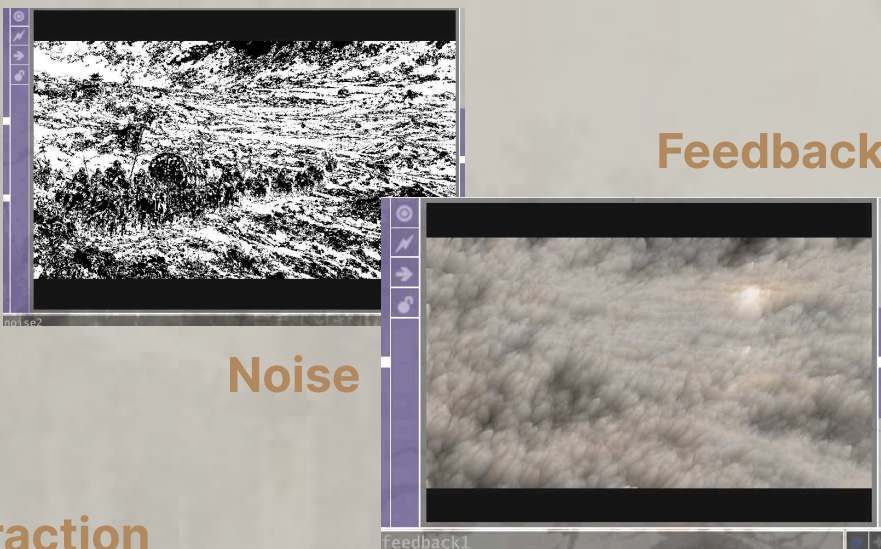
This is Toughdesigner process for the stage effect while playing the music. I used the effect of ink wash blending to create the atmosphere that is appropriate for the music.



Effect



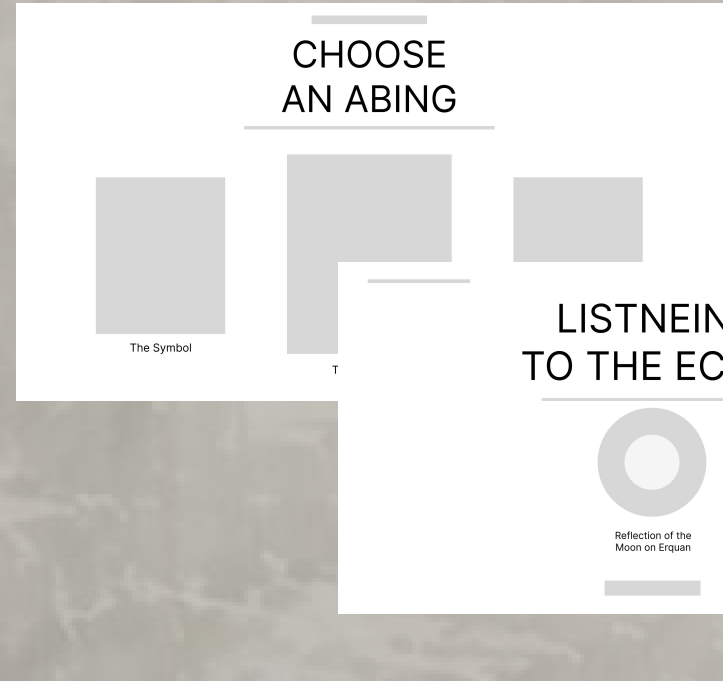
Keyboard Interaction



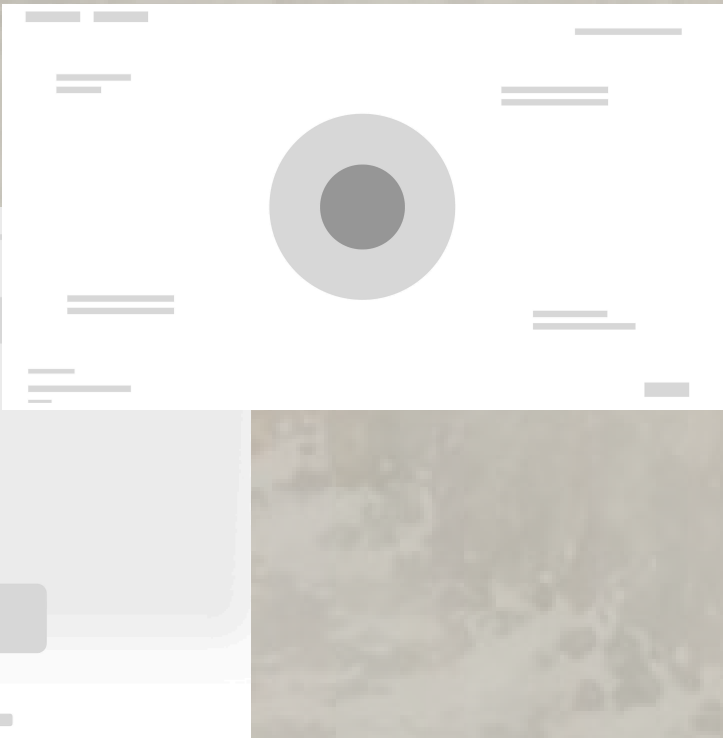
Feedback

Noise

Website UI Design Process

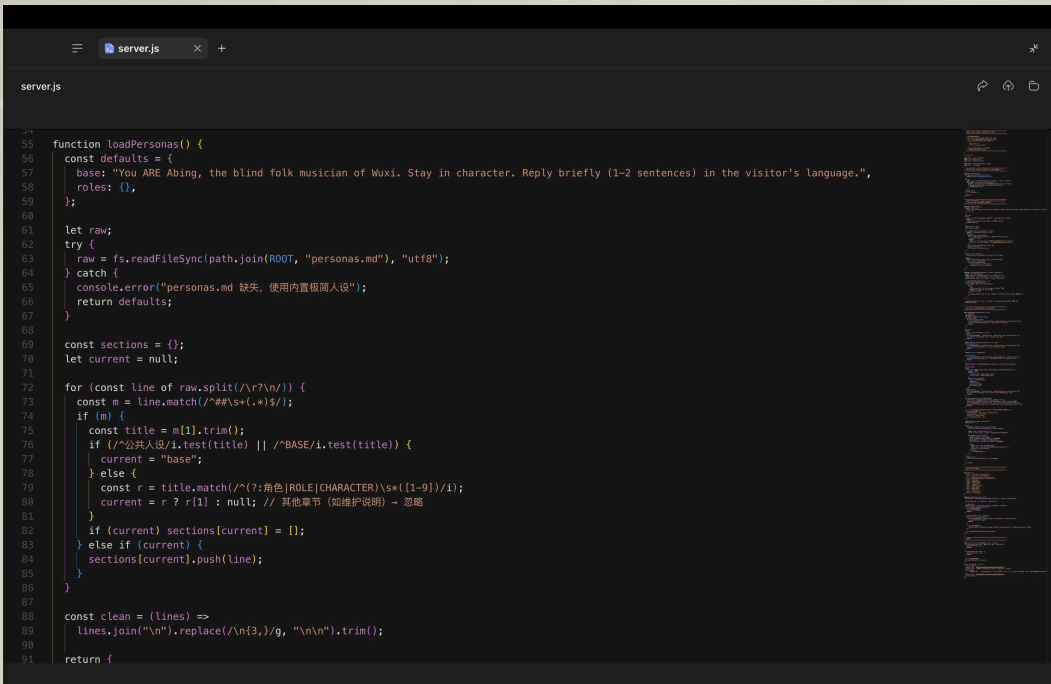
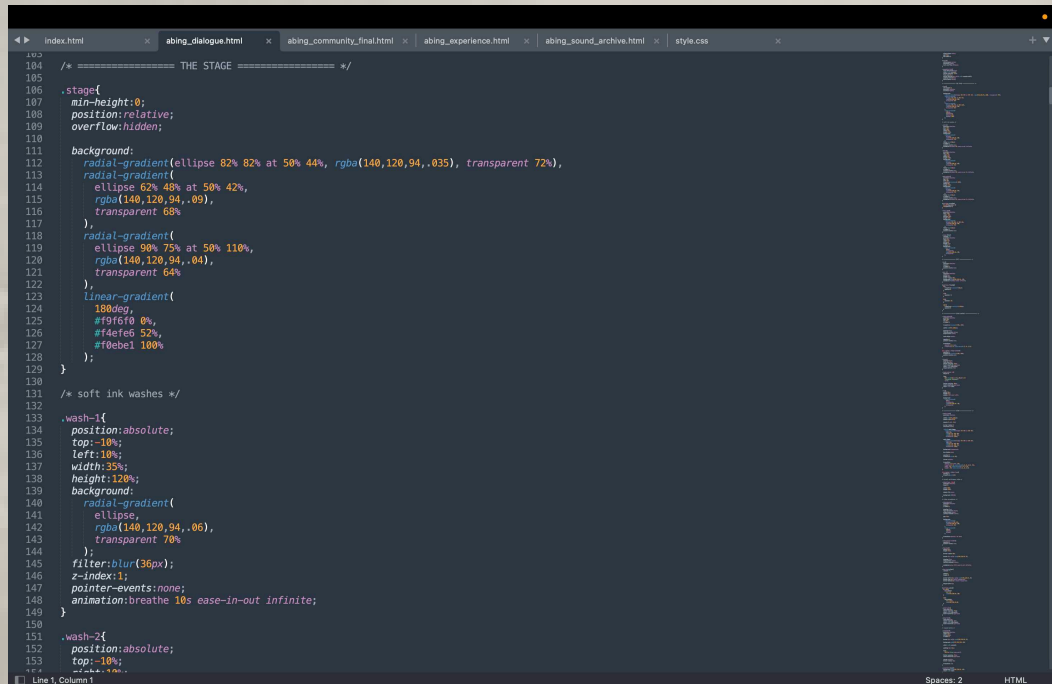
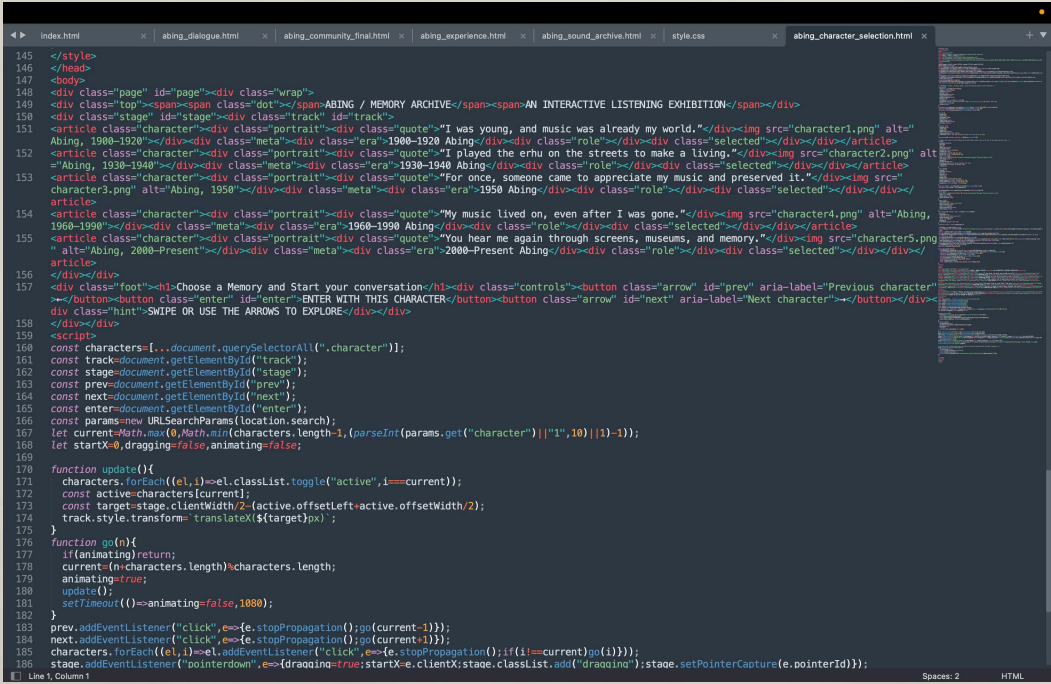
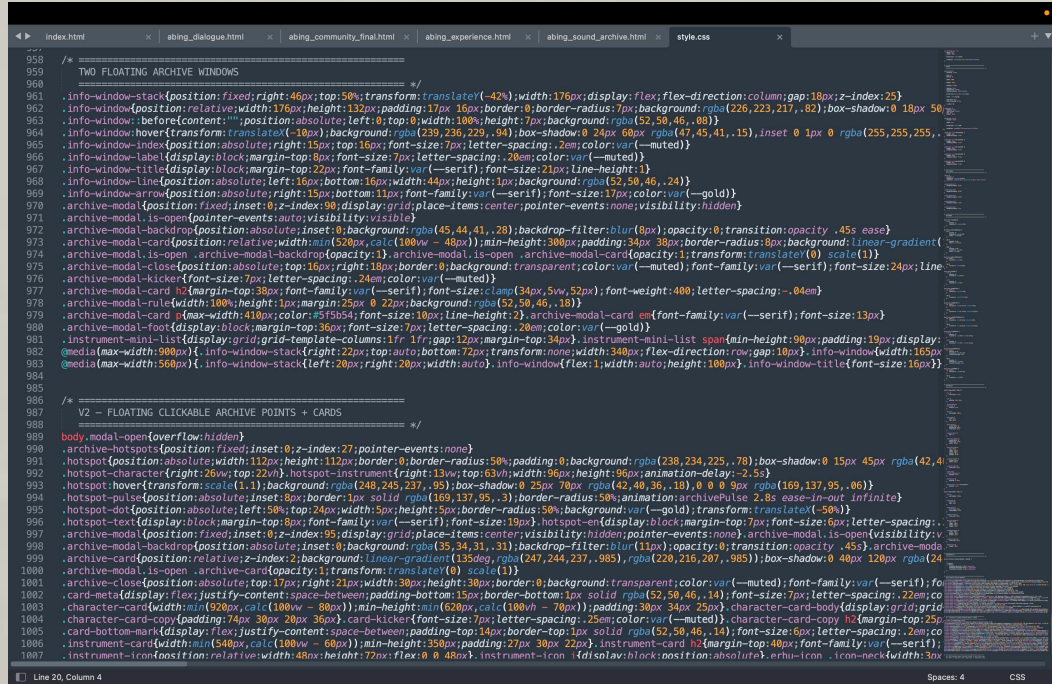
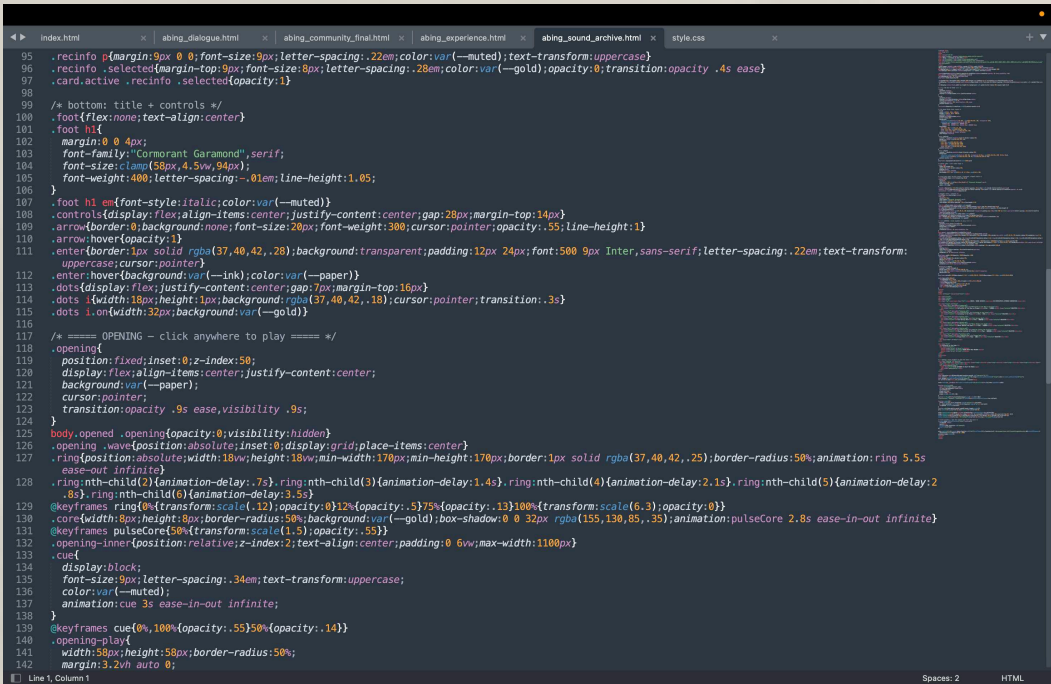
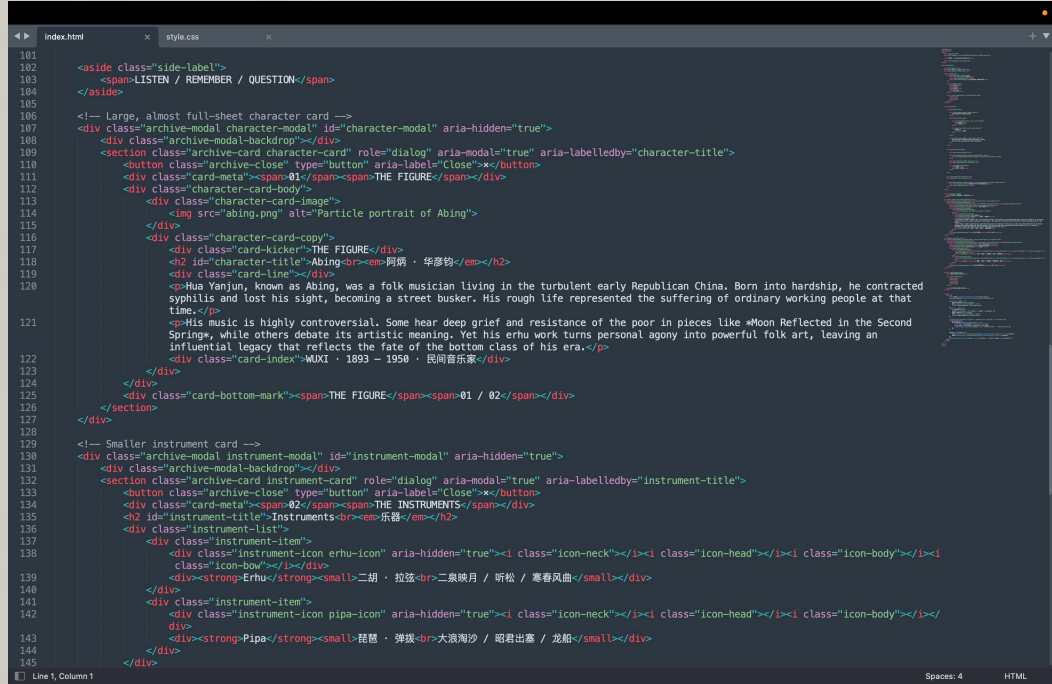


Initial Stage Design



Website Coding Process

This is the coding process for webpage presentation. My code language is html, css, and javascript.



WEBSITE DESIGN

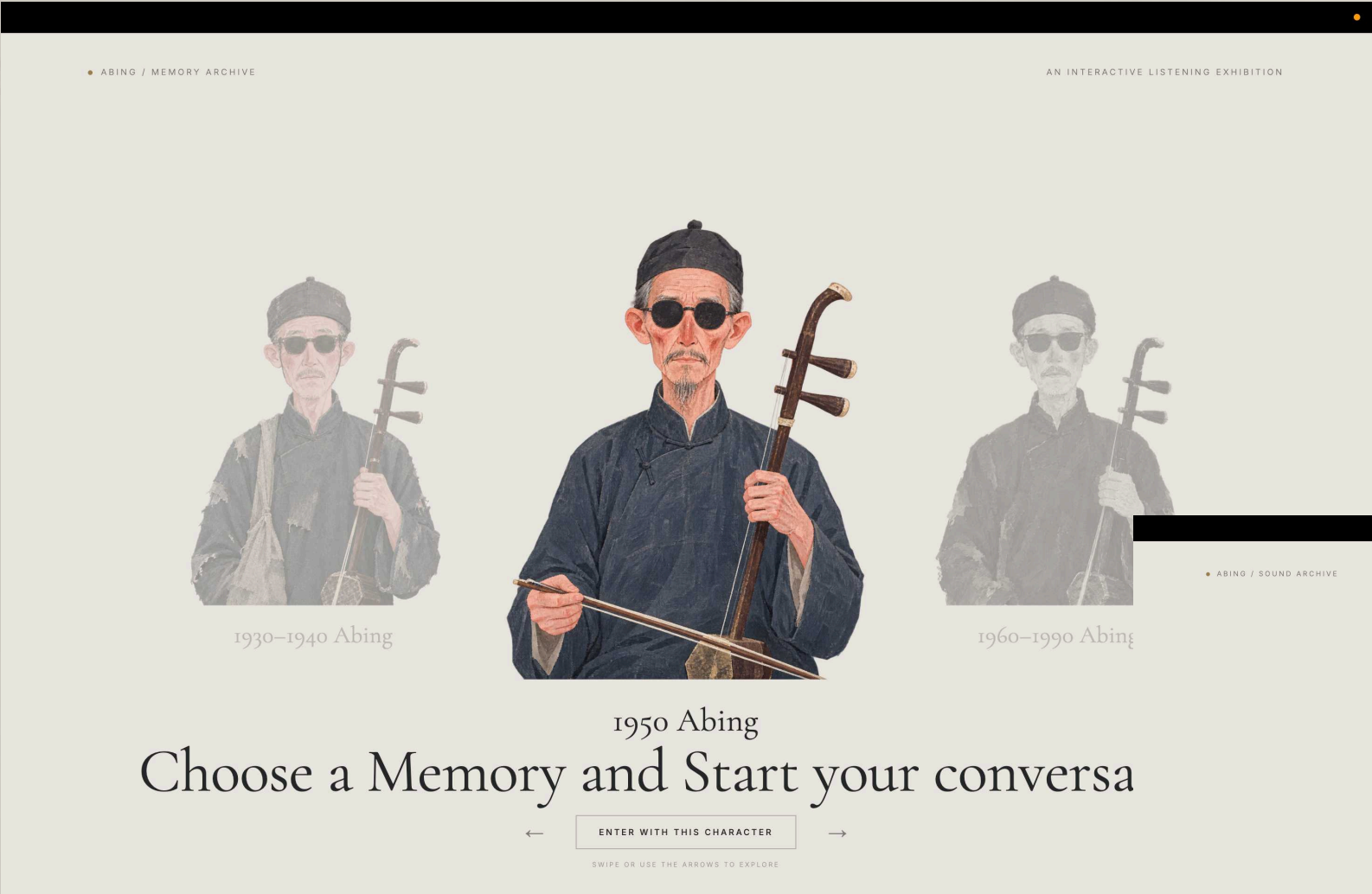
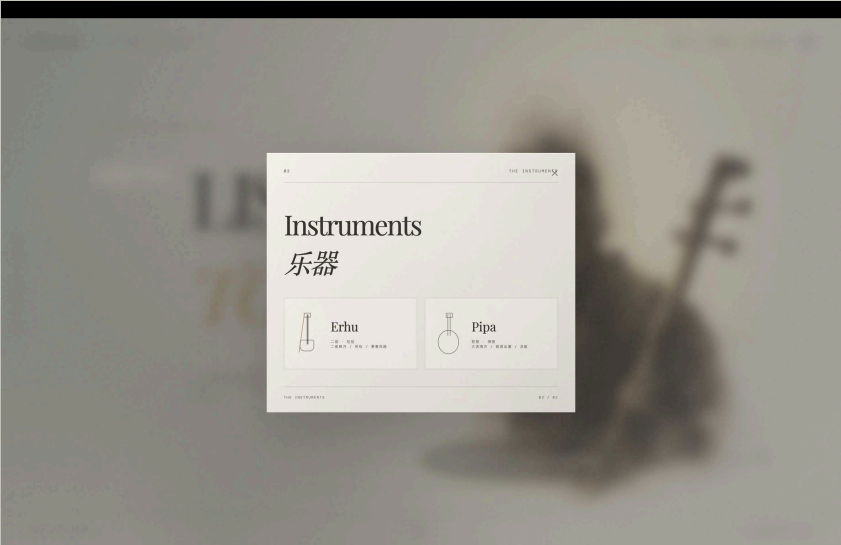
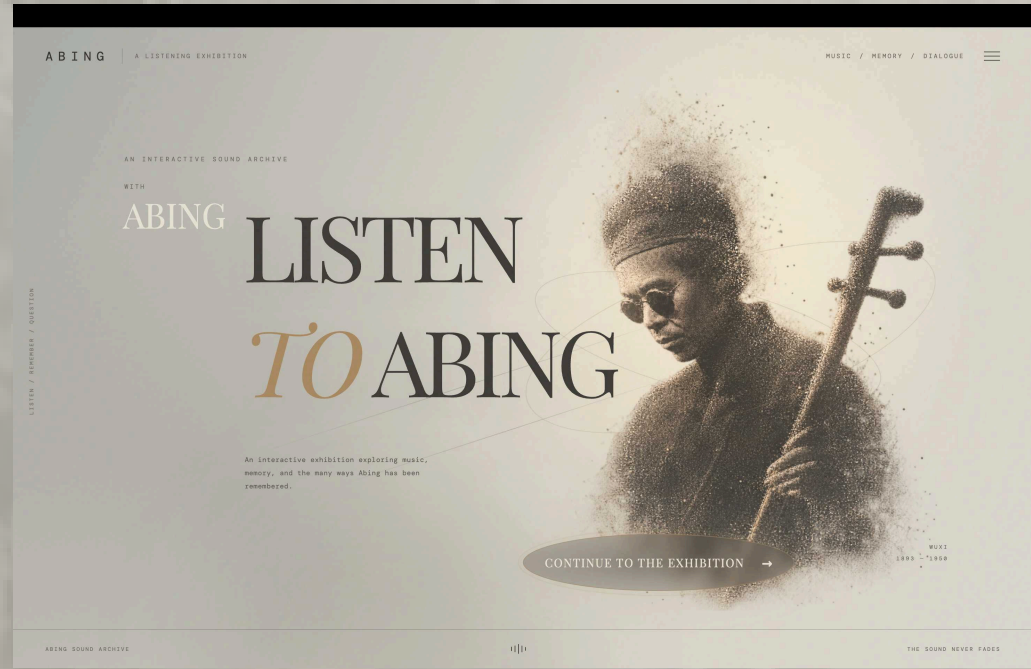
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“Listening to Abing” is an interactive digital audio archive featuring Wuxi folk musician Abing. Across six connected pages, users explore “Person” and “Instrument” audio cards, select from five periods of Abing’s life, choose from two erhu and three pipa pieces, watch the corresponding performance, converse with the Abing of that period, and share reflections in the listener community.

Testing



DETAILS



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