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Japanese punks Last Target play Taichung, Taipei and Kaohsiung this weekend.

Antipop! 'til you drop

E nergetic Japanese melodic punk band Last Target returns to Taiwan this weekend for shows in Taichung, Taipei and Kaohsiung, as part of the third Antipop! concert.

Organized by local punks Consider the Meek, Antipop! 3 hits Taichung's 89K tonight and includes sets by Militant Hippi, Point 22 (.22) and Moss. It moves to APA Lounge 808 in Taipei tomorrow, for performances by Divebomb, Public Radio, The Deadly Vibes and To a God Unknown, before ending with a final stop at Join Us! in Kaohsiung, with Maho, Magpie, Shy Kick Apple, Electrocute and Fire Ex (滅火器).

Last Target — whose music is distributed by punk label BYO Records and is one of the most well-known Japanese punk bands abroad, and the Meek — who were recently signed to Punkradiocast.com and will be touring Japan in October and Europe next year, will play all three shows.

As with previous Antipop! concerts, drinks will be cheap: NT\$100 for cocktails or two beers at tomorrow's Taipei show. Tickets are NT\$400 at the door. Advance tickets are NT\$300 and can be reserved by e-mailing leekrecords@hotmail.com or calling 0917-500-128. Pay by ATM or arrive 90 minutes before opening times to purchase reserved pre-sale tickets.

Doors open at 9pm tonight at 89K, Daguan Rd, Nantun Dist, Taichung City (台 中市南屯區大觀路21號); 8pm tomorrow at APA Lounge 808, 6F, 152, Zhonghua Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市中華路一段152號6樓), near the Ximen (西門) MRT Station's exit No. 6; and 3pm at Join Us!, B1, 169, Jianguo 3rd Rd, Kaohsiung City (高雄市建國三路169號B1), a 300m walk from Kaohsiung Main Station. Visit www.myspace.com/antipoptaiwan for more information. — RON BROWNLOW

When a party is called the Antidote, it

"To the boring music you hear at

shopping malls, dentist offices and

mainstream nightclubs — which is

all the same crap now, right?" says organizer Michael Ohlsson, better

Tonight is the Taipei debut of

and it will be a break from the usual

off with electro-punk band Go Chic,

followed by global beats, house and

"I like to have a diverse selection

of music. If it's all house or all hip-hop

all night long it gets boring and you get

featuring an eclectic lineup that kicks

the Shanghai-based Antidote party,

begs the question — to what?

known as DJ Ozone.

drum 'n' bass.

oices that speak not with words, but through melody and dance — these are the expressive elements of orBe and VOY, two French music troupes visiting Taiwan this month.

The Marseille-based groups, which start a two-week tour of Taiwan tonight at Sappho de Base, present two different styles of music — orBe is a jazz duo and VOY is a solo singer and pianist that performs with two dancers. The groups share family ties as two of the musicians are married, but, more importantly, they have a common artistic goal: to create "dark" and "intimate" emotional soundscapes in a live setting.

OrBe's jazz compositions are minimalist but not abstract. Olivier Baron, who plays the valve trombone (a trombone with three valves like a trumpet), creates clear melodic themes, backed by Olivier Roussel on guitar. The music sounds both familiar and new, like cool jazz but without bass and drums, and traditional French music but without the accordion.

Indeed, the pair, who have formal training in jazz and composition, aim to create a uniquely "French" music, inspired by what Baron describes as the "nostalgic" feeling of *musette*, the accordion-tinged dance music popular in Paris during the early 20th century.

In terms of feeling and color, he says their songs evoke the darker tones of "the sea and the sky." They add "texture" by coaxing some unusual noises from their instruments — sometimes Baron's trombone sounds like a distant foghorn, while Roussel makes his guitar "talk" in funky cadences.

Like orBe, unique "voices" are the centerpiece of VOY's performances. Pianist Veronique Truffot, who is

PERFORMANCE NOTES:

WHAT: VOY and orBe: live jazz and dance performances tonight and

tomorrow at Sappho de Base WHERE: B1, 1, Ln 102, Anhe Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市安和路一段102巷1號 B1). Call (02) 2700-05411 (after 9pm) or visit www.sappho102.biz for more information

WHEN: Tonight at 10:30pm and tomor row at 8:30pm

DETAILS: No entrance fee

the same people every time," Ozone

the norm, experiencing something

different musically, and getting silly."

"from electro-punk and indie-rock to

Taipei resident and house DJ Ryan

Trix says he tries to "cram every

computers, jamming out so I can play

It's music with attention deficit

hyperactivity disorder, or ADHD —

three to four songs in one go, grab

Wiens, aka **Trix**, who moved to

style I've ever heard in ... using

Shanghai three years ago.

electronic tracks.'

African souks and Bhangra/Bolly-funk."

Joining him tonight will be former

says Tuesday in a phone interview from

Shanghai. "Antidote is all about breaking

As Ozone, Ohlsson plays everything

ON THE NET: VOY, www.myspace. com/veroniquetruffotcompositions and www.myspace.com/compagnie_item; orBe, www.myspace.com/orbepaca



Minimalist jazz and theater of the voice

married to guitarist Roussel, sings and plays sad, introspective melodies, which are given visual expression by two dancers — Daphne Abecassis and Pauline Meguerditchian.

Truffot sounds like she sings French, but her "words" are not real. For Truffot, songs are "emotional sounds," a universal language in themselves.

"All people feel sadness, hunger — [we all have] emotional scars," she said. "That is why I can sing in France, sing in Taiwan ... and that is why [everyone] can understand my emotion.

Singing didn't come naturally to Truffot. She trained as a classical pianist, but felt something was missing by the time she finished her conservatory training. "I never thought I could write music, but I needed to explain emotions without words," she said.

She quit the piano at one point, as if "stopping an interpersonal relationship," and studied jazz and opera singing techniques "in a search for my own voice."

Meeting Abecassis and Meguerditchian — who teach dance in Marseille and perform together as the Item Company — helped to fulfill Truffot's yearning for expression that transcends spoken language. In several numbers, the dancers are tethered to the piano by ropes, making them appear to be physically linked with Truffot.

"For me the body is important ... I've always dreamed to be a dancer, interested [in] the body, all the things the body can explain without

become a pianist, said the trio was like a "dream." "There's a rare connection between the three of us," she said.

"We feel ... we don't need to explain," Truffot said of working with the dancers, who have helped her see her compositions in a new light. "Within the work, we have discovered the meaning."

The two groups will also be performing in Changhua, Chiayi, and Tainan next week, with additional dates planned. Check orBe's myspace site for updates. — DAVID CHEN

TOUR DATES

(All Shows are free of charge) Tonight, Taipei 10:30pm Sappho B1, 1, Ln 102, Anhe Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市安和路 一段102巷1號B1)

Tomorrow, Taipei 8:30pm Artco Tea (典藏 茶館) 16, Ln 135, Zhongshan N Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北 市中山北路一段

135巷16號) Reservations recommended, call (02) 2542-7825

Sunday, Changhua

Landsborough Presbyterian Church (蘭大衛紀 念長老教會) 60 Puyang St, Changhua City (彰 化市埔陽街60號)

(04) 711-7643

July 19, Tainan 7pm Huaden Art Center (華燈藝術中心) 85 Shengli Rd, Tainan City (台南市 勝利路85號) (06) 222-2587

July 20, Chiayi Beirong Church (北榮長老教會) 266 Sirong St, Chiayi City (嘉義市 西榮街266號)

(05) 224-4005 SOURCE: TAIPEI TIMES

words," she said. The inspiration is mutual. Dancer David Abecassis, who once aspired to

house music and formulaic hip hop," Ozone says. Trix also plays tomorrow night

with Marcus Aurelius at the Freak Show party in Vibe. For that party he'll switch to his alter ego, which he says is all about "shaking that booty ghetto style." Playing at Vibe, says Trix with a wry gleam in his eyes, "is a dream come true."

The Antidote happens tonight at VU Live House in Ximending (地下 絲絨), B1, 77, Wuchang Street Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市武昌街二77號B1) and features Go Chic and DJs Trix, D.Soto. Ozone and Funkstar. Cover is NT\$300 and includes one drink. From 10pm until late. The Freak Show is tomorrow at Vibe, B1, 155, Jinshan S Rd Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市金山南 路一段155號B1). With **Cap 10**, Marcus Aurelius and Trix. Cover is NT\$400 and includes one drink. Starts at 11pm. — ALITA RICKARDS



Antidote has the cure for musical fatigue.

Tonight's party is all about crossovers and music that's remained just outside of the mainstream.

"Now with mash-up culture and songs that I grooved to when I was 7 or 17, and throw them together with trends like nu-rave/electro clash, or with post-punk bands using crunk influences, African electro producers grabbing rock samples, and solo laptop tracks that are "basically really choppy, acts going berserk on stage — it's cut-up beats and vocals, snippets that gotten interesting again. It's the natural reaction after two decades of stale

A Waveform Project (-

次式波型計畫). The expo includes contributions by artists representing various fields including visual design, theater and art management.

▶ BF Gallery (北風藝廊), 2F, 120, Minsheng E Rd Sec 2, Taipei City (台 北市民生東路二段120號2樓). Open Mondays through Sundays from 1pm to 7pm. Call (02) 2561-6516 for more information

Boundless — the Taiwan Ceramics Biennale 2008 (無

selected from the 684 ceramic artists participating in the Biennale. 200, Wenhua Rd, Yingge Township,

from 9:30am to 5pm; Saturdays and ▶ Until Dec. 7

Vaka Moana Exhibition (大洋之 舟 一 南島先民的航行). The touring

exhibition from Auckland Museum in New Zealand features 129 items from different cultures and places in Sundays from 9am to 5pm. Call (04)



RESTAURANTS

Silks Palace's barbecue pork does the Meat-Shaped Stone proud.

Silks Palace (故宮晶華)

Address: National Palace Museum (國立故宮博物院), 221, Zhishan Rd Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市至善路二段221號); Silks Palace is located to the left of the museum's main exhibition hall

Telephone: (02) 2882-9393

Open: Lunch 11:30am to 2:30pm; afternoon tea 2:30pm to 5pm; dinner 5:30pm

Average meal: NT\$650 per person for dinner Details: Chinese and English menu; credit cards accepted

On the Net: www.silkspalace.com.tw If you have ever gazed upon the National Palace Museum's Jade Cabbage or

Meat-Shaped Stone and felt your stomach rumbling, but feared the legal (and dental) repercussions of taking a bite, yearn no more. Silks Palace, which opened last month next to the museum, offers five stories of Chinese and Taiwanese food, including a food court in the basement and a banquet hall on the third floor.

The first and second floors feature Cantonese cuisine in an elegant setting that, as would be expected, makes liberal use of decorative motifs from the museum's collection of Chinese art and antiques. The dining area is partitioned with delicate wooden lattice screens and reproductions of Tang Dynasty paintings of buxom maidens at banquets adorn the walls. Warm, bright spotlights hang over the tables, illuminating each dish like a priceless curio (or delicious piece of masterfully carved agate pork). The menus, which are bound in heavy white acrylic covers, have paragraphs on topics ranging from the history of Chinese barbecue to a biography of Song Dynasty poet Su Shi (蘇軾).

For dinner, we selected barbecued pork (蜜汁叉燒, NT\$320), fried rice with minced chicken and salty fish (鹹魚雞粒炒飯, NT\$280), stewed eggplant with crab claw in casserole (魚香茄子蟹拑煲, NT\$380) and sauteed fresh lily bulbs and yellow fungus (鮮百合炒黃, NT\$350).

The pork, which is marinated in a honey sauce, lives up to any Meat-Shaped Stone-induced fantasies. The slices are moist, delicately rimmed with flavorful fat, and served on a bed of stewed peanuts, which soak up the juices well. A jewel-like selection of pickled vegetables is a pleasant complement to the sweetness of the pork.

The fried rice is equally pleasing — fluffy without being too oily or too dry. Chicken, salty fish and scallions serve as delicate flavor accents in the

Seafood lovers may be slightly disappointed with the hearty eggplant and crab claw casserole because the flavor of the crabmeat blends in with, and is slightly overshadowed by, the flavor of the eggplant and brown sauce. Other diners, however, will be happy with the generous pieces of tender crab, which are plump, firm and not flaky, a sign of freshness.

The lily bulbs and yellow fungus are sauteed with asparagus in a light sauce and present a unique array of textures. The yellow fungus is similar in mouth-feel to snow fungus, which is often used in sweet dessert soups, but is more substantial and has a very subtle bamboo-like tanginess. The small, white layers of lily bulb resemble miniature bok choy leaves, with a flavor and texture like baked garlic cloves minus the bite.

We finished with the restaurant's most popular dessert, milk flan with mango sauce (香芒凍奶酪, NT\$100). Mango custard is a common enough dessert in Taiwanese restaurants, but Silks Palace takes it one step further. The flan is creamier, richer and less "eggy" in flavor than most mango custards. The lusciously golden mango sauce, however, is the highlight of the dish. Pureed from fresh fruit, its sweetness is tempered with a refreshingly sharp tartness.

— CATHERINE SHU



Tenderloin with fresh goose liver is a must-try at Jimmy's Kitchen.

PHOTO: HO YI, TAIPEI TIMES

Jimmy's Kitchen (沾美西餐廳)

Address: B1, 77, Renai Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市仁愛路四段77號B1) **Telephone:** (02) 2711-7750

Open: Daily from 11:30am to 3pm; 5:30pm to 11pm

Average meal: NT\$1,200 plus 10 percent service charge for dinner; NT\$630 per person plus 10 percent service charge for lunch Details: Chinese and English menu; credit cards accepted

With its antique-looking armchairs and slightly worn wooden armrests, crimson-colored walls set against black-and-golden carpeting, and original sculptures and other artworks in the dining room, a nostalgic sense of faded grandeur pervades Jimmy's Kitchen, one of Taipei City's oldest steak houses.

Hidden in a basement close to the roundabout on Renai Road (仁愛路), Jimmy's Kitchen is said to have a history dating back to the foreign concessions in Shanghai. The owner fled to Taiwan with the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) after the Chinese civil war and restarted the business, which was taken over by the current management two decades ago.

Bearing such a history in mind, it is not surprising that the restaurant has retained a look reminiscent of bygone days when suits and gowns were de rigueur. The interior design cleverly turns the lack of natural lighting to work in its favor, with candles on each table exuding a look of old-school romanticism that is given an aural dimension by a resident pianist.

As for the food itself, it lives up to all the rave reviews Jimmy's has accumulated over the years. On a recent Friday night the restaurant was packed (fortunately, we had made reservations a few days ahead). My dining partner and I ordered the tenderloin with fresh goose liver (NT\$1,100) and filet mignon (NT\$1,120), both of which were recommended by the grayhaired staff. The tenderloin was a savory fusion of steak and slightly fried foie gras, with the latter being a bit of crunchy on the outside and buttery on

the inside. The filet mignon was one of the best I had ever tasted. According to other recent reviews, the pig knuckles (NT\$820) are also a must-try. The more premium seafood dishes have also received fair reviews, but these are said to pale in comparison to the steak menu.

Apart from its legendary past and lauded menu, Jimmy's most famed asset is its seasoned wait staff, who seem to take pride in their trade rather than merely seeing it as a way to make a living. Impeccably dressed in suits, they attend to patrons with great care and respect, observing quietly what diners need and offering their services without being intrusive.

At Jimmy's, salads and desserts are served buffet-style, and there are a decent range of choices. The advice is to stay away from the cakes and stick with the fruit. One of the very few weaknesses this restaurant suffers from is its mediocre selection of pastries and cakes.

are twisted and manipulated," Trix says.

[EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT]

Tonight at **Bliss** it's the irreverent rock of expat band **Sons of Homer** from Ilan County and Auto de Fe. Alternative-music dance party **Idioteque** returns tomorrow — expect to hear an eclectic mix of music from bands like The Dresden Dolls. The Stone Roses, The Knife, Talking Heads

- and Rolling Stones. ▶ 148, Xinyi Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台 北市信義路四段148號), one block east of Dunhua South Road (敦化南 路). Call Bliss at (02) 2702-1855 or log on at www.bliss-taipei.com. For more information on live performances at Bliss, visit www.
- myspace.com/blisslivehouse ▶ Tonight and tomorrow at 10pm. Bar/kitchen open from 7pm daily. Ladies night Fridays; women get one free cocktail of their choice ▶ Entrance to the bar is free. NT\$200

cover for music shows

- (地下室) are indie-rock bands Braces (牙套) and Jacuzzi (賈庫 西). Tomorrow night it's pop-rock band Lumei (露魅) and deathmetal band **Emerging From the** Cocoon. Murmur and post-rock group Mosquilephant (蚊子大象) play on Wednesday.
- ▶ B1, 45 Shida Rd, Taipei City (台北 市師大路45號B1). Call (02) 2369-0103 or visit www.upsaid.com/ underworld for more information Live shows go from 9:30pm to 11:30pm. The bar is open from 8pm daily, closed Mondays
- ► Entrance on Fridays and Saturdays is NT\$300 and includes one drink; NT\$100 on Wednesdays

Jazzy/bluesy act Kukao (鼓號大 樂隊) performs tonight at Witch House (女巫店), and **ShantaaL** (鼓動的曼陀羅) takes to the stage tomorrow, playing the sounds of India, Central Asia, the Middle East and Spain. Appearing on Thursday is **Diagonal Music** (對角 線樂團), a trio comprising a bassist, quitarist and accordionist that plays instrumental music which evokes film-noire and gypsy folk. ▶ 7, Ln 56, Xinsheng S Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市新生南路三段56巷7號). For more information, call (02) 2362-5494 or visit www.witchhouse.org ▶ Performances start at 9:30pm. Restaurant/bar with queer/feminist bookstore and large collection of board games open 11am to midnight Sundays through Wednesdays; 11am to 1am Thursdays through Saturdays ► NT\$300 entrance

Appearing tonight at **Underworld** Brussel Van Taipeh, a Taiwanese quintet whose members studied jazz together in Belgium, appears tonight at **Riverside Cafe**. The group also plays tomorrow at

Taipei Zhongshan Hall as part of the **Taipei International Jazz** Festival. See Page 13 of the June 20, 2008, edition of the *Taipei Times* for a full festival preview. Tomorrow it's solo artist **No Name** and singer **Debbie** Hsiao (蕭賀碩), who won the Best Newcomer prize at this year's Golden Melody Awards held last Saturday. ▶ B1, 2, Ln 244, Roosevelt Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市羅斯福路三段 244巷2號B1), next to Taipower Building (台電大樓). Call (02) 2368-

7310 or visit www.riverside.com.tw

for more information ▶ Shows start at 9:30pm

▶ NT\$400 tonight and tomorrow.

Admission includes one free drink Anti-Pop 3 kicks off at 89K tomorrow night with Last

Target, a punk band from Japan, Consider the Meek, .22, Moss and Militant Hippi. (See above). Militant Hippi returns tomorrow night with its infectious hip-hop rock, followed by the Spinal Tapesque band Chrome Relic. ▶ 25 Daguan Rd, Taichung City (台

中市大觀路25號). Call (04) 2381-8240 for more information ▶ Shows start at 9pm tonight, 11pm tomorrow

▶ Cover is NT\$450 tonight or NT\$350 if ordered in advance by calling (04) 2320-7010; and NT\$300 tomorrow. Entrance fee includes one drink

Every Wednesday night at the **Cosmopolitan Grill** there's a blues open mic, held by the Blues Society on Taiwan and hosted by Torch Pratt. All are welcome to bring their instruments and sit in on

- guitar, bass, or drums ▶ 1F, 218 Changchun Rd, Taipei City (台北市長春路218號1樓). Call 2508-0304 or visit www.cosmo.com.tw for more information
- ▶ 8pm to 11pm every Wednesday ▶ Free admission

The Diner's (樂子) new branch

on Dunhua South Road hosts The Diner Jam, an open mic every ▶ 6, Ln 103, Dunhua S Rd Sec 2,

Taipei City (台北市敦化南路二段 103巷6號), just off Anhe Road (安和 路), in the lane behind Carnegie's. Call (02) 2700-1680 or visit

information ▶ 9:30pm to midnight every Thursday

www.thediner.com.tw for more

▶ Free admission

Exhibition

Archilab — Collection du Frac Centre (Archilab:建築實驗室)

features around 250 drawings and models from the Frac Centre's most emblematic projects. The exhibition offers an overview of architectural and urban experimentation from the 1950s onwards.

- ▶ Taipei Fine Arts Museum (台北市 立美術館), 181, Zhongshan N Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市中山北路三段 181號). Open Tuesdays through Sundays from 9:30am to 5:30pm; Saturdays until 8:30pm
- New Talent Exhibition (星 八客 — 當代新秀聯展) features

graduates. The exhibition examines the academic outlook of Taiwan's younger generation of artists. ▶ Capital Arts Center (首都藝術中心), 2F, 343, Renai Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市仁愛路四段343號2樓). Open

more than 40 paintings by eight art

for more information ▶ Until July 27

► Until August 24

Tuesdays through Sundays from 10am to 7pm. Call (02) 2775-5268

▶ Until July 27

- **2008台灣國際陶藝雙年展)** is comprised of works by 114 finalists

▶ Taipei County Yingge Ceramics Museum (台北縣鶯歌陶瓷搏物館), Taipei County (台北縣鶯歌鎮文化路 200號). Open Tuesdays to Fridays Sundays from 9:30 to 6pm. Call (02) 8677-2727 for more information

the Pacific that together present a narrative of Austroneisan history. National Museum of Natural Science (國立自然科學博物館), 1 Kuanchien Rd, Taichung City (台中 市館前路1號). Open Tuesdays to

2322-6940 ▶ Until Oct. 19