Last week Carina Lau (劉嘉玲) and Tony Leung Chiu Wai (梁朝偉) exchanged marriage vows in Bhutan. A wedding on the following day, which one might have expected to upstage an event taking place thousands of kilometers away, didn't. Terry Gou's (郭台銘) marriage to dancer Delia Tseng (曾馨瑩) managed to totally underwhelm the media. Perhaps that was intentional, for the event at the Grand Hyatt Taipei was billed as "environmentally friendly and of the common people." It may come as something of a surprise to Gou to learn that most people don't spend upwards of NT\$20 million on their wedding, but compared to the NT\$220 million that the Lau-Leung nuptials cost, it is, as they say, small potatoes.

Unfortunately, Gou simply comes across as being a tad cheap, which reflects badly on him after his unsuccessful pursuit of A-listers like Lau. But the most notable aspect of Gou's wedding was not the guests, who included local celebrities Chang Fei (張 菲), Chang Hsiao-yen (張小燕) and Kevin Tsai (蔡康永), but those who were not invited. First among the omissions was supermodel and former Gou inamorata Lin Chih-lin (林志玲), who is regarded by many as the matchmaker behind the Tel and Delia pairing. Gou, it seems, does not like to be reminded of his failures — another mark against someone who tries to come across as debonair.

And all may not be rosy in the house of Gou. The tycoon's younger brother Gou Tai-chiang (郭台強) missed his sibling's

> wedding, preferring to holiday in Kyoto instead. Meanwhile, Jolin Tsai (蔡依 林) is without a clearly designated Burn, baby, burn.

Jam Hsiao (蕭敬騰) and Jam Hsiao (蕭敬騰)

Wilber Pan (潘瑋柏) and Future Tense (未來式)

Fan Wei-chi (范瑋琪) and Faces of FanFan with 6.38%

Ring (丁噹) and Decisively Loved (我愛上的) with 4.44%

Yoga Lin (林宥嘉) and Mystery Guest (神秘嘉賓) with 3.68%

with 16.61 percent of sales

with 11.4% percent

TOP FIVE MANDARIN ALBUMS JULY 18 TO JULY 24

Song Hsin-ni is taking a route well-traveled from page to screen.

"friend," and, according to her favorite fortune-teller, this has everything to do with the color of her hair, Next Magazine reports. Tsai's tresses recently went from brown to black, and while this hasn't done anything for her love life, it may, or may not, have helped bag her a lucrative contract for promoting hair care products, reportedly worth NT\$24 million.

Lower down on the celebrity food chain, model Song Hsin-ni (宋新妮) has found that the most effective way of moving from page to screen is to get her kit off, and has achieved a victory of sorts in squeezing out rival Lee Yan-jin (李 妍瑾) as the celebrity spokesperson for Ankh Clinic Beauty Therapy (安蔻美容醫學中心), where she had become a regular client.

Still further down the food chain, Sung Chien-chang (宋健彰), better known as band Nanchuan Mama's (南拳媽媽) Tantou (彈 頭), may be faced with a shotgun wedding as girlfriend **Pipi** (皮皮) has, reportedly, got a little Tantou in her tummy. The pretty boy's rather short career as a man about town seems to be drawing rapidly

And so as Pop Stop bottoms out, the only way to go is up. Well, perhaps not. Jam Hsiao (蕭敬騰), whose self-titled debut album remains unremittingly at the top of the music charts despite no evidence of originality or talent, is hereby formally admitted into Pop Stop's Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame after he was charged with burning a piano in a conservation area. Alas, this is no Jimi Hendrix at the Monterrey Pop Festival during the Summer of Love, and without any regard for the saccharine music video that resulted from this publicity stunt, the Taichung County Environmental Protection Agency slapped a NT\$100,000

fine on Hsiao's production company for, first and foremost, transporting the piano to the Kaomei Wildlife Conservation Area (高美野 生動物保護區) and, quite literally, frightening the animals, and then for burning it in an area in which fires are prohibited.

— IAN BARTHOLOMEW



Janelle Chang, who plays the violin and the satar, joins jazz ensemble Sizhukong for several shows as a special guest.

ake the beauty and grace of traditional Chinese melodies, put them to jazz grooves, and you have the music of Sizhukong (絲竹 空). The group, whose name reads "silk, bamboo and emptiness," is a six-piece jazz ensemble formed by pianist and composer Peng Yu-wen (彭郁雯) who aims to create "a new kind of Chinese music" with "a soul of jazz."

Sizhukong will present new material in a run of shows this month, starting tomorrow night at Witch House and on Sunday at Da-an Forest Park (大安森林公園) in Taipei

The performances are billed as Samba Paradise, and audiences can expect to hear Latin jazz rhythms backing the distinctive voices of traditional Chinese instruments such as the liuqin (柳琴), a four-stringed lute, and dizi (笛子), a kind of Chinese flute.

"I want to bring the dance and groove [elements of jazz] to Chinese music," said Peng. "Chinese music doesn't always have to be calm or elegant."

Sizhukong embraces the ethos of jazz fusion: its music takes established forms — jazz and classical Chinese styles and gives them a new twist. In songs like Bathing in the Stream, the ensemble plays a joyful melody originating from Guangdong Province, but adds a modern groove with upright bass and drums. Soon enough, the song expands into more abstract territory, with extended improvisations on piano, liuqin and erhu (二胡). As the song returns to the melodic theme, the jazz and Chinese "voices" intermingle to create a sound both familiar and new.



Left: Saxophonist Jeff Chang of the US.



Above: Jazz ensemble Sizhukong brings a uniquely Chinese sound to its jazz music. From left to right: Alex Wu, Chen Chih-ling, Toshi Fujii, Huang Chih-ping, Martijn Vanbuel, and Left: Mogauwane Mahloelo of South Africa

plays the djembe and sings with Sizhukong as a special guest this weekend. PHOTO COURTESY OF SIZHUKONG

PHOTO COURTESY OF SIZHUKONG

Sizhukong creates new Chinese music with a jazzy soul

Peng took an indirect path to conceiving this uniquely Chinese form of jazz. She studied Western classical music at a young age, but grew bored with it and eventually gave up. But after hearing swing jazz for the first time during university, Peng was inspired to return to music and earned a degree in jazz composition at the Berklee College of Music in Boston.

After returning to Taipei, Peng helped form a small jazz combo, Metamorphosis, which is known for recasting Taiwanese folk songs in modern jazz styles, including Latin jazz, be-bop and post-bop.

Seeking new directions in her music, Peng studied nanguan (南管) and beiguan (北管), two traditional music forms with roots in southern China and Taiwan. Her collaboration with renowned liuqing player Chen Yi-chien (陳怡蒨) set the stage for Sizhukong's formation.

With Chen in mind, Peng created a samba jazz arrangement of Fengyang (鳳陽), a folk song from China's Anhui

Province. Chen's performance skills left a deep impression: "I never thought that Chinese music could be this beautiful," Peng said. And Chen turned out to be a natural with jazz. "The rhythm and syncopation — she caught on easily." The pair built on their collaboration, and recorded Sizhukong's first album, which was released last year.

Just as Peng has expanded her notion of jazz music by bringing in Chinese elements, she finds that the same has been true for classical Chinese musicians. Peng cites the example of one of her past students, a guzheng (古 箏, Chinese zither) player who studied the instrument for 20 years but didn't enjoy it until she started playing jazz.

And she has opened doors for jazz musicians as well. Saxophonist Jeff Chang (張哲嘉) of the US, who is playing with the group as a special guest this weekend, said that Peng's music was something he had "always been looking for" as a musician with Taiwanese roots. Ultimately, for Peng the jazz spirit lies

PERFORMANCE NOTES:

WHAT: Samba Paradise (2008夏日狂歡音 樂派對) featuring jazz ensemble Sizhukong WHEN AND WHERE: Tomorrow at 9:30pm, Witch House, 7, Ln 56, Xinsheng S Road Sec 3, Taipei City (女巫店台北市 新生南路三段56巷7號), admission at the door is NT\$300; Sunday at 5pm, Da-an Forest Park (大安森林公園), free admission; Aug. 10 at 3pm, Hsinchu County Cultural Affairs Bureau (新竹縣文化局), 146, Xianzheng 9th Rd, Chubei City, Hsinchu County (新竹縣竹北市縣政九路146號), admission is NT\$300 to NT\$500 TICKETS: Available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw ON THE NET: www.sizhukong.com

in "exploring different kinds of music. My feel for music is changing, and my composing goes along with that."

Sizhukong's lineup includes Toshi Fujii (藤井俊充) on drums and percussion, Huang Chih-ping (黃治評) on dizi and dongxiao (洞簫, bamboo flute), Alex Wu (吳政君) on *erhu* and percussion, Chen Chih-ling on *liuqin* and *zhongruan* (中阮) and Belgian Martijn Vanbuel on bass.

They will be joined by special guests Mogauwane Mahloelo of South Africa on djembe and vocals, and Janelle Chang (張宜蓁) on violin and satar (薩塔 琴), a traditional Uygur instrument.

The group is currently working on a new album expected for release at the end of the year, with each musician contributing their own compositions.

- DAVID CHEN

Taiwan Beer bash

The Money Shot Horns can make 🗘 even grandma dance. That's why they've been chosen as one of the headliners for tomorrow's 2008 Taiwan Beer Festival (2008台灣啤酒節) in Wujih (鳥日), Taichung County.

The event kicks off at 10:30am and features an appearance by the Taiwan Beer basketball team, food stalls. DJs, bartender shows, professional dancers, two Golden Melody Awardwinning singers, and a massive graffiti installation that took two artists weeks to complete. The festival has already made stops in Tainan and Zhunan and will hit Taipei on Aug. 19, but the Taichung event is the largest and most heavily promoted.

Its aim is to promote the nightlife scene in the area around the Taiwan Beer Factory (烏日啤酒廠行政大樓前廣 場) in Wujih, which is less than one kilometer from the Taiwan High Speed Rail Co's Wujih Station and a 20-minute drive from downtown Taichung. Two restaurants have opened in the beer factory and several restaurants and nightspots will open soon nearby. The area is accessible from Taichung via the THSRC's shuttle bus.

The main party starts at 5:30pm tomorrow with a bartender show, followed by music from DJ Edify, who spins funky house. A few dozen dancers will be on hand to create atmosphere and encourage the crowd to get down.

Hard-rock band Reload plays on the main stage at 6:30pm, while funk supergroup the Money Shot Horns takes to the stage at 7:45pm. Then it's a triple bill of talented singers: Golden Melody Award-winning Puyuma songstress Jiajia (家家): Alin, who was recently discovered by an agent at the EZ5 club in Taitung; and, finally, Jeannie Hsieh (謝金燕), winner of the Best Taiwanese Female Singer gong at the 2007 Golden Melody Awards.

The Taiwan Beer Factory in Wujih (鳥日啤酒廠行政大樓前廣場) is located at 1 Guanghua Rd, Wujih, Taichung County (台中縣鳥日鄉光華街一號). The festival runs from 10:30am to 9:30pm.

- RON BROWNLOW



Alin, 23, looks like Jolin Tsai and has the voice of A-mei, according to her agent.

Theater

Windmill Fantasia (紙風車幻想曲) is an entertaining children's perfor-

mance by Paper Windmill Theater (紙風車劇團) that uses float-sized puppets, black lighting, music and acting to enthrall and delight audiences. National Theater, Taipei City

- ▶ Tonight and tomorrow at 7:30pm, tomorrow and Sunday at 2:30pm and
- Sunday at 10:30am ► Tickets are NT\$350 to NT\$1,000,
- available through NTCH ticketing

Heart of Ocean (海洋之心)

is a diabolo dance production by Diabolo Dance Theater (舞鈴劇場) that portrays life underwater.

- ▶ Hsinchu City Performance Hall (新竹 市立演藝廳) 17. Tungtah Rd Sec 2. Hsinchu City (新竹市東大路二段17號) ► Today at 7:30pm
- ▶ Tickets are NT\$200 to NT\$900,

available through NTCH ticketing

Every Breath You Take (你的每 一次呼吸...) is a dance performance by Big Knowledge Tree Theater (大知 樹排練場) that uses breathing as a key element to explore the eternal themes of dreams, jealousy and love.

- ▶ Y17 (台北市青少年育樂中心), 17 Renai Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市仁愛路一段 17號)
- ► Tomorrow and Sunday at 7:30pm
- ▶ Tickets are NT\$500, available through NTCH ticketing

Visionary director Robert Wilson returns to Taiwan with I La Galigo, a performance based on an Indonesian creation myth, Sureq Galigo, that fuses theater, dance, music and poetry. The three-hour epic production includes 50 actors, dancers and musicians from Indonesia who use the traditions and folklore of the Bugis people to tell the

story of forbidden love between a brother and sister.

▶ National Theater, Taipei City

ALBUM CHART COMPILED FROM G-MUSIC (WWW.G-MUSIC.COM.TW), BASED ON RETAIL SALE

- ► Thursday, Aug. 8, and Aug. 9, at 7:30pm; Aug. 10, at 2:30pm
- ► Tickets are NT\$500 to NT\$2,400,
- available through NTCH ticketing

Classical music

8th Taipei International Choral Festival (2008第八屆台北國際合唱

音樂節) ends tomorrow with a Final Concert that includes sets by The Chanters Group of the Church of St Panteleimon the Healer, Georgia, St John's College Choir, South Africa, The Idea of North, Australia, in addition to a performance of Handel's Israel in Egypt by the Festival Choir (節慶合唱團), the Taipei Philharmonic Chorus (台北愛樂合唱團), and the Taipei Philharmonic Youth Orchestra (台北愛樂青年管弦樂團) with Gabor

- Hollerung conducting. ► Tomorrow, 7:30pm
- National Concert Hall, Taipei City ► Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$2,000, available through NTCH ticketing

Double Bass Works of 20th Century Vienna (維也納二十世紀 低音提琴作品) is a concert that will

see cellist Chou Chun-hsiang (周春 祥) and pianist Lin Hui-ying (林慧英) in a number of works composed as a dedication to bassist Ludwig Streicher. The program includes Rudolf Jettel's Sonate fur Kontrabas und Klavier, Paul Furst's Ars Bassi fur Kontrabas und Klavier Op.41, Fritz Leitermeyer's 12 Essays fur Kontrabas und Klavier Op.33 and Paul Angerer's Quicquam fur Streichers Kontrabas und Streicher.

- ► Thursday, 7:30pm National Recital Hall, Taipei City
- ▶ Tickets are NT\$500, available through

Classical Lounge Bar — A Summer Fantasy (夏日綺想

曲—古典Lounge Bar) has the chamber quartet of Hung Yun-yao (洪韻堯) and Hung Ju-chiang (洪如 薇) on violin, Chen Yung-chan (陳永 展) on viola and cellist Tseng Chia-yi (曾加宜) performing Mozart's String Quartet in C Major, K.465, "Dissonance", Beethoven's String Quartet Op. 59, No. 1 'Razumovsky' in F Major and Borodin's String Quartet in D Major Op. 77, No. 2.

▶ Taipei Philharmonic Orchestra and Maestro Henry Mazer Music and Culture Hall (台北愛樂暨梅哲音樂文化 館) at B1, 7 Jinan Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市濟南路一段7號B1)

► Sunday, 2:30pm

► Tickets are NT\$350, available through NTCH ticketing

Contemporary Tomorrow night the **Cosmopolitan Grill** hosts **David Chen and the** Muddy Basin Ramblers, who play vintage blues, swing jazz and jug band

music. They will be joined by country act 2 Acres Plowed. 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,

▶ 1F, 218 Changchun Rd, Taipei City (台北市長春路218號1樓). Call (02) 2508-0304 or visit www. cosmo.com.tw for more information ▶ Tomorrow, 9pm to 11pm; every Wednesday, 8pm to 11pm

bass or drums.

▶ NT\$250 minimum charge tomorrow; free admission on Wednesday. Happy Hour from 7pm to 9pm with specials on Jack Daniels drinks

Is Rich (兔子很有錢) and punk band

VU Live House. Tomorrow it's Japanese new wave punk band Six O'Minus and indie-electronica outfit Auto da Fe, garage rockers Rabbit The Shine and Shine and Shine and Shine (閃閃閃閃)

High Tide plays at the Wall as part of the

The Wall (這牆) hosts an evening of live reggae and dub tomorrow night with Roots Dub Session, a late-night party featuring two bands and two DJs. Organized by DJ **Taili**, the party is dedicated to promoting live reggae and dub music in Taipei.

Kicking off the evening is High Tide, the roots, rocksteady and dub band of Public Radio singer and guitarist Moshe Foster, who also writes original material for the group. The band is a patchwork of other musicians from Taipei's expat music scene: Mike Tennant of the Bopomofo Blues Band (クタロに) on bass, Andy Francis of the Money Shot Horns on trombone, guitarist and singer Jesse Morden-Green of Johnny Fatstacks and Consider the Meek drummer Greg Russell.

Highlight

[EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT]

Taking the stage next is **Taimaica Sound System**, one of Taiwan's

Random (隨性) appear tonight at information ▶ Starts at 10pm

late-night *Roots Dub Session* party. PHOTO COURTESY OF HIGH TIDE

foremost homegrown reggae and dub outfits. The group prides itself on representing a diversity of musical dance styles; its nine members play electronic instruments and the standard guitar, bass and drum kit. After the bands, DJs Taili and **Katzu** of the Jamaican sound system **Black** Reign International will keep people dancing the rest of the evening,

spinning classic and modern roots. ▶ Roots Dub Session with Taimaica Sound System, High Tide, and DJs Taili and Katzu

► Tomorrow, 11:30pm, The Wall (這牆), B1, 200, Roosevelt Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市羅斯福路四段200 B1). Call (02) 2930-0162 for more information

▶ NT\$350 cover includes one free drink ▶ On the Net: www.the-wall.com.tw

▶ B1, 77 Wuchang St, Taipei City (台北市武昌街二段77號B1). Call (02) 2314-1868 for more

▶ NT\$300 entrance includes one drink

Appearing tomorrow night at **Center Stage** (formerly the Living Room) are **Abandoned Machines**, punk band Angry Young Men (生氣的年輕人) and Nevermore.

- ▶ 3F, 8, Nanjing E Rd Sec 5, Taipei City (台北市南京東路五段8號3樓). Call (02) 8787-4154 or visit www.myspace.com/taipeicenterstage for more information
- ▶ Shows start at 10pm ▶ Free tonight; NT\$200 cover tomorrow

Tonight **Dafu Jazz Trio** takes to the stage at **Sappho de Base**. There is no show scheduled for tomorrow. On Tuesday night the **Grace Jazz Trio** plays a set, with an open jam afterwards. The Accidentals appear on Wednesday, and on Thursday it's the **Phase-in Jazz Quartet**, featuring original compositions by group leader Michael Haack.

- ▶ 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) 2700-5411 (after 9pm) or visit www.sappho102.biz for more information
- ▶ Performances begin at 10:30pm ▶ No entrance fee

Amis Aboriginal pop singer **Van Fan** (范逸臣) performs at The Wall (這牆) tonight. Tomorrow it's noise band Black Faith With Sonic Pace (黑色信念跟隨著音速腳步) and acoustic rockers All Become F, followed by a late night reggae show, Roots Dub Session. [See Highlight for details.] ▶ B1, 200, Roosevelt Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市羅斯福路四段200號B1). Call (02) 2930-0162 or log on at www. the-wall.com.tw for more information ▶ 8pm tonight, tomorrow and Sunday ▶ NT\$450 tonight and tomorrow for the first show; NT\$350 for second

show tomorrow night and Sunday.

Admission includes one drink

Peppermint (薄荷葉) and Japanese bands Tonic, Six O'Minus and **Ground Cover** appear tonight at Underworld (地下室). Indieelectronica band **Telephone Booth** (電話亭) and low-key indie-rock duo Zag Lope (柴可洛噗) take to the stage tomorrow. US DJ Jef Stott mans the decks on Sunday. [See highlight on Page 15.1 On Wednesday it's **Space** Cake (太空蛋糕), which recently played at the Formoz Rock Festival and the Shine and Shine and Shine and

▶ 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

Shine (閃閃閃閃).

Live shows go from 9:30pm to 11:30pm. The bar is open from 8pm daily, closed Mondays. Before midnight on Tuesdays and Thursdays, drinks are buy-one-get-one-free ▶ Entrance is NT\$400 tonight and NT\$300 tomorrow, NT\$350 on Sunday with one drink; NT\$100 on Wednesday

Tonight Witch House (女巫店)

hosts Bai Ronghe (白融合), a group playing jazzy compositions led by singer Jyotsna Peng (彭靖惠). **Tango Negro** takes to the stage afterwards, playing accordion music inspired by Argentinean tango composer Astor Piazzolla. Tomorrow night it's the

(絲竹空). [See story above.] ▶ 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

Chinese jazz fusion band Sizhukong

- ▶ 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 includes one drink

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