

POP STOP



Revelers at the Zhongshan Bridge Riverside Park in July. Tomorrow, 10 indie bands will gather at the same spot for a daylong rock festival called My Herbal Romance 2.

Singer Stanley Huang (黃立行) celebrated the success of his recent album We All Lay Down in the End (最後只好躺下來) by bedding 30 fans, the Apple Daily reported this week.



Above: What do Yoga Lin and a party liner have in common? Top: Stanley Huang was almost bedridden earlier this week.

Pop Stop has learned where singers from CTV's One Million Star (超級星光大道) go when their shine wears off. Yoga Lin (林有嘉), a first-generation winner of the talent show, took some time off from crooning last week to adjudicate a contest for models vying to become the spokeswoman for a brand of party liners.

41, is falling out of love. Or is that back in love? The Canto-pop star's relationship with on-again, off-again boyfriend Ni Zhen (倪震), 44, reportedly ended earlier in the week amid rumors that the couple were to marry by the end of this year, according to Apple and the Liberty Times (the Taipei Times' sister newspaper). Pictures published in the former showed Ni playing tonsil hockey with 21-year-old Miffy Zhang (張萌), a college student.

"I know that in everyone's eyes I'm not a very good boyfriend," he said in a message sent to the media. "I just want to be friends [with Chow]." The Liberty Times, meanwhile, speculated that Ni openly two-timed Chow because he didn't know how to reject her marriage proposal to her face. Apple, for its part, said that Zhang must be very "open-minded" because she often hangs out at pubs and her blog features numerous pictures of her wearing skimpy clothing and bikinis.

"I can date whomever I want," Zhang reportedly said in response to media queries. "Besides, he's not married." Open-minded indeed. Yesterday, however, the couple's big day appeared to be back on after Ni sent out another e-mail to the media, announcing that the pair would soon wed.

— COMPILED BY NOAH BUCHAN

In an Apple Daily column headlined, "Strange old man chooses winner by staring at their derrieres (盯屁股選妃怪叔叔)," Lin appeared in a photograph with two scantily clad models boasting that the party liners are of such high quality that unsatisfied users could return the product.

Meanwhile, pop idol Wang Lee-hom (王力宏) might be in love, according to a report in the Apple Daily. His supposed love interest is Japanese singer Uehara Takako (上原多香子), who it seems has caught on late to the celebrity trend of going out without wearing any underwear a la Britney Spears, Lindsay Lohan and Paris Hilton.

Wang and Takako were shooting a music video together when the daily's intrepid reporter snapped them lounging on a sofa, which revealed that Takako was knickerless. The gossip rag published the photo, but was unusually coy and censored the starlet's lower thigh.

While Wang may be falling in love, Hong Kong singer and actress Vivian Chow (周慧敏),

TOP FIVE MANDARIN ALBUMS DEC. 5 TO DEC. 11. 1. Mayday (五月天) and Poetry of the Day After (後青春期的詩) with 15.58 percent of sales. 2. Stanley Huang (黃立行) and We All Lay Down in the End (最後只好躺下來) with 13.85%.

Theater In The Drought Goddess (大神戲), by Ethan Chen Production House (野墨坊), the Yellow Emperor (黃帝) banishes his daughter because he fears that she has become too powerful after she helps him win an important battle.

Sun Yat-sen Hall of the National Sun Yat-sen University Art Center (高雄中山大學逸仙館), 70 Lienhai Rd, Kaohsiung City (高雄市蓮海路70號) Tomorrow at 2:30pm and 7:30pm Tickets are NT\$500 to NT\$2,000, available through ERA ticketing

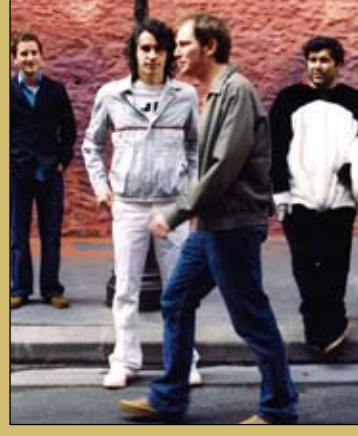
The Little Matches Girl (賣火柴的小女孩) by Taiyuan Puppet Theater Company (太原偶劇團) tells the story of a greedy grandmother who forces her granddaughter to work in a factory that makes matches.

Classical music 2008 Christmas Concert — Santa Is Gone? (2008聖誕音樂會—聖誕老公公不見了) is a family concert featuring the Taipei Philharmonic Chamber Chorus (台北愛樂室內合唱團), the Philharmonic Theater Workshop (愛樂劇工廠) and the jazz orchestra of the Taipei Philharmonic (台北愛樂青年管弦樂團附設爵士樂團) under the direction of Hsieh Shu-jing (謝淑卿) and conducted by Ku Yu-chong (古育仲).

Star Light, Dreams and Christmas Carols — Evergreen Symphony Orchestra Charity Concert (星耀、夢想、耶誕頌, 長榮交響樂團 — Xmas慈善音樂會) opens with Anderson's Christmas Festival. Blind soprano Chu Wan-hua (朱萬花), who is also the Secretary General of the Arts Promotion Association for the Disabled (APAD) and longtime promoter of disabled musicians, will sing Moonlight Serenade (月光小夜曲), Twilight on the Tamsui River (淡水暮色), When I Open My Heart (打開心內的門窗), The Green Island Serenade (綠島小夜曲) and other well-known Taiwanese folk songs.

Hung Hsiao-chin 2008 Solo Oboe Recital (洪小琴2008年雙簧獨奏會) features young oboist Hung Hsiao-chin (洪小琴) performing a program that includes Strauss' Oboe concerto, Skalkottas' Concertino for Solo Oboe and Piano Accompaniment and Pasquelli's Concerto Sopra Motiv Dell Opera La Favorita Di Donizetti for Oboe and Piano.

Highlight Neo-sixties pop act Tahiti 80, an upbeat quartet from France who sing in English, perform tonight at The Wall. The repertoire has been touring in Asia to promote its recently released fourth album, Activity Center, and is especially popular in Japan.



Tahiti 80 appears at The Wall tonight.

Contemporary Tomorrow night it's hip-hop and positive vibes at VU Livehouse, as Island Jam presents Hip Hop Winter Clash, with DJs Marcus Aurelius, Sofa King, and Mixer-T and Shaman, and Jamaican sound system Black Reign International.

month's Urban Simple Life festival, performs tomorrow. Japanese band Plastic Trees, whose sound ranges from hard-core rock to pop and also borrows from Britpop bands, plays on Sunday. On Wednesday, underground rockers The Chairman (董事長樂團) preside over a 1980s theme party and Christmas celebration.

Shantaaal (鼓動的曼陀羅) takes to the stage tonight at Witch House (女巫店), playing the sounds of India, Central Asia, the Middle East and Spain. Tomorrow it's solo act Ian (芮唯) and indie folk outfit Daxiaojie (大小姐樂團).

Pang (彭靖惠) on vocals with a backing jazz group, an accordionist and scratch DJ. Performing tomorrow night is vocalist Peggy Hsu (許哲瑛).

Sea Journey Jazz Combo (海洋知音爵士樂團), a four-piece group with vibraphone, bass, drums and guitar, appears tonight at Sappho de Base, while The Montonos Latin Band spices up proceedings tomorrow night.

Tonight at Tone 56 Live Bar it's New Orleans funk and rock powerhouse The Kenyatta Trio. Tomorrow DJ Shelly of South Africa spins tunes from "yesteryear to today's techno."

A winter affair

Feel like rockin' out tomorrow? Put on a coat. A host of bands are putting on My Herbal Romance 2, a free, daylong outdoor show at the windy Zhongshan Bridge Riverside Park (中山橋下河濱公園) near the Grand Hotel in Taipei.

Romance), held a few months ago in the spirit of punk subversion. With a rudimentary sound system and drum kit, 88 Balaz and two other bands, Random (騷性) and Inhuman Species (非人物種), set up at a park one evening on Shida Road (師大路) and played to passersby for several hours.

Concertgoers tomorrow will be treated to a variety of rock sounds. In addition to the punk-fused rock of 88 Balaz and the zany hardcore of Inhuman Species, the lineup includes nu-metal band Respect (尊敬樂團), funk rockers Dianzibiao (電子錶) and The Fake Literary and Artistic Teenage Club (假文藝青年俱樂部, FLAT Club), a band that mixes Brit-pop and psychedelic rock.

— DAVID CHEN

Yule be in the mood for a little song and dance

Dancer/choreographer Grace Hsiao (蕭靜文) was a student and disciple of Taiwan's modern dance pioneer, the late Tsai Jui-yueh (蔡瑞月). She established her own company, the Grace Hsiao Dance Theater (蕭靜文舞蹈團), in 1985 both to perform her own works and to reconstruct and preserve those of her beloved teacher.

she said. "Everyone is welcome." The party will be hosted by DJ Marcus Aurelius (another family connection; he's the nephew of Grace's husband David Maurice) and Huang Yi-yun (黃亦筠).

Tomorrow night, the sisters are throwing open the gates of the rebuilt Japanese-style studio that was Tsai's base in Taipei for decades, the Rose Historic Site, for a three-and-a-half hour Christmas party.

promotion out," she said. The studio is a great place to enjoy a performance under the stars. Chairs and bleachers are set up on the lawn, and the folding doors of the studio are pushed back so it can be used as a theater.

EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Theater In The Drought Goddess (大神戲), by Ethan Chen Production House (野墨坊), the Yellow Emperor (黃帝) banishes his daughter because he fears that she has become too powerful after she helps him win an important battle. National Experimental Theater, Taipei City. Tonight and tomorrow at 7:30pm and tomorrow and Sunday at 2:30pm Tickets are NT\$500, available through NTCH ticketing

Star Light, Dreams and Christmas Carols — Evergreen Symphony Orchestra Charity Concert (星耀、夢想、耶誕頌, 長榮交響樂團 — Xmas慈善音樂會) opens with Anderson's Christmas Festival. Blind soprano Chu Wan-hua (朱萬花), who is also the Secretary General of the Arts Promotion Association for the Disabled (APAD) and longtime promoter of disabled musicians, will sing Moonlight Serenade (月光小夜曲), Twilight on the Tamsui River (淡水暮色), When I Open My Heart (打開心內的門窗), The Green Island Serenade (綠島小夜曲) and other well-known Taiwanese folk songs.

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