

# POP STOP

In the run up to June 27's Golden Melody Awards, the announcement this Tuesday of the 10 best Mandarin albums and singles (十大優良專輯與十大優良單曲) by the Association of Music Workers in Taiwan (中華音樂人交流協會), saw May Day (五月天) and The Chairman (董事長樂團) spoiling for a fight, as both won honors and will go head-to-head at the awards. The list is widely seen as a barometer as to who will pick up a gong next weekend.

The year's best albums, according to the association, are **MC Hot Dog's** (熱狗) *Wake Up, Totem's* (圖騰) *Over There I Sing* (我在那邊唱), The Chairman's *True and False* (真的假的), **Deserts Chang's** (張懸) *My Life Will ...*, **Biung** (王宏恩) *War Dance* (戰舞), **Penny Tai's** (戴佩妮) *I Penny*, 13's (拾參樂團) *Are You a King?* (你是王嗎), **Jay Chou's** (周杰倫) *Still Fantasy* (依然范特西), **Summer Lai's** (蕭光夏) *The Darkness of Light* (黑暗之光), and **Hao-en** (吳恩) and **Jiajia's** (家家) *Blue in Love*. Singles by **Jiang Sheng-min** (姜聖民), **Summer Lai**, **A-Mei** (張惠妹), **Deserts Chang**, **David Tao** (陶喆), **Jolin Tsai** (蔡依林), **Europa Huang** (黃建為), Penny Tai, Jay Chou and **Judy Chiang** (江蕙) and **Tanya Chua** (蔡健雅) were also chosen.

This will be the 20th Golden Melody Awards, and Judy Chiang is set to cement her position as the only artist to have never missed a single edition. After picking up her fourth Best Female Singer award in the Taiwanese Song (最佳台語女歌手) category at the 14th Golden Melody Awards, she withdrew from that category, but has continued to receive nominations in other sections. This year, Chiang is nominated for Best Song (最佳年度歌曲獎), Best Producer of an Album (最佳專輯製作人獎) and Best Taiwanese Album (最佳台語專輯獎).

**Huang Yi-ling** (黃乙玲), an eight-time nominee for Best Female Performer in the Taiwanese Song category who has hovered under the show business radar for some years, will perform at the award ceremony in honor of its 20th anniversary, an event much



Chu Ko Liang just got less poor.

anticipated by her fans. While the music industry is gearing up to see who will win big, funnyman **Chu Ko Liang** (豬哥亮) is struggling to get back on his feet after amassing huge debts through gambling. According to NOWnews, he will be helped considerably in this endeavor by his chief creditor, **Yang Teng-kuei** (楊登魁), who has reportedly agreed to reduce the amount owed to him by 80 percent. Chu Ko Liang still needs to cough up NT\$240 million. For his part, Yang is taking 20 percent of Chu Ko Liang's earnings from a highly successful ad for air conditioners in which he starred.

There is also talk that Chu Ko Liang may take over show host duties at FTV (民視) in the highly competitive Saturday 10pm slot, which is currently occupied by **Hu Gua** (胡瓜), whose dominance looks shaky.

Another artist facing uncertain times is **Michelle Pan** (潘越雲), whose rocky marriage to **Huang Kuang-chuan** (黃光全) seems to have reached breaking point, with the former demanding a divorce. She has accused her husband of living off her income, saying that his television fee for an appearance in which he alleged Pan had denied him access to their daughter was his only income from the last decade.

In March, Huang snatched on his wife to police, who caught her in flagrante delicto with another man, took photos of the crime and charged her with adultery and disruption of family life (通姦和妨害家庭). Despite her many misfortunes, Pan was still working hard this week, turning up on CTV's (中視) *Variety Big Brother* (綜藝大哥哥) with show host **Chang Fei** (張菲). She sang the popular song *The Wild Lily May Also Have Its Spring* (野百合也有春天), commenting that like a wild lily, a mature woman like herself may no longer turn heads, but can always survive. Chang, with what might be either construed as bad taste or encouragement, suggested that "Pan was too wonderful to belong to just one man" (像阿潘這麼有味道的女人，不能只屬於一個男人). — COMPILED BY IAN BARTHOLOMEW

Michelle Pan, "too wonderful" for just one man.



Beautiful Haiyan, a group of Aboriginal singers, shares the bill with Kimbo Hu, second from left, tonight

## 'Father of folk music' has a new offspring

In Taiwan's folk music scene there are few musicians as storied as Kimbo Hu (胡德夫), who performs at Riverside Live House in Taipei tonight.

The 59-year-old singer will oblige the audience with a few of the songs that cemented his reputation as a political activist and earned him the title "the father of folk music." Expect to hear his classic tune *Standing On My Land*, a bluesy number full of rousing Aboriginal chants in the chorus.

Hu, a Puyuma Aboriginal from the Taitung area, got his start singing in Taipei coffeehouses during the 1970s, when Western folk music was all the rage on college campuses. He gained nationwide fame for his rendition of Lee Shuang-tze's (李雙澤) ballad *Formosa* (美麗島) but was blacklisted from radio and TV by the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT), which at the time was wary of anything remotely anti-government.

A tireless campaigner for Aboriginal rights throughout the 1980s, Hu retired from the spotlight for much of the 1990s because of illness. He made a comeback in the early noughties, and recorded his first full-length album in 2005, *In a Flash*, which contained many of his signature songs and garnered several Golden Melody Awards.

But tonight's show will be more than a mere revisiting of the past. Hu, who usually performs solo on piano, is trying something new: playing with a young backing band.

He has called upon Wild Fire Music (野火樂集), a record label and collective of mostly 30-something Aboriginal musicians, to help out. Hu's band includes

guitarist Gelresai (陳世川), bassist Wang Chi-san (王繼三), and keyboardist and producer Cheng Chieh-ren (鄭捷任), who also serves as band director.

Cheng says the band's set includes several folk classics chosen by Hu and sung in English, as well as a few songs from one of Hu's past projects, Blacklist Studio (黑名單工作室).

Even though Hu and members of Wild Fire Music are old friends and have performed together before, tonight's show is intended to mark the start of a more long-term collaboration, Cheng said.

Following Hu's set will be a performance from another Wild Fire-affiliated group, Beautiful Haiyan (美麗心民謠), which consists of vocalists Leo Chen (陳永龍), Hsiao Mei (小美), Linnga (小鳳), Tipus (小桐) and Wang Yu-hsiu (汪裕修). Their set will cover a range of songs, from traditional Puyuma numbers to contemporary Aboriginal songs sung in Mandarin. — DAVID CHEN

### PERFORMANCE NOTES:

**WHAT:** Kimbo Hu and Beautiful Haiyan  
**WHEN:** Tonight at 8:30pm; doors open at 8pm  
**WHERE:** Riverside Live House (河岸留言西門紅樓展演館), 177 Xining S Rd, Taipei City (台北市西寧南路177號)  
**ADMISSION:** Tickets are NT\$500, which includes one drink, available at the door  
**ON THE NET:** www.ignitefire.com

### PERFORMANCE NOTES:

**WHAT:** E-wish for a Lonely Island (孤島e願望)  
**WHEN:** Tonight at 7:30pm, tomorrow at 2:30pm and 7:30pm and Sunday at 2:30pm  
**WHERE:** Fifth Central Hall (中五館), Huashan Culture Park (華山創意園區), 1, Bade Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市八德路一段1號)  
**ADMISSION:** Tickets are NT\$700, which includes a shopping bag and a flashlight, and are available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

## TOP FIVE MANDARIN ALBUMS

JUNE 5 TO JUNE 11

- Nicolas Teo (張棟樑) and *The Moment of Silence* (沉默的瞬間) with 22.04 percent
- Wilber Pan (潘瑋柏) and *007* (零零七007) with 9.02%

- Chang Yun-jing (張芸京) and *Out of the Blue* (破天荒) with 8.75%
- eVonne (許慧欣) and *Love\*Over=Love* (愛極限) with 8.44%
- Hsu Chia-ying (徐佳瑩, aka Lala) with *Lala's First Original Songs* (首張創作專輯) with 5.84%

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

## [ EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT ]

### Theater

The latest stand-up comedy production by Comedian's Workshop (相聲瓦舍) **The Unmatchable Mates** (兩光康樂隊), stars Feng Yi-gang (馮翊綱) and Song Shao-qing (宋少卿) as two villagers forced to provide entertainment for the night after the village's movie projectionist is thrown into jail for stealing money from his boss.

► Novel Hall (新舞臺), 3-1 Songshou Rd, Taipei City (台北市松壽路3-1號)  
► Tonight at 7:30pm, tomorrow and Sunday at 2:30pm and 7:30pm  
► Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$1,200, available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw

Star performers from the **National China Beijing Opera Theatre** (中國國家京劇院) have traveled to Taipei with members of an opera troupe from Dalian and China's National Academy of Chinese Theatre Arts (中國戲曲學院) to stage 11 classics at Taipei's National Theater.

► National Theater, Taipei City  
► Tonight at 7pm, tomorrow and Sunday at 2pm and 7pm  
► Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$2,000, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Made up of six afternoons of performances, **Blue Dragon White Tiger** (靑龍白虎三世纏鬥) by the National Guoguang Opera Company (國立國光劇團) recounts the ancient legend of two mythical beasts, Blue Dragon and White Tiger. The third and fourth installments take place this weekend at Guoguang Theater.

► Guoguang Theater (國光劇場), 8-1, Ln 66, Mucha Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市木柵路三段66巷8號之1)  
► Tomorrow and Sunday at 2:30pm  
► Tickets are NT\$200 and NT\$300, available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw

Ping-Fong Acting Troupe's (屏風表演班) 2002 production **The Aurora Borealis** (北極之光) returns for a countrywide tour. The theme of this star-studded, big-budget production is first love over three generations and the promises and commitment that run through it.

► Taichung Chungshan Hall (台中中山堂), 98 Syueshieh Rd, Taichung City (台中市學士路98號)  
► Tomorrow at 7:30pm and Sunday at 2:30pm  
► Tickets are NT\$600 to NT\$3,000, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

**Happiness Part III — Forget Me Not** (浮浪貴開花3—勿忘影中人), the latest installment of Golden Bough Theatre's (金枝演社) Happiness (浮浪貴開花) series, which began life four years ago, is a light-hearted, comic musical that tells the story of a young bohemian and his search for happiness.

► Sun Yat-sen Hall of the National Sun Yat-sen University Art Center (高雄中山大學逸仙館), 70 Lianhai Rd, Kaohsiung City (高雄市蓮海路70號)  
► Tomorrow at 7:30pm, Sunday at 2:30pm  
► Tickets are NT\$300 and NT\$1,100, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Taichung Improv Theatre and the

Taipei Repertory present **An Evening of Short Plays** as part of Stock 20's Art Festival. The production's three short one-act plays include *The Bear*, written by Anton Chekov, directed by Josh Myers and starring Nick Ford, Jenny McManus, and Thomas van Niekerk, and *Oral Report* and *Alternative Lifestyle* by Jack Neary, performed by Katie Partlow, Sarah Zitter and Mandy Roveda, who is also the director.

► Stock 21 Experimental Theatre 6-1, Ln 37, Fuxing Rd Sec 4 at Taichung City (台中市復興路四段37巷6-6號)  
► Tomorrow at 7:30pm  
► Tickets are NT\$200. For more information, call 0933-367-899 (Chinese), 0912-129-654 (English), or visit www.stock20.com.tw

### Classical music

**Extremely Murakami** (極端村上春樹之夜), a concert by the Taipei Philharmonic Orchestra (台北愛樂管弦樂團), features music that mirrors the world of Japanese writer Haruki Murakami. The program includes Rossini's *La Gazza Ladra Overture*, Liszt's *Piano Concerto No. 2 in A-Major, G. 125*, Bach's *Brandenburg Concerto No. 5*, and Smetana's *Die Moldau*.

► Today at 7:30pm  
► National Concert Hall, Taipei City  
► Tickets are NT\$500 to NT\$2,500, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

**NSO Theme Park — Voyage in Musical Land** (NSO主題樂園—音樂航海王) is a family concert in which the country's most highly regarded

orchestra, the National Symphony Orchestra (國家交響樂團), performs in conjunction with actors from If Kids Theater (如果兒童劇團). The orchestra will be under the direction of Chang Yin-fang (張尹芳) and the program will include family-friendly works including selections from Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake* and *Sleeping Beauty*, Mussorgsky's *Tableaux d'Une Exposition* and Rimsky-Korsakov's *Flight of the Bumble Bee*.

► Tomorrow at 10:30am and 2:30pm  
► National Concert Hall, Taipei City  
► Tickets are NT\$400, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

**Lev Klychov & Taiwan Pro Arte Orchestra** (天方夜譚—聖彼得堡樂師首席) presents Russian violinist Lev Klychov performing together with the Taiwan Pro Arte Orchestra (普羅藝術家樂團) under the direction of Liao Chia-hung (廖嘉弘). The program includes Mussorgsky's *Introduction to Act 1 of "Khovantchina"*, Tchaikovsky's *Melody Op. 42 No. 3* and Sarasate's *"Navarra" for Violins and Orchestra, Op. 33*.

► Sunday at 7:30pm  
► National Concert Hall, Taipei City  
► Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$1,500, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

**Contemporary**  
**Roxy Vibe**, an old Taipei nightclub standby, is closing after this weekend, and the venue is going out with a bang. Tonight is a "back-to-back" mixing session, where two DJs share a set, taking turns choosing songs. DJ

team-ups include **Elemente** with **Mixer T**, **Gil T Azell** with **C-Type** and **Shorty** with **Rich**. Also joining in on the fun are MCs **Stoppa** and **Shaman**. Tomorrow's farewell party is mostly live music with **Karaoke**, **Coach**, **Boyz** and **Girl** and **Hi-Life Wedding** and **Dr Renculous Lipz**. Rounding out the party are the **Rock In Hose Burlesque** and DJ **Marcus Aurelius**. [See story on Page 13.]

► B1, 155, Jinshan S Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市金山南路一段155號B1)  
► Shows begin at 10pm tonight and tomorrow  
► Entrance fee is NT\$350 tonight and NT\$400 tomorrow, includes one drink

Tonight at **The Wall** (這牆) Tizzy Bac returns for another two-night run in support of their latest album, *If I See Hell I Won't Fear the Devil* (如果看見地獄，我就不怕魔鬼). After tomorrow's show Dance Rock Taipei also returns, with nu-disco and indie-dance sounds from DJs **Death Is Not My Aim** from Tokyo and **Spykee Fat**. There will also be live music from **Go Chic**. On Thursday, punk and deathcore are the sounds of the evening with bands **Use Pen to Sing** (用筆來唱歌), **Ashen** and **Dangzai Kongzhong** (轟在空中).

► 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 visit www.thewall.com.tw for more information  
► Tizzy Bac performs at 8pm tonight and tomorrow, tomorrow's dance party starts at 11:30pm, Thursday's show starts at 8pm  
► Entrance fee is NT\$500 tonight and tomorrow for Tizzy Bac, NT\$800 for the dance party tomorrow, NT\$300

on Thursday

**Tango Negro**, which plays accordion music inspired by Argentinean tango composer Astor Piazzolla, appears tonight at **Witch House** (女巫店). As of press time, no shows are scheduled for tomorrow. On Thursday it's **Brother Fifth** (搖滾點唱機五哥), which is composed of two fingerstyle guitarists and a drummer.

► B1, 56, Xinheng 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 opens 11am to midnight Sundays through Wednesdays; 11am to 1am Thursdays through Saturdays  
► Entry for music shows is NT\$300

Tonight string and wind quartet **Levites Chamber** (利未人室內樂團) appears at **Riverside Cafe** (河岸留言) for a concert with local star cellist **Fan Tsung-pei** (范宗沛). They will play a "variety of styles to create the atmosphere of a small European bar," says the venue. Appearing tomorrow is pop singer **Peggy Hsu** (許慧珊), who just released a new album. On Sunday, it's pop pianist and vocalist **Si Han** (思瀚) and solo singer **Ma Chang** (馬場).

► 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  
► Show starts at 9:30pm tonight, 9pm tomorrow and Sunday  
► Entrance fees: NT\$400 tonight, tomorrow and NT\$350 Sunday

Legendary Puyuma folk singer **Kimbo Hu** (胡德夫) appears tonight at **Riverside Live House** (西門紅樓展演館). He'll be backed by friends from the Wild Fire Music Troupe (野火樂集), a who's who of Taiwan's Aboriginal music scene that includes singer **Leo Chen** (陳永龍), guitarist **Gelresai** (陳世川) and Amis singer **Hsiao Mei** (小美). [See story above.] Tomorrow's concert with Malaysia-born Mando-pop singer **Penny Tai** (戴佩妮) is already sold out.

► 177 Xining S Rd, Taipei City (台北市西寧南路177號). Call (02) 2370-8805 or visit www.riverside.com.tw for more information  
► Tonight at 7pm and tomorrow from 7:30pm to 11:30pm  
► Entrance fee is NT\$500 tonight, includes one drink. Tomorrow's show is sold out

**Sea Journey Jazz Combo** (海洋知音爵士樂團), a four-piece outfit with vibraphone, bass, drums and guitar, appears tonight at **Sappho de Base**. Tomorrow is funky party music with **Space Funk** and **Alice's Tears**. On Tuesday, it's the **Jason Hayashi Trio**. The **Chris Stiles Trio** plays modern jazz, which includes interpretations of Chinese pop music, on Wednesday. **Double J and Friends** appear on Thursday.

► 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 on weekends, 10pm on weekdays  
► No admission fee



Taipei Crossover Dance Company's latest production *E-wish for a Lonely Island* puts consumerism under the microscope.

### I shop, therefore I am

Ho Hsiao-mei (何曉玫) likes to think her art is close to real life. She put Taiwanese culture in the form of betel nut beauties and glove puppets under the microscope in 2006's *The Island of Silence* (默島樂園). For her latest performance, *E-wish for a Lonely Island* (孤島e願望), the choreographer and director explores the more universal theme of contemporary consumerism.

"I hold nothing against consumerism or capitalism. I am an eager shopper myself. My aim is merely to share some of my observations and thoughts about shopping and buying," said Ho, director of the Taipei Crossover Dance Company (台北跨界舞團).

Made up of 12 short segments, *E-wish* is a kinetic fusion of dance and theater in which dialogue is kept to a minimum and performers act out buyers' hopes and dreams through dance movements.

In one segment, the performers, wearing doctor's white lab coats, take on the role of pharmaceutical salespeople who promote a newly invented love and happiness pill.

Then the lights dim, and they strike seductive poses while inviting the audiences to look at them closely.

In *I Bought a DNA Set*, the dancers turn into gymnasts and celebrate the triumph of science.

Ho says the act of buying is no longer about desire; it has become the driving force that shapes our very existence. "We purchase health, happiness, self-expression, hope and even our future ... Maybe one day I will be able to buy a DNA set — a new me," she said.

The professor of choreography and dance develops crossover productions by working with performers in different fields. For this show, industrial designer Lin Fei-pi's (林飛比) flexible paper chair is used as an installation prop. And to ram *E-wish*'s message home, audience members have the opportunity to buy a range of souvenirs including necklaces, bags and mugs by lifestyle design firm Afterain Design Studio (天晴設計事務所). The online shop can be accessed via Ho's blog at blog.yam.com/crossover9.

Astute readers may wonder why admission costs NT\$300 more than the average for a small-scale theatrical performance. Each ticket comes with a shopping bag and flashlight, the purposes for which will be revealed during the show.

— HO YI

