14 發光的城市 AROUND TOWN

The 20th Golden Melody Awards (金曲獎) ceremony has come and gone with the notable absence of some celebrities, questionable performances by others and rumors of backroom sleaze.

FRIDAY, JULY 3, 2009 . TAIPEI TIMES

The Apple Daily reported that this was the fifth year that Jay Chou (周杰倫) failed to make an appearance at the ceremony, where he took top honors for Best Mandarin Male Singer, Best Song of the Year and Best Music Video. He was busy with concerts in China. The Chairman's ex-lover and Mando-pop diva, Jolin Tsai (蔡依林), didn't show up either. Apparently she was in Shanghai getting ready to open up her own clothing store.

Their absence led a quick-witted reporter from NOWnews (今日新聞) to suggest that these artists are more interested in making a buck in China than supporting Taiwan's music industry.

Bloggers, on the other hand, questioned whether Chou should have won the best singer award in the first place. It turns out that some music fans feel that the Chairman's Mandarin pronunciation is too, er, taike (台客). One blogger went so far as to warn those learning Mandarin as a second language to avoid Chou's songs.

Meanwhile, the muchanticipated performance by Huang Yi-ling (黃乙玲), who took home the Best Taiwanese Female Singer award, turned out to be mediocre. The singer and producer apparently had a throat condition and gave what the Apple Daily called one of her worst performances, ever.

Perhaps Chan and Chou should follow in the footsteps of Korean boy band Super Junior. The 13-member band reportedly lip-synched its way through its Golden Melody sets to the squeals of adoring teenage fans.

In other Golden Melody news, the China Times wrote that one of the organizers for the awards ceremony, **Chen** Lo-jung (陳樂融), is also a judge for Super Idol (超級偶 像) — a reality "talent" show. When former *Super Idol* judge Shandee Chen (陳珊妮) won the award for Best Mandarin

Gary Tsao isn't allowed to drink and be on daddy duty at the same time.

Female Singer, the China Times speculated that there might be some back room dealings going on. When asked for comment, Chen Le-jung said he wouldn't dare pressure any of the judges.

It looks like Gary Tsao (曹格), winner of last year's Golden Melody Award for Best Mandarin Male Singer, is something of a lush who can't hold his liquor. "Tsao gets blindly drunk and suffers a beating (曹格被爆喝茫挨 打)," screamed a headline in Wednesday's Apple Daily. The report said Tsao was admitted to the hospital with a puffy face and cut pinky finger after celebrating his 30th birthday at Person, a Taipei nightspot.

The gossip rag even provided a list of Tsao's past drunken indiscretions, which included kicking a sign (2006), scowling at reporters (October last year), scaring his friends (same month) and getting bitten (November last year). Small wonder, Apple reported, that Tsao's wife doesn't let him hold their baby when he's drinking.

Recalling the latter 2008 incident, paparazzi asked Tsao if the wound on his pinky finger was the result of a bite. The singer's agent emphatically denied the suggestion and said he cut his finger on broken glass. He added that Tsao stayed at a hospital overnight because he was too drunk to be anesthetized when he was first admitted.

Chinese actress and singer Zhou Xun (周迅) has split with her Taiwanese lover, stylist Lee Da-chi (李大齊). In a statement released to the media, Zhou said the break up was due to irreconcilable differences. Her lack of specifics, however, sent the rumor mill into overdrive with Apple quoting a Chinese gossip Web site that said Zhou had dumped Lee for renowned Chinese novelist Wang Shuo (王朔), who apparently gave The Banquet (豪門夜宴) star a Rolls Royce. The pair are said to have shacked up in Beijing. — NOAH BUCHAN

Legs, elbows and fists of fury

EVENT NOTES:

WHAT: Ming Wu 5: Standing Orders (eight mixed martial arts

WHEN: Tomorrow from 5pm to 8:30pm WHERE: Hsinchu Municipal Stadium (新竹市立體育場), 295 Gongyuan Rd, Hsinchu City (新竹市公園路295號) ADMISSION: NT\$650 and NT\$1,200 **ON THE NET:** www.mingwu.com.tw; Facebook: Ming Wu 5

fter the last Ming Wu (明武) A tournament in risinchia on the local newspaper portrayed tournament in Hsinchu on March the event as a no-holds-barred, bloodsoaked street fight that shocked a crowd which included women and children. This melodramatic journalism was reminiscent of the mid-1990s when mixed martial arts, or MMA, was still gaining traction in the US and Senator John McCain called the sport "human cockfighting."

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Now, MMA has become one of the fastest-growing sports in the world, which is good news for Ming Wu, an association dedicated to training and teaching many different styles of martial arts and providing a world-class stage for fighters looking to gain experience inside the octagon. Holly Itoga, a promoter for Ming Wu, describes MMA as "the ultimate test of strength, mentally and physically. It's exciting; it incorporates different disciplines of martial arts like judo, Brazilian jujitsu, wrestling, and even Chinese kung fu. MMA gets down to the basics of man versus man."

Tomorrow's event, called Standing Orders, is the fifth in a series for Ming Wu.

While audiences can expect to see hard-hitting strikes, expeditious takedowns and even some ground and pound, the men who will be scrapping are not just brawlers off the street or bouncers from some club. They're English teachers, college students, office workers and martial arts instructors who spend countless hours training and

PHOTO: GARETH GRIEFITHS, COURTESY OF MING WI

Mixed martial arts competitor Hisam

Al-Haroun, right, delivers a low kick

getting their bodies in peak physical shape. Fighters must submit to a mandatory health check and weigh-in before each bout because their safety is a primary concern.

to his opponent.

Ming Wu associate Nazeem Solarie said the fighting showcases have grown from 250 to 3.000 attendees after four events in less than one year. This proliferation of fans and fighters means that soon combatants at Ming Wu contests will not only be going against each other for bragging rights and prize money, but also title belts.

Recently, Pro-Fighting, a new MMA organization in Taiwan, almost sold out its debut at Luxy by mixing combat with DJs, dancers and hip-hop groups.

"As MMA matures here in Taiwan, there is more than enough room for two or even more fighting companies," Itoga said. "I hope soon there will be events in different cities all over the island."

Previously, when there were fight nights or boxing matches at clubs or gyms, expatriates would dominate because they had been practicing MMA for much longer. Itoga thinks that it is now Taiwan's time to shine.

"I'm excited for the Taiwanese. Once they decide to do something, they can be really good in a short period of time," she said. "MMA fits into the Taiwanese code of hard work, honor, and having heart. Taiwan is perfectly fitted for MMA to succeed." — MARCUS AURELIUS



TOP FIVE MANDARIN ALBUMS JUNE 19 TO JUNE 25

3 Alisa Galper (高以愛) and Alisa with 5.19%

Jerry Yan (言承旭) and Freedom, Secret (多出來的自由:秘密自遊) with 31.33 percent of sales

Where Chou (周蕙) and self-titled album with 15.91%

4 Lollipop (棒棒堂) and I'm Legend with 4.57%

Gary Tsao (曹格) and Supermarket (Supermarket超級4th場) with 4.39%



Theater

Theater company Lee Qing-zhao the Private's (李清照私人劇團) latest project, Liu San-mei (劉三妹), is about three former "comfort women" (a term used to describe women from Japaneseoccupied regions who were forced to provide sexual services to Japanese soldiers during World War II) who are haunted by the past. Male actors in drag perform traditional operatic gestures and chant Hakka mountain songs and Hoklo ballads. The work is adapted from the television series of the same title, which won an award for Best Art Director at last year's Golden Bell Awards

▶ Red House Theater (紅樓劇場), 10 Chengdu Rd, Taipei City (台北市成都 路10號)

▶ Tomorrow and Sunday at 2pm and 8pm

▶ Tickets are NT\$600 or NT\$400 for students, seniors and persons with disabilities, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket. com.tw. Ten percent of the proceeds will be donated to Taipei Women's Rescue Foundation (婦女救援基金會)

Ren Shin Co-op's (仁信合作社) latest work, I Am My Own Wife (我的妻子 就是我), is based on US playwright Doug Wright's play of the same title. It tells of the life of German transvestite Charlotte von Mahlsdorf, who survived the Nazi and Communist regimes in East Germany. Ren Shin Co-op was founded two years ago by eight graduates of National Taiwan University's theater department. ▶ Crown Art Center Theater (皇冠小劇 場), B1, 50, Ln 120, Dunhua N Rd, Taipei City (台北市敦化北路120巷50號B1) ▶ Tonight at 7:30pm, tomorrow at 2:30pm and 7:30pm, Sunday at 2:30pm ▶ Tickets are NT\$400, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

The Free Journey (自由行) is a solo performance by Yu Shan-min's (于善 敏) that mixes jazz, tango, rock 'n' roll,

bossa nova and the musical numbers to tell the story of a traveler's journey. ▶ Guling Street Theater (牯嶺街小劇場), 2, Ln 5, Guling St, Taipei City (台北市牯 嶺街5巷2號)

▶ Tonight at 7:30pm, tomorrow at 2:30pm and 7:30pm, Sunday at 2:30pm ▶ Tickets are NT\$500, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

The last two installments of **Blue** Dragon White Tiger (青龍白虎三世 纏鬥), a six-part performance by the National Guoguang Opera Company (國立國光劇團), take place this weekend. The production recounts the ancient legend of two mythical beasts, the Blue Dragon and the White Tiger. ▶ Guoguang Theater (國光劇場), 8-1, Ln 66, Muzha 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

The latest stand-up comedy production by Comedians Workshop (相聲瓦舍). The Unmatchable Mates (兩光康樂

隊), stars Feng Yi-kang (馮翊綱) and Sung Shao-ching (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 from his boss. ▶ National Taichung Library Chunghsing Concert Hall (台中市中興 堂), 291-3 Chingwu Rd, Taichung City (台中市精武路291之3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

Classical music

The Light Princess Family Concert (兩廳院管風琴親子音樂會-輕輕公主) sees well-known organist

Liu Hsin-hung (劉信宏), pianist Tang Wan-chun (湯婉君) and flautist Chen Ya-ching (陳雅菁) perform popular classics such as Rawsthorne's

Hornpipe Humoresque, Albright's Jig for the Feet, Poulenc's Sonata for Flute and Piano, Franck's Prelude, Fugue and Variation, Op.1 and Widor's Toccata From Organ Symphony No. 5,

Op. 42. They will be accompanied by the Rong-shing Cultural Foundation Chorus and Strings (榮星合唱團), and the show will be hosted by Ke Menghsin (柯孟欣) as Sister Honey (蜜蜂姊 妹) from Eastern Broadcasting's (東森 電視) Yoyo TV Channel. Today at 7:30pm and tomorrow at

2:30pm National Concert Hall, Taipei City Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$600, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com

Lost in Wonderland (兒童樂園 — 彈 指之間室内樂團樂活一夏) is a concert for children featuring Hung Yun-yao (洪 韻堯) and Wu Yi-chen (吳宜真) on violin, Chen Yung-chan (陳永展) on viola and Tseng Chia-yi (曾加宜) on cello, with Kevin Romanski on percussion. The program includes Haydn's String Quartet, Op. 76, No. 4 "Sunrise," Paul SanGregory's

Four Poems for String Quartet and Percussion, and Tchaikovsky's String Quartet No. 1 in D Major, Op. 11. Sunday at 2:30pm ▶ Taipei Philharmonic Orchestra and

> Maestro Henry Mazer Music and Culture Hall (台北愛樂暨梅哲音樂文化 館), B1, 7 Jinan Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台 北市濟南路一段7號B1) ▶ Tickets are NT\$250, available

through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com

A Night at the Opera (台北愛樂歌劇

坊—歌劇選粹之夜) completes a series of concerts by the Taipei Philharmonic Orchestra (台北愛樂青年管弦樂團) and the Taipei Philharmonic Chorus (台北愛 樂合唱團) featuring emerging operatic talent in a program of highlights from famous operas including Magic Flute, Carmen and Othello.

Sunday at 7:30pm

▶ National Concert Hall, Taipei City ▶ Tickets are NT\$400 to NT\$1,500, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com

Contemporary

The 15th Taichung American **Chamber of Commerce America** Day Celebration offers music, games and vendor booths serving a variety of international food on Independence Day. The lineup consists of mostly foreign bands and musicians including The Money Shot Horns, Skaraoke, .22 (Point 22), Militant Hippi, The DoLittles, 3 Day Bender, The Stackers and 'Round Midnight

[EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT]

▶ Nanyuan Park (南苑公園) on Wenxin South Road, Nantun District, Taichung City (台中市南屯區文心南路) ▶ Tomorrow from noon to 9:30pm

▶ For more information contact

Douglas Habecker at 0936-827-267, or

Highlight

Get your imaginary ax ready: The **Taiwan Air Guitar** Championships takes place at Carnegie's in Taipei on July 11. The preliminary round started last week in Kaohsiung, where Scott "Indie Mayhem" Weatherall took first place. He will be at Carnegie's next weekend, waiting to compete with the winner of the Taipei round for the championship. The winner becomes Taiwan's first

ever Air Guitar champion and receives a free round-trip ticket to Oulu, Finland, where he or she will represent Taiwan at the Air Guitar World Championships July 11's event includes performances by The Money Shot Horns and Rock in Hose Burlesque. There will be drink specials and prize giveaways throughout the evening. Those 18 years old and older are welcome to participate, but spaces are limited and registration will be closed on the day of the event. For more information or to register, go to www.airguitar.com.tw.

River Chen at (04) 2471-8133, or visit www.amchamtaichung.org

5

Shoegazer experimental rock is the sound tonight at The Wall (這牆), which hosts Japanese groups Clione-Index and Presence of Soul. Also appearing is the post-rock-ish, emo-tinged group Orangegrass (橙 草). Tomorrow pop singer Valen Hsu (許茹芸) performs a concert titled My Love Journey. On Sunday, it's nu-rock band **Tiger Punch** (虎拳), which opens for Japanese hard rockers Roach and Drive Far.

▶ 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 All shows start at 8pm ▶ Entrance is NT\$600 tonight and

NT\$500 tomorrow; Sunday's show is NT\$400 in advance, NT\$500 at the door. Advance tickets for Sunday's show are available at White Wabbit Records, located inside the venue

Shotetsu (舒喆) and Woody Woody (風籟坊) have come together to form a fingerstyle acoustic guitar group that appears tonight at **Witch** House (女巫店). Taitung Amis singer Long-ge (龍哥), known for his rousing drinking songs, takes to the stage tomorrow. On Thursday it's Gina's Can (吉那罐子樂團), an acoustic group that plays ballads, jazz, fusion and funk. Ding Ding and Xi Xi (丁丁與西西), a quiet and intimate acoustic group, ends the evening. 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 ▶ Entrance for music shows is NT\$300

Tonight Riverside Cafe (河岸留言)

swings with saxophonist Tung Shunwen (董舜文) and friends. Taking to the stage tomorrow is Hsiao Hungren (蕭閎仁), an R 'n' B pop singer who recently gained notoriety for his song This Person Fuck (法克這個人). Opening for Hsiao is Taiwan's "little prince of R 'n' B" Afalean Lu (盧學叡). On Sunday, the venue hosts pop-rock act **Color** Band and What Century (花世紀), an outfit of 20-year-old rockers. Monday is open jam night (for a list of standard songs and ground rules, visit the venue's Web site).

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. Open jam starts at 9pm

Entrance is NT\$400 tonight, NT\$450

tomorrow, NT\$350 Sunday and NT\$150 Monday

Hilarious and wacky alt-rock legends The Clippers (夾子電動大樂隊) play tonight at **Riverside Live House** (西門紅樓展演館). While the band's lineup has changed over the years, expect the same old madness from lead singer Hsiao-ying (小應) and the ever-present pair of female dancers. Mando-pop singer Shadya (藍又時) appears tomorrow. On Sunday the venue hosts a day-long metal fest called Extreme Heavy Sounds 7 (極度重 音柒). The lineup includes Desecration, Horsemen and Human Brutality.

▶ 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 and tomorrow at 8:30pm, Sunday from 1pm to 10pm

Admission (including a drink) is NT\$400 tonight, NT\$450 tomorrow, and NT\$900 at the door or NT\$700 in advance on Sunday. Tickets are available at the venue or through www.books.com.tw

Metamorphosis (變形蟲爵士樂團),

one of the first jazz groups in Taiwan to perform and record original music, appears tonight at Sappho de Base. Tomorrow electric blues band Bopomofo (クタロC) takes to the stage. On Tuesday it's the **Louis** Goldford Quartet, and on Wednesday The Chris Stiles Trio plays original compositions as well as arrangements of Chinese pop songs. On Thursday the **MaJam Jazz** Quartet (麻將爵士樂團) plays jazz, fusion, funk and blues. 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. Sappho is closed on Sundays and Mondays

▶ No entrance fee



Taiwan's first ever Air Guitar Championships

takes place at Carnegie's in Taipei next

Saturday. The winner goes on to represent

the country at the world championships in

► Taiwan Air Guitar Championships

Taipei City (台北市安和路二段100號).

On the Net: www.airguitar.com.tw;

www.airguitarworldchampionships.

at Carnegie's, 100, Anhe Rd Sec 2,

▶ NT\$300 at the door, free for

Tel: (02) 2325-4433

July 11 at 6pm

contestants

com

PHOTO: ANDY LIN, COURTESY OF AIR GUITAR TAIW

- DAVID CHEN

Finland.