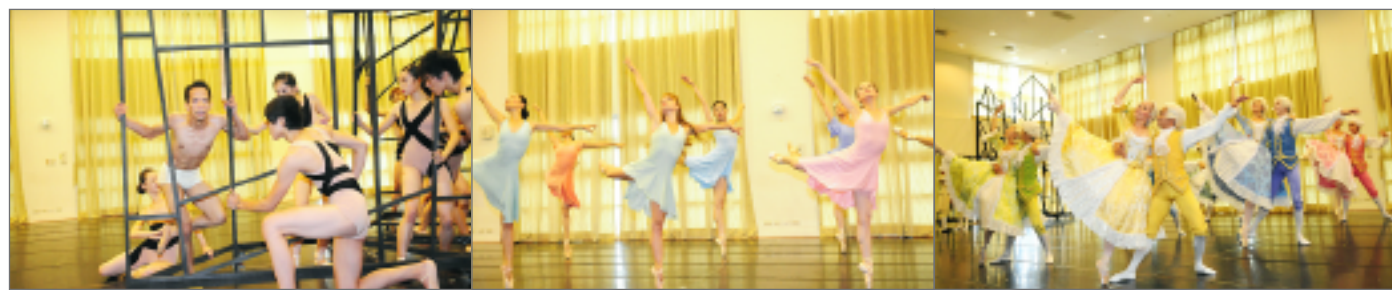


BY DIANE BAKER

# A little typhoon music

## PERFORMANCE NOTES:

**WHAT:** Chamber Ballet Taipei — *Le Sacre du Printemps*  
**WHEN:** Tomorrow and Sunday at 7:30pm, Sunday matinee at 3pm  
**WHERE:** Metropolitan Hall (城市舞台), 25, Bade Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市八德路三段25號)  
**ADMISSION:** NT\$400 to NT\$1,500, available online at [www.artsticket.com.tw](http://www.artsticket.com.tw)



Allen Yu, below, returns to Taiwan each summer to stage ballets with his Chamber Ballet Taipei.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHAMBER BALLET TAIPEI

It will take more than a typhoon to deter Taiwanese dancer/choreographer Allen Yu (余能盛). His Chamber Ballet Taipei was to perform his latest works at Metropolitan Hall, beginning tonight, for three performances. Typhoon Morakot's approach forced him to reschedule and tonight's show has been moved to Sunday night.

Yu is deputy ballet director and choreographer at the Opera House in Graz, Austria, but he has come back to Taiwan for the past three summers to stage full-length narrative ballets. As the first Taiwanese ballet dancer to go to Europe, he has long felt he had a duty to give back to this country, since his studies at the Royal Ballet School in The Hague were financed by a government scholarship.

His mission is to raise the standards for local ballet dancers, and it is an uphill battle. It means making a trip to Taipei in early spring to hold auditions and then spending his summer vacation in rehearsals. As usual, he has brought several guest artists with him so that local dancers can learn from them.

"Ardee [Philippines-born Ardee Dionisio] is from my company in Graz. Eve [Andre] is from the Estonia National Opera ballet, as is Sergei Upkin," Yu said in a telephone interview on Tuesday.

The fourth guest artist is Roman Novitzky, a soloist with the Slovak National Theatre, while Jochem Hochstenbach, vice music director of National Theater in Karlsruhe, Germany, will conduct the Taipei City Orchestra for this weekend's performances.

Instead of the full-length ballets he has produced in the past, Yu wanted to do something different, a mixed program that examines the dialogue between music and dance in different generations.

For the first ballet, Yu chose Mozart's Serenade No. 13 for Strings in G Major, more commonly known *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* (A Little Night Music) and Mozart's Symphony No. 25. For the second half, he picked Stravinsky's *Le Sacre du Printemps* (The Rite of Spring).

He insists a combination of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Igor Stravinsky is not as strange as it seems.

"I chose them because Mozart is 18th century, the best cultural time in Europe, the Baroque era. Stravinsky is the best of modern 20th century," Yu said. "Two generations, two different styles of dance."

Yu said he deliberately chose Baroque pieces that people are familiar with because he wanted to show Mozart's

connection to the world of dance. Mozart wrote many pieces for court dances, including the minuet, and European court dances were the beginnings of ballet, he said. The dancers' costumes and wigs are appropriate to the era.

The jump across the centuries from Mozart to Stravinsky's *Sacre* is pretty broad. But *Sacre* had a seminal influence on modern ballet, both musically and in Vaslav Nijinsky's original choreography. Yu said his choreography was inspired by the changes in Taipei society in the past few decades.

"*Sacre du Printemps* has 14 sections. The first eight sections are the ceremony of the gods, the rest is the girl [the sacrifice] dancing to her death for the gods. In Taiwan now, everyone is so busy, hectic, the traffic is so loud. You work the whole day but when you go home there is so much noise, you want to sit in the quiet," he said.

But homes in Taipei, he said, have become like prisons with bars on the windows and steel cages encasing balconies. "There is a jail in your home, but even the whole city is a jail," he said.

"Taiwan is a high-tech society but the people are getting colder. No one writes letters, they just sit at their computers sending messages and buying things," he said. "[In] the first eight sections I try to show what I feel about life in Taiwan."

"In this society people don't understand each other, we're all orphans ... I don't give any answers, I just want people to figure it out for themselves," he said.

"When we did this piece in Tainan [last weekend], the people were really crazy for it, they loved it. I hope the audiences in Taipei will understand," he said.

## THE VINYL WORD

BY QUEEN BEE



MC Shaman, doin' his bit for procreation.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THA SHAMAN

When **Tha Shaman** (Elliot Tsai, 蔡一鳴) and his THC (Taipei Hip-hop Crew, H+P在台北) posse hit the stage, up to 10 MCs work the crowd — audience members go wild, and some have been known to strip.

Following the group's debut album, last year's *Countdown to Unsound*, THC recently released Shaman's solo album, which showcases the MC's rhyming talents and reflects his mixed-ethnicity and personal interest in spirituality and metaphysics. Tomorrow the crew performs in Taichung for the first time.

**Vinyl Word: What's your definition of true hip-hop?**

**Shaman:** True hip-hop is hip-hop music that says something truthful. Chuck D of Public Enemy called hip-hop the "Black CNN." Another name for it could be the "Invisible CNN" — the news you don't see. In the days of Babylon, kings and queens controlled knowledge and thus held power. Prophets used to speak the truth to the people through music, seeking to free people's minds and hearts. It was a way for them to hide their dissent, which would otherwise lead to being beheaded. Hip-hop is good music to get free to.

**VW: What's your album about?**

**S:** The album is titled *Shamanizm* (玄武門). I speak on such topics as enlightenment, energy, abuse, freedom, fear and pain. It's a mix of American and Chinese/Taiwanese culture, just like me.

**VW: How did you make Shamanizm?**

**S:** It took a lot of hard work, a lot of time and care.

The album has 18 songs. Two songs were recorded with a live band and a singer, it has four languages, three producers, several MCs, and a few of the beats [were] made by yours truly.

**VW: Which Taiwanese artists would you like to work with?**

**S:** Some I plan to work with are **Soul Jingle** (手斤口), **Bozo Boyz**, **R.M.B.Z.**, **AP's Manchuker** (滿人), **Lil'E** (沈露) and **Beatrix Double**.

**VW: What are your live shows like?**

**S:** It's rowdy! You'll see a group of guys who love to work a crowd and have a good 'ol time. You're gonna see hip-hop culture, livin', breathin' and thrivin'! Our posse is one of a kind in Taiwan, or anywhere else in the world even. We have Mandarin, Taiwanese, French and, of course, English. Our shows have anywhere from four to 10 members on stage at any one time. Each of our MCs has an original and unique style, the combination of which leaves many with a new understanding of what hip-hop could and should be. I like to believe our music gets people laid.

**VW: Tell us about your experiences gigging.**

**S:** Ha, well, when you are at a place where alcohol is involved, anything can happen. I've had a guy try to grab the mic from me in the middle of a song (he wanted to sing), another guy yelling "THC" so loudly it was hard to hear the MC, guys and girls taking their clothes off ... um, yeah. It can get a little wild sometimes, ha, ha. That's what we're here for. If you want peace and quiet, you can go to the library. If you wanna bring da ruckus, come get some of this THC.

**Shamanizm** CD Launch Party with **THC**, **Anti Hero**, **Marc V**, and **Edify**, is tomorrow from 10pm to 4am at Light Lounge, B1, 85, Huamei W St Sec 1, Taichung City (台中市華美西街一段85號). Admission is NT\$300.

## EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

### Theater

Jessie Fan Dance's (潔台舞團) modern dance piece **Mazu-Sea Goddess** (媽祖林默娘舞劇) is inspired by the story of Matsuo, one of the country's most revered deities. The production is a collaboration between theater professionals and cultural celebrities that include celebrated photographer Ke Hsi-chie (柯錫杰), stage and lighting designer Lin Keh-hua (林克華) and members of the dance school at Beijing's Central University for Nationalities (中央民族大學), also known as Minzu University of China.

- National Theatre, Taipei City
- Tonight at 7:30pm, tomorrow at 2:30pm and 7:30pm and Sunday at 2:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$400 to NT\$2,500, available through NTCH ticketing or online at [www.artsticket.com.tw](http://www.artsticket.com.tw)

One of Ping Fong Acting Troupe's (屏風表演班) popular touring productions, **Can Three Make It Part I** (三人行不行 I) is a comedy that tackles the absurdity and chaos of urban life with 18 characters played by three actors.

- Novel Hall (新舞臺), 3-1 Songshou Rd, Taipei City (台北市松壽路3-1號)
- Tonight at 7:30pm and 10:30pm, tomorrow at 2:30pm, 7:30pm and 10:30pm and Sunday at 2:30pm and 7:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$800, available through NTCH ticketing or online at [www.artsticket.com.tw](http://www.artsticket.com.tw)

A tribute to the late writer Yeh Shih-tao (葉石濤), who died of cancer last December, Kaohsiung-based Spring Wind Art Theatre's (南風劇場) **Mr Chien** (簡先生) follows a White Terror victim who returns to his hometown years after the end of authoritarian rule.

- National Taiwan Arts Education Center (國立台灣藝術教育館), 47 Nanhai Rd, Taipei City (台北市南海路47號)
- Tomorrow at 7:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$300, available through NTCH ticketing or online at [www.artsticket.com.tw](http://www.artsticket.com.tw)

Billed as a return to the golden age of theater-based glove puppet performances, Wu Zhou Yuan Glove Puppet Theater Troupe's (五洲園掌中劇團) **Conquering All Under Heaven** (爭霸天下系列布袋戲) is a series of 10 performances drawn from the troupe's traditional repertoire that have been revised to cater to contemporary audiences.

- Red House Theater (紅樓劇場), 10 Chengdu Rd, Taipei City (台北市成都路10號)
- Tonight, tomorrow, Wednesday and Thursday at 7:30pm, Sunday at 2:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$200 and NT\$300,

available through NTCH ticketing or online at [www.artsticket.com.tw](http://www.artsticket.com.tw)

**Sketches 1983** (素描) by To Be Theater (阮劇團) is a theatrical play about an evening encounter between two strangers.

- Chiayi Performing Arts Center (嘉義縣表演藝術中心), 265, Jianguo Rd Sec 2, Minsyong Township, Chiayi County (嘉義縣民雄鄉建國路二段265號)
- Tonight 7:30pm, tomorrow at 2:30pm and 7:30pm and Sunday at 2:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$350, available through NTCH ticketing or online at [www.artsticket.com.tw](http://www.artsticket.com.tw)

### Classical music

**Paganini Festival in Taiwan** (帕格尼尼大賞四位首獎得主聯合大師班暨系列音樂會) winds up this weekend with the last in a series of concerts featuring emerging local violinists Lu Siquing (呂思清), Huang Bin (黃濱), Huang Mengla (黃蒙拉) and Ning Feng (寧峰). Tonight's program will include Sarasate's *Concert Fantasy on Themes From Bizet's "Carmen"*, Mendelssohn's *Violin Concerto in E-Minor* and Tchaikovsky's *Violin Concerto in D-Major* with the soloists supported by the Evergreen Symphony Orchestra (長榮交響樂團) under Gernot Schmalfluss. Tomorrow there will be a violin recital by Ning Feng including *Schnittke's Suite in Old Style*, Schubert's *Sonatina, Op. 137 No. 3, No. 3 D408*, and Grieg's *Sonata No. 2, Op. 13*.

- Today at 7:30pm, National Concert Hall, Taipei City; tomorrow at 8pm, International Convention Center of the Chang Yung-fa Foundation Building (財團法人張榮發基金會國際會議中心), 11 Zhongshan 5 Rd, Taipei City (台北市中山南路11號)
- Tickets are NT\$800 to NT\$2,000 tonight and NT\$500 tomorrow, available through ERA ticketing or online at [www.ticket.com.tw](http://www.ticket.com.tw)

**Symphony of Clay and Fire** (聆聽—火與土的交響樂) is a concert showcasing masters of the ocarina, a type of clay flute, featuring Giorgio Pacchiani and Chou Tze-lei (周子雷), accompanied by Chinese zither and keyboard.

- Tomorrow and Sunday at 7:30pm
- Lujhou Branch of KHS Musical Co Music Hall (蘆洲功學社音樂廳), 162 Jhongshan 2nd Rd, Lujhou City, Taipei County (台北縣蘆洲市中山二路162號)
- Tickets are NT\$800 and NT\$1,000, available through ERA ticketing or online at [www.ticket.com.tw](http://www.ticket.com.tw)

**Lost in Wonderland — The Lost Forest** (兒童樂園 — 被遺忘的森林) sees the Taipei Philharmonic Orchestra (台北市愛樂管弦樂團) continue its series of children's concerts with a musical

tale **The Lost Forest** featuring a quartet of violin, cello, piano and flute with host Lin Chi-yin (林姿吟).

- Sunday at 2:30pm
- Taipei Philharmonic Orchestra and Maestro Henry Mazer Music and Culture (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.tw](http://www.artsticket.com.tw)

**Bruch's Oratorio "Moses" Concert** (布魯赫神劇「摩西」演唱會) will be performed by the National Sindhian High School Orchestra (國立新店高中管絃樂團) under the baton of Hou Lung-kuo (侯龍國), with soprano Weng Ruo-pei (翁若佩), tenor Fang Wei-cheng (方偉臣) and baritone Liu Chong-boon (廖聰文), supported by the Rong Kuang Choir (榮光聖樂合唱團) and Sacred Family Choir (聖家堂聯合合唱團).

- Wednesday at 7:30pm
- Taipei Concert Hall, Taipei City
- Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$1,000, available through NTCH ticketing or online at [www.artsticket.com.tw](http://www.artsticket.com.tw)

### Contemporary

**Roxy Roots**, a newly opened bar and restaurant dedicated to reggae and blues fans, hosts Chicago blues and vintage soul outfit **BoPoMoFo** (ㄅㄛㄆㄛㄇㄛ) tomorrow night.

- 90 Songren Rd, Taipei City (台北市松仁路90號). Tel: (02) 2725-3932. On the Net: [www.roxy.com.tw](http://www.roxy.com.tw)
- Show starts at 11pm tomorrow
- Entrance is free

Tonight's a hard rockin' evening at **The Wall** (這牆) with metal bands **Hekate** (席卡堤), **Nemesis** (天譴) and **Human Brutality**, as well as emo-rockers **One Way to Die** (死路一條). On Sunday it's another round of Challenging the Fire (火焰大挑戰), a battle of young or otherwise unknown bands.

- B1, 200, Roosevelt Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市羅斯福路四段200號B1). Tel: (02) 2930-0162. On the Net: [www.thewall.com.tw](http://www.thewall.com.tw)
- Shows starts at 8pm tonight and 7pm on Sunday
- Entrance is NT\$400 tonight and NT\$250 on Sunday

**Riverside Cafe** (河岸留聲) is closed tonight for a private party. Tomorrow **Baba Band** shares the bill with **Neon**, the alt-rock group led by charismatic singer/songwriter **Jun Lee** (李昉霖). On Sunday there's more indie rock with **Fever Cats**, **Engine No. 9** (九號引擎) and **Lost and Found** (失物招領). On Monday the venue holds its weekly open jam.

- 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). Tel: (02) 2368-7310. On the Net: [www.riverside.com.tw](http://www.riverside.com.tw)
- Shows start at 9:30pm tonight and 9pm tomorrow and Sunday. Open jam starts at 9pm on Monday. For a list of standard songs and ground rules, visit the venue's Web site
- Entrance is NT\$400 tomorrow, NT\$350 Sunday and NT\$150 Monday

Tonight the **Riverside Live House** (西門紅樓展演館) pop singer **Z-Chen** (張智成) holds a concert to launch his new album *Secret Love* (暗戀). Mandopop singer **Shadya** (藍又時) performs tomorrow. Thursday's lineup includes Golden Melody nominee **Hsiao Hung-ren** (蕭敬仁), an R'n'B pop singer who recently gained notoriety for his song **This Person Fuck**. Also appearing are pop pianist and vocalist **Si Han** (思澗) and pop-rock act **Color Band**.

- 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](http://www.riverside.com.tw) for more information
- Shows start at 8:30pm tonight
- Entrance is NT\$450 tonight and tomorrow and NT\$400 Thursday

Tonight one-man electro-rock band **Sonic Deadhorse** appears at **Underworld** (地下社會), along with **Shishukong** (屍術控). Tomorrow punk band **Inhuman Species** (非人物種) shares the bill with high-energy garage rockers **88 Balaz** (八十八顆芭樂籽). No bands were scheduled for Wednesday as of press time.

- B1, 45 Shida Rd, Taipei City (台北市師大路45號B1). Tel: (02) 2369-0103. On the Net: [www.upsaid.com/underworld](http://www.upsaid.com/underworld)
- Music shows run from 9:30pm to 11:30pm on Fridays and Saturdays and 9pm to 11pm on Wednesdays. Underworld is open daily from 9pm, closed on Mondays. Happy Hour on Tuesdays and Thursdays before midnight
- Entrance is NT\$300 tonight and tomorrow and includes one drink

**Kate's Jazz Quartet** plays tonight at **Sappho de Base**. **Black Mirror** plays tomorrow night. Tuesday is an open jam session with the venue's "jazz friends." **The Nomads Ensemble**, a folk and jazz fusion group, appears on Wednesday. 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). Tel: (02) 2700-5411. On the Net: [www.sappho102.biz](http://www.sappho102.biz)
- Performances begin at 10:30pm on weekends, 10pm on weekdays. Sappho is closed on Sundays and Mondays
- No entrance fee

**The Other Side** is a new nightclub opened by Ling Wei (凌威), the owner of the Taipei's long-standing Roxy venues. The new club is a "party-until-the-sun-comes-up" spot like one of Ling's past ventures, the recently closed **Roxy Vibe**. But The Other Side promises a classier atmosphere, with sofa seating and a modern lounge interior befitting of its locale in Taipei's East District. House DJs spin classic dance and rock from bands like Nirvana, The Ting Tings, Oasis, the Cure and Michael Jackson.

- B1, 20, Songshou Rd, Taipei City (台北市松壽路20號B1). Tel: (02) 2723-3257. On the Net: [www.roxy.com.tw](http://www.roxy.com.tw)
- Open Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays from 10pm until 4am. Closes at 7am on Fridays and Saturdays
- Cover ranges from NT\$300 to NT\$700 depending on day and time

Every Wednesday night at the