BY DAVID CHEN

Hoklo rockin'

Windmill, a rock trio that combines dreamy indie pop, Neil Young-esque guitar riffs and Hoklo lyrics, plays tomorrow at The Mercury in Kaoshiung. PHOTOS COURTESY OF WINDMILL

Windmill (風籟坊), a rock trio performing in Kaohsiung tomorrow and Pingdong on Sunday, is something of a rarity in Taipei's indie scene today: The group's lead singer and guitarist Chris Lin (林育詳), writes and sings in Hoklo, commonly known as Taiwanese.

But the band, which combines catchy modern rock hooks, Neil Young-inspired guitar distortion and a folk songwriter's sensibility, didn't start out this way when it formed in 2007. The three bandmembers originally followed the cue of many Taipei indie bands, penning their first songs in Mandarin.

Those songs didn't "feel right" to Lin, and bassist Sky Tai (戴杏芳) agrees. "Chris sings very well in Taiwanese. In Mandarin he doesn't sound as good. When he sings in Mandarin, he'll sing off key," she laughed.

Of the tracks on Windmill's first release, *Demo I* (Demo 甲), fans and friends seemed to remember the only Hoklo tune, *The Lin Family* (林家事誌), Tai said.

This encouraged Windmill to switch to mostly Hoklo lyrics on its second release, *Demo II* (Demo 乙), which is currently the best-seller at White Wabbit Records (小白兔唱片). (Tai happens to be the store manager but insists she "doesn't dare" mention her band to customers.)

Windmill is far from the first band to sing in Hoklo, but the group is expanding its use beyond traditional nakashi-based dirges, mainstream Taiwanese pop and the campy humor and parody associated with pioneers of the indie scene such as LTK Commune (濁水溪公社) and The Clippers (夾子). Windmill's sound is clearly inspired by Western indie rock, and it's easy to pick out some of the influences they list on their Myspace site: Galaxie 500, Wilco and Pavement.

Demo II covers themes that ought to resonate with any Taiwanese person in their 20s and 30s. *Doors* (過重門) touches upon the generation gap within a family and a teenager's coming of age, *1982* (民國七十一) recalls a childhood memory of Taiwan's east coast, *Long Distance Call* (長途電話) is about leaving home and adjusting to life in the city.

Lin, a 30-year-old who grew up in Hualien and Yilan, says that singing in Hoklo feels like his "real self." He is attracted to the language of his household and childhood for its "sounds" and "especially the rhythms."

He says that Hoklo works especially well in expressing sentiments about family and home, topics that interest him most in songwriting. He discovered the language's "energy and power" during university, after adapting a Hoklo poem as lyrics for a folk song.

The reaction to Windmill's music on one Internet bulletin board dwelled on the novelty and surprise of a non-mainstream band "singing in Taiwanese." And there is another advantage to their choice of language, says Tai.

"Our songs with Taiwanese lyrics, you can let your parents listen to them. Or your grandparents. They'll know what their children and grandchildren are up to," she said.

PERFORMANCE NOTES:

WHAT: Windmill
WHEN AND WHERE: 9pm tomorrow at The Mercury (水星酒館), 46 Liwen Rd, Zuoying Dist, Kaohsiung City (高雄市左營區立文路46號), tel: (07) 550-8617, on the Net: mercurybar.blogspot.com; 4:40pm to 5:10pm on Sunday at the Justice for All Concert (正義無敵音樂會), Pingtung Sugar Factory (屏東市糖廠), 245 Fusing Rd, Pingdong City (屏東市復興路245號), on the Net: www.justice4all.tw
ADMISSION: NT$200 at the door tomorrow, free on Sunday
ON THE NET: www.myspace.com/windmilltw

EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Theater

Part of the 2010 Taiwan International Festival: Vision of the Future, **1433 — The Grand Voyage (鄭和1433)** is a musical inspired by Chinese mariner Zheng He's (鄭和) legendary 15th-century sea voyages. The work is an international collaboration between U-Theatre (優人神鼓), stage director Robert Wilson and other renowned artists including Oscar-winning art director Yip Tim (葉錦添), jazz musicians Ornette Coleman and Richard Landry and Taiwanese opera diva Tang Mei-yun (唐美雲).
■ National Theater, Taipei City
■ Tonight at 7:30pm, tomorrow at 2:30pm and 7:30pm and Sunday at 2:30pm
■ Tickets are NT$600 to NT$3,600, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Also being staged for the festival is **Snow White** by Ballet Preljocaj from France, a contemporary production that reinterprets the fairy tale by focusing on desire and jealousy. Costumes designed by Jean Paul Gaultier.
■ National Theater, Taipei City
■ Thursday through Saturday at 7:30pm
■ Tickets are NT$500 to NT$3,600, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Spin 2010 is the latest installment of promising young choreographer Huang Yi's (黃翊) four-year long project that studies the possibilities of augmenting the human body with technology. [See story on Page 13]
■ Experimental Theater, Taipei City
■ Sold out except Sunday at 2:30pm
■ Tickets are NT$500, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Founded by television producer Wang Wei-chung (王偉忠) in June, All U People Theater (全民大劇團) presents **Television Station in Chaos (瘋狂電視台—相聲了沒)**, a stand-up comedy performed in Mandarin that tells the story of five workers who try to rescue the TV company they work for from bankruptcy. The cast includes comedian Bacy Tang (唐從聖) and theater veteran Luo Bei-an (羅北安).
■ Novel Hall (新舞臺), 3-1 Songshou Rd, Taipei City (台北市松壽路3-1號)
■ Tonight, tomorrow and Tuesday to Thursday at 7:30pm, Sunday at 2:30pm and 7:30pm
■ Tickets are NT$350 to NT$2,000, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Dazzling lights, thumping techno and audience participation: **Fuerzabruta** is an exuberant display of theatrics. The show features a shallow pool in which female performers splash and slide about.
■ Shin Kong Mitsukoshi Department Store (新光三越), A10 parking lot (A10停車場), 12 Songgao Rd, Taipei City (台北市松高路12號)
■ Tomorrow and Wednesday at 7:30pm and 10pm and Tuesday and Thursday at 7:30pm
■ Tickets are NT$1,900 and NT$2,300, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Classical music

On the Road (很久沒有敬我了你), a collaboration between the National Symphony Orchestra (國家交響樂團) and Taiwan Colors Music (角頭音樂) that integrates "Aboriginal singers with orchestra and documentary film," opens the musical program of the 2010 Taiwan International Festival.
■ Today and tomorrow at 7:30pm and Sunday at 2:30pm
■ National Concert Hall, Taipei City
■ Tickets are NT$500 to NT$2,500, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Autumnal Moments — Victor Coo and Wu Yahsin in Concert (Autumnal Moments — 高炳坤與吳亞欣音樂會) brings together cellist Victor Coo (高炳坤) and pianist Wu Yahsin (吳亞欣) to perform a program of sonatas for cello and piano by Brahms, Debussy and Prokofiev.
■ Today at 7:30pm
■ National Chiang Kai-shek Cultural Center, Kaohsiung City (高雄中正文化中心至善廳), 67 Wufu 1st Rd, Kaohsiung City (高雄市五福一路67號)
■ Tickets are NT$200 and NT$300, available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw

Council of Cultural Affairs 4th Musical Talent Training Program 2010 National Concert Tour (文建會「第四屆音樂人才庫培訓計畫」— 2010全國巡迴音樂會) features young violinist Tseng Chih-hung (曾智弘), who is currently based in Paris and has already performed with top international musicians. The program includes Schumann's *Sonata for Violin and Piano in A Minor, Op 105*, Prokofiev's *Sonata for Violin and Piano in D Major, Op 94a*, Faure's *Sonata for Violin and Piano in A Major, Op 13* and Paganini's *Theme and Variations "I Palpiti"* arranged by Kreisler.
■ Today at 7:30pm
■ National Recital Hall, Taipei City
■ Tickets are NT$300, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Contemporary

Tonight, tomorrow and Sunday some of Taiwan's best Aboriginal musicians perform with the National Symphony Orchestra in On the Road, a special show at the **National Concert Hall (國家音樂廳)** as part of the 2010 Taiwan International Festival. Performers include **Kimbo Hu** (胡德夫), **Samingad** (曉君), **Pau-dull** (陳建年) and **Hao-en** (昊恩), **Jiajia** (家家) and the **Nanwang Sisters** (南王三姊妹).
■ National Concert Hall, Taipei City
■ Tonight and tomorrow at 7pm, Sunday at 2:30pm
■ Tickets are NT$500 to NT$2,500, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Orangegrass (橙草), a post-rock band with an emo-punk singer, plays tonight at **The Wall (這牆)**. Also appearing are **Boyz and Girl** (男孩們女孩), an indie-pop group led by a female singer with an airy-sweet voice. Later tonight there's an electro dance party featuring DJ duo **Designer Drugs** [see the Vinyl Word]. Tomorrow **Mrs This** (這位太太) takes the stage, followed by Firerama, an all-night reggae party hosted by sound system **Black Reign International** with DJs **Taro** and **Yahman** of Japan [see story on Page 13]. On Sunday it's an evening of emo and pop-punk with Japanese group **The Local Art** and **Broken Flowers** (碎紙花).
■ 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
■ Music shows start at 8pm tonight, tomorrow and Sunday. Tonight and tomorrow's dance parties start at 11:30pm.
■ Entrance fee is NT$400 for live bands tonight, tomorrow and Sunday. For tonight's dance party, admission is NT$800, which includes one drink. Tomorrow's reggae party is NT$450, which includes one drink. Tickets can be purchased online at www.thewall.com.tw or tickets.books.com.tw

Seahorse (海馬樂團), a group that performs Mongolian folk music, plays tonight at **Witch House (女巫店)**. Tomorrow it's **Sirens and Blissing**.
■ 7, Ln 56, Xinsheng S Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市新生南路三段56巷7號). Tel: (02) 2362-5494. On the Net: 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
■ Admission for music shows is NT$300

Tonight at **Riverside Cafe (河岸留言)**, **Black Sheep** plays Texas-style electric blues. Tomorrow night it's indie-pop duo **JS**, and Sunday the venue hosts pop-rock duo **Nature Morte** (靜物樂團), Mando-pop rapper **Nese** (倪子岡) and singer **GJ**. Monday is the venue's weekly open jam session. On Wednesday **io**, the Chinese-Canadian rock outfit that won ICRT's Battle of the Bands contest last year, shares the bill with garage rockers **Mary See the Future**.
■ 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
■ Shows start at 9:30pm tonight and 9pm tomorrow, Sunday and Wednesday. Monday's open jam session starts at 9pm. For a list of standard songs and ground rules, visit the venue's Web site.
■ Entrance fee is NT$400 tonight and tomorrow, NT$350 Sunday and Wednesday and NT$150 Monday

Riverside Live House (西門紅樓展演館) hosts an inspirational speaker, a gospel singing group and Mando-pop singer **Shadya** (藍又時) tonight. Tomorrow beloved indie-pop band **1976** takes the stage, and Sunday geek-chic rocker **Crowd Lu** (盧廣仲) plays in a show that sold out more than a month ago. Mando-pop singer **Chi Hsin-pei** (季欣霈) and folk rocker **Elisa Lin** (林依霖) appear Thursday.
■ 177 Xining S Rd, Taipei City (台北市西寧南路177號). Tel: (02) 2370-8805. On the Net: www.riverside.com.tw
■ Shows start at 8pm tonight and 8:30pm tomorrow and Sunday
■ Entrance fee is NT$450 tonight, NT$500 tomorrow and NT$400 Thursday. Sunday's show is sold out. Tickets can be purchased online at www.riverside.com.tw/livehouse or tickets.books.com.tw

Tonight **Underworld (地下社會)** hosts expat rockers **Half Mile Radius** and punks **Divebomb**. Tomorrow, black metal bands **Solemn** (怨) and **The Eye of the Violent** (暴力之眼) blitz the venue. On Wednesday it's emo-rock group **BRTD** and indie rockers **Green!Eyes** (綠色眼睛).
■ 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
■ 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, which includes one drink. NT$100 on Wednesdays

Jo Jo Ma Quartet, a group led by saxophonist Joseph Marchione, appears tonight at **Sappho de Base**. Tomorrow it's surf rock, blues and jam band sounds from the **Blues Vibrations**. **MaJam Jazz Quartet** (麻將爵士樂團) plays jazz, fusion, funk and blues on Tuesday, **Edamame Jazz Trio** (毛豆三重奏) plays Wednesday, and Thursday the venue hosts an open jam session.
■ 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
■ Music shows begin at 10:30pm tonight and tomorrow, 9:30pm Tuesday and Thursday and 10pm Wednesday. Closed Sundays and Mondays
■ Admission is NT$100 tonight, free on other nights

Tonight at **Roxy Roots** it's swing jazz sounds from the **Dark Eyes Gypsy Band** (黑眼吉普賽樂團). Tomorrow expat rock band **Aurora** takes the stage.
■ 90 Songren Rd, Taipei City (台北市松仁路90號). Tel: (02) 2725-3932. On the Net: www.roxy.com.tw
■ Shows start at 10pm
■ Entrance is NT$300 Fridays and Saturdays (of which NT$200 can be spent on food and drink)

The Mercury (水星酒館) in Kaohsiung hosts indie bands every week. Tomorrow indie rock band **Windmill** (風籟坊) visits from Taipei [see story above].
■ 46 Liwen Rd, Zuoying Dist, Kaohsiung City (高雄市左營區立文路46號). Tel: (07) 550-8617. On the Net: mercurybar.blogspot.com
■ Show starts at 8:30pm
■ Entrance is NT$200

EZ5 Live House hosts Mando-pop singers backed by a live band every night. Highlights for the week ahead include female singer **Tiger Huang** (黃小琥), who performs two sets every Monday, **Julia Peng** (彭佳慧), a major draw who appears every Tuesday, and male crooner **Shin Lung** (辛隆), who performs every Saturday.
■ 211, Anhe Rd Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市安和路二段211號). Tel: (02) 2738-3995. On the Net: visit www.ez5.com.tw
■ Shows run from 9:45pm to 12:30am
■ Entrance fee (includes two drinks) ranges from NT$600 to NT$850, depending on the performer

Tomorrow night **Vicious Circle** hosts post-rock group **Collider** and **The Looking Glass**, followed by DJ sets from **Doi Moi**, **Sunrise Soup** and **City Villains**.
■ 1F, 8, Alley 26, Ln 205, Zhongxiao E Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市忠孝東路四段205巷26弄8號1樓). Tel: (02)2777-2218
■ Show starts at 8pm
■ Entrance is NT$100, includes one drink

THE VINYL WORD

BY QUEEN BEE

Designer Drugs' tour of Asia starts tonight in Taipei. PHOTOS COURTESY OF ELLE REX

Michael Vincent Patrick, half of Designer Drugs, one of the US' hottest dance music-making duos, plays at The Wall (這牆) in Taipei tonight. Comprised of Patrick and **Theodor Paul Nelson**, the prolific electro-house and indie-dance producing twosome have garnered huge support since the project took shape in 2007. Having conquered the circuit in North America and Europe, Patrick is now turning to Asia, with Taipei the first stop on his tour of the region.

VW: It's only been a few years since Designer Drugs started up and you are like rock-star DJs now. What's your secret to success?

MP: [Laughs.] We were born rock stars so it just came naturally. I think Designer Drugs is a successful project because we wanted to make music for other people, not just ourselves and other DJs. We wanted to give people something banging but musical, something for the iPod. We also did about 40 remixes or something so people have a large variety of Designer Drugs to choose from.

VW: How old are you? We've heard that you started deejaying when you were 15? What kind of parties did you play at? What kind of music did you spin?

MP: We are 28 now and starting deejaying around 15 or 16. We played pretty much anywhere we could, house parties, warehouse parties, skating rink raves, coffee shops, head shops, etc. We played drum and bass and have always pursued it as a sort of career but always had side jobs and college, etc. I have a 20 mixtapes from high school that I would give to my friends and promoters to get shows.

VW: Do you prefer to work in the studio or as a DJ?

MP: Studio for sure. I love writing music. It's hard work and stressful but deejaying is the payoff if the crowd is freaking out.

VW: You make many different kinds of music, but what's your specialty? What's the style you really like?

MP: Well our specialty is definitely electro house/indie dance. It's sort of hard to define. When it comes to listening we appreciate everything that's good.

VW: How was the European tour last year? Which city would you like to return to?

MP: Europe was amazing. I liked all the cities, especially Helsinki for some reason. Maybe it was the sauna!

VW: Are you touring Asia without Theo this time? When you play a solo set, do you play differently?

MP: Unfortunately Theo can't make it because he is in medical school and the courses are very demanding. We pretty much play the same music if it's myself or the both of us. I take care of most of the deejaying stuff because Theo is too busy to look for tunes, but when he comes he deejays as well.

VW: Your party pictures look crazy. What is it that you do to make the people go nuts?

MP: Good music. We try to play banging stuff that makes the crowd freak out. We play for the crowd, not for ourselves.

Designer Drugs, **Mykal** and Eat Me! Black Hole! tonight from 11:30pm to 4am at The Wall (這牆), B1, 200, Roosevelt Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市羅斯福路四段200號B1). Admission is NT$800.