

BY DAVID CHEN



Rage and roll

Taichung's indie music fans have a choice of post-rock bliss or emo rage this weekend, as Sugar Plum Ferry (甜梅號) and The Hindsight (光景消逝) hit town tomorrow.

The groups, which are associated with Uloud, the music label affiliated with Taipei live music venue The Wall (這牆), have been doing the rounds of the country's live music venues to promote their new albums.

Sugar Plum Ferry, a pioneering post-rock band that formed in the late 1990s, plays at the Taichung Corridor Cafe Theater tomorrow at 7pm in support of its third CD, *Islands on the Ocean of the Mind* (腦海群島).

The four-piece composes and performs instrumentals that have many of the defining marks of the post-rock genre: slow and deliberate melodic themes played on electric guitar that build into droning rhythms, and dramatic spells of distortion and crashing drums. The music can get

loud, but ultimately aims to sooth.

Sugar Plum Ferry also appears in Kaohsiung on May 8 and then in Hong Kong on May 22. For more details, visit the band's Web site at blog.roodo.com/sugarplumferry

On the other end of the emotional spectrum is The Hindsight, which takes the stage at Sound Live House (迴響音樂藝文展演空間) tomorrow at 7pm.

This four-piece revels in melodramatic emorage, which will probably be best appreciated by fans of Linkin Park or Green Day. Lead vocalist and guitarist AJ is a veteran of the indie scene. He was one of the founding members of Anarchy, a popular group among the emerging punk scene in Taichung in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

On The Hindsight's new release, *From Dripping Tears, He Saw Hopes* (在眼淚中看見希望), the band is tight and polished. AJ screams and whines a lot of his lyrics, many of which are delivered in stilted English. But the band's energy is infectious (if metal and emo are your thing) and the rage feels real.

For either show, earplugs would be a good idea, especially at the front of the stage.

Inset: The Hindsight, a metal/emo band, plays tomorrow in Taichung at Sound Live House.
Left: Post-rock pioneers Sugar Plum Ferry play at the Taichung Corridor Cafe Theater tomorrow.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ULOUD MUSIC

PERFORMANCE NOTES:

WHAT: Sugar Plum Ferry (甜梅號)
WHEN AND WHERE: Tomorrow from 7pm to 9pm at Taichung Corridor Cafe Theater (文英館迎廊咖啡劇場), 10-5 Shuangshih Rd Sec 1, Taichung City (台中市雙十路一段10-5號)
ADMISSION: NT\$400
ON THE NET: www.myspace.com/sugarplumferry

WHAT: The Hindsight (光景消逝)
WHEN AND WHERE: Tomorrow at Sound Live House (迴響音樂藝文展演空間), B1-1, 429, Henan Rd Sec 2, Situn Dist, Taichung City (台中市西屯區河南路二段429號B1-1)
ON THE NET: www.the-hindsight.com

EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Theater

Godot Theatre Company's (果陀劇場)

The 39 Steps (步步驚天) is a comedic espionage thriller adapted in Mandarin from the novel of the same title by John Buchan. The star-studded cast includes veteran thespians Chin Shih-chieh (金士傑) and Tien Hsin (天心) and television and theater actors Pu Hsueh-liang (卜學亮) and Renzo Liu (劉亮佐). The four play a total of 48 characters. This is the first major Broadway production licensed in Chinese while the original runs concurrently in New York and London.

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

For **Just Play It (彈琴說愛)**, Ismene Ting (丁乃箏) of the Performance Workshop Theatre (表演工作坊) teams up with Taiwanese musician Hsu Che-cheng (許哲誠) and American pianist John Vaughan to fuse Chinese stand-up comedy with classical, blues and pop music.

- EsLite Xinyi Bookstore (誠品信義店), 6F, 11 Songgao Rd, Taipei City (台北市松高路11號6樓)
- Tonight, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 7:30pm, tomorrow at 2:30pm and 7:30pm, Sunday at 2:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$980, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Jump from South Korea is billed as a comic martial arts performance that has toured around the world since its inception in 2003. The story follows two luckless thieves who break into a household of marital artists. What ensues is a high-voltage performance of physical comedy, martial arts and acrobatics.

- Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall (國父紀念館), 505, Renai Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市仁愛路四段505號)
- Tonight at 7:30pm, tomorrow at 1pm and 4pm
- Tickets are NT\$500 to NT\$2,600, available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw

Pop musician Kevin Lin (林隆璇) and Jade & Artists Dance Troupe (肢體藝術舞團) team up to produce **An Untold Secret (藏心)**, a romantic musical. [See story on Page 13]

- Taipei Zhongshan Hall (台北中山堂), 98 Yanping S Rd, Taipei City (台北市延平南路98號)

- Tonight at 7:30pm, tomorrow at 2:30pm and 7:30pm and Sunday at 2:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$800, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Silence Dance by Taipei Dance Circle (光環舞集) is a nine-part dance piece that centers on the troupe's artistic director Liou Shaw-lu's (劉紹儒) reflections on the global ecological crisis.

- Yilan Performance Hall (宜蘭演藝廳), 482, Chungshan Rd Sec 2, Yilan City (宜蘭市中山路二段482號); Tainan Municipal Cultural Center (台南市立文化中心演藝廳), 332, Zhonghua E Rd Sec 3, Tainan City (台南市中華東路三段332號) and Performing Arts Hall of the Cultural Affairs Bureau of Taoyuan County Government (桃園縣政府文化局演藝廳), 21 Sianfu Rd, Taoyuan County (桃園市縣府路21號)
- Tonight (Yilan), tomorrow (Tainan) and Sunday (Taoyuan) at 7:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$150 and NT\$250, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Have you ever tried having a conversation with another person one word at a time? How about asking questions only? Or speaking in tongues?

Improv Comedy: International Night of Unpredictiliciousness is a show of verbal dexterity hosted by Taichung Improv and Seoul City Improv at the Londoner in Taichung City.

- The Londoner (倫敦公園), 143, Huamei W St Sec 1, Taichung City (台中市西區華美西街一段143號). Tel: (04) 2314-6919
- April 24 at 10pm
- Tickets are NT\$300 in advance and NT\$350 at the door (both include one drink). On the Net: www.seoulplayers.com, www.taichungimprov.com and www.londoner.com.tw. For more information contact Josh Myers at 0912-129-654

Classical music

As part of the **International Chopin Festival 2010 (20X10蕭邦CHOPIN國際音樂節)**, French pianist Pascal Roge will be visiting Taiwan for two concerts in Taipei and Taichung. The program includes works by Chopin and composers that he influenced, including Faure, Debussy and Ravel.

- Tomorrow at 7:30pm (Taipei) and Wednesday at 7:30pm (Taichung)
- National Concert Hall, Taipei City and Taichung Chungshan Hall (台中市中山堂), 98 Syuehsih Rd, Taichung City (台中市學士路98號)



Unity Sound, a reggae sound system based in the US and Japan, appears tomorrow night at the Wall.

reggae sound system Unity Sound

- 11pm tomorrow 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). Tel: (02) 2930-0162. On the Net: www.thewall.com.tw
- NT\$400 at the door, includes one drink, NT\$300 for advance tickets, available at both Toasteria locations, 2, Ln 248, Zhongxiao E Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市忠孝東路四段248巷2號) and 1, Ln 72, Yunhe St, Taipei City (台北市雲和街72巷1號), and KGB Burgers, 5, Ln 114, Shida Rd (台北市師大路114巷5號)

HIGHLIGHT

BY NOAH BUCHAN

There is possibly no better way to celebrate the birthday of Matsu (媽祖), patron goddess of the sea and one of Taiwan's most revered deities, than to participate in the Tachia Matsu Pilgrimage (大甲媽祖繞境進香), which begins tonight at 11pm. Over the course of the next nine days, the Matsu statue, which is housed inside Tachia's Jenn Lann Temple (鎮瀾宮), will be brought out and carried aloft a sumptuous sedan chair through the back roads of central-west Taiwan to Fengtien Temple (奉天宮) in Singang (新港) and then back again. The round-trip journey is roughly 350km. Along the way, Matsu will be entertained — along with hundreds of thousands of pilgrims and tourists — by traditional opera troupes, musicians, spirit mediums and martial artists amid the raucous sounds of firecrackers and pungent smells of incense and burning paper money.

The pilgrimages highlights are tonight,

- Tickets are NT\$400 to NT\$3,000 in Taipei and NT\$400 to NT\$2,400 in Taichung, available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw

Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma (馬友友 — 絲路之旅在臺灣) brings together superstar cellist Yo-Yo Ma (馬友友) and a group of musicians who form the Silk Road Ensemble, a team of virtuoso musicians whose mission is to explore the music of Central Asia. The program includes many compositions that have been generated by the frisson of this unusual group of top artists. [See story on Page 14.]

- Thursday at 7:30pm (Taipei). A second concert will be held in Kaohsiung on April 25
- National Concert Hall, Taipei City
- Tickets are NT\$800 to NT\$6,000, available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw

Symphony of Light (音光之交響) features the National Symphony Orchestra (國家交響樂團) performing under the baton of conductor Gunther Herbig in a program that include Ravel's *Ma Mere l'Oye Suite*, Susan Botti's *Within Darkness* and Shostakovich's *Symphony No. 10 in E Minor, Op. 93*.

- Sunday at 2:30pm
- National Concert Hall, Taipei City
- Tickets are NT\$400 to NT\$1,500, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Contemporary

Legacy Taipei, located in a former warehouse at Huashan 1914 Creative Park (華山1914), hosts top Taiwanese pop performers and international acts. Mando-pop songstress **Tanya Chua's** (蔡健雅) show tonight is sold out. Tomorrow evening the venue hosts Golden Melody Award-winning producer/singer-songwriter **Sandee Chan** (陳珊妮) [see story on Page 13]. Taitung reggae rockers **Matzka and Di Hot** make their semi-regular appearance at the venue on Wednesday.

- Huashan 1914 Creative Park (華山1914), Center Five Hall (中五館), 1, Bade Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市八德路一段1號)
- Shows start at 8pm tonight and tomorrow, 8:30pm Wednesday
- Tonight's show is sold out, NT\$800 at the door or NT\$600 in advance tomorrow, and NT\$400 on Wednesday. Tickets are available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw or www.legacy.com.tw or at ibon electronics kiosks at 7-Eleven stores



Pilgrims walk through the back roads of central-west Taiwan to celebrate the birthday of Matsu, patron goddess of the sea.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JENN LANN TEMPLE

when Matsu is brought out of the temple, the fourth day, when she arrives in Singang, and the final day, when overzealous worshippers have been known to fight their way to the front of the crowd to protect Matsu as she is returned to Jenn Lann Temple. (For complete details of the pilgrimage, read tomorrow's travel story on Page 16 of the *Taipei Times*.)

- ▶ Jenn Lann Temple is a five-minute walk from Tachia Train Station (大甲站). Taiwan Railway Administration return tickets from Taipei Train Station is NT\$480
- ▶ Begins tonight at 11pm

Aspiring Mando-pop and R'n'B group **Magic Power** (魔幻力量) appears tonight at **The Wall** (這牆). Later on Bassnoise presents Revive Drum and Bass, featuring DJs **Lai, Legacy, Dino** and **Mykal**. Tomorrow it's a multi-artist lineup comprising pop-punk group **The Fen-Fens** (紛紛樂團), Mando-pop singer **Olivia Yan** (龔璽伶) and indie-rockers **La Petite Nurse** (小護士樂團). Later on the venue hosts a late-night dance party thrown by reggae promoters Islandjam, featuring dancehall MCs and selectors **Unity Sound**, which is based in the US and Japan [see Highlight].

- 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 8:30pm and 11:30pm tonight, and 7:30pm and 11:30pm tomorrow
- Entrance fee is NT\$300 tonight, NT\$500 for the dance party, NT\$500 (NT\$400 in advance) tomorrow, NT\$400 (NT\$300 in advance) for the reggae party. Tickets can be purchased online at www.thewall.com.tw or tickets.books.com.tw

Jazz singer **Shih Ying-ying** (史茵茵) appears tonight at **Witch House** (女巫店) with jazz combo **Afternoon Tree** (午後之樹). Singer and multi-instrument whiz **Suming** (葉聖明) and solo artist **Ma Chang** (馬場) take the stage tomorrow. Singer and guitarist **Marine** (馬林) and up-and-coming pop singer-songwriter **Andrew Yeh** (葉懷綱) play on Thursday.

- 7, Ln 56, Xinheng 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
- Entrance fee for music shows is NT\$300

Veteran jazz combo JEG (這個爵士樂團) plays standards, Latin, funk, rock and fusion tonight at **Riverside Cafe** (河岸留聲). Tomorrow the venue hosts pop singer **Queen** (魏如昀) and **Smack**. On Sunday it's **HE** (有藏人), a singer-songwriter duo on electric guitar and bass, and Mando-pop singer **Chi Hsin-pei** (季欣霽). Monday is the venue's 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
- Shows start at 10pm tonight and 9pm all other nights. For a list of standard

songs and ground rules for the open jam, visit the venue's Web site.

- Entrance fee is NT\$400 tonight and tomorrow, NT\$350 Sunday and NT\$150 on Monday

Electro-pop band **The Girl and the Robots** (女孩與機器人) appears tonight at **Riverside Live House** (西門紅樓展演館). They open for **Go Chic**, who have a new album out and recently appeared at the South By Southwest Festival in the US. Indie-pop singer-songwriter **Peggy Hsu** (許哲霈) performs tomorrow. On Thursday **David Hou** (侯鴻光), first violinist of the National Symphony Orchestra, performs a solo set mixing classical and electronica music. Also appearing is female pop duo **Heiniu and Bainiu** (黑妞與白妞).

- 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 8:30pm tonight, tomorrow and Thursday
- Entrance fee is NT\$400 tonight, NT\$450 tomorrow and NT\$400 Thursday. Tickets can be purchased online through www.riverside.com.tw/livehouse or tickets.books.com.tw.

Indie rockers **The He He** (竊笑) play tonight at **Underworld** (地下社會) with grunge rockers **Adam's Apple** (喉結樂團). Tomorrow the venue hosts veteran underground rockers **Celluloid** (賽路路), who perform blues and garage rock. On Wednesday it's hard-rock band **The LoTuS** (羅樂團) and post-punk band **SOD**.

- 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 Wednesday. Free on other days and after music shows

Faneur Daguerre, a jazz quartet that plays everything from Bach to Bjork and Ornette Coleman to the Ramones, performs tonight at **Sappho de Base**, a late-night lounge and jazz venue. Tomorrow the venue hosts **Coromandel Express**, which includes Japanese musicians **Yo** on the sitar and **Waka** on the tabla. The group performs a "musical masala" of jazz, classical and world music. On Tuesday it's **Gary Schnackenberg Sound Project**. The **Grace Jazz Trio** appears on Wednesday.

- 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 10pm. Closed on Sundays and Mondays
- Entrance is NT\$100 tonight, free on other nights

Tonight **Roxy Roots** hosts a Tears for Fears DJ party in anticipation of the British group's concert in Taipei next month. Tomorrow night the venue hosts **Down in Air** (灑在空中) and electronica collective **KbN** [see the Vinyl Word]. Wednesday is the venue's open jam. This week it's hosted by South African expat **David Vorster**.

- 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 on Fridays and Saturdays (NT\$200 credited toward food and drink)

Tomorrow **VU Live House** hosts an evening of electro and dubstep music spun by DJs **Gill T. Azell, Naked, Bobby Bonnell** and **Anthero**.

- B1, 77, Wuchang St Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市武昌街二段77號B1). Tel: (02) 2314-1868
- Show begins at 11pm
- Entrance fee tomorrow is NT\$600 for men, NT\$400 for women, all-you-can-drink

THE VINYL WORD

BY LEO SHIA



Ring in 420 this year with DJ Shorty and DJ @llenblow at Roxy Roots.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF 420 PROJECT

Allen Liu (劉培倫) and **Keith Liu** (劉力予), better known to partygoers as **@llenblow** and **DJ Shorty**, are anything but conventional. As veterans of the scene, Allen and Keith have worked for nearly a decade bringing alternative music to Taiwan. Whether it's as members of the Taimaica Soundsystem (台買加環繞音效) playing dub and reggae, or as DJs playing dubstep, drum 'n' bass and abstract hip-hop, they have sacrificed time and money in the hope of diversifying the country's musical tastes.

Vinyl Word: In a climate where alternative music isn't nearly as abundant or accepted like it is in, say, Japan, how did you get started?

Allen Liu: I'd have to say it was MTV during the 1990s. Right now MTV only plays Taiwanese shows and music, but during the 1990s the programming had a good mix of local and foreign content. That got me into things like grunge and punk and also began my relationship with hip-hop.

Keith Liu: Yeah, MTV late-night especially. Allen and I both started out in different punk and hardcore bands and it really helped to keep us inspired. But I was also fortunate enough to be one of the few kids in my neighborhood with Internet access, so I took full advantage of that.

VW: Now that MTV airs almost all local content, outside of the Internet, where in Taiwan can people go to discover new music?

KL: Outside of the Internet? That's tough. Species Records in Ximending has always done a lot to nurture my curiosity. They really know their stuff and constantly give me great recommendations. Other than that, the annual Freak Out Da Beast party [in Taipei] is still excellent and maybe the only regular major event where you can really hear something different in Taiwan.

AL: There's also Campo, which used to happen monthly here in Taipei but has since turned into an annual event in Tainan. It's not as big as it once was but it's still great. But other than that ... there's no money in the alternative, so no one plays it.

VW: If there's so little interest in alternative music, why do you bother?

KL: Well, actually, despite the obvious challenges, attendance at our 420 parties has progressively improved. From the first one where it was just a small group of friends to last year where we had over 100, there's definitely been a growth in support.

AL: I also think it's our duty. No matter how frustrated we might get, we're still Taiwanese and I feel like it's our responsibility to push and expose an alternative no matter how unpopular it may be.

VW: What can partygoers expect from your bash tomorrow?

AL: To hear something you've never heard and won't hear anywhere else in Taiwan.

KL: You won't hear [Super Junior's] *Sorry, Sorry* and you won't hear the Black Eyed Peas. Come with an open mind and experience something fresh.

You can catch **@llenblow** and **DJ Shorty** alongside **Point, Hangin' in the Air** (灑在空中) and **KbN** (凱比鳥) tomorrow at the fourth annual 420 Party from 10pm to 4:20am at Roxy Roots, 90 Songren Rd, Taipei City (台北市松仁路90號). Admission is NT\$300. On the Net: www.roxy.com.tw
For more information, visit @llenblow's blog: tw.myblog.yahoo.com/uselessbrotherhood

HIGHLIGHT

BY DAVID CHEN

Unity Sound, a group of MCs and selectors based in the US and Japan, appears tomorrow at the **The Wall** (這牆).

Event co-organizer Islandjam describes Unity Sound as a "world-class sound system" that has opened for renowned dancehall artists such as Sizzla, Buju Banton and Shaggy. Judging from the tracks on its MySpace site (www.myspace.com/unitysoundsystem), the group will be throwing down smooth-sounding mixes that blend classic dancehall and roots with electronica and hip-hop. Also appearing are Taiwanese performers **Ice, Sunny Smalls, Splendor** and Taipei-based expat group **Black Reign International Sound**. Advance tickets are available at Toasteria Cafe and KGB Burgers. For more details, visit Islandjam's page on Facebook.

- ▶ Islandjam and Hunter's Gold present