



From left: Felix Chen, Christopher Hogwood and Lu Shao-chia.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF NSO, MARCO BORGIGREVE AND HSU PING

## NSO announces new season's program

Taiwan's National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) has just unveiled the program for its new season beginning in September. Among the highlights are a semi-staged production of Richard Strauss' 1909 opera *Elektra*, Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem*, a visit by celebrated UK conductor Christopher Hogwood, the ever-popular and newly fashionable *Carmina Burana* by Carl Orff, and four Mahler symphonies.

*Elektra*, Strauss' searing and often cacophonous account of the murder of Elektra's mother Clytemnestra and stepfather Aegisth by her brother Orestes (Orestes), taken from the tragedy of Euripides, is one of the masterpieces of musical modernism. It represents Strauss' most extreme engagement with that movement; after it he retreated into

a more congenial late-Romantic mode.

There were plans to stage the opera in its anniversary year, 2009, by Martin Fischer-Dieskau with the Taipei Symphony Orchestra (TSO), but the scheme was abandoned when Fischer-Dieskau's appointment as the TSO's musical director failed to be confirmed by Taipei City's Bureau of Cultural Affairs.

Now the NSO will be staging it, for a single performance only, at the National Concert Hall on March 18, 2011.

Britten's 1962 *War Requiem*, a blend of elements from the Roman Catholic mass for the dead and World War II poems by Wilfred Owen, is on Dec. 18. The soloists are Annalena Persson, Will Hartmann and Shigeo Ishino.

The period instruments specialist Christopher Hogwood's visit is on Oct.

1. Under his baton the NSO will perform Mozart's familiar *Clarinet Concerto*, but played not on a clarinet but on a viola, Beethoven's *String Quartet* Op. 95 as arranged for string orchestra by Mahler in 1899, and Mozart's *Symphony No. 32*.

An item from Carl Orff's extraordinary *Carmina Burana* (1937), featuring distinctly unsacred songs supposedly sung by drunken medieval monks, has now resurfaced as a clubbing hit, and many a nightclub denizen will have unwittingly gyrated to its compulsive rhythms. The NSO plays the original version, appropriately enough, on New Year's Eve.

Mahler makes a strong showing, with his *Symphony No. 5* (with the famous *Adagio*) ending the NSO Opening Concert on Sept. 17, conducted by the NSO's Maestro Lu Shao-

chia (呂紹嘉). Three more Mahler symphonies follow — the fourth on Oct. 16, the seventh on March 26, and the third in the season's closing concert on June 17, 2011.

Last, but certainly not least, Mahler's song-cycle *Des Knaben Wunderhorn* ("The Youth's Magic Horn") will be played on Nov. 28.

What makes this concert extra special is that the conductor will be Felix Chen (陳秋盛). Chen led the TSO for 17 years until his resignation, in intensely controversial circumstances, in 2003.

He remains a delight to watch, and his concert with the NSO has the additional interest of including Schumann's *Symphony No. 4* in a special version — as re-orchestrated by none other than Gustav Mahler.

On the Net: nso.ntch.edu.tw.

## EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

### Theater

The **2010 Yilan International Children's Folklore and Folkgame Festival (2010宜蘭國際童玩藝術節)** has assembled a lineup of music, dance and theatrical performances by groups from more than 10 countries, as well as a series of exhibitions, outdoor activities and workshops. For more information, go to [www.folkgame.org.tw/folkgame/cht](http://www.folkgame.org.tw/folkgame/cht).  
**Tungshan River Park (冬山河親水公園)**, 20-36 Siehe Rd, Wuji Township, Yilan County (宜蘭縣五結鄉協和路20號之36), and Yilan Performance Hall (宜蘭演藝廳), 482, Jhongshan Rd Sec 2, Yilan City (宜蘭市中山路二段482號)  
 ■ The festival runs through Aug. 15  
 ■ Admissions to the park is NT\$300 for adults and NT\$250 for children aged 7 to 12 on weekends, NT\$200 for adults and NT\$150 for children Mondays to Fridays. Tickets are NT\$150 for indoor performances at Yilan Performance Hall, available through NTCH ticketing or online at [www.artsticket.com.tw](http://www.artsticket.com.tw)

For **Entrance II (飛行樂園)**, Diabolo Dance Theatre (舞鈴劇場) injects a dose of visual opulence and high energy into diabolo, a traditional children's game and Chinese acrobatic routine.  
 ■ Nangang 101 (南港101), 71 Xingnan St, Taipei City (台北市興南街71號)  
 ■ Tomorrow at 2:30pm and 7:30pm, Sunday at 10:30am and 2:30pm  
 ■ Tickets are NT\$400 to NT\$1,500, available through ERA ticketing or online at [www.ticket.com.tw](http://www.ticket.com.tw)

**2012 Ritual of Light (2012光之祭典)** by Mobius Strip Theater (奧比斯圓環劇作公社) is a spiritual exploration of the relationship between people and nature. The piece has a strong New Age vibe and blends theater, drumming, chanting, Sufi whirling and Tibetan singing bowls.  
 ■ Plum Wine Factory (烏梅酒廠), Huashan 1914 Creative Park (華山1914), 1, Bade Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市八德路一段1號)  
 ■ Tonight and Monday at 7:30pm, tomorrow and Sunday at 2:30pm and 7:30pm  
 ■ Tickets are NT\$900, available through NTCH ticketing or online at [www.artsticket.com.tw](http://www.artsticket.com.tw)

Performance Workshop Theatre's (表演工作坊) **Happiness Lessons (快樂不用學)** is a comedy-drama directed by Stan Lai (賴聲川). It centers on an unhappy couple: V, who makes a living coaching people to be happy, and J, a musician trapped in an office worker's body.  
 ■ National Theater, Taipei City  
 ■ Tonight and Monday at 7:30pm, tomorrow at 2:30pm and 7:30pm, Sunday at 2:30pm  
 ■ Tickets are NT\$500 to NT\$3,000, available through NTCH ticketing or

online at [www.artsticket.com.tw](http://www.artsticket.com.tw)

Into Art's (藝向空間) dance piece **Apologies (對不起)** tells the story of a girl who stops believing and a boy who runs away.  
 ■ Guling Street Avant-Garde Theatre (姑嶺街小劇場), 2, Ln 5, Guling St, Taipei City (台北市姑嶺街5巷2號)  
 ■ Tomorrow at 2:30pm and 7:30pm, Sunday at 2:30pm  
 ■ Tickets are NT\$450, available through ERA ticketing or online at [www.ticket.com.tw](http://www.ticket.com.tw)

### Classical music

**Evening of Chopin Polonaises (波蘭舞曲之夜)** is the third in a concert program to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Chopin's birth. Pianist Zhu Daming (諸大明) will perform 16 Chopin polonaises.  
 ■ Sunday at 7:30pm  
 ■ National Concert Hall, Taipei City  
 ■ Tickets are NT\$400 to NT\$2,000, available through NTCH ticketing or online at [www.artsticket.com.tw](http://www.artsticket.com.tw)

**An Evening of Tchaikovsky (柴科夫斯基之夜)** presents the Taipei Century Foundation Youth Orchestra (台北世紀青年管絃樂團) performing three works by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky including the *Overture From Romeo and Juliet*, *Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat Minor Op. 23* and *Symphony No. 6 "Pathétique"*.  
 ■ Monday at 7:30pm  
 ■ National Concert Hall, Taipei City  
 ■ Tickets are NT\$200 to NT\$1,500, available through NTCH ticketing or online at [www.artsticket.com.tw](http://www.artsticket.com.tw)

**The Universe of Percussion With Pascal Pons (浩蕩擊樂世界 Pascal Pons 演奏會)** brings French percussionist Pascal Pons to Taipei for a concert that includes the world premiere of *Showdown and New Piece* by contemporary composers A. Hilario and O. Finnendahl. It will also include arrangements for percussion of classical works including *Violin Sonata No. 1* by Bach.  
 ■ Thursday at 7:30pm  
 ■ National Recital Hall, Taipei City  
 ■ Tickets are NT\$250 to NT\$500, available through NTCH ticketing or online at [www.artsticket.com.tw](http://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.  
 Tonight Mando-pop singer **Maggie Chiang** (江美琪) takes the stage. Appearing on Wednesday is singer **Yang Pei-an** (楊培安).  
 ■ 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 7:30pm tomorrow and 8:30pm Wednesday  
 ■ Admission is NT\$900 tonight, NT\$500 on Wednesday (NT\$400 in advance). Tickets can be purchased at ERA ticketing outlets, online through [www.ticket.com.tw](http://www.ticket.com.tw) or [www.legacy.com.tw](http://www.legacy.com.tw) or at 7-Eleven ibon electronics kiosks

Emo-rage band **The Hindsight** (光景消逝) performs tonight at **The Wall (這牆)**, along with Kaohsiung ska/punk outfit **Shy Kick Apple** (害羞踢蘋果). The group is playing a farewell show for Taipei before several of its members started their military service. Tomorrow beloved pop-punk group **FireEx** (滅火器) takes the stage to celebrate its 10th anniversary. VJ collective **Muse Whisper** closes the evening along with DJs **Chou, Kay** and **Kaoru**. Sunday is an evening of black metal with **Solemn** (肅), **Alien Avenge** (異族亡魂) and **Eye of Violence**.  
 ■ 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 start at 8pm. Tomorrow's VJ show starts at midnight  
 ■ Admission is NT\$400 tonight, NT\$500 tomorrow for the band and NT\$500 for the dance party later on, and NT\$400 on Sunday (NT\$300 in advance). Tickets can be purchased online through [www.thewall.com.tw](http://www.thewall.com.tw) or [tickets.books.com.tw](http://tickets.books.com.tw)

Tonight **Witch House (女巫店)** hosts **Transition Josh**, a solo percussionist. He opens for alt-rock band **Silent Toads** (撒吉痞痞). Tomorrow night it's Aboriginal guitarist **Gerresai** (陳世川). Folk group **Tuesday** (星期二樂團) performs on Thursday.  
 ■ 7, Ln 56, Xinsheng 5 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](http://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

**Fan Hsu Trio** (徐梵三重奏) performs the music of jazz great Wayne Shorter tonight at **Riverside Cafe (河岸留聲)**. Tomorrow it's pop singer **Shino Lin** (林曉培). On Sunday pop wunderkind **Joanna Wang** (王若琳) appears with her baroque indie-pop group **New Tokyo Terror**. 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](http://www.riverside.com.tw)  
 ■ Shows start at 9:30pm 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  
 ■ Admission is NT\$400 tonight and tomorrow, NT\$500 on Sunday, NT\$150 on Monday

Tonight **Riverside Live House (西門紅樓展演館)** hosts **Luantan Ascent** (亂彈阿翔), a group led by singer-songwriter **A-hsiang** (阿翔) of the beloved but defunct underground rock band Luantan (亂彈). Mando-pop singer **Peter Pan** (潘裕文) performs tomorrow night. Another Mando-pop performer, **Jing Wong** (黃靖倫), appears on Sunday afternoon. Later Sunday night, the venue hosts a trio of pop singers called **Three Young Women** (三個小女人).  
 ■ 177 Xining 5 Rd, Taipei City (台北市西寧南路177號). Tel: (02) 2370-8805. On the Net: [www.riverside.com.tw](http://www.riverside.com.tw)  
 ■ Shows start at 8pm tonight and tomorrow, 2pm and 8:30pm on Sunday  
 ■ Admission is NT\$700 tonight, NT\$650 tomorrow, NT\$500 on Sunday afternoon and NT\$400 on Sunday night. Tickets can be purchased online through [www.riverside.com.tw/livehouse](http://www.riverside.com.tw/livehouse) or [tickets.books.com.tw](http://tickets.books.com.tw)

Tonight **Underworld (地下社會)** hosts indie band **Shebang-a** (死奴子) and noise rockers **Macbeth**. Tomorrow it's girl-power bands **Braces** (牙套) and **BB Bomb** (BB彈). On Wednesday the venue hosts **Yell C**, a group of up-and-coming punk rockers with a sardonic wit.  
 ■ 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 for music shows is NT\$300 on Fridays and Saturdays, which includes one drink, and NT\$100 on Wednesdays

The **Olivier Baron Quartet** appears tonight at **Sappho de Base**. Tomorrow the venue hosts **Coromandel Express**, which performs a "musical masala" of jazz, classical and world music. **Edamame Jazz Trio** (毛豆三重奏) performs on Tuesday. **Fusion Planet** appears on Wednesday. On Thursday **Rocky and The Barfly** host an open jam.  
 ■ 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)  
 ■ Music shows begin at 10pm  
 ■ Entrance is NT\$150 tonight and NT\$100 tomorrow, free on other nights

**EZ5 Live House** hosts Mando-pop singers backed by a live band every night. Highlights for the week ahead include Mando-pop songstress **Julia Peng** (彭佳慧) on 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](http://www.ez5.com.tw)  
 ■ Music shows run from 9:45pm to 12:30am  
 ■ Entrance fee (includes two drinks) ranges from NT\$600 to NT\$850, depending on the performer

Tonight **Roxy Roots** hosts pop-rock group **Rubber Band**. Tomorrow is a program billed as Urban Soul x Roots Heart, featuring reggae/dub outfit **Otaku3** and DJs @ **Ilenbow, Shorty, Point** and electronica collective **KbN**. On Wednesday catch indie rockers **Queen Suitcase** (皇后皮箱), this year's winner of the Ho-Hai-Yan Festival's battle of the bands competition.  
 ■ 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)  
 ■ Shows start at 10pm  
 ■ Entrance for music shows is NT\$300 (NT\$200 credited toward food and drinks)

**Taipei Swing** holds dance socials on Friday nights at **Capone's**, with live music from blues band **BoPoMoFo** (ㄅㄛㄆㄛㄆ). Dancers of all levels are welcome, and beginner's lessons are offered while the band takes a break. On Saturday it's light rock music from **Supernova**.  
 ■ 312, Zhongxiao E Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市忠孝東路四段312號)  
 ■ Live music from 9pm to 11:30pm on Fridays, 8pm to 11:30pm on Saturdays  
 ■ Minimum charge of one drink on Fridays (dancers receive a complimentary drink coupon). On Saturdays the minimum charge is NT\$300

The Wall (這牆) programs regular live rock shows at **Kaohsiung's Pier 2 Arts Center (高雄駁二藝術特區)**. Tonight features psychedelic indie rockers **The Tic Tac**, who have just released a new EP, and punk group **KoOk** (庫克). Tomorrow it's metal bands **Beyond Cure, Infernal Chaos** and **Mutaker**.  
 ■ 1 Dayong Rd, Yancheng Dist, Kaohsiung City (高雄市鹽埕區大勇路1號). On the Net: [pier-2.khcc.gov.tw/www.thewall.com.tw](http://pier-2.khcc.gov.tw/www.thewall.com.tw)  
 ■ Shows start at 7:30pm tonight and 7pm tomorrow  
 ■ Admission is NT\$300 tonight and NT\$500 tomorrow

Tomorrow, riot girl band **Hot Pink** (熱粉紅) performs at **The Mercury (水星酒館)**, a small club that hosts indie bands in Kaohsiung. Also appearing are fellow punks **The Lawns** (草人).  
 ■ 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](http://mercurybar.blogspot.com)  
 ■ Show starts at 9:30pm  
 ■ Entrance is NT\$200, includes one drink

## THE VINYL WORD

BY MARCUS AURELIUS

**Takashi Murakami's Superflat Monogram** video opens with a little girl becoming infuriated when she drops her mobile phone and it's eaten by a multi-colored panda. Soon, she is likewise consumed, and winds up floating in a trippy, dreamlike world with Louis Vuitton logos dancing all around.

The video's quirky music was provided by the critically acclaimed **Tomoyuki Tanaka**, who deejays under the moniker **Fantastic Plastic Machine** and along with the Dexpistols and **Mykal** (林哲義) plays at BRAINCHILD clothing brand's opening party tonight at Legacy Taipei.

Tanaka's resume reads like a how-to manual on earning money from music without huge record sales. His work can be found on video games, movie sound tracks and British sitcoms.

Mykal partnered up with his longtime buddy, actor **Wilson Chen** (陳柏霖), to form BRAINCHILD and is bringing over **Fantastic Plastic Machine** and the Dexpistols party for the gig because "they're all my good friends from Japan and they've always had a strong relationship with the fashion scene in Asia," he said in an e-mail interview.

After finishing his compulsory military service in 1996, Mykal frequented Spin, a now-defunct dive bar that played an eclectic mix of rock, pop, drum 'n' bass and hip-hop, and became friendly with the DJs. They invited him to play some tunes and in 1999 Mykal opened up M@M Boutique record store on Zhongxiao East Road in Taipei's East District (東區).

"Sometimes I'd receive white label or bootleg vinyl records from a distributor in advance," he said. "But the whole market has shrunk and distributors won't do that much any more."

Besides focusing on music, Mykal added T-shirts, hats, hooded sweatshirts, jeans and collectible toys to the shelves at M@M Boutique, which sparked his interest in fashion.

BRAINCHILD Store Grand Opening Party with **Fantastic Plastic Machine**, the Dexpistols, and DJ Mykal is tonight from 10:30pm to 5:30am at Legacy Taipei (傳音樂展演空間), located at 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). Admission is NT\$900 (NT\$600 in advance, available from ERA ticketing, online at [www.ticket.com.tw](http://www.ticket.com.tw) or by calling (02) 2341-9898), which includes one drink. On the Net: [www.legacy.com.tw](http://www.legacy.com.tw)

M@M Boutique is located at 4F-3, 112, Zhongxiao E Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市忠孝東路四段112號4樓之3), tel: (02) 8771-5688. BRAINCHILD is located at 1F, 19, Ln 161, Dunhua S Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市敦化南路一段161巷19號1樓), tel: (02) 2772-7710.



Here's the Dexpistols.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DJ MYKAL