

BY IAN BARTHOLOMEW

MUSIC

In the mood for 'Love Scenes'

Concert of Chen Chien-chi: Love Scenes of Flowers and Farewell... brings the enormously successful Taipei Arts Festival... to a close with three sold-out shows this weekend.

opens next week. For tonight and tomorrow's concerts, Chen will be working together with singer Waa Wei (魏如萱) and other performers to create a kind of musical theater.

anything specific in Shakespeare." Chen said he had chosen to use a largely acoustic setup, in keeping with the smaller space of the Guangfu Auditorium (光復廳) of the Zhongshan Hall (中山堂).



Composer and songwriter Chen Chien-chi says his Taipei Arts Festival productions are a dialogue between him and Shakespeare.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TAIPEI CULTURE FOUNDATION

EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Theater & dance

Cloud Gate Dance Theatre (雲門舞集) opened its three-week run at the National Theater on Wednesday night with Cursive (行草), part one of artistic director Lin Hwai-min's (林懷民) Cursive trilogy.

There are still about 20 tickets left for Sunday night's Morakot-disaster fundraiser by former Marsha Graham principal dancer Sheu Fang-yi (許芳宜) and her LaFa company.

Inspired by William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, A Midsummer Night's Dream and Much Ado About Nothing, Love Scenes of Flowers and Farewell (花與告別的爱情場景) is a collaboration between celebrated composer and songwriter Chen Chien-chi (陳建騏) and singer Waa Wei (魏如萱).

The Lost Part (天堂的缺口) by Dance Body Company (體相舞蹈劇場) is a cross-over effort by choreographer Wu Pin-i (吳品儀), flute player Yu Ya-hui (游雅慧) and Taiwanese opera performer Chien Yu-lin (簡玉琳).

As part of the Taipei Fringe Festival, Housewives' Rice (主婦的米) by Wu Eng Jeng Kow Moving Drama Band (無印堅果流動劇團) recounts how a husband and wife rediscover the most important thing in their lives after the estranged wife turns into a cockroach.

Somebody Cafe (戴拾陸巷), 2F, 131 Xining S Rd, Taipei City (台北市西寧南路131號2樓)
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

Classical music

Super Time Space Symphony (超時空響曲) features the Kaohsiung County Symphony Orchestra (高雄縣交響樂團), which will perform a program that includes easy-listening favorites such as Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture, Mozart's Overture from 'The Marriage of Figaro', the Star Wars Suite arranged by John Williams and music by Andrew Lloyd Webber.

Ju Percussion Group's 2009 National Children's Concert Tour (2009朱宗慶打擊樂團兒童音樂會全國巡迴) gets started this weekend at Novel Hall presenting a mixture of music and performance for the whole family.

Night of Four Hands With Liu Chia-ling and Wu Chia-fang (劉家伶與吳佳芳的四手聯彈之夜) presents pianists Liu Chia-ling (劉家伶) and Wu Chia-fang (吳佳芳) playing works for four hands including Dvorak's Slavonic Dances, Op. 46, Nos. 5-8, Bizet's Jeux d'Enfants, Op. 22, Erik Satie's Trois Morceaux en Forme de Poire and Brahms' Liebeslieder Waltzes, Op. 52a.

Cho-Liang Lin & Ntso-liang (與國聲交) features violinist Lin Cho-liang (林昭亮) performing with the National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra (國立臺灣交響樂團) under guest conductor David Alan Miller.

Contemporary

ICRT's third annual Battle of the Bands final takes place tomorrow from 3pm to 5pm at Breeze Center's (微風廣場) outdoor plaza on Civil Boulevard (市民大道).

Tide. This year's combatants are four-year-old rock, metal and power ballad outfit Black Heart (黑心), GunPowder, which fuses American hard rock and Japanese speed metal in its songs, electro-pop group Go Chic, pop band io and disco, blues and hip-hop outfit Electric MessAge (電子混亂世代).

Tomorrow night VU Live House hosts all-girl street punk band BB Bomb (BB彈) and another all-girl group, Go Chic, which opens for industrial rockers Roughhausen, led by Jeff Stoddard, a recording engineer protege of Skinny Puppy.

Tonight's heavy metal evening at The Wall (牆) with Respect (尊敬), Hekate (席卡堤), Nemesiss (天譴) and Flesh Juicer. Tomorrow veteran punks Fire Ex (滅火器) play a special show to preview new songs from their new album, due out next month.

Tonight at 7:30pm, Breeze Center (微風廣場), 39, Fuxing S Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市復興南路一段39號6樓)
Free
Tomorrow from 3pm to 5pm

Le Cher Sextet puts a new spin on classic pop and rock tunes tonight at Witch House (女巫店). Tomorrow it's Brother Fifth (搖滾點唱機五哥), which is composed of two fingerstyle guitarists and a drummer, followed by a solo set by A-Chang (阿彰), the guitarist for Manchester rock-influenced band Bitter. Appearing on Thursday are indie rockers Gayingyung (假囡) and Soundboss.

Tonight Riverside Cafe (河岸留聲) hosts a tribute to Japanese fusion band from 3pm to 5pm at Breeze Center's (微風廣場) outdoor plaza on Civil Boulevard (市民大道).

(呂聖斐) and saxophonist Tung Shuen-wen (董舜文). Taiwan's "little prince of R'n'B," Afalean Lu (魯學敏) takes to the stage tomorrow, opening for indie-rockers Love Manana (愛的大未來). Rockers Five in the Morning (清晨五點) and Indie Famous appear on Sunday. The venue's weekly open jam is on Monday.

Singaporean Mandopop star Tanya Chua (蔡健雅) appears tonight at Riverside Live House (西門紅樓懷展演館). Xiao Yu (小宇), who stirs his Mandopop with a little hip-hop, takes to the stage tomorrow.

Taiting reggae rockers Matzka and De Hot play tonight at Underworld (地下社會), opening for happy punks Children Sucker (表兒). Taking to the stage tomorrow are solo blues act Jack Conqueroo and Ian laptop garage rockers The Deadly Vibe.

Claude Diallo, a New York-based jazz pop and composer, performs at Sappho de Base tonight. Tomorrow 3 Little Giants (3小巨人) take the stage. The Jason Hayashi Jazz Trio appears on Tuesday, and on Wednesday the Bossarela Trio performs bossa nova. T and T Jazz Trio and Friends play on Thursday night.

Every Wednesday night at the Cosmopolitan Grill there's an open mic hosted by keyboardist Andrew Page, with the music mainly covering blues and jazz. All are welcome to participate, and participants receive 20 percent off drinks.

8:30pm to 11pm on Wednesday
No entrance fee
EZ5 Live House hosts Mando-pop singers backed by a live band every night. Highlights this week include pub legend and songstress Tiger Huang (黃小琥), who performs every Monday. Julia Peng (彭佳慧) is another major draw who appears every Tuesday. Pop crooner Liu Wei-zen (劉偉仁) appears on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Franz and Friends (城市舞台藝文沙龍), an upscale restaurant and performance space in Taipei's East District, hosts music shows every night. The music tends to play it safe, ranging from wistful love songs and opera to lounge jazz. Weekly highlights include Denise Juan (阮丹菁), a former pop singer turned piano teacher and television presenter, and her band Sunshine Costa. They play tonight. Tomorrow it's Buona Sera, featuring soprano Chang Hsiao-ni (張曉妮).

The Other Side is a new nightclub opened by Ling Wei (凌威), the owner of Taipei's Roxy venues. The new club is a "party-until-the-sun-comes-up" spot like one of Ling's past ventures, the now-closed Roxy Vibe, but it 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 acts like Nirvana, The Ting Tings, Oasis, the Cure and Michael Jackson.

Lili Restaurant and Gallery in Tianmu has teamed up with the Community Services Center to hold The Morakot Relief Live Art Auction: Artists Beat the Flood. Throughout the day, 20 local and foreign painters will work together to fill a blank canvas. There will also be performances by musicians including Australian jazz singer Ayesha Mehta, world music group A Moving Sound, electronic jazz group Orbit Folks, singer-songwriter David Foster and Paiwan singer RS Legend. All proceeds go to help victims of Typhoon Morakot.



DJ Dragon fights the good fight for psytrance.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MOED

DJ Dragon (劉龍江) has been at the forefront of the psytrance scene since 1997. He used to be a resident DJ at Taipei's legendary (and notorious) club, Edge, during the period when Goa trance took Taipei's clubbers and ravers by storm.

DJ Dragon says he's been at the forefront of the psytrance scene since 1997. He used to be a resident DJ at Taipei's legendary (and notorious) club, Edge, during the period when Goa trance took Taipei's clubbers and ravers by storm. Although the club was later shut down because of drug and mafia issues and the music slowly lost its popularity, eventually going totally underground, Dragon has kept the torch burning by organizing parties and composing music. Moreover, he's one of only a few jet-setting local DJs, having traveled as far as England and South Africa to perform. WW: How do you see the progression of the psytrance scene? D: The scene has always been very underground but I think it's getting a whole lot better as far as drug abuse is concerned. Although psytrance seemed to be a major hit at the time when Edge was open, its prosperity didn't last long. The music began to get a bad rap because a lot of people who were into it were on drugs. But the times have changed and the people have also changed, the younger generation is now able to enjoy the music in an intuitive way. And there are more people getting into music production and injecting new vitality into the scene.